

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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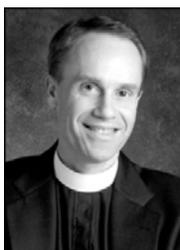


See "This Sunday" at right...

**Lesser-known
Works of the
17th Century...**

March 1, 2015

The Second Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

On Thursday of this week it was my pleasure to give a pre-arranged tour of Grace Church to some students in the advanced architecture class of the Dalton School. They are studying neo-gothic architecture, and had just come from Trinity Church, Wall Street. I was interested to hear their comparisons of the two edifices, both of which were finished and consecrated in the year 1846. Trinity, they noticed, appears much bigger on the outside than it actually is on the inside, whereas Grace Church is the reverse: much bigger inside than it appears to be on the outside. We talked about the two great 19th century church architects, Richard Upjohn (Trinity) and James Renwick, Jr. (Grace), and the history that the two parishes share. We talked about plaster, stone, and stained glass. Eventually we came to the southwest corner of the nave, where the paint is peeling, the plaster is crumbling, and the water damage from decades of leaks is painfully obvious. It was a good teaching moment, because the students could look at the layers of building materials and the methods of construction. But then one of them asked, "When are you going to fix this?"

Good question! I don't know the answer. Actually, I do know the answer; the answer is: when we can afford it. This was my cue to explain to the students all

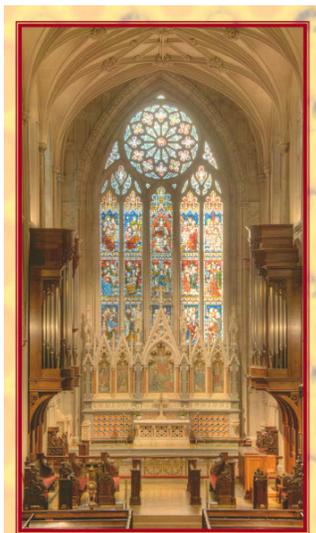


and what they reveal!

(Part II)

**The Sunday Forum
at 10 am**

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



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GOD'S JOY!***

2015 Annual Campaign
Grace Church in New York

If you have any questions about your pledge, please contact Rhianna Murphy, Director of Finance, at

the restoration work we have accomplished in the past five years. We moved to the front of the church and looked up at the chancel ceiling, and I showed them the lines between what we have done and what we have left undone. We talked about what it takes to install a new organ, and restore stained glass windows, and how much right now we are all enjoying a breather from scaffolding. Nevertheless, the question remains: when might we finish restoring the interior of the church, or at least undertake another phase?

Earlier this month at the annual meeting I mentioned that the Vestry and I would be embarking on a process of long range planning - a process that will eventually call for input from the whole parish. This Tuesday the Vestry and I will be meeting in an extended session with members of our program staff and standing committees in a first step towards getting our minds wrapped around the challenges ahead. We'll be led by consultants from the Episcopal Church Foundation. In preparation for the meeting I am working on a document that I am calling, "The **Ten Big Questions** for Grace Church." It's too early to reveal them now, but I will give you two clues: yes, one of them does ask when we will finish restoring the church interior. That's the first clue. The second is, you may be glad to know that interior restoration does not top my list of ten big questions. Right now it's only coming in at number-six. Rejoice!

Keep the Vestry in your prayers on Tuesday evening, and stayed tuned for more as the process unfolds.

See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)

Rector

This Sunday

9 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist

212-254-2000 x 116
(or [click here](#)).

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

**6 p.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist,
in the Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

HOSPITALITY FIRST – a new concept in community participation! The Hospitality team continues to seek volunteers to sign up for a particular Sunday, bringing a fresh-baked (or fresh-purchased) goodie for coffee hour. **HOWEVER**, here is a wider opportunity so that all can contribute! On the first Sunday of each month, you will find a donation bin in Tuttle Hall. We invite and encourage all parishioners to contribute sweet and savory packaged items for Sunday coffee hours after all services – cookies, cheese sticks, crackers, etc. – requiring no refrigeration or freezing. Hopefully, we will develop a full pantry to be used on those Sundays when we do not have fresh baked items on hand. This is a way for many more to give whatever is personally doable – while hopefully avoiding those last minute (and expensive) Sunday morning runs across the street to Modern Gourmet! Many thanks!

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY POEMS AND PSALMS Part II – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. Professor Diana Benet, PhD, leads a discussion of 17th century works – less well-known than the work of authors like Donne, Herbert, and Milton – revealing an age and culture that was centered on religion to a degree unimaginable to us now.

JOURNEY THROUGH LENT TO HOLY WEEK – SUNDAY EVENINGS @7PM. Join our Lenten study series on Sunday evenings after the 6 pm service in the Honor Room. **MARCH 1: Prayer, Hymnody & Tenebrae. "He who sings prays twice."** This thought from St. Augustine inspires us to think differently about the merits of song and prayer as we journey further into

the season of Lent. Hymns share the love of God through the ages, and allow us to carry that love with us in to the world today. This Sunday, join Organ Scholar, George Fergus and Pastoral Resident, Hershey Mallette to reflect deeply, pray and sing Lenten hymns and other great songs of the Episcopal Church. Mar 8: Eucharist & Maundy Thursday; Mar 15: Reconciliation & Good Friday; Mar 22: Baptism & the Easter Vigil.

Coming Soon

YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP! – 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 began on Ash Wednesday, Feb 18, so sign up today by clicking <http://goo.gl/OFsVVg>. Questions? [Email Stephen Holton](#).

MAR 7 – LENTEN QUIET DAY – The women of ECW invite everyone (men too) to a Lenten quiet day led by our Pastoral Resident, Hershey Mallette. We will meet in the Reception Room at 10 am for a light breakfast, spend some guided contemplative time in our beautiful church using art and poetry to inspire us, concluding our time together with lunch. Homemade soup and beverages provided; please bring a sandwich. Sat, Mar 7, from 10 am – 1 pm. For more information [contact Hershey](#).

MAR 7, 8 – HOME COOKED MEAL FOR NYC RESCUE MISSION – COME AND HELP! On Sat, Mar 7 at 8 am, Parishioner Lillie Chance will lead a cooking effort in the kitchen (off Tuttle Hall) – just before the Lenten

Quiet Day event. On Sun, Mar 8, we will serve a meal of pot roasts and cupcakes to hundreds of guests at the NYC Rescue Mission. How can you help? By preparing a pot roast or cupcakes at home (We have a super easy and delicious pot roast recipe for you) or at Grace on Saturday, donating funds for ingredients, and/or serving on Sunday at the Mission. Come and join in this fun and rewarding service opportunity. [E-mail Lillie](#) for info and signups.

MAR 8 – WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US THROUGH THE BIBLE (ESPECIALLY DURING LENT)? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM. The Holy Scriptures, commonly called the Bible, are the books of the Old and New Testaments. We call them the Word of God because God inspired human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible. How does the scripture live in a way that can guide us to right action and right relationship with God and our neighbor? We will ask these and many more questions about scripture's use in the Church particularly during Holy Week, and by the grace of God we may reach some conclusions. Led by Hershey Mallette, our Pastoral Resident.

MAR 8 – WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN ACOLYTE? – Anyone in the 4th grade or older who would like to an acolyte is invited to an information/training session with the Rector on after the 11 am service. We also have adults in our corps who often serve at evening services when young people are unavailable. If you are interested, please sign up by emailing Fr. Don Waring [here](#).

MAR 15 –ATONEMENT & SALVATION: THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM. "Why did Jesus have to die?" As Christians we claim salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. But what does that mean? And how are we saved—from what and for what? Join Fr Stephen Holton for a look at the history of soteriology—the doctrine of salvation through Christ's death and resurrection—and a discussion of what it means for us today.

MAR 19 – CHRISTIAN – MUSLIM ENCOUNTER: The Theological Dimension. A lecture by Dr. Lucinda Mosher, sponsored by the ECW and open to ALL (men too!). In these days of religious uncertainty in many areas of the world, we are privileged to be able to learn from a Christian scholar how Christians and Muslims can relate to each other. Admission – 1 food donation for Church of the Village food pantry. 6:30 – 8:30 pm in Tuttle Hall. *A lifelong educator, Dr. Lucinda Mosher is currently Faculty Associate for Interfaith Studies and Director of the Multifaith Chaplaincy Program at Hartford Seminary (Hartford, CT) where she offers courses on America's religious diversity, chaplaincy, and Christian–Muslim relations.*

MAR 22 – EGERIA: WOMAN, PILGRIM, AND PROTO-LITURGIST. The 4th Century letter from Egeria recounted her observations while on a 3-year pilgrimage in the Holy Land. Containing descriptions of liturgical practices like Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week which were not universal in the 4th Century, the letter is an important link and source document in the liturgical renewal that influenced our 1979 Book of Common Prayer. We'll make a quick survey of Egeria's letter and discuss the ancient roots of our modern liturgical practices. *Led by the Rev. Clayton Crawley, M.Div., Church Divinity School of the Pacific. At seminary, Clayton focused on liturgics with The Rev Dr. Louis Weil, one of the authors of the 1979 BCP and a noted liturgical scholar. Fr. Crawley serves at St. Bartholomew's and Trinity Wall Street and as a trustee at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA.*

MAR 27 – 20s30s LENTEN SUSHI FRIDAY – Enjoy a meal, prayer and fellowship during Lent with others in their 20s and 30s from churches around the city. 6:30 pm on Fri March 27 in the Reception Room at Grace Church. \$10 per person for dinner and BYOB. *RSVP by 5 pm each THURSDAY prior, to the Young Adult Network at ednyyanetwork@gmail.com. For more info visit www.youngadults.diocesenyny.org.*

MAR 28 – 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. *Please sign up now by emailing Fr. Stephen Holton [here](#).*

MAR 29 – EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH PART II
On Palm Sunday at 4 pm in the Church, the Adult Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from the Easter Portion of Handel's MESSIAH.

APR 4 – EASTER EVE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

Your help in making this year's Easter Eve Walk a joyous occasion for all is greatly needed! If you are able to offer your time, talents and/or financial donations, please sign up on the Easter Bulletin Board (just outside the Reception Room) or by contacting Melissa [here](#).

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