

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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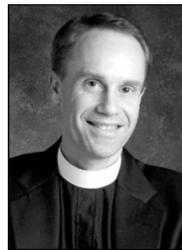


Fill the Sanctuary  
with Beauty and  
Honor Your Loved  
Ones



## March 23, 2014

The Third Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

It is Thursday as I write this, and among the headlines in the news is the death of Fred Phelps, the founder of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Phelps first became famous in 1998 when he and his church picketed the funeral of Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student who was murdered for being gay. From then on Phelps and his flock made it their mission to protest funerals, especially those of soldiers, and outrageously blame all the woes of America on the increasing acceptance of gays and lesbians in society. The Westboro Church has been called more of a hate group than a church, and Phelps himself more a hater than a pastor.

But now Fred Phelps is dead at the age of 84, and apparently social media is atwitter with the question of how one should appropriately respond. Should people of goodwill celebrate that a person who has trafficked in hate will finally meet God's justice? Or is it a cause for grief that a soul has died unrepentant of his sins, unaware of how much damage he did? I tend to think that in Phelps' case, the less said the better. He and his ilk love any sort of attention they can get, be it good or bad. Sometimes - not always, but sometimes - the best way to deal with profoundly negative people is not to give them the attention they crave.

Make your offering for Easter flowers [online](#) by clicking the image above (select "flowers," put your dedications in the "comments" box) or pick up a Flower Offering envelope to give cash or check. (Found around the church and Parish House beginning this weekend.)

We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. Thank you!

*For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter service bulletin, it must be received by Palm Sunday, 4/13.*

## Notes on Holy Week & Easter for Children & Families...



### APR 13 – PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION.

*No Sunday School.* All children who wish to participate in a grand procession at the beginning of the 11 am service should report to Tuttle Hall at 10:45 am. Parents are welcome to march with their children. Parents who

Perhaps the most productive response to the death of such a person is to search deeply in our own souls, and scour them of any traces of hate and arrogance that we find. The season of Lent is the perfect time for self-examination, to put in practice works of love, and to adopt an attitude of humility. Remember, the goal of Lent is not a slimmer waistline, not a lower cholesterol, not a cleaner house. Rather, it is a closer walk with God. It is to be - well - as much unlike Fred Phelps as you can possibly be. If you increase the gap between this man and yourself, you will close the gap between yourself and God. Of this I am reasonably sure. When the going gets tough, pray for the Spirit of God to fill you and strengthen you to keep following in the footsteps of Jesus, who is the king of love.

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

## This Sunday, March 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 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](#).)

CLOSING THE GAP: WHY I'M NOT A MONK – THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM. Parishioner Jacob Nadal will talk about his process of converting to Christianity and being baptized as an adult here at Grace Church. Jake was guided in his formation by the clergy at Grace church and the Franciscans at Little Portion Friary on Long Island, and has continued to work and worship with Franciscans in the Episcopal Church's Friaries in New York and Los Angeles. During this time, Jake considered and eventually rejected a Franciscan vocation. This is a story that he unpacks as a both a failure to take a radical path of life profession, and a success in understanding the Anglican "middle way" as an authentic spiritual call. *The Sunday Forum Lenten*

are not marching: please be sure your children know where to find you in the church after the procession ends.

#### APR 19 – EASTER EVE WALK.

Join us on Holy Saturday, April 19, from 10:30 am–1:30 pm, as we experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord through interactive storytelling. There will also be crafts, treats, and an Easter egg hunt! Activities are designed for kids ages 4 and up, but the whole family is welcome. Suggested donation per child \$10. [To attend, RSVP to Melissa.](#) To help, please see below!

#### EASTER EVE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Your help in making this year's Walk a joyous occasion for all is greatly needed! If you are able to offer your time, gifts or talents, please sign up on the Easter Bulletin Board (just outside the Reception Room) or by [contacting Melissa](#) to see how you can help.

#### APR 20 – EASTER DAY.

*No Sunday School.* Activity bags available to help kids sit through church!

*series on MAR 9, 16, 23, 30, APR 6 "CLOSING THE GAP: Testimonials of Transformation" will focus on testimonies from Grace Parishioners and others who have undertaken journeys of rigorous self-examination resulting in personal transformations for themselves as Christians, as they faithfully answer God's call to cleave ever nearer to the divine.*

WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED – SUNDAY EVENINGS AT 7PM. Walk the way of the cross this Lent with a series of brief readings, reflection, and discussion centered on Kenneth Leech's masterful devotional book, *We Preach Christ Crucified*. Sundays in Lent following the 6 o'clock service in the Chantry. Light refreshment served. March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13. It's not too late! Order a [Kindle](#) copy of the book online or [email now to Fr Stephen](#) Holton to reserve a copy.

### COMING SOON

MAR 27 – MILTON ABBEY SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT will take place in the church on Thursday, March 27 at noon. The choir touring from the UK will offer works by Goodall, Rutter, Howells, Hogan, Bjoesen, Erb and Hatfield under the director of David McKee. The program is 50 minutes long and is free and open to all. For more information see <http://music.gracechurchnyc.org/>.

MAR 27 – DOCUMENTARY FILM AND DISCUSSION Thursday, Mar 27 at 6:15 pm in Tuttle Hall. "No pressure" finger food pot luck (bring food or bev to share – no pressure!).

Bach at  
Noon named Best  
Free "Lunchtime  
Taste of Timeless  
Magnificence!"

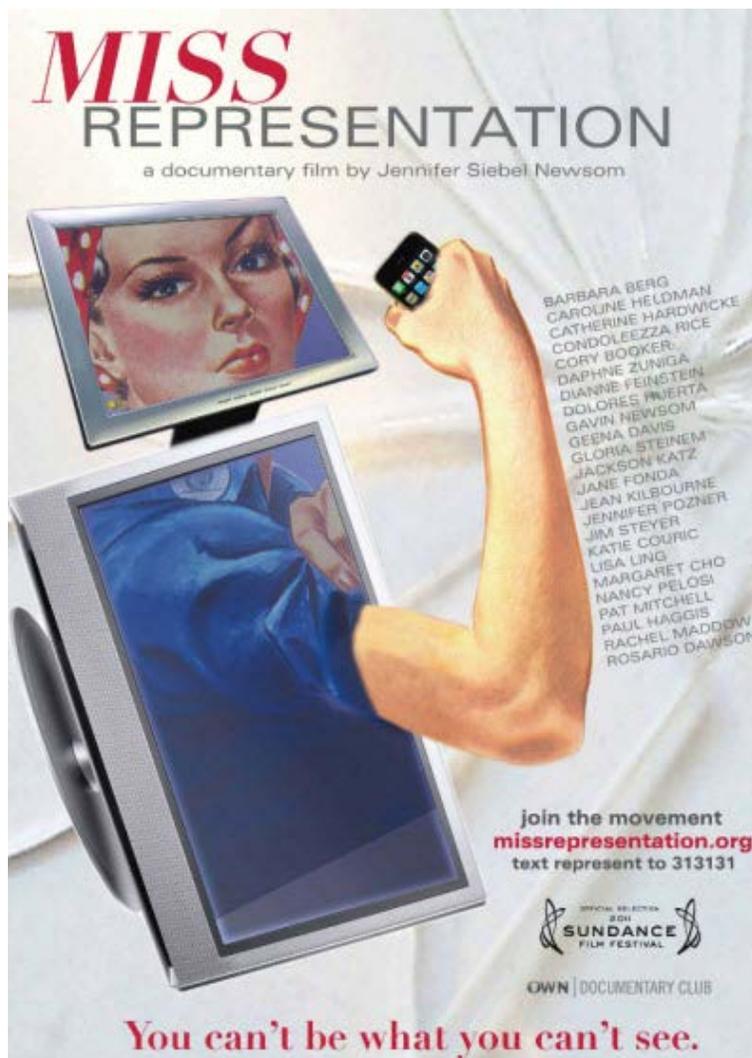
by *The Village Voice* in their October 16 publication (in case you missed it). Details on the [Music page](#) of our website.

**JOIN THE  
COMMUNITY.  
MAKE A PLEDGE  
FOR 2014.**

(Remember, you have the whole year to make payments on your pledge.)

Just click [HERE!](#)

**CHANNEL YOUR  
INNER CHEF!  
ECW COOKBOOK!**



Hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church, moderated by Melissa Spindler. All parishioners and friends are welcome. \$5 suggested donation. *Premiering at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, Miss Representation 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 [HERE](#). Check out the website [HERE](#).*

MAR 28 – 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! \$10 per person for dinner and BYOB. RSVP by 5 pm each THURSDAY prior, to [Melissa Spindler](#).

MAR 30 – CLOSING THE GAP: STEPS TOWARDS THE GOSPEL – THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM.  
Long-time Grace Parishioner and Composer Joe



We are requesting favorite recipes from ALL parishioners to include in our NEW fun loving cookbook. Please [e-mail recipes to Mary Ann Owens](#). You may include a brief comment or scripture that relates to your recipe. Thank you!

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Budenholzer will talk about how his process of recovery from addiction led him from a childish view of God as a punishing parent to an adult encounter with the Gospel's transforming mystery of a forgiving and merciful God. He will use selections from Richard Rohr's book, *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*.

APR 3 – OUR LITTLE ROSES Meet an American-born Episcopal priest who travels to Honduras, the poorest Spanish-speaking country in the Western Hemisphere and, in that, the murder capital of the world – San Pedro Sula – to teach poetry to a score of orphaned teenage girls at Our Little Roses orphanage, at the edge of one of the city's ram shackle barrios. Join us for an exclusive preview screening and poetry reading by Priest and Poet Spencer Reece. Father Reece will discuss his recently completed anthology of poems written by the girls. Brad Coley, the film's director, will be present for a Q&A. Limited edition watercolor prints of the film's subjects will available, and all donations are tax-deductible and directly support the finishing of the film. Thursday, April 3, 7–8 pm in the Chantry. Watch trailer [HERE](#).

APR 5 – HELP TO PROVIDE A HOME COOKED MEAL for guests at the New York City Rescue Mission on Saturday, April 5. Volunteers are needed to bake cupcakes, prepare a pot roast at home to deliver, or to prepare and to serve the meal at the Mission. Lots of opportunities--how will YOU help? Sign up [HERE](#) or at the sign-up table at coffee hour on Sunday.

APR 6 – CLOSING THE GAP: THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10 AM – Guest speaker the Very Rev. Kurt H. Dunkle, Dean and President, The General Theological Seminary. Details to come.

APR 13 – EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH PART II On Palm Sunday at 4 pm in the Church, the Adult Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from the Easter Portion of Handel's MESSIAH.

APR 17 – 1st CENTURY AGAPE MEAL – On Wednesday April 17, as a part of our 6 p.m. Eucharist, we will experience in food and format what the earliest Christians would have known in their gatherings together. Families and children are very welcome and encouraged. Suggested donation \$10 per adult.

APR 29 – GO PROJECT/ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT – 46 years ago, members of Grace Church and parents of Grace Church School created the GO Project as an educational outreach program for underperforming public school children. The GO Annual Spring Benefit raises funds to directly benefit the 550 students and families served. This year's event – held on Tuesday, April 29 at the Bowery Hotel – will feature cocktails, tasting tables and both silent and live auctions. For more information and tickets visit: <http://www.goprojectnyc.org>.

MAY 9, 10 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT Deeply felt works for unaccompanied choir, choir with organ, and choir with orchestra and soloists, including the magnificent Mozart Requiem. Randall Thompson: The Last Invocation, Arvo Pärt: The Beatitudes, Charles Ives: Psalm 90, W. A. Mozart: Requiem (KV 626). Under the musical direction of John Maclay. Friday, May 9 at 8 pm and Saturday, May 10 at 3 pm. Tickets are on sale now: [www.thechoralsociety.org](http://www.thechoralsociety.org) click "concerts."

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[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)

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