

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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of this Oscar and
Golden Globe-
winning film. See Feb
19th...

February 16, 2014

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

One of the canticles, or metrical chants in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 48) contains the following verse:

*O ye dews and frosts, bless ye the Lord;
O ye frost and cold, bless ye the Lord;
O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord'
praise him and magnify him forever.*

Well, my guess is that not too many people in the eastern part of the United States would be willing to voice a rousing rendition of the above-mentioned canticle. This week alone we've seen two big snowstorms in New York City, putting our total over 50-inches so far, with more snow in the forecast for this weekend. The weather has been inconvenient and dangerous. It goes without saying that most people have had enough.

As for me, I have always enjoyed the snow, and I still do. It has nothing to do with my easy commute; I speak as one who has lived in South Dakota, where winter means business in a way that New Yorkers simply cannot understand. The snow slows us down - something we don't do very well on our own - and we learn that the world continues spinning on its axis even when we are forced to stop pushing. The snow is beautiful, even in New York City, and if it comes again

**Attn:
Newcomers!**



Meet others and have fun. See Feb 20...

**CONFIRMATION
CLASSES for
Youth and Adults**

will begin on Sunday, April 6, after the 11am service. Classes are led by the clergy and will meet weekly in preparation for the bishop's visit on Sunday June 15.

To sign up for youth classes (7th-12th grade) contact [Melissa Spindler](#). To sign up for adult classes, contact [the Rev. Stephen Holton](#).

**HAVEN'T
PLEGGED YET
FOR 2014?
It's fast and
easy!**

Just click [HERE](#).

...and remember,

this weekend I look forward to taking a walk to see how it blankets Union Square, Madison Square, and perhaps Central Park. And so I gladly sing: *O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord.*

Make no mistake, come March 1st I will join the ranks of those who have had enough of winter. And in defense of the canticle, it also includes lines about how summer and heat and green things participate in singing the praises of God. Spring will be here soon enough.

In the meantime, enjoy the weekend and the snow. See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)
Rector

This Sunday, February 16, 2014

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Anne Wood
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer
Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Anne Wood
Music: The Adult Choir

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](#).)

THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess for the holiday weekend. Join us next week, 2/23 at 10 am for "CREATION AND EVOLUTION: Moral Imagination and Biotechnology" (details below).

COMING SOON

FEB 19, 26, MAR 12 – "IN A BETTER WORLD" – FILM AND CONVERSATION with the Rev. Sarah Wood. Come to view and discuss this award-winning Danish film directed by Suzanne Bier, which has been described as a "powerful and captivating drama." Join us as we reflect theologically upon the complex themes presented here, and which we

you can take all of 2014 to fulfill your pledge.

might find relevant just as we begin to prepare for our Lenten journey. Note: the film is rated R for some violent images. Wednesdays, Feb 19, 26, Mar 12 – no class on Ash Wed. 3/5. Held in the Music Room directly after the 6 pm Eucharist.

FEB 20 – "NEWCOMER" RECEPTION/WINE-TASTING – *If you are new to Grace Church in the past year, here is an opportunity to connect with others during a casual and fun evening. Our guest Jamel Freeman, a sommelier with 15 years of experience in culinary arts, mixology, wine and spirits, will guide us through a selection of red and white wines, discussing their regions and suggested food pairings. Thursday, Feb 20, 6:30pm–8:30 pm in the Chantry. There is still time, if you [RSVP now to Jennifer!](#)*

FEB 22 – 20s30s DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER – Teams of 6+ will compete for some amazing prizes–so come help Grace raise some serious booty, and kick some too! \$5 per person at the door will be donated in the name of the Young Adult Network to a predetermined charity. Saturday, Feb 22, 3–6 pm at Church of the Intercession. [RSVP to Melissa.](#)

FEB 23 – CREATION AND EVOLUTION: MORAL IMAGINATION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY – THE SUNDAY FORUM – Belief in the 21st Century series. Biotechnology is unique for its special capacity for promoting well-being. Today, biotechnology presents humanity with an expanding view on nature, along with an augmented capacity to engineer nature that is almost "God" like. What is required of us so that we may flourish on a dynamic human path instead of enhancing benefits to a narrowing portion of society? This talk will examine how we can use how our moral imagination to shepherd the use of biotechnology toward becoming extraordinarily humane and truly superhuman – that is to say more Christ like. *Led by Robert Schmaltz, Contemporary Art Specialist; BS of Liberal Arts Candidate, New School for Public Engagement. After working with community groups across the United States, Schmaltz graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a BFA in 2005. As an artist he has collaborated on projects set in New York, Frankfurt, Bologna, Beijing, and Seoul. A husband and father to be, Robert's academic interests revolve around the various dimensions of Bioethics.*

FEB 27 – SONGS AS SERMONS: SONG LYRICS WITH A

MESSAGE. Join parishioner and vocalist Bill Minifie, as he sings the songs of Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Cole Porter, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Irving Berlin and others. Interspersed with the songs will be sermonic tales about the song lyrics that hopefully will lead to a greater understanding of life itself! Piano accompaniment by Michael McFrederick. All are welcome to this event, hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church. Admission is one canned or packaged good for the food donation baskets. Thursday, Feb 27 at 6:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. *Bill Minifie grew up in the rectory of Grace Church as a son of Benjamin Minifie, who was the 10th Rector (1960–1975). After such a childhood the only thing that could compete was singing heroic Wagnerian roles which he pursued religiously until the "fat lady" told him it was over. Since then he has focused on singing the great American Song Book which is perhaps less fertile for spiritual enhancement but much more fun.*

MAR 2 –SHROVE SUNDAY! Come celebrate Shrovetide this year with a fabulous Sunday brunch of pancakes, bacon and eggs, and fruit salad. \$15 per person requested donation at the door. Fun activities for all ages included. Share a meal with friends before Lent begins. Held in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service. Volunteers to help with decorating and other tasks are most welcome and appreciated! [Sign up by e-mailing Melissa.](#)

MAR 5 – ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES will be held at 8 am in the Chantry, and 12:10 and 6 pm in the Church. All services include homily by the Associate Rector, Eucharist, and the imposition of ashes. The two earlier services are expected to last for approximately 45 minutes.

MAR 5 – PRAYING AS A PARISH FOR LENT – Thinking about a Lenten spiritual discipline? Want to engage in a practice of daily prayer but not sure where to start? Consider taking two minutes out of every day to pray using a brief devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for one another. This devotional guide is delivered via email each day during Lent and contains an optional series of daily readings, a scripture verse for the day, and a brief reflection. These daily devotions begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, so sign up today by clicking [HERE](#). Questions? [Email Stephen Holton.](#)

MAR 27 – DOCUMENTARY FILM *MISS REPRESENTATION* will be screened on Thursday, Mar

27 at 6:15 pm in Tuttle Hall, along with discussion time and a "no pressure potluck" supper (bring food or bev to share – no pressure!). The evening is hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church and all parishioners and friends are welcome. \$5 suggested donation. *Premiering at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, Miss Representation is written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom and exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. The film challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself. View the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/28122207> Check out the website: www.therepresentation.org/film.*

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