

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City

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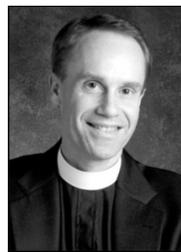
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January 12, 2014

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Dear Friends,
Something that has been going on behind the scenes at Grace Church is the upcoming retirement of Chip Fears, who has been our Director of Finance since 2006. Chip has been crunching his personal numbers, and has decided that the time is right to build his dream

house in rural Arizona. Believe it or not, the house will be built out of straw bales - a time-honored and eco-friendly construction method in the Desert Southwest. Chip will be with us into March, long enough, we hope, so that he will have some overlap with his successor. Who will take Chip's place? A Vestry committee and I have been prioritizing over 50 applications that came in when we first posted the opening. We are now down to a relatively short list, and hope to have an announcement to make in time for the Annual Meeting on February 2nd. Stay tuned, and be sure to congratulate Chip on his new venture, and a job well-done at Grace Church.

In Sunday's bulletin and in this newsletter you will also read about more transition. The Vestry has approved the report of the Nominating Committee which, under the direction of Jr. Warden Brett Pertuz, presented a wonderful slate of candidates, whose names are listed below, and whom you will read more about in the coming weeks. Saying hello to new Vestry members always means that good and faithful members must rotate off of our governing body of lay leaders. At the Annual Meeting on February 2nd we will be giving thanks for the ministries of Sarah Cogan, Sr. Warden; Paul Demartini, Clerk; and Nancy Walcott, Treasurer.

Grace Church is well-served by a remarkably talented group of lay leaders and staff members who offer themselves for the growth of God's kingdom in this place and among this people. I've been a parish priest and rector for nearly 25 years, and I truly give thanks



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THANKS!



We are very grateful to all who contributed to the Children's Christmas Pageant - a

gorgeous service enjoyed by over 1,000 people, in the church and via live webcast. It is no wonder that the *New York Times* included [a photo](#) in their Christmas Day news!



This year special thanks goes to **Angie Speranza**, our new pageant photographer, for the generous gift of her time and talents to capture the beauty of this service and make her photos available to pageant families!



(Contact [Melissa](#) if you missed info on ordering photos and DVDs.)

to God for the gifts of the Spirit that are among us. See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)

Rector

This Sunday, January 12th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Baptisms

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

(Service times are updated weekly on the [website](#).)

10 AM – REVELATION AND THE WAR IN HEAVEN – THE SUNDAY FORUM, Belief in the 21st Century series. Nicholas Birns, PhD, Associate Professor, The New School. After the humility and human scale of Christmas, we step back to the Bible's most cosmic perspective: the Book of Revelation. We will closely read the twelfth chapter, whose depiction of the War in Heaven portrays the conflict between good and evil. Is this chapter a lurid allegory or a cosmological meditation? Has it lost its validity in our materially minded times, or can its panoramic vistas still give us a sense of the grandeur of God? *Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.*

NEW TO GRACE? COME TO THIS CLASS! Everyone new to Grace Church in the past year is invited and encouraged to attend a 3-session newcomer class on Sundays, Jan 12, 19 and 26 at 12:30 pm in the Reception Room. Come and have a bite to eat and learn more about the history of Grace Church, life at Grace today, and how to connect with other parishioners and ministry opportunities. For more information, contact the Rev. Stephen Holton at sholton@gracechurchnyc.org.

2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available in Tuttle Hall on Sundays and in the Reception Room during the week. If you have not yet made a request for envelopes, please contact [Brian Hagan](#), Director of Development at 212-254-2000, ext. 119 or email bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org.

COMING SOON



**HAVEN'T PLEDGED
YET FOR 2014?**

It's fast and easy!

Just click [HERE](#).

*...and remember, you
can take all of 2014 to
fulfill your pledge.*

JAN 18 – WOMEN'S QUIET DAY with the Rev. Sarah Wood. *"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." --Isaiah 11:6 "Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered [the child] gifts." --Matthew 1:11*

In this season following Epiphany, may we walk together to the place where the star led the magi of old. In practices of contemplative prayer, scriptural reflection, imaginative play, and mindful conversation, we will spend the day journeying where the perfect light of this star leads. And where the star shines is with us, where we might fathom the treasure we bring to this life and delight in the gift the little child offers and bids us open. All women of Grace Church are welcome. Saturday, Jan 18, 10 am–3 pm. Meet in the Reception Room. Please bring a sandwich. Beverages provided. Sponsored by Sarah Wood, and the ECW of Grace Church.

JAN 19 – 10 AM – THE HEALING MINISTRY OF CHAPLAINS –THE SUNDAY FORUM, Human Suffering: Compassion in Action series. Lisa Tebbe, Spiritual Counselor at Constellation Hospice and On-call Chaplain at Stamford Hospital. Hospital chaplaincy is a specialized but often overlooked ministry that requires a great deal of compassion and spiritual presence. Chaplains are called upon to meet us in our most extreme instances of spiritual and physical need, during moments of profound grief and despair and in the midst of our last days and hours. Lisa Tebbe, Spiritual Counselor and On-call Chaplain, will explore the healing ministry of chaplains and its crucial role in alleviating human suffering.

JAN 26 – 10 AM – THE WHOLE CHRIST: ST. AUGUSTINE AND THE THEOLOGY OF PRISON MINISTRY – THE SUNDAY FORUM, Human Suffering: Compassion in Action series. Steven Y. Lee, General Theological Seminary, M.Div. 2014. Ministering to prison inmates requires compassion, pastoral presence and programmatic dedication. But the mitigation of human suffering in the prison context does not fully explain or justify the church's involvement in such a setting. The

question the church must answer is as follows: "What are the theological implications of prison ministry?" Using ideas first developed by St. Augustine, this class will examine how prison ministry can shed light on what it means to be a member of a church community. Steven Y. Lee, seminarian at General Theological Seminary, has taught New Testament and Contemporary Theology classes at Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, N.Y. and at Sing-Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, N.Y.

FEB 2 – THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Feb. 2 immediately following the 11 am service. Reports will be given by the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, the Head of Grace Church School, the Senior Warden, and the Rector. A delicious lunch (\$5 per person suggested donation) will be served.

THE VESTRY HAS ACCEPTED THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S REPORT and is pleased to announce the following slate of persons to be voted on at our Annual Meeting. For a second three-year term as a Vestry member: SINGLETON COX. For a first three-year term as Vestry member: DAVID DIDOMENICO, CAROLINE HUBBELL, JENNIFER SAN CARTIER. For a first two-year term as a Churchwarden: LEONA CHAMBERLIN (Leona will replace Sarah Cogan, who is finishing her third two-year term as a Churchwarden, the maximum permitted by our by-laws). Many thanks to the committee and to those who have agreed to stand for election.

FEB 10 – ECW PARISH WIDE MEETING – All women of Grace Church (and their friends!) are welcome at our first meeting of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in 2014. *Hear about upcoming events. *Bring your ideas and suggestions. *Come for fun and fellowship. "No Pressure" Pot Luck! Monday, Feb 10 at 6:30 in Tuttle Hall. Questions? Contact Elana Foundos at elanafoundos@gmail.com.

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org

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Grace Church in New York | 802 Broadway @10th Street | New York | NY | 10003