

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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Don't Miss the Final Sunday Forum of the Season!



December 14, 2014

The Third Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

Earlier this week the Vestry passed a budget for 2015. After the vote was taken I commended those who worked hard to put it together: the Finance and Audit Committee, Treasurer Jack Browning, Deputy Treasurer Jennifer San Cartier, and Director of Finance Rhianna Murphy. Then I lamented that it is a frustrating budget because it is essentially flat - the same thing as 2014. We seem to be in a financial "chicken-egg" cycle; in order to grow we need more resources, but to have more resources we need to grow. Which comes first?

Our challenges are not unique, nor are they mysterious. The cost of simply being here in a meaningful way rises every year, and we have unexpected expenses that we have no choice but to meet. For example, the scaffolding you currently see outside the church is to repair two pinnacles (weighing 2,000 pounds apiece) that were damaged by frost-heave last winter. Now that the pinnacles are dismantled we've learned that what it will take to correct the situation is far more extensive than we'd hoped - so much so that we won't be able to do it this winter. Thus, the scaffolding will come down until we figure out a way to pay for the project.

John Milton's "On The Morning of Christ's Nativity" with popular Forum speaker and Grace Parishioner Nicholas Birns. This Sunday.

Last Call for Christmas Flowers & Greens!



Every year at Christmas time it is the generous donations from our parishioners that enhance the beauty of Grace Church.

You may donate online [here](#) or you may use a Christmas flower envelope (found in the Parish House hallway) to offer your cash or check.

DEADLINE FOR DEDICATIONS: TUESDAY, DEC 16.
For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the

To meet our expenses Grace Church has three major sources of revenue. We have 13 apartments on 4th Avenue that we rent at fair market value (yes, NYC real estate is practically a blood sport). We have invested funds from which we take a reasonable draw - between 4 and 5-percent. Our goal is to be closer to 3-percent. Finally, we have annual giving from all of our members - from you and me. Last month we launched our annual campaign with a stretch goal of \$1.2 million in pledges for 2015. To reach the goal we will need all of our new households to weigh in generously, and all of our existing households to increase their giving. The benefit will be an upward spiral of ministry potential. Is the goal too much of a stretch?

The day after the Vestry meeting I sat down to begin signing thank-you letters to those who have made 2015 pledges thus far. The letter itself can hardly convey my depth of gratitude to all of you who are stretching to help grow God's kingdom in this place, among this people, and beyond. One by one, letter by letter, I was reminded again that our greatest resource at Grace Church is our people. The Spirit of the Lord is truly among us, and God will stir up his strength to help us.

See you in church - and if you haven't made your 2015 pledge, please do so on Sunday, or by clicking [here](#) today!

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

This Sunday, December 14th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

Christmas bulletin, it must be received by Tuesday, Dec 16th.

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry
 Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
 Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

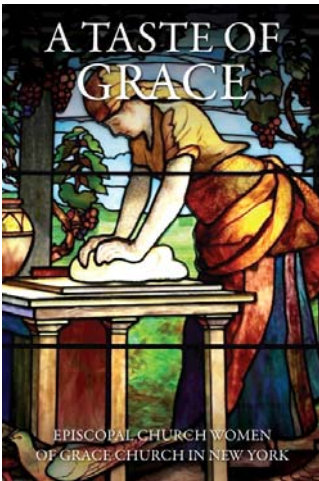
2015 Annual Campaign!



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

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.*

THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS for local charities concludes today with a collection of 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!



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 coffee hour (9 & 11 am), every Sunday until Christmas, or by contacting [Elana Foundos](#).

**A CEREMONY
OF CAROLS**
by Benjamin Britten

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER
AT 4:00 P.M.

THE GIRLS' CHOIR
WITH ALUMNI
AND MEMBERS OF
THE ADULT &
PARISH CHOIRS

GRACE CHURCH
IN NEW YORK

EPISCOPAL

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 offers a four-part meditation on Christian discipleship, focused on Baptism, Eucharist, Scripture, and Prayer. (*Held in the Honor Room, Sundays, Nov 30–Dec 21*) You may join at any time. *This week we discuss the Eucharist.*

COMING SOON

DEC 22 – GREENING OF THE CHURCH – A few good souls are needed to help dress the church on Monday, Dec 22, for the joyous celebration of Christmas. If you would like to sign up, you must [contact Ellen McElduff](#).

DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
4 PM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Featuring 89 talented beasts, shepherds, and villagers.

Doors open at 3:30 pm.

7:30 PM FESTIVAL MUSIC FOR THE ORGAN
Patrick Allen, *organ*.

8 PM FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
The Choir of Men and Boys with the Girls' Choir.
Sermon by the Rector.

10:30 PM FESTIVAL MUSIC FOR ORGAN,
BAROQUE TRUMPET & VIOLIN -
John Thiessen, *baroque trumpet*,
Cynthia Roberts, *baroque violin* & Patrick Allen, *organ*.

11 PM CANDLELIGHT CHORAL EUCHARIST
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
11 AM HOLY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

JAN 4 – AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS This beautiful seasonal opera by *Gian Carlo Menotti* will be offered as part of Choral Evensong. Originally written over 50 years ago as a television piece, it has become a loved part of the season. Please join us for this special offering. Sunday, January 4th at 4 pm, in the Church.

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

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