

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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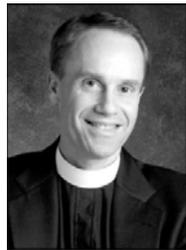
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**"Love is a ladder that reaches through time: sometimes the first rung of the ladder is disguised, but that is only a test." – Alice Walker**

**The  
Sunday Forum**

## February 8, 2015

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

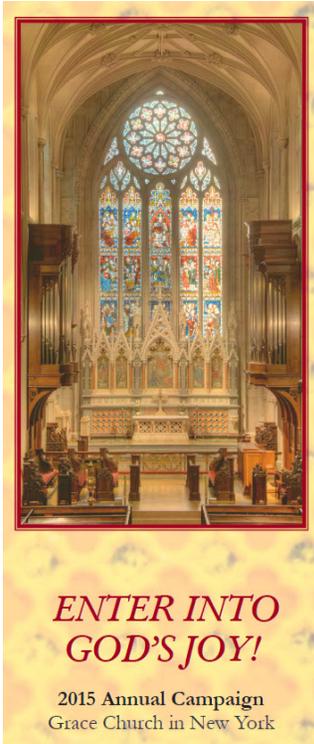
If you've been reading your bulletin announcements lately you know that the call is out to sign up for Confirmation classes. But what is Confirmation, and why would you want it?

Last night I attended a meeting at Grace Church School entitled "Screen Smart Parenting." The purpose of the session was to help parents of teenagers better understand the digital culture that is shaping their children. The underlying assumption was that we parents can't fully comprehend how today's teens are communicating with each other and processing the world through all the rapidly changing digital tools available on their phones. The presenter went so far as to call us the last group of parents who are "digital immigrants." Even though we live in the digital age and make use of its apps and devices, still we belong to the old country and speak with an accent.

The metaphor reminded me of the old country, when I was a teenager in the late 1970s. In our house we had one rotary phone on each floor. If the person you were calling was already on the phone, you got a busy signal. You hung up and tried later by dialing all the numbers again. We had one black-and-white

**@10 am**

**Join the  
Community...  
by making your  
2015 pledge  
[now!](#)**



**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.

**You might  
enjoy...The  
Winchester Bible:**

TV on each floor. If you wanted to change the channel, you got up and manually turned the dial. If the screen rolled you either stomped your foot on the floor or you adjusted the aerial. On the rare occasions when a school paper needed to be typed instead of handwritten, you pecked it out on a mechanical typewriter. I write this not to be a curmudgeon, and not to be nostalgic. People leave the old country for good reasons. Rather, I wish to highlight the challenge of crossing from one culture to another. Sometimes it is a lifelong work.

Likewise, the Christian faith presents us with another culture, one that is different from, even alien to the ways of the world. Call it the kingdom of God, or the way of Jesus, or life in Christ. The point is, our natural selves chaff against the demands of discipleship, and dispute its implications. The last shall be first? The meek shall inherit the earth? "That's not fair," we protest in the accent of the old country, which is the way of sin and death.

Even if you were baptized as an infant and grew up in the church, even if you claim to be spiritual but not religious, the kingdom of God is a culture that is forever new. Confirmation classes can be a way to be mindful of our crossing from error into truth, from sin into righteousness, from death into life (BCP, p. 368). It is the work of a lifetime. If you're interested in signing up, two classes will be offered, one for teens and one for adults. Check out the announcement [below](#) for details.

See you in church.

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

## **This Sunday**

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. Morning Prayer**

## A Masterpiece of Medieval Art



Masterfully illuminated pages from two volumes of the magnificent, lavishly ornamented Winchester Bible (circa 1150). At the Metropolitan Museum of Art through March 8<sup>th</sup>. Click [here](#) for more info.

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

### 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**LADDER OF STORIES, LADDER OF LOVE – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM.** "Love is a ladder that reaches through time: sometimes the first rung of the ladder is disguised, but that is only a test." – Alice Walker.

The Rev. Timothy Morehouse, a Grace Church parishioner and Chaplain of Trinity School will continue the Epiphany theme of spiritual autobiography, discernment, and responding to God's call.

**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 to [ednyyanetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ednyyanetwork@gmail.com) by Friday, Feb 6 so we have an idea how many teams to prepare for!*

## *Coming Soon*

**FEB 12 – WINTER NEWCOMERS' EVENT** All those new to Grace Church over the last year are invited to "Carnival" on Thursday, Feb 12th from 6:30–8:30 pm in the Chantry! Come and enjoy fellowship with clergy, staff and members of the parish while enjoying a sampling of carnival traditions and cuisine from the Caribbean, Latin America and Mardi Gras. Please [contact Singleton Cox](#) for information and to RSVP.

*Let's Carnival!*

**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 day on Saturday, 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 click [HERE](#) to *sign up now*.

**FEB 15 – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM** is on recess today due to the holiday weekend.

**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 [email 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 [here](#).

**FEB 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES** will be held at 8 am in the Chantry, and 12:10 and 6 pm in the Church. All services include homily by the Rector, Eucharist, and the imposition of ashes. The two earlier services are expected to last for approximately 45 minutes.

**FEB 18 – PRAYING AS A PARISH FOR LENT** – Thinking about a Lenten spiritual discipline? Want to engage in a practice of daily prayer but not sure where to start? Consider taking two minutes out of every day to pray using a brief devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for one another. This devotional guide is delivered via email each day during Lent and contains an optional series of daily readings, a scripture verse for the day, and a brief reflection. These daily devotions begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb 18, so sign up today by clicking <http://goo.gl/OFsVVq>. Questions? [Email Stephen Holton](#).

**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!" Thursday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. Questions? Contact Elana Foundos [here](#).

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS** will begin in mid-April in preparation for the bishop's visit on Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>. Classes are led by the clergy and will meet weekly. To sign up for youth classes (7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade) [e-mail Melissa Spindler](#). To sign up for adult classes, [e-mail the Rev. Stephen Holton](#).

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