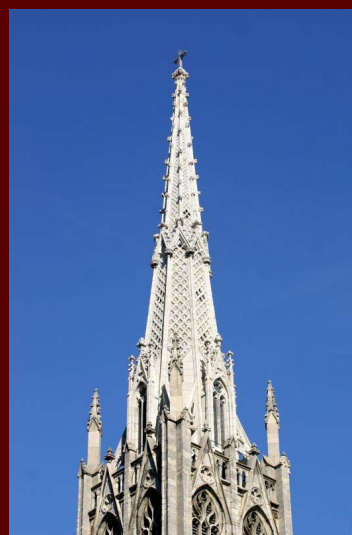


# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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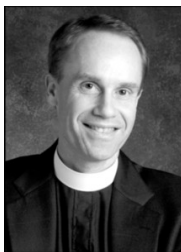
Join Our  
Mailing List



## 2015 Annual Campaign!

## November 23, 2014

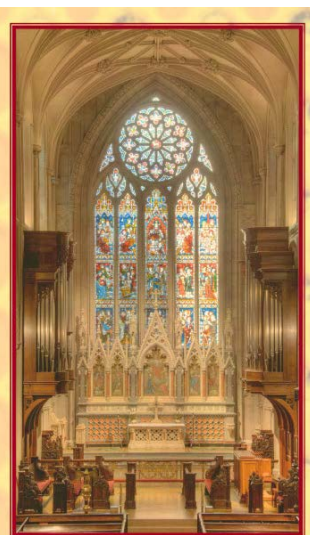
The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King



Dear Friends,

Lately we have been talking a lot about the [annual pledge campaign to support Grace Church in 2015](#), so while we are on a roll, let's not stop now. You've probably heard that we are attempting to climb to another level of giving. Over the past few years our annual campaign has leveled off at approximately \$1 million. Two weeks ago I wrote about the challenge to increase our giving this year to \$1.2 million so that we can not only strengthen our ministries, but also reduce our draw on the endowment to 3%. What will it take? Many hands will make light work. If all of our current households were to raise their pledges by \$400, and every new household were to make a first-time pledge of only \$400, we would clear the bar. Let's get wild: make it \$500! Even at that rate it's less than \$2 per day, less than \$10 per week. Obviously, some can do much more, and I trust that the Spirit will move you to do so. We're all in this together.

Last Sunday I preached a [sermon](#) about the parable of the talents, and the third servant who out of fear buried the resources the householder had given him



**ENTER INTO  
GOD'S JOY!**

2015 Annual Campaign  
Grace Church in New York

Engaging our  
students, building  
bridges...

**IN SEARCH OF  
THE SACRED  
Sunday @10 am**

**NEXT SUNDAY  
NOV 30TH**



Advent begins.  
See related events  
under COMING  
SOON.

to use. Shortly thereafter I had a conversation with a parishioner who genuinely wanted to rise to the challenge, but was hesitating. Things are looking up for her; she has a new job, but didn't want to make a commitment until she felt more established in the new environment. "I don't want to make a pledge that I find later I can't fulfill," she said. My counsel was to be personally responsible, of course. But perhaps God was also calling her to make a pledge out of faith and thanksgiving, not fear. Be willing to trust in the goodness of God and risk. Remember, when you make a pledge to Grace Church you are not signing for a mortgage or a car loan. This is a family in Christ where grace abounds, and if your life circumstances change, you can always reduce (or raise!) your pledge.

To make a pledge for 2015, you can do so online by clicking [here](#). Or, simply fill out a pledge envelope, mail it in, or place it in the offering plate this Sunday. Let's get this job done, so that the words of Jesus in the parable apply to us: "Well done, good and faithful servants ... enter into the joy of your Master."

See you in church.

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

**This Sunday, November 23rd**

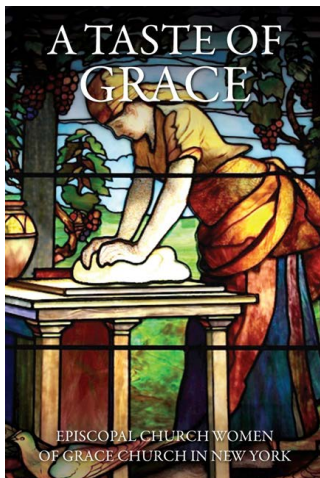
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Sermon: Hershey Mallette  
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer  
Grace Church School Sunday  
Sermon: The Rev. Mark Hummell  
Music: Alumni of the Choirs with  
The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry  
Sermon: Hershey Mallette

## Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**FROM NOW  
UNTIL  
CHRISTMAS,  
pick up your  
copies at coffee  
hour after the  
9 and 11am  
services!**



This fabulous book of over 330 recipes from the people of Grace Church, compiled, edited and designed by the ECW is already a hit! A unique and special gift for everyone on your Christmas list! \$30 each. Purchase yours at Sunday coffee hour (9 & 11 am), every Sunday until Christmas, or by contacting [Elana Foundos](#).

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ORDERS!**



OF THANKSGIVING

**GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY** Today we celebrate 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*. 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!

**THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – 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 NYU 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. *Join us for coffee, lively discussion and spiritual enrichment in the Reception Room at 10 am!*

## COMING SOON

**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**

## PIES TO BENEFIT THE CHOIRS

Remember that Pie Pick up Day is Tuesday, Nov 25th, from 2-5 pm in Room 111 off Tuttle Hall. Deliveries will arrive the same day between 9 am and 5 pm.

If you didn't order a pie yet there are some extras for sale! Contact the [music office](#) if you would like to purchase one or with any other questions.

A Joyous and safe Thanksgiving to one and all!

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COLLECTIONS for local charities will begin on Sunday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, with a collection of hats, scarves, and gloves for the *Church of the Ascension food pantry*. On Sunday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 – ADVENT BOOK DISCUSSION: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO *BE* A CHRISTIAN—and why does Christian community matter? Join us after the Sunday 6 pm service to 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. Held in the Honor Room, directly after the 6 pm service. 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 [online](#) or from Fr. Stephen Holton. [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](#) 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](http://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.

DEC 10 – THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this festive annual event! 12:15 – 12:45 pm in the Church.

DEC 13, JAN 10, FEB 14 – HELP REBUILD STATEN ISLAND More than two years after Hurricane Sandy, thousands of homes remain in some form of distress. Join teams from Grace Church for three parish work days, Saturdays Dec 13, Jan 10, and Feb 14. Many jobs for multiple skill levels are available--including insulation installation, sheet rocking, painting, and cleanup. We'll schedule a celebration dinner and party after our work days, so sign up now by contacting Fr. [Stephen Holton](#). TO SEE HOW YOUR WORK ON STATEN ISLAND IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE click [here](#).

DEC 14 – CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN will be offered by The Girls' Choir with Alumni of the Choir and members of The Adult and Parish Choirs at 4 pm in the Church.

DEC 14 –THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – MILTON'S NATIVITY ODE: IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED with Nicholas Birns, PhD, Associate Professor of Literary Studies, The New School – John Milton wrote "On The Morning of Christ's Nativity" when he was 21, as a Cambridge undergraduate, It is one of the great poems of the Advent season, lauding the birth of Christ and its promise of salvation. The poem is movingly communicates core Christian doctrine, yet, in its daring, brio, and occasional downright weirdness, inimitably Miltonic. Here we see a great poet testing his fledgling talents while coming to grips with how the birth of Jesus truly changed the world. *This concludes our fall series. Please watch for announcements of our next series which begins in January 2015.*

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

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