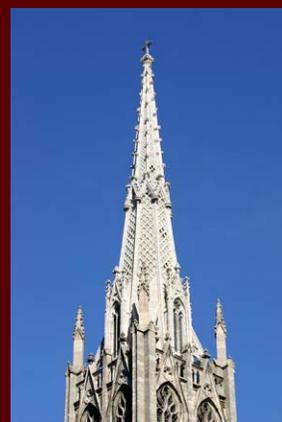


# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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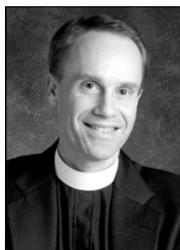
#### Don't miss out!



*"Shrove Sunday" is*

## February 23, 2014

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

Thursdays are normally my day off, and if the stars are aligning properly (which is to say: is the sermon under control?), Stacie and I will occasionally sneak out to see an afternoon movie. Yesterday the sermon was entirely under control due to the fact that I am not preaching this week. Therefore, we decided to see *Her*, one of the films nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards later this month. *Her* imagines a not-too distant future when computers have gained artificial intelligence and personality. They have become self-aware and conscious in a way that is not altogether unbelievable when you think about how far computers have advanced in the past twenty years.

The gist of the movie is that a lonely man falls in love with his computer's female operating system. She is his constant companion and conversation partner, and she reciprocates his love. She has everything except a body. When the man reveals to friends and family that his new love interest is actually the operating system of his computer, some are totally accepting of an unconventional relationship that is apparently becoming more and more common, and others declare it weird and simply wrong. *Her* looks to the future and explores the ragged edges of where true love can and should be found. I left the film wondering what the limits - if any - might be to how technology will shape, intermingle, and even merge with human life in years to come.

March 2nd...

You might enjoy...



*Religious  
Iconography of the  
19th and 20th  
Centuries*

Exhibiting at General  
Theological  
Seminary through Feb  
27.

[Details here.](#)

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

Just click [HERE](#).

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

At this week's Sunday Forum, new parishioner Robert Schmaltz will be speaking about the ethics of biotechnology. As humankind has become more adept at modifying living systems to meet our needs, not the least of which are medical and agricultural, many have wondered what the limits might be. Should we impose restrictions on ourselves so as not to tinker with God's natural order? If so, what are the standards for determining the greater good? Or, have we opened Pandora's Box and unleashed an unstoppable process? In short, what will the future look like? That's a tall order to fill in 45-minutes, but Robert is up to the task. You can read more about his presentation, below. Join us in the Reception Room at 10 am. Coffee is served.

See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)

Rector

**This Sunday, February 23, 2014**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

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](#).)

FEB 23 - CREATION AND EVOLUTION: MORAL IMAGINATION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10 AM - 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 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.

## COMING SOON

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 –WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIPS – THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10 AM – Four Grace Church parishioners will discuss their experiences on their mission trips to McDowell County, in the West Virginia Appalachians. Join Currie Estreich, Betty Graber, Melissa Morgenweck and Mike Watson as they talk

about the work that we are doing to help people who live in this severely impoverished region. Sunday, March 2, in the Reception Room.

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 14 – 20s30s LENTEN SUSHI FRIDAYS – Enjoy a meal, prayer and fellowship with others in their 20s and 30s at 6:30 pm on alternate Fridays during Lent (Mar 14, Mar 28, April 11). Come to one or to all three! *RSVP by 5 pm each THURSDAY prior, to [Melissa Spindler.](#)*

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](http://www.therepresentation.org/film).*

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