

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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**In thanksgiving for  
all the blessings of  
this life...**

## November 15, 2015

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

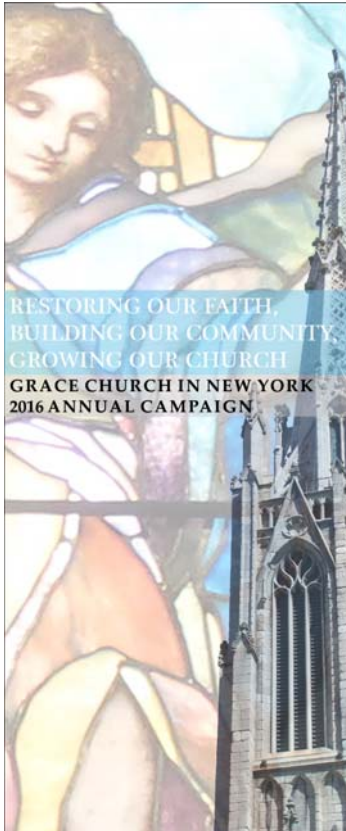


Dear Friends,

Unless you have imposed upon yourself a personal media blackout, then you know that the story about Starbucks' holiday coffee cups has lit up the headlines. TV news anchors, newspaper columnists, and late night comedians have all weighed in on the matter. Specifically, as December approaches, Starbucks has decided that this year's holiday cup will not include any season-specific graphics, but simply be plain red. Apparently, certain Evangelical Christian groups have declared that this move is all part of the larger "war on Christmas." They are angry that Starbucks is taking Christ and Christmas off their holiday cups.

Excuse me. Where did these righteous folks ever get the idea that the mission of Starbucks was to promote Christ and Christmas? It is not. The mission of Starbucks is to make a profit for its shareholders. They pursue their mission by selling coffee and various sugary beverage concoctions to whoever will buy them: Christians, Jews, Muslims, Mormons, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists, etc. A dollar from one is just as good as a dollar from another. Even better from a Starbucks' perspective would be a dollar from all of them.

Furthermore, the graphics that Starbucks formerly printed on its holiday cups were snowflakes, snowmen, reindeer, ornaments, and evergreen boughs. These are not Christian symbols. Does anyone seriously think that sipping a latte out of a snowman cup will put a



nonbeliever on the slippery slope towards creedal orthodoxy?

My modest proposal is that the outraged Christian groups would spare us their indignation. The anger is misplaced and in bad form. What is more, it plays right into the stereotypes that secular society suspects of Christianity: that its practitioners are intolerant, hypersensitive, and insecure.

In the coming weeks I will undoubtedly go to Starbucks and enjoy a tasty caffeinated beverage in a red holiday cup. It will give me a jolt and Starbucks a profit. That's the deal. But if you want to jumpstart your faith and keep Christ in Christmas, don't go to Starbucks. Come to church!

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

**2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN. Details at right, under "This Sunday."**

**Click the PIE. Support our Choirs! *Order by Nov 15th!***



**Details at right under "This Sunday."**

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!**



It's time for a little yuletide cheer. Christmas trees from the DiDomenico Tree Farm are once again available for purchase to benefit our continued restoration and preservation of Grace Church. The trees, which have been generously donated, are beautiful short needle Spruce evergreens and stand 5 to 7 feet tall. Christmas Trees can be purchased for \$100. (Charitable tax-deductible portion: \$60) Share in the fun and order your custom cut tree today. You may order online [HERE](#). Your one-of-a-kind Christmas tree will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 6th in Seymour Close. Contact [James Romanik](#) with questions. Thank



# GRACE CHRISTMAS FAIR

ART | CRAFTS | GIFTS | REFRESHMENTS

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 5-7pm**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 10am-4pm**

GRACE CHURCH IN NEW YORK  
802 BROADWAY AT 10th St

SATURDAY – WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION \$10 ADMISSION  
SUNDAY – \$2 ADMISSION FOR CHARITY

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT MINISTRIES OF GRACE CHURCH

Follow us on Facebook at: [Grace Church in New York ECW](#)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: [ECWNYCGRACE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ECWNYCGRACE@GMAIL.COM)

## This Sunday

**November 15, 2015**

**The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. Morning Prayer**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

you and Happy  
Christmas!

### PARISH PRAYERS



*Please pray for...*

#### *those who suffer*

Gary White  
Arthur Hung & family  
Janet Bondurant  
Lok Mei Wu  
Timothy Tung  
Greg Gillies  
Josephine Ferraiuolo  
Howard Small  
Trish Lawrence  
Paul Tillotson

#### *those who have died*

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

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY** – Recently we launched the 2016 Campaign for Grace Church, asking all our members and friends to make a financial pledge to the work of the Lord through Grace Church for the coming year. Pledge cards and brochures have been mailed to the entire parish, and are also available in your pews, the narthex, and outside the Reception Room. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church, we urge everyone to commit to a financial gift for the coming year. You can fill out a pledge envelope or you can [make a pledge online HERE](#). Please contact [James Romanik](#), Manager of Membership Services and Communications, with any questions. *NOTE: Pledges made today do not need to be paid off today, or even all at once. You can take all of 2016 to fulfill your pledge.*

**GRACE CHRISTMAS FAIR** 25 fabulous vendors – bring your Christmas gift list! Tuttle Hall will be open for Christmas shopping from 10 – 4 pm, admission \$2 for charity. Homemade refreshments for sale. Visit our TREASURES table for some GREAT finds! See you then!

**PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM** – Held in the Reception Room. All are welcome. *Prof. Robert Owens, Ph.D., Professor of Old Testament Studies at General Theological Seminary, will lead a discussion on the Church in Jerusalem, catholicity, and Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to be spiritually magnanimous. Read 2 Corinthians, Chapters 8–9. A full listing of class dates and speakers through Dec 14 can be found [HERE](#).*

**(LAST CHANCE!) PIE TASTING AFTER THE 11 AM SERVICE! THANKSGIVING PIES TO BENEFIT THE CHOIRS' 'Special Projects Fund'** - Delicious pies for your Thanksgiving feast! \$10 from every purchase goes directly to the "Special Projects Fund," supporting special opportunities for the choirs such as last year's summer concert tour centered in Paris. For details and ordering info, click [HERE](#). THANK YOU for all your prayers and support! *Order deadline: Sunday, November 15th, Pickup day: Tues. 11/24.*

**TEEN STUDY BREAK** - Grace Church's new youth group for 8th-12th graders will meet on Sunday, Nov 15 from 4 pm - 5:15. By popular demand, it's a chance to hang out and have fun over snacks, discuss how spirituality can be relevant in our lives today, and put our faith into action through community outreach. Friends are always welcome, whether or not they attend Grace, another religious community, or none. [Contact the Rev. Chase Danford](#) for more information.

### *Coming Soon*

**NOV 21 - GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY!** Ever considered volunteering with the GO Project, but not sure you can make a year-round commitment? How about signing up for a one-day event? GO invites all Grace Church members and friends to participate on Saturday, Nov 21st, from 9 am-12:30 pm. Come and see this wonderful program in action, meet the students served by the program and pitch in to help! *Sign up by e-mailing Olivia Nunez at [onunez@goprojectnyc.org](mailto:onunez@goprojectnyc.org).*

**NOV 22 - PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS - THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM** - *Prof. Roy Tsao of Brooklyn College will discuss Paul's legacy for later Christian and secular thinkers throughout time. Read 2 Corinthians, Chapters 10-13.*



**NOV 22 – GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY** is the day we celebrate the common history and mission of Grace Church and Grace Church School. At the 11 am service, we'll welcome The Rev. Edmund K. "Ned" Sherrill, II, President of the National Association of Episcopal Schools, as our guest preacher. Music will be offered by the Alumni of the Choirs with The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir. After the service, please come to Tuttle Hall for a festive reception!

**NOV 25, 26 – THANKSGIVING SERVICES OF HOLY EUCHARIST** will take place in the Chantry at 6 pm on Wednesday, Nov 25, and at 11 am on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 26. Ms. Gretchen Ratterree will preach.

**NOV 29 – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM** is on recess today and will resume next week.

**NOV 29 – ADVENT BEGINS – COME AND MAKE A WREATH!** Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way to keep our thoughts focused on the coming of Christ, and to help teach our children the real meaning of Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent, Nov 29th, after the 9 am, 11 am or 6 pm services we'll have all the materials ready for you. All are welcome! Experienced wreath-makers are encouraged to help others! Sign up as a volunteer by contacting Fr. Chase at [cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org). (Minimum suggested donation per wreath: \$25.)

**DEC 4, 5 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS** Tickets are now on sale for Friday, Dec 4 at 8 pm and Saturday, Dec 5 at 3 pm at Grace Church. Featuring Handel's Coronation Anthems. With music by Gibbons, Gjeilo, Rachmaninoff, and Parry, and audience carol sing. Tickets available online at [www.thechoralsociety.org](http://www.thechoralsociety.org) click CONCERTS.

**DEC. 6 – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AT THE SUNDAY FORUM.** Join us at 10 am in the Reception Room for a presentation about Habitat for Humanity and the plan for Grace Church to build a house in 2016.

**DEC 6 – ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS** Readings of scripture foretelling the coming of Christ are interspersed with beautiful music of the season. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

**DEC 4, 5 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERTS** Tickets are now on sale for Friday, Dec 4 at 8 pm and Saturday, Dec 5 at 3 pm at Grace Church. Featuring Handel's Coronation Anthems. With music by Gibbons, Gjeilo, Rachmaninoff, and Parry, and audience carol sing. Tickets available online [HERE](#).

*Coming next week!*

THE GO PROJECT  
ANNUAL FALL

*Cocktail Party*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH 7-10PM  
ROOFTOP TERRACE | BRYANT PARK GRILL  
25 WEST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10018

OPEN BAR • FOOD • SILENT AUCTION  
Business/Festive Attire

PURCHASE TICKETS AT  
[www.picatic.com/2015YLC](http://www.picatic.com/2015YLC) | [www.goprojectnyc.org](http://www.goprojectnyc.org)



HOSTED BY THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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*To find service information,  
you may visit [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org), updated weekly.*

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Try it FREE today.

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