

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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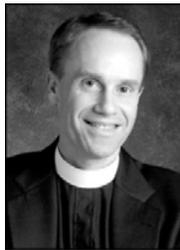
EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS



Every year at Easter time it is the generous donations from parishioners that

March 8, 2015

The Third Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

Last week in this space I wrote about how the Vestry, the staff, and some other key lay leaders and I would be embarking on a process of long range planning for Grace Church. We got off to a great start on a snowy Tuesday evening earlier this week, but it's only just a beginning. We were led by consultants from the Episcopal Church Foundation, who will consolidate all the ideas we generated and report back to us at a future Vestry meeting. Another step along the way will be a "town hall" meeting with the whole parish that we hope we might be able to arrange before the summer is upon us. (Yes, looking out my window this morning at 7-inches of new fallen snow, summer does seem like a long time away. But it will be here before we know it.)

I also wrote last week that I was working on a document I am calling "10 Big Questions for Grace Church" that I hope will guide us along the way. At our session on Tuesday we ran out of time before we were able to introduce these questions into our discussion, thus I still have time to revise and tinker with them. I mentioned that number-six on the list was the question of interior restoration of the church: When will we finish it? You may be wondering what I think are the five more pressing questions ahead of this one. Let me give you what I think is the Number-

enhance the beauty of Grace Church.

You may give online [HERE](#) (put "Easter" in the comments box).

We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. Thank you! ***For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter service bulletin, it must be received by Palm Sunday, 3/29.***



"How does the scripture live in a way that can guide us to right action and right relationship with God and our neighbor?"

The Sunday Forum
at 10 am

**Want to Join the
Acolytes?**

One question for us: What is the particular mission of Grace Church?

We live in time when society seems to have lost any shared, public understanding of the reason for church. People know why they go to school, the hospital, the clubs, the movies, and to sporting events. But why go to church? A school educates its students, a hospital heals the sick, a theater entertains its audience. But what does a church do? The Book of Common Prayer (p. 855) declares that *the mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ*. That's a good start, but we need to be able to articulate the particular mission of Grace Church in terms that are so robust and compelling that people will want to join in and be part of it. The days are long gone when we could assume that people will simply show up and know how to unlatch the doors of our pews. They don't!

Here's a challenging Lenten exercise for all of us: in 25 words or less, write down what you think the particular mission of Grace Church should be. At this point in history, what is God calling us to do at the corner of 10th and Broadway? If you care to [send me your answer](#), I'd be curious to read what you think.

See you in church (and if you see a newcomer struggling with a pew door, please help!).

[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 & Morning Prayer
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Choir of Men and Boys



Meet Fr. Don in the Church after the 11am service this week to learn what's involved!

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

Questions? Contact Rhianna Murphy [here](#).

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

Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

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.

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 after the 11 am service today in the church. 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 [e-mailing the Rector here](#).

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. *This Sunday, Mar 8, join Fr. Stephen Holton to reflect on the Eucharist or Holy Communion—its history, its meaning, and its connection to the Maundy Thursday liturgies; Mar 15: Reconciliation & Good Friday; Mar 22: Baptism & the Easter Vigil.*

Coming Soon

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).*

MAR 22 – EGERIA: WOMAN, PILGRIM, AND PROTO-LITURGIST: THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM. 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 Mar 26, to the Young Adult Network at ednyvanetwork@gmail.com. For more info visit www.youngadults.dioceseny.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, Mar 28. Many jobs for multiple skill levels are available--including insulation installation, sheet rocking, and more. *Please sign up now by contacting 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 WALK – Join us on Holy Saturday, April 4, from 10:30 am–1:30 pm, as we experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord through interactive storytelling. There will also be crafts, treats, and an Easter egg hunt! Activities are designed for kids ages 4 and up, but the whole family is welcome. Suggested donation per child \$15, includes a pizza lunch. To attend, [RSVP to Melissa here](#). To help, please see below!

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](#) to see how you can help.

APR 5 – EASTER DAY – No Sunday School. Activity bags available to help kids sit through church!

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org

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