

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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

November 8, 2015

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

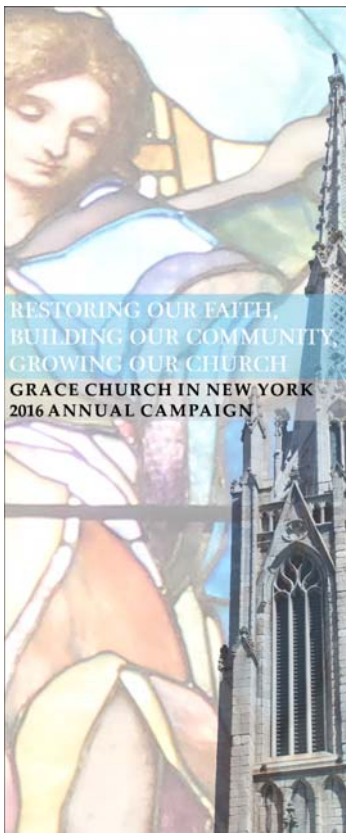


Dear Friends,

Even though the computer in my office is only two years old, I am told it is time for me to get a new one. The truth is, I don't want a new computer. I really don't. Why not? Because I have barely learned how to use this one, and I am loathe to start

over yet again. Frequently I will have a pop-up balloon appear on my screen that says: *There are unused icons on your desktop. The desktop cleanup wizard can help you clean up your desktop. Click this balloon to start the wizard.* Have I ever utilized the desktop wizard? Of course not. I like my unused icons. They comfort me merely by their unused presence. In a world where the pace of change increases by the day, at least I can count on my computer screen looking the same today as it did yesterday. Don't you dare clean up my unused icons.

Not everyone derives comfort from unused icons. For many people these days the church, and all of religion in general, is an unused and therefore unwanted icon on the American landscape. What is more, they think that people who *do* click on the Christian icon are damaging to society. They see hypocrites, homophobes, young-earth creationists, and they fear that embracing a religion is akin to downloading a virus onto a computer. A benign unused icon is one thing, but when it retards social and scientific progress, then it is time to employ the cleanup wizard. Earlier this week an article that appeared online and in many newspapers reported the results of a study by the Pew Research Center on



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

Click the PIE. Support our Choirs!



Details at right under "This Sunday."

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!

religious trends in America. The results reported a drop in overall belief and practice, especially among young adults.

Is it time to despair or panic? No. Is it time just to keep on doing the same old thing? No, not that either. In fact, I believe that God is calling the church into a new day and age in which we will have to leave our comfort zones in order to gain a hearing when we proclaim the gospel. And then we will have to leave our comfort zones again, and again. I don't mean to push the metaphor, but following Jesus requires learning the operating system of every new generation.

I am encouraged by the election of the new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Michael Curry of North Carolina is a compelling figure who seems to be just the right person to dispel the angry, gloomy stereotypes that people attach to the Christian faith. Last Sunday he was consecrated at the National Cathedral, and you can read, watch, and listen to his sermon by clicking [HERE](#).

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

This Sunday

November 8, 2015

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

GROWING OUR CHURCH – Recently we launched the 2016 Campaign for Grace Church, asking all our



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

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](#). If you have any questions, please contact James Romanik, Manager of Membership Services and Communications, at jromanik@gracechurchnyc.org. *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.*

A PARISH STUDY: 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. Todd Brewer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of New Testament Studies at General Theological Seminary, will lead a conversation on Paul's ministry within the Corinthian community. Read 2 Corinthians, Chapters 1–7. A full listing of class dates and speakers through Dec 14 can be found [HERE](#).*

PIE TASTING AFTER THE 11 AM SERVICE! THANKSGIVING PIES TO BENEFIT THE CHOIRS' 'Special Projects Fund' – Come and sample the pies at coffee hour after the 11 am service! The fund supports opportunities for the choirs not covered in the operating budget such as the summer concert tours (Last summer our tour centered in Paris). You can help by ordering delicious pies for your Thanksgiving feast! Place your order during coffee hour. You may [order HERE](#). Here is a perfect way to say "thank you" to a hostess, teacher, nanny, tutor or loved one, while \$10 from every purchase goes directly to the Special Projects Fund! THANK

you and Happy
Christmas!

PARISH PRAYERS



Please pray for...

those who suffer

Janet Bondurant
Lok Mei Wu
Jared Stamm
Bill Nave
Timothy Tung
Greg Gillies
Josephine Ferraiuolo
Howard Small
Trish Lawrence
Paul Tillotson

those who have died

Robert Key Arthur

YOU for all your prayers and support! **Order deadline: Sunday, November 15th, Pickup day: Tues. 11/24.**

THE RT. REV. ALLEN SHIN, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese, will preach the sermon and preside at the 6 pm Eucharist tonight in the Chantry. He is here for a scheduled visit and dinner with the Canterbury Downtown college ministry.

Coming Soon

NOV 9 – FILM SCREENING ON LGBT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS – The Rev. Chase Danford, Assistant Rector for Youth and Family Ministry, invites all parishioners to a viewing of the new documentary film *Road to Home* at the Church of the Holy Apostles on Monday, Nov 9 at 7:15 pm, followed by discussion with the director, Calvin Skaggs. *Road to Home* follows the journeys of six LGBT homeless young people over eighteen months. The film conveys how they ended up in New York City, learn to survive, and struggle for shelter and assistance. Church of the Holy Apostles, 296 Ninth Ave at W 28th St, Manhattan. *RSVP to cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org* .

NOV 14, 15 – GRACE CHRISTMAS FAIR COMING SOON! Saturday, Nov 14 and Sunday, Nov 15 in Tuttle Hall. 25 fabulous vendors – bring your Christmas gift list! **DON'T MISS** the "Wine & Cheese Reception" on Saturday from 5 – 7 pm, admission \$10. We will have music AND a special fun "event"! Sunday, Tuttle 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!

NOV 15 – A PARISH STUDY: PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM

–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.*

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.*

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 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.)

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](#).

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 | www.goprojectnyc.org



HOSTED BY THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



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

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