

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Join Us in Making a Pledge!](#)

[Great job on the Advent Collections!](#)

[A Taste of Grace](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)

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**A bit of
"Greening" has
begun!**



December 21, 2014

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

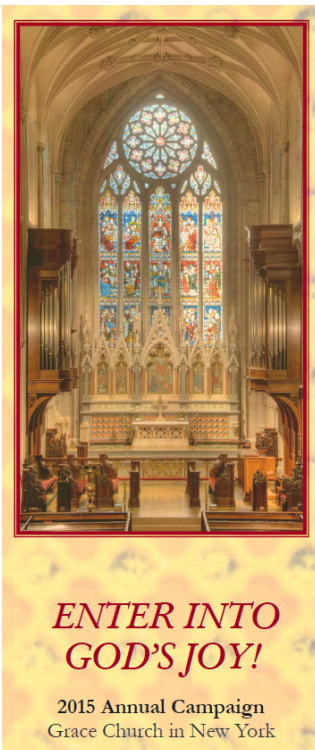
If your mail these days is anything like mine, you are receiving an abundance of messages from worthy organizations appealing for end-of-the-year gifts. 'Tis the season to give, and I hope that you do - not just to your own, but also reaching out into a hurting world.

For those of us who live in New York City, one need that we cannot help but notice is homelessness. A walk down any street will likely present you with numerous people who for various reasons lack the basic necessities of shelter and food. The causes are legion. To complicate matters further, sometimes giving to people on the street only serves to perpetuate the problem. Instead of empowering them to reach for a better life, we can inadvertently give them the resources to stay on the street, and delay seeking the intervention they really need.

What are we at Grace Church doing to help? For many years now we have been devoting our entire Christmas offering to the work of outreach. Thus, when the offering plates pass through the pews on Christmas Eve at 4, 8, and 11 pm, and then again on Christmas morning at 11 am, every dollar you give (except those in pledge envelopes) goes to help

Two beautiful matched trees have arrived from an upstate tree farm. Just a hint of the glory to come!

2015 Annual Campaign!



ADVENT COLLECTIONS ARE A SUCCESS!

THANK YOU to all who participated! You contributed 83 hats, 89 pairs of gloves, 10 scarves, 238 undergarments, and 74 pairs of socks to help homeless neighbors in our city

alleviate the misery caused by poverty and homelessness.

Specifically, the Christmas offering goes into what is called "The Vestry Fund for Outreach," and from this fund we make grants to the agencies of mercy throughout the city that have programs to help the poor reclaim their lives. Every year the fund is becoming a stronger instrument, able to do more and more good.

Yes, we all have many appeals to sort through at this time of year, but this is one I pray will have your special attention. Please be generous with a Christmas offering this year. And you don't have to wait until Christmas to give it. If you will be out of town, you can make a donation right now by clicking [here](#).

See you in church.

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

This Sunday, December 21st

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

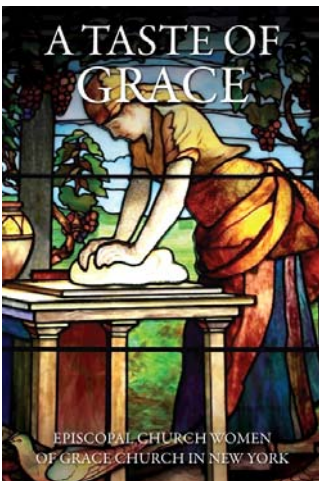
Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

ADVENT BOOK DISCUSSION: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE A CHRISTIAN—and why does Christian community matter? The final session of a 4-part series of discussions using Rowan Williams' new book,

and over 889 toiletry items for homeless women. Your participation and your prayers are appreciated.

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

Being Christian. (Tonight, Dec 21st, directly after the Sunday 6 pm service – in the Reception Room.)

2015 WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at Coffee Hour after the 9 and 11 am services. If you would like envelopes for 2015 and have not yet made a request, please contact Brian Hagan, Director of Development, at bhagan@gracechurchnyc.org or call 212-254-2005.

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.

DEC 28 – SUNDAY SCHOOL will be on recess.

JAN 4 – AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS The Adult Choir offers this dramatic sacred opera by *Gian Carlo Menotti* in the context of evening prayer. 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.

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 our next parish work days on Saturdays Jan 10 and Feb 14. Many jobs for multiple skill levels are available-- including insulation installation, sheet rocking, and



more. We'll schedule a celebration dinner and party after our work days, so *sign up now by contacting sholton@gracechurchnyc.org. UPDATE: On Dec 13th, our eighteen volunteers insulated a house, installed flooring in another, and taped and mudded drywall in a third! Way to go!*

JAN 11, 18, 25 – NEWCOMERS' CLASSES – Members of the clergy speak, and answer questions, about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and what it's like to be a member of Grace Church. A light lunch will be served. Sundays, Jan 11, 18 and 25, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. Childcare for children aged 0–3 is available in the Nursery, upon request by Sunday, Jan 4 to Melissa Spindler at mospindler@gracechurchnyc.org. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in April.*

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