

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS



Every year at Christmas time it is the generous donations from our parishioners and friends that enhance the beauty of Grace

November 29, 2015

The First Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

Last summer, the most recent General Convention of the Episcopal Church resolved that it's time to start the process of revising *The Book of Common Prayer*. The good news is that any end product is still years away, but I fear that what we will

wind up with is a book of prose, not poetry. The first English prayer book was largely the work of Thomas Cranmer, who was the Archbishop of Canterbury in the mid-16th century. Subsequent revisions have all retained Cranmer's masterful use of the language, even our current 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* in the sections we know as "Rite One." Cranmer was an artist and a wordsmith, and if his phrases go away, we will be the poorer for it.

Case in point, the General Confession that we pray together at the 11:00 am service. We confess that we have "*followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.*" Also, "*we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.*" Concerning this latter sentence, I've often thought that here we have Advent and Lent in a nutshell. Here we have the sins of omission and the sins of commission. The hard work of Lent can be addressing the sins of commission. What have you done that you ought not to have done? What habits have you acquired that you ought to break? In Lent it's time to deny yourself.

Church. You may donate online [HERE](#). You may also use a Christmas flower envelope, found around the church and parish house, to offer your cash or check (made payable to Grace Church). We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. Thank you!

For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletins, it must be received by Tuesday, Dec 15th.

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

The season at hand, however, is not Lent, but Advent. The special challenge of Advent can be the sins of omission. What have you left undone that you ought to have done? At this time of the year the days grow shorter, the pace of life quickens, and the night skies appear by late afternoon. Time is running out before Christmas, before the end of another year, before the end of our mortal lives. The lesson to learn is that we do not have forever to say the words we have left unsaid, to fulfill the promises we have left unfulfilled, to do the things we have left undone that we ought to have done.

Over the next few weeks, look around you. To whom have you neglected to speak words of love, words of praise, or words of apology? Yes, Advent teaches us the time is short. But also, the time is at hand. We do not have forever, but we do have now. Now is the time to wake from sleep and address our sins of omission. Now is the time to cast away sloth and get moving. One of the hymns (#59) we will sing in Advent says it well:

*Wakened by the solemn warning,
from earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.*

My prayer is that your Advent will be joyful and holy, both at the same time. See you in church.

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

This Sunday

November 29

The First Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

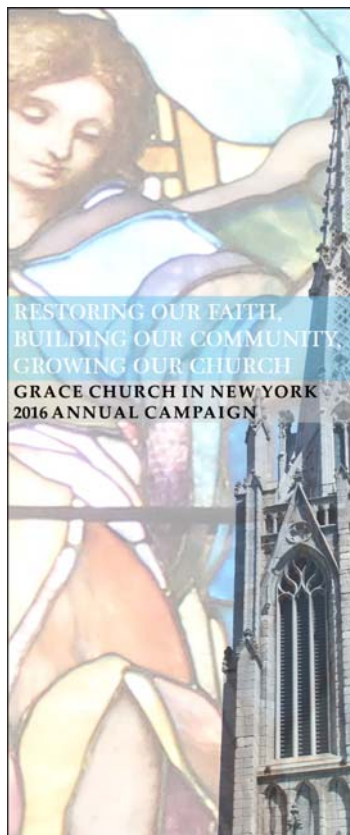
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford



2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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, generously donated, are beautiful

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT begins today. The

word Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival, or approach. In our worship, the hymns and Scripture readings take on a mysterious, urgent tone as we anticipate the coming of Christ. One-by-one we light the four candles of the Advent wreath. The Gospel readings shift to Mark, the liturgical color is purple and we begin a new Church Year.



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.)

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

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.

short needle Spruce evergreens and stand 5 to 7' tall. 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!

PARISH PRAYERS



Please pray for...

those who suffer

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

Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church at all services. Please give generously this Advent!

Coming Soon

DEC 3 – A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE GO PROJECT with one of the founders. Hear about how Grace Church women work to address the needs of the neighborhood – by supporting an organization that seeks to give all children access to a quality education. Presented by Bonnie Recca and Cree Harland. Sponsored by the ECW. Thurs, Dec 3rd 6:30–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. "No pressure potluck." Suggested admission is one donation for the food pantry. ALL are welcome, men too!

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

those who have died.

about this project--and how you can help. For more info on this and other outreach projects, please visit www.gracechurchnyc.org/outreach.

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 – GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING – Families are invited to come decorate a gingerbread house after the 9am and 11am services. [RSVP to Chase](#) is required by Wednesday, Dec. 9th to make sure we have enough supplies. \$20 minimum suggested donation per house, which will help support "The House that Grace Built" Habitat for Humanity project.

DEC 13 – 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. *The Rev. Titus Presler, Th.D., scholar of Christian mission, will integrate the pastoral and ethical themes of the preceding weeks with Paul's missional personality and vocation and discuss their relevance to the Grace Church community today.*

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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