

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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Introducing the 2015 Annual Campaign!

November 16, 2014

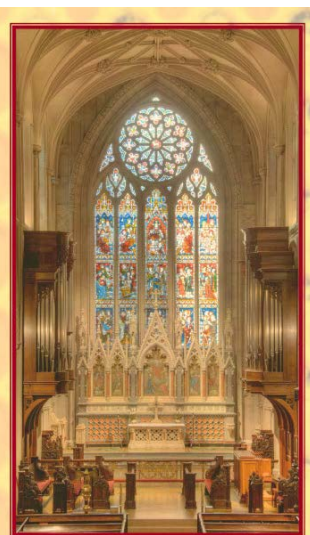
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

As you know, this Sunday is Pledge Sunday at Grace Church. If all has gone according to plan, you should have received in your mail a letter from me and a brochure entitled, "Enter into God's Joy." Also, I hope you've been enjoying the video clips we've been sending in which various vestry members share their giving testimonies. The invitation is for all of us to pledge a sacrificial gift (perhaps one that you can't pay off all in one check), not merely for the good of Grace Church but for the good of your soul. What follows are **ten reasons why I think sacrificial giving comes back around to bless the giver:**

1. Sacrificial giving says "thank you" to God for all the blessings of this life.
2. Sacrificial giving is a tangible expression of love for God. Imagine trying to maintain a loving relationship without ever showing it. It doesn't work with people, and it doesn't work with God.
3. Sacrificial giving frees us from guilt. Most of us receive a barrage of solicitations from worthy



ENTER INTO GOD'S JOY!

2015 Annual Campaign
Grace Church in New York

Why are there so many homeless people in New York City? What can Christians do?

IN SEARCH OF
THE SACRED
Sunday @10 am

EAT PIE

for the Choir Special
Projects Fund!



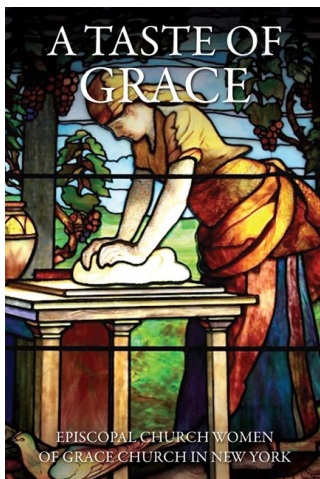
Five days left –
order deadline Wed
11/19!
(click pie to order

- humanitarian agencies. Because we give to the church does not mean we don't support other causes too, but we know we are at least doing our part through an organization we trust.
4. Sacrificial giving empowers the ministries of the church.
 5. Sacrificial giving makes us a part of something bigger than ourselves. Yes, we are made members of God's family through baptism, but annual giving to the church is like a yearly renewal of our baptismal vows.
 6. Sacrificial giving teaches us to be generous, and generous people are invariably happier people.
 7. Sacrificial giving puts us in a right relationship with money and possessions. We realize that what we have we only borrow briefly from God. We are stewards, managers of what belongs to God. We are putting God's resources to work through God's church.
 8. Sacrificial giving teaches us to be more disciplined with finances. If we "give till it hurts" right off the top, then we have to be extra mindful of how to apportion what remains.
 9. Sacrificial giving puts us in a place where faith is possible. It teaches us to depend on God. Strangely, we all want to be God's faithful people, yet at the same time we spend the best of our energies chasing earthly security, pursuing lives where faith is not needed, or even possible. Jesus wants us to live by faith, not with the illusion of material safety.
 10. Finally, sacrificial giving teaches us that we cannot out-give God. The more we learn to be generous people, the more we realize how much we have. Conversely, the less we give the less we seem to have and the more anxious we become.

Sacrificial giving is an invigorating spiritual discipline. It is good for the soul. By it we enter into the joy of God, who is the giver of every good gift. See you in church!

online NOW!)

AVAILABLE THIS
SUNDAY
@GRACE & THE
ARTS AT
CHRISTMAS FAIR!



This fabulous book of over 330 recipes from the people of Grace Church, compiled, edited and designed by the ECW is already a hit! Destined to become an heirloom – get your copies for everyone on your Christmas list! \$30 each. Come to the fair on Sunday, or contact [Elana Foundos](#).

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)

Rector

This Sunday, November 16th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

ENTER INTO GOD'S JOY: 2015 ANNUAL PLEDGE

CAMPAIGN – Today is Pledge Sunday, the day we ask all Grace Church members and friends to make a financial pledge to the work of the Lord through Grace Church for the year 2015. Pledge cards and brochures have been mailed to the entire parish, and are also available in your pews, in the narthex, and outside the Reception Room. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church, we urge everyone to commit to a financial gift for the coming year. You can fill out a pledge envelope today or, if you prefer, you can pledge online [HERE](#). *NOTE: Pledges made today do not need to be paid off today, or even all at once. You can take all of 2015 to fulfill your pledge.*

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM – IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED: A Response to Homelessness in the City.

David Beer Vice President, Real Estate Development, The Common Ground Community. Why are there so many homeless people in New York City? How should people of faith respond to the problem? David Beer will discuss his work at a New York City-based homeless services organization. He will give an overview of homelessness in New York City over the last 50 years and describe the current dimensions of the problem. What is supportive housing and how is it effective in addressing homelessness? What are other effective solutions? What can Christians do?

At last, it is here!



GRACE & THE ARTS AT CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 5-7pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 10:00-4pm

ARTISTS AND ARTISANS WILL HAVE THEIR
WORK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

NOV 15, 16 GRACE AND THE ARTS AT CHRISTMAS FAIR Come on Friday for wine and cheese (\$10 admission) or come after church on Sunday (\$2 admission)! **This is a fun annual event featuring the work of 25 local artists and craftspeople! Bring your Christmas list!** Bagels and baked goods for sale on Sunday. And the *new* book of recipes produced by the ECW (*A Taste of Grace*) will be available for purchase!

NOTICE: FILMING SUNDAY @11AM – The Office of Communication of the Episcopal Church Center will film the 11 am service today for use as a resource to other churches who may wish to explore the use of Morning Prayer as a principal Sunday liturgy. If you wish not to be filmed, photographed, or recorded in any way, please speak to an usher, who will seat you

out of camera angle in the north transept.

PIE TASTING AFTER THE 11 AM SERVICE!
THANKSGIVING PIES TO BENEFIT THE CHOIRS' 'Special Projects Fund' – Come and sample the pies at coffee hour after the 11 am service! The fund supports opportunities for the choirs not covered in the operating budget such as the summer concert tours (We are planning a tour centered in Paris for the Summer of 2015). You can help by ordering delicious pies for your Thanksgiving feast! We offer DELIVERY to your home or office for orders of 10 pies or more. Here is a perfect way to say "thank you" to a hostess, teacher, nanny, tutor or loved one, while \$10 from every purchase goes directly to the Special Projects Fund! THANK YOU for all your prayers and support! Place your order at the "pie box" in the Parish House hallway, or by clicking on the image of the pie in this newsletter! *Order deadline: Wednesday 11/19, Pickup day: Tues. 11/25.*

COMING SOON

NOV 23 – GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY Please join us for our annual celebration of the common history and mission shared by church and school. At 10 am, The Rev. Mark Hummell will lead a Sunday Forum entitled *In Search of the Sacred in Our Students* (details below). At the 11 am service, Fr. Hummell will preach, and music will be offered by Alumni of the Choirs with The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir. After the service, please come to Tuttle Hall for a festive reception!

NOV 23 – IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED IN OUR STUDENTS The Rev. Mark Hummell, Chaplain for Grace Church School and Interim Chaplain for Canterbury Downtown at Grace Church. Fr. Hummell will discuss the importance of meeting our students where they are along their developmental lines, how to engage with those who seem disengaged, and building bridges between the worlds of academia & the church. He will also discuss his recent ministry at New York University Abu Dhabi, where he developed faith groups, and provided counseling for undergraduate college students, and his new ministry as the Chaplain at Grace Church School.

NOV 26, 27 – THANKSGIVING SERVICES OF HOLY EUCHARIST will take place in the Chantry at 6 pm on Wednesday, Nov 26, and at 11 am on Thanksgiving

Day, Nov 27. The Rev. J. Donald Waring will preach.

NOV 30 – ADVENT BEGINS – COME AND MAKE A WREATH! Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way to keep our thoughts focused on the coming of Christ, and to help teach our children the real meaning of Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent, Nov 30th, after the 9 am, 11 am or 6 pm services we'll have all the materials ready for you. All are welcome! Experienced wreath-makers are encouraged to help others! *Sign up as a volunteer by contacting [Melissa Spindler](#). (Minimum suggested donation per wreath: \$25.)*

NOV 30, DEC 7, 14 – THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS for local charities will begin on Sunday, Nov 30th, with a collection of hats, scarves, and gloves for the *Church of the Ascension food pantry*. On Sunday, Dec 7th, we will collect travel-sized toiletries for the *women's shelter at New York City Rescue Mission*. (Please bring *travel-sized* shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, powder, shower caps, lotion, soaps, and/or washcloths). And finally, on Sunday Dec 14th we'll collect new men's boxers, t-shirts, and tube socks (larger sized) for the *men's shelter at NYC Rescue Mission*. Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church. Please give generously this Advent!

NOV 30, DEC 7, 14, 21 – BOOK DISCUSSION: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO *BE* A CHRISTIAN—and why does Christian community matter? We'll discuss what it means to be a Christian (as opposed to think about, know about, or even talk about Christianity) using Rowan Williams' new book, *Being Christian* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014). Formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, Williams (now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge) offers a four-part meditation on Christian discipleship, focused on Baptism, Eucharist, Scripture, and Prayer. *This four-part class is ideal for people new to the Christian faith or long-time Christians who are curious about why Christian practice and community matter. Copies of the book are available from Fr. Stephen Holton or for order online. [E-mail Fr. Stephen Holton](#) for more information, to sign up, or to reserve a copy. Please read Chapter 1, Baptism, for our first discussion Nov 30.*

FEELING HOSPITABLE? Help provide refreshments and fellowship Sundays at Six. Make fifteen minutes of

fellowship a part of your Advent preparations. Email [Fr. Stephen Holton](mailto:Fr.Stephen.Holton) for more information, or sign up [here](#).

DEC 5, 6 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERTS Tickets are now on sale for Friday, Dec 5 at 8 pm and Saturday, Dec 6 at 3 pm at Grace Church. Featuring Joseph Haydn's Heiligmesse with seasonal works by Handel, Mendelssohn, Lauridsen and the ever popular audience carol sing. Tickets available online at www.thechoralsociety.org click CONCERTS.

DEC 7 – ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS Readings of scripture foretelling the coming of Christ are interspersed with beautiful music of the season. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

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