

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Join the Community!](#)

[A Taste of Grace](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

[See the Choristers at work!](#)

Quick Links


[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)

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What has God done for you lately?

The Sunday Forum
@10 am

January 25, 2015

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

Earlier this week Stacie and I went to see *Selma*, the movie about the efforts of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to lead a peaceful protest march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the way to Montgomery, AL. The year was 1965, and the goal was to achieve equal voting rights for the county's black citizens - voting rights which were theirs by law, but frequently denied them by the entrenched white power structure. On March 7th - a day that would come to be called "Bloody Sunday" - King and his supporters attempted the first crossing, only to be repulsed by baton wielding state troopers. The scene in the movie is difficult to watch, even though you know it's coming.

What took me by surprise was the dramatization of the second attempt to cross the bridge. This time the marchers have swelled from several hundred to several thousand. When they come in sight of the state troopers blocking their way, they pause, apparently bracing themselves for another brutal encounter. Suddenly, the state troopers step aside in obedience to orders from their commander, as if to allow the marchers to pass. This looks too easy. What could it mean? Dr. King drops to his knees for a prolonged moment of prayer, after which he rises, turns around, and then leads the marchers back from

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**ENTER INTO
GOD'S JOY!**

2015 Annual Campaign
Grace Church in New York

**Questions?
No problem!**

Just contact Rhianna Murphy, Director of Finance, at 212-254-2000 x 116 (or [click here](#)) to ask any questions at all.

**Did you get
yours?**

whence they came. Why? Dr. King later explains to his disappointed followers what he had discerned in prayer, and why in that moment he decided that the right thing to do was not to press ahead.

I understand that certain editorial decisions will always be necessary if a large and complicated story is to be compressed into one movie. But the clear implication of the scene - at least for me - is that here was a man seeking God's guidance, able to discern it, and willing to follow it, even when it was the unpopular thing to do. What are we to make of God's guidance? It could be that someday you will find yourself on a large stage, needing to make decisions that will affect the lives of many others. But most of the time the bridges we must cross are simply the stuff of everyday living, not Hollywood movie making. Does God speak to us, even lead us through the ordinary? Does God prefer that we take one direction over another even when the stakes don't seem to be high? How can we know?

During the Sundays of Epiphany the Adult Education Committee is planning a series of Sunday Forums in which Grace Church parishioners and others will tell us how they have wrestled with such questions, and how they have discerned the guidance of God. First up is our Pastoral Resident, Hershey Mallette, to be followed on Feb. 1 by Richard Limato, and on Feb. 8 by the Rev. Timothy Morehouse. Read below for more details and plan on joining us.

See you in church.

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

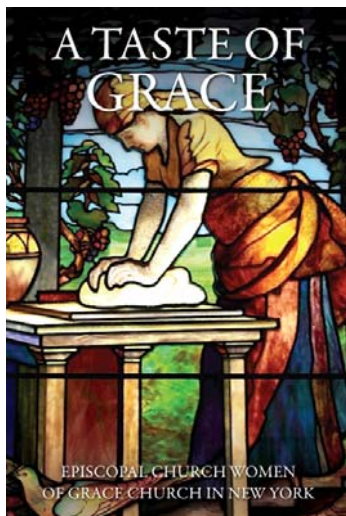
This Sunday

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer



Books will be on sale at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, Feb 1st! Or [contact Elana Foundos](#).

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

WE WELCOME DR. BARRY ROSE as guest conductor of the choir at the 9 and 11 am services. Dr. Rose is a longstanding friend of Grace Church and has been working with the Choirs all week (see [photos](#) at the end of this e-mail). This afternoon he will conduct our Novice and Junior Boy and Girl Choristers for the **Seventh Annual Concert of Music for Treble Voices**, a special annual event that celebrates music for the **soprano chorister's voice**. Twenty-seven Novice Choristers will be "whited" (awarded their surplice) and promoted to Junior Chorister!

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY
AT 4:00 P.M.

The Combined Junior Choristers
of the Grace Church Choirs with
Dr. Barry Rose, guest conductor

GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK
EPISCOPAL

FREE ADMISSION



WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR YOU LATELY? – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM. Led by Hershey Mallette, Pastoral Resident at Grace Church. Join Hershey as we answer this question by looking at the movement of God in each of our lives. **Please come with the dates of your baptism and confirmation and other pivotal moments and life changing events in mind.** In this interactive adult forum we will plot a Spiritual

Autobiography Timeline that traces the movement of the Spirit in our everyday lives. *Come to the Sunday Forum each week at 10 am in the Reception Room for coffee, lively discussion and spiritual enrichment!*

JAN 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. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in April.*

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES TODAY – and save the church some postage \$! After the 9 and 11 am services, you may find them in Tuttle Hall. After the 6 pm service, and during the week, they may be found in the Reception Room. *If you wish to have envelopes, but have not yet requested them, please contact Rhianna Murphy by [e-mail](#) or by phone 212-254-2000 x116.*

Coming Soon

FEB 1 – FROM PRICIPAL TO POSTULANT: One Child of God's Spiritual Journey. THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM. Parishioner and public school Principal **Richard Limato** will continue the Epiphany theme of spiritual autobiography, discernment and responding to God's call. Did the Lord actually whack him in the head with a 2 x 4? Was discernment really the roller coaster ride he avoided all his life? What in the world does he plan to do now that he has said yes? Hear how one Child of God's story will make you think of your own, if you dare.

FEB 1 – THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Feb. 1 immediately following the 11 am service. Reports will be given by the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, the Head of Grace Church School, the Senior Warden, and the

Rector. A delicious lunch (\$5 per person suggested donation) will be served.

FEB 8 – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM will be led by **the Rev. Timothy Morehouse**, a Grace Church parishioner and Chaplain of Trinity School. Tim will continue the Epiphany theme of spiritual autobiography, discernment, and responding to God's call.

FEB 8 – EPISCOPAL YOUNG ADULTS PLAY DODGEBALL! This will be a fun gathering for Episcopal Young Adults and their friends looking to burn some energy and get to know other 20's–30's folk from around the city on a cold winter's day! \$5 per person, includes snacks and drinks (funds raised will be donated to a local youth organization). Sunday, Feb 8, 3–5:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. [RSVP HERE](#) *by Friday, Feb 6 so we have an idea how many teams to prepare for!*

FEB 12 – WINTER NEWCOMERS' EVENT All those new to Grace Church over the last year are invited to "Carnival" on Thursday, Feb 12th 6:30–8:30 pm in the Chantry! Join us for a festive evening of fellowship, refreshments, and fun. Please [contact Singleton Cox](#) for information and to RSVP. *Let's Carnival!*

FEB 15 –SHROVE SUNDAY! Come celebrate Shrovetide this year with a fabulous Sunday brunch of pancakes, bacon and eggs, and fruit salad. \$15 per person requested donation at the door. Fun activities for all ages included. Share a meal with friends before Lent begins. Held in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service. Volunteer help is most appreciated! To find out how you can help, please see the bulletin board outside the Reception Room or [e-mail Melissa](#).

FEB 17 – OPEN DOOR MINISTRY WINTER RECEPTION
– Open Door is a team of friendly volunteers who seek to provide a welcome for weekend visitors to Grace, answering questions about our beautiful

building, our community and its rich history. (Commitment is just 2 hours per month, no experience is necessary!) Sound interesting? The team is currently recruiting new volunteers and will hold a reception on Tuesday, Feb 17, 7–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. All current and prospective members are invited to come and enjoy fellowship and celebrate a successful 2014! [RSVP to Singleton Cox](#).

FEB 19 – ECW PARISH WIDE MEETING –Please come to the first meeting of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in 2015. All women of Grace Church are ECW members! *Hear about upcoming events. *Bring your ideas and suggestions. *Come for fun and fellowship. "No Pressure Pot Luck!" Monday, Feb 19th, 6:30–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. Questions? [Contact Elana Foundos](#).

Choristers hard at work this week with Dr. Rose.





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