

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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

November 22, 2015

The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King



Dear Friends,

Yesterday one of my teenaged sons sent me an email with a link to the trailer for the new Star Wars movie. Next month Hollywood will release the 7th installment of the epic series in which good (the Force) battles

against evil (the Dark Side) in a galaxy far, far away. If the truth be told, I remember going to the theater in the summer of 1977 to see the first movie. I was but a lad of 15. We soon learned that what we'd seen was actually only the fourth chapter of what George Lucas envisioned to be a nine-movie series that would take thirty years to unfold in earthly theaters. I thought to myself, "no way." But here we are. Back then I could not have imagined a seventh movie. Even more, I could not have imagined having a son about the same age as I getting excited about its release.

The title of the new movie is "The Force Awakens." It takes me a while to catch on, but my first question yesterday was: The Force Awakens? I thought the Force had won? You see, at the end of movie #6 it seemed that good had finally and forever triumphed over evil. Anakin Skywalker (aka Darth Vader) had been redeemed and stood in translucent glory with Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda as the galaxy rejoiced. Not so fast. Apparently the celebrations were premature. This week I was genuinely surprised to learn that the Dark Side has regrouped to menace the Force yet again.



2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

ADVENT BEGINS



Next Sunday, Nov 29

CHRISTMAS TREES!

It was a week ago today that Paris, the City of Light, suffered coordinated terrorist attacks in which 129 were killed. No matter how many times the darkness regroups to menace civilization, I think it always catches us by surprise. What is the source of evil? How are people inclined to the good to combat or resist it? How long will the struggle continue? Obviously, I have no easy answers to questions that have vexed humanity since the dawn of consciousness.

One thing that is safe to say, however, is that the primary arena where the struggle is to take place is not in a galaxy far, far away. It is not even in the person in front of you, behind you, or beside you. It is first and foremost within you. The second we ascribe all darkness to "the other" and all light to "us" is the moment we go astray. Each one of us is a complex tangle of selfish motives and good intentions. St. Paul bemoaned the conundrum when he wrote to the church in Rome: "*For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.*" He went on to declare that only Jesus Christ breaks the stalemate in his soul.

As for me, the force that needs to be awakened is not so much my awareness of pop culture. Rather it is the Spirit of Christ that empowers me to love kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with God. No, we can never let down our guard.

See you in church.

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

(Volunteers Still Needed!)

SATURDAY, 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 [HERE](#).*



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, Dec 6th in Seymour Close**. Contact [James Romanik](#) with questions. Thank you and Happy Christmas!

This Sunday

November 22, 2015

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Edmund K. Sherrill, II

Music: Alumni of the Choirs with
The Choir of Men and Boys with The Girls' Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

PARISH PRAYERS



Please pray for...

those who suffer

Nancy Keogh
 Gary White
 Arthur Hung & family
 Timothy Tung
 Greg Gillies
 Josephine Ferraiuolo
 Howard Small
 Trish Lawrence
 Paul Tillotson

those who have died

Janet Bondurant
 Richard Sharpe
 Haliburton Fales
 Valentin Ribet

THANK YOU!

THE GRACE CHRISTMAS FAIR WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

The ECW would like to thank ALL our volunteers, donors, participants, photographers, cooks, bakers, Grace staff and clergy. A big thank you to our ECW Core Group for their tireless efforts which begin in August! This year we had involvement from Grace Church, Grace Church School and the GO Project. And TOGETHER

The students, families, faculty & staff of Grace Church School are cordially invited to join the people of Grace Church in celebrating 121 Years of shared history, tradition, & community!

**Grace Church School Sunday
 November 22nd**

**11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Service,
 in the Church**

*Sermon by the Rev. Edmund K. "Ned" Sherrill, II,
 President of the National Association of Episcopal Schools,*

*Music by the Alumni of the Choirs with
 The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir*

**12:15 p.m. Festive Reception,
 in Tuttle Hall**

Please join us!

- Celebrate our past, present and future together
- Give thanks for the benefits we bring to each other
 - Hear the voices of the Choirs
- Demonstrate our commitment to a shared tradition
- Listen to an inspiring message from our guest preacher

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM –Together, we'll examine the historical context of the letters, the issues they raise and the relevancy for us at Grace Church. Held in the Reception Room at 10 am. All are welcome. *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. A full listing of class dates and speakers through Dec 14 can be found [HERE](#).*

TEEN STUDY BREAK – Grace Church's new youth group for 8th–12th graders will meet this Sunday from 4 pm – 5:15 in the 3rd floor Conference Room.

we made this a wonderful event for all! THANK YOU to our parishioners who bought gifts from our vendors and artists. WE appreciate your support and enthusiasm!!



This is a no-pressure space for our often too-busy teens 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 house of worship, or none. [Contact the Rev. Chase Danford](#) for more information.

Coming Soon

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. (Minimum suggested donation per wreath: \$25.)

NOV 29, DEC 6, 13 – THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS for local charities will begin on Sunday, Nov 29th, with the collection of hats, scarves, and gloves for the Church of the Ascension food pantry. On Sunday, Dec 6th, we will collect travel-sized toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, powder, lotion, and soap) for the women's shelter at NYC Rescue

Mission. On Sunday, Dec 13th, we'll collect new men's boxers, t-shirts, and tube socks (larger sized) for the men's shelter at NYC Rescue Mission. Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church at all services. Please give generously this Advent!

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](#).

DEC 5 – 20'S & 30'S ST. NICHOLAS DAY PARTY – The Revs. Mary Cat Young and Chase Danford invite college students and 20's and 30's-ish parishioners and guests to celebrate the historical St. Nicholas with a gathering of young adults from churches around the city! In the spirit of Old St. Nick, donations at the door will help Episcopal churches build classrooms for refugee children in Iraq. Saturday, Dec 5, 6–8:30 pm, at All Angels' Church, 251 W. 80th St (@Broadway). [RSVP to Chase](#).

DEC. 6 – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AT THE SUNDAY FORUM. We've built in New Orleans, West Virginia, Staten Island, and this year we'll build a house for a family in Queens. Come to the Sunday Forum on December 6 (10am, Reception Room) to learn more about this project--and how you can help.

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 9 – THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this festive annual event! 12:15 – 12:45 pm in the Church.

DEC 13 – A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN will be offered by The Girls' Choir with Alumni of the Choir and members of The Adult and Parish Choirs at 4 pm in the Church.

*To find service information,
you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.*

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

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