

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS



**(Remember to make your gift by this Tuesday, Dec 15 for your dedication to appear in the**

## December 13, 2015

The Third Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

For the good of my soul, this fall I have largely disengaged from following the New York Football Giants. I have not watched a single quarter on TV. I can tell you that even though they are a woeful 5-7, they still have hopes of making the playoffs. And I can tell you that they lost last weekend to the New York Jets. At a critical moment, Eli Manning, the Giants' quarterback, threw the ball into the hands of a Jets' receiver. It was exactly what the Jets wanted. When I heard the news I could only shake my head and give thanks that I am not invested and was not watching.

How do we avoid giving our foes exactly what they want? All NFL analogies aside (I certainly mean no disrespect for Jets' fans), the truth is the civilized world is at war with terrorists - specifically ISIS, the organization responsible for the slaughter of innocents in Paris and San Bernardino. In the wake of these attacks come the many invitations to hate. Be alert: when we accept invitations to hate, we are throwing the ball directly into the hands of our foes. I can imagine that ISIS wants nothing more than for Muslim citizens of the United States to feel disenfranchised from the American dream. How to play good defense and offense is no easy thing. It seems to me that we are at a critical moment in the battle for our country's soul and our own Christian souls. We all need to be invested and watching.

**Christmas bulletins!**  
Every year at Christmas time it is the generous donations from our parishioners and friends that enhance the beauty of Grace Church. You may donate online [HERE](#). We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. Thank you!

Someone who has much to offer is the speaker at this week's Sunday Forum. The Rev. Dr. Titus Presler is the principal-in-exile of Edwardes College in Peshawar, Pakistan. He is an expert on global mission and has served the church throughout the world in settings that are both fascinating and dangerous. In Pakistan he was arrested and beaten for his Christian faith. You can read more about his experience [here](#).

Titus will conclude our fall series of Sunday Forums on the letters and personality of St. Paul. Join us at 10 am in the Reception Room. Coffee is served.

See you in church.

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

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



Don't forget to [make YOUR pledge!](#)

**PARISH PRAYERS**

## This Sunday

### The Third Sunday of Advent

#### 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

#### 4 p.m. A Ceremony of Carols

by *Benjamin Britten*

Music: The Girls' Choir with Alumni of the Choir and members of the Adult and Parish Choirs

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

Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**GINGERBREAD HOUSES FOR HABITAT**– Families and children are invited to help support *The House that Grace Built*, our Habitat House build in 2016, by decorating a gingerbread house after the 9 or 11 am



*Please pray for...*

*those who suffer*

Timothy Tung  
Bernie Karl  
Jack Browning  
Jay Johnson  
Bill Nave  
Nancy Keogh  
Greg Gillies  
Josephine Ferraiuolo  
Howard Small  
Trish Lawrence  
Paul Tillotson

*those who have died.*

Herman Pinkerton

service. Go to [gracechurchnyc.org/outreach](http://gracechurchnyc.org/outreach) to download a sponsorship form and ask family and friends to help sponsor your gingerbread house! All proceeds benefit "[The House that Grace Built](#)" Habitat for Humanity project. [RSVP to The Rev. Chase Danford](#) so that we have enough supplies.

**PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM** – Join us for this last forum of the season! 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. This concludes our fall series. Please watch for announcements of our next series which begins in January 2016.*

**THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS** for local charities conclude today with a collection of 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!

A CEREMONY  
OF CAROLS  
by Benjamin Britten

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER  
AT 4:00 P.M.

THE GIRLS' CHOIR  
WITH ALUMNI  
AND MEMBERS OF  
THE ADULT &  
PARISH CHOIRS

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IN NEW YORK  
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WWW.GRACECHURCHNYC.ORG  
INFO TEL 212.254.2000/6

The Reverend J. Donald Waring, Rector  
Patrick Allen, Organist and Master of Choristers  
George Fergus, Organ Scholar




Photo: Vincent Dixon Design: ARTeffect

## *Coming Soon*

**DEC 22 – GREENING OF THE CHURCH** – A few good souls are needed to help dress the church on Tuesday, Dec 22, for the joyous celebration of Christmas. If you would like to sign up, you must contact Ellen McElduff at [ellenmcelduff@aol.com](mailto:ellenmcelduff@aol.com).

**JAN 4 – AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS** This beautiful seasonal opera by *Gian Carlo Menotti* will be offered as part of Choral Evensong. Originally written over 50 years ago as a television piece, it has become a loved part of the season. Please join us for this special offering. Sunday, January 3rd at 4 pm.

**Please join us for Christmas Services!**

**DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4 pm Christmas Pageant**

Featuring our cast of friendly beasts, angels, shepherds, and villagers. Doors open at 3:30 pm.

**7:30 pm Festival Music for the Organ**

Dr. Patrick Allen, organ.

**8 pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**

The Choir of Men and Boys  
with the Girls' Choir.  
Sermon by the Rector.

**10:30 pm Festival Music for Organ,  
Baroque Trumpet & Violin**

Cynthia Roberts, violin, John Thiessen, trumpet  
& Dr. Patrick Allen, organ.

**11 pm Candlelight Choral Eucharist**

The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

**DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**

11 am Holy Eucharist with Carols  
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

**JAN 5 - SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS II**

4 pm Amahl & the Night Visitors  
Choral Evensong. The Adult Choir.

*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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