

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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Fill the Sanctuary  
with Beauty and  
Honor Your Loved  
Ones



Make your offering for Easter flowers [online](#) by clicking the image above (select "flowers," put

## March 30, 2014

The Fourth Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

Some time ago I saw a curious television program entitled Life after People. The premise of the show was to imagine what would happen on planet Earth if human beings were to vanish overnight. How quickly would nature reclaim our great urban centers and topple our buildings and monuments? The answer is: faster than you might think. Within 36-hours the power would fail and the subways would be flooded. Fires would rage unchecked, and the Great Lawn of Central Park would be a forest after five years. The freeze-thaw cycle would allow water to penetrate deeper and deeper into highways and mortar joints, eventually destabilizing even the sturdiest of our structures.

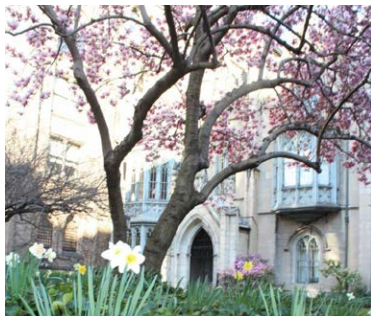
Here at Grace Church, we are dealing with a recent example of nature's power. The unusually harsh winter has allowed water to collect beneath a 2,000 pound pinnacle above the north transept. As it froze, the water expanded, then it melted and more seeped in, only to freeze again and expand some more. With each expansion, or "frost heave," as it's called, the pinnacle shifted. On a routine inspection of the parapets, our maintenance staff discovered that the pinnacle was 4-inches out of plum. We have taken immediate measures to brace the pinnacle, and now it is in no danger of falling. The plan is to take it down, fix the underlying problem, and reset the pinnacle in place. We are also inspecting all of the pinnacles, by the way. Sometimes a

your dedications in the "comments" box) or pick up a Flower Offering envelope (Found around the church and Parish House) to give cash or check.

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

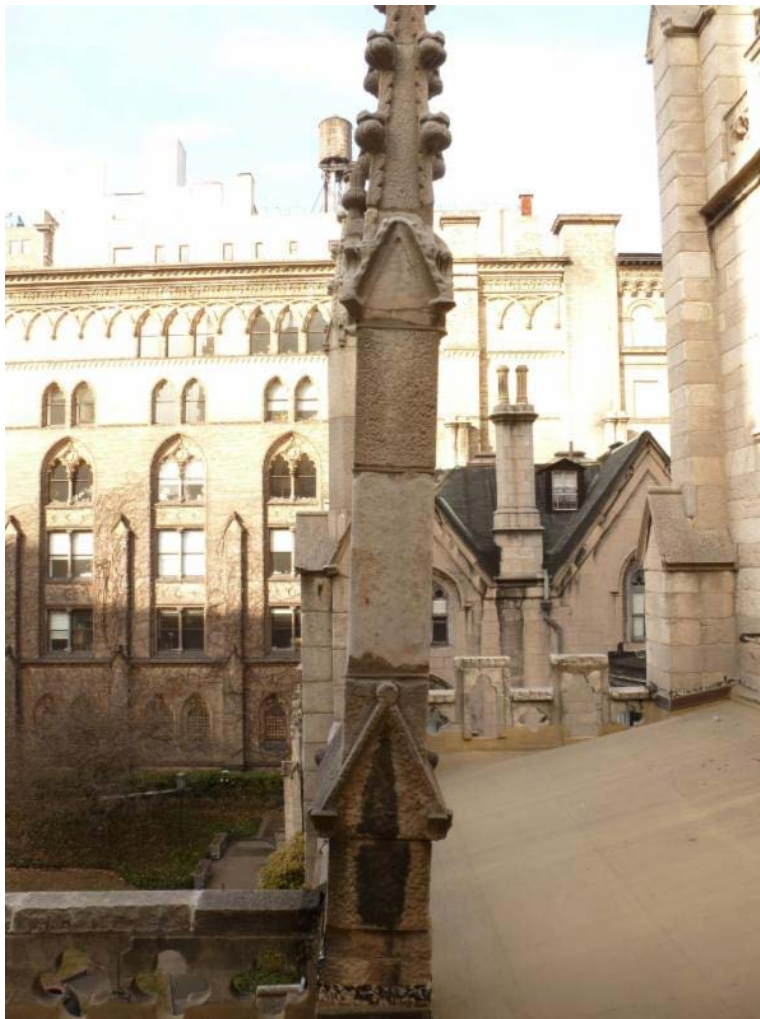
*For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter service bulletin, it must be received by Palm Sunday, 4/13.*

## Springtime brings Concerts and Benefits!



**APR 25 - THE ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT** of the Choirs of Grace Church will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 25 in the Church. The Choir of Men and Boys, The Girls' Choir, Adult and Parish Choir will join forces to offer some of our favorite anthems by Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Bairstow and Stanford. [Dr. Barry Rose](#) will join us with his family as guest conductor while we help

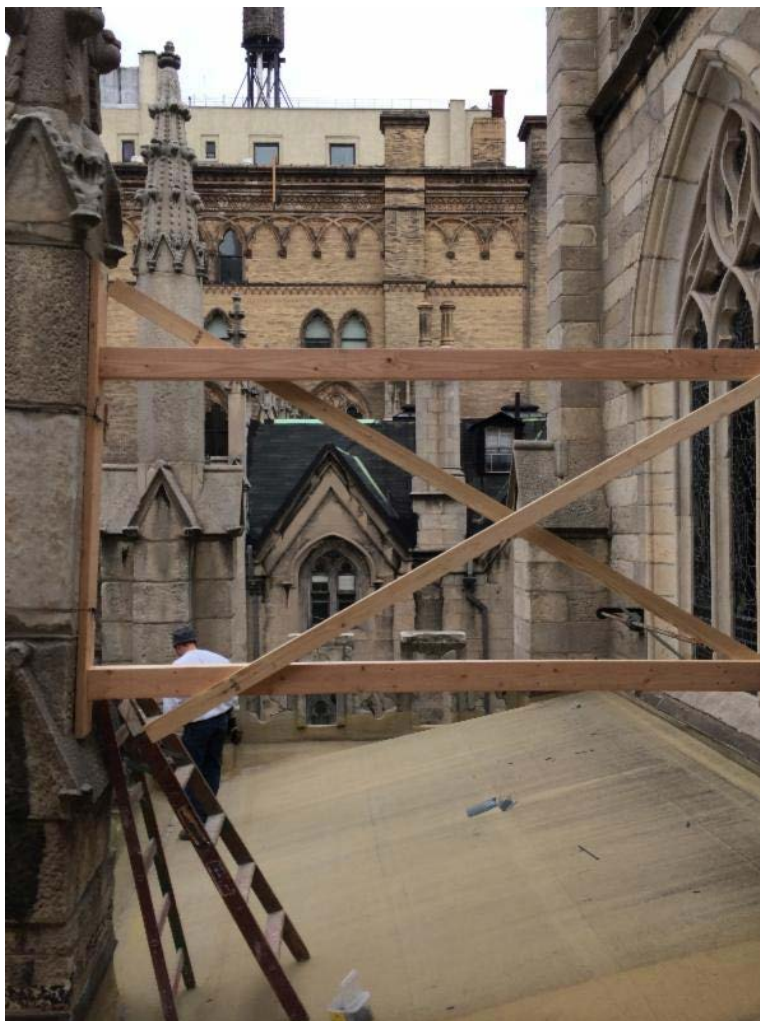
picture or two is worth a thousand words, so take a look.



him celebrate his 80th Birthday! Following the concert is a special reception to benefit the Choir Special Projects Fund as the Choirs prepare for their next Summer Tour to Europe in 2015.

**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 Spring Benefit raises funds to directly support the 550 students and families served. This year's event - held on Tuesday, April 29 at the Bowery Hotel - features cocktails, tasting tables and both silent and live auctions. Information and tickets [HERE](#).



To me, the whole thing speaks a parable (indeed, an expensive parable - click [HERE](#) to donate) about the challenge of Lent. What is out of plum in our lives? What needs not only routine, but closer inspection and care in our relationship with God and others? The leaning pinnacle of Grace leaves me much to reflect upon. In the meantime, I give thanks for our maintenance staff who had the eyes to see it. And I also give thanks for those who call our attention to the needs of God's whole world, and strive by the power of God's Spirit to help us be plum with God.

See you in church.

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

**This Sunday, March 30, 2014**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

**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 [HERE](#) (click "concerts.")

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

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

**Just click [HERE!](#)**

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry  
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring  
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

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

**CLOSING THE GAP: STEPS TOWARDS THE GOSPEL -  
THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10AM.**

Long-time Grace Parishioner and Composer Joe 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*.

*The Sunday Forum Lenten series "CLOSING THE GAP: Testimonials of Transformation" will focus on 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. Held in the Reception Room; pick up some refreshment at coffee hour and join the discussion.*

**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*. Following the 6 o'clock service in the Chantry. Light refreshment served. 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**

A NIGHT OF FILM AND POETRY  
to benefit the feature documentary

# OUR LITTLE ROSES

Rescued from the streets of San Pedro Sula, Honduras murder capital of the world, orphaned girls find their voices in poetry as they heal traumas of their past and prepare to transition into an uncertain future

POETRY READING BY FATHER SPENCER REECE  
PREVIEW SCREENING AND Q&A WITH BRAD COLEY

THURSDAY APRIL 3rd, 7-8PM

GRACE CHURCH in NEW YORK  
IN THE CHANTRY  
802 BROADWAY at 10th ST



Meet Fr. Spencer Reese, an American-born Episcopal priest who travels to Honduras, the poorest Spanish-speaking country in the Western Hemisphere and murder capital of the world to teach poetry to orphaned teenage girls at Our Little Roses orphanage, at the edge of one of the city's ramshackle barrios. Limited edition watercolor prints of the film's subjects will be available, and all donations are tax-deductible and directly support the finishing of the film. 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 - THE VERY REV. KURT DUNKLE, the Dean and President of General Theological Seminary, will join us to preach at the 11 am service and speak at the

Sunday Forum at 10 am (see description below).

APR 6 – CLOSING THE GAP: WHY I AM A PRIEST – THE SUNDAY FORUM AT 10 AM – Guest speaker the Very Rev. Kurt H. Dunkle, Dean and President, The General Theological Seminary. What happens when a lawyer walking down Broadway on his way to try a case in lower Manhattan stops in Grace Church before lunch? Well, he misses lunch and becomes a priest – and then the Dean of GTS! Come hear the story of Kurt Dunkle, and how Grace Church played a role in his spiritual transformation.

APR 11 – 20s30s LENTEN SUSHI FRIDAY – Enjoy a meal, prayer and fellowship with others in their 20s and 30s at 6:30 pm on alternate Fridays during Lent. \$10 per person for dinner and BYOB. *RSVP Required no later than 5pm on Thursday, April 10 to [Melissa Spindler](#).*

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.

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000  
[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)

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