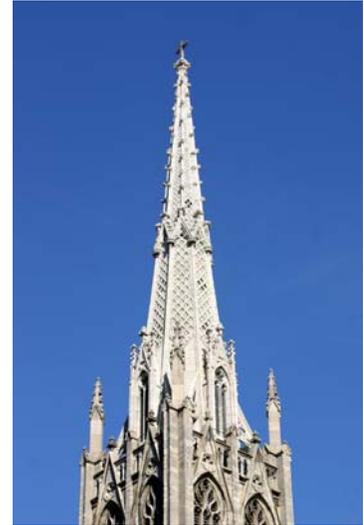


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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**THANK YOU TO ALL
WHO SUPPORTED OUR
GINGERBREAD HOUSE
BUILD!**



By supporting the "build" on Sunday, 12/20, you raised \$915 toward a

December 20, 2015

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

Last summer as my family vacation was drawing to a close, we were making our way home and on a Sunday morning attended church in the town where we had spent the night. The moment came when the ushers began moving through the congregation with offering plates.

Stacie was out of cash so she looked to me. My wallet contained a few one-dollar bills and a twenty - nothing in between. What should I do? As the ushers drew nearer, and my hand hovered indecisively over the selection of bills, suddenly I heard my own voice challenging the Christmas congregations at Grace Church to "give the biggest bill in your wallet" to support our outreach offering. So that is what I did. Into the offering plate went the twenty!

I left church that morning feeling glad: not proud, but glad that I had been generous. Being generous is always a surer path to joy than being stingy. I gave because I was grateful: grateful that the church was there for us, grateful for the rector who preached her heart out to a small congregation in late August, grateful for the vacation we'd enjoyed, grateful to God for all the blessings of this life.

Next Thursday and Friday - Christmas Eve and Day - you will hear me once again challenge our congregations to give the biggest bill in their wallets. Why? Because we live amongst people who are in desperate need, and we want to do something to help them. Thus, for many years now we have been devoting our entire Christmas offering to the work of outreach. When the offering plates pass through the pews on

home for a family in need, built awareness and support for our Habitat for Humanity outreach effort and – most importantly – our parish children developed a deeper appreciation of this project and the spirit of Christmas!

To make a gift, sign-up, or learn more about the Grace Church Habitat build, please click [here](#).

ADVENT COLLECTIONS – A NEW RECORD!

You contributed 133 hats, gloves and scarves, 523 undergarments and socks, and over 850 toiletries including soap, shampoo, and hand lotion to aid residents in shelters in our city. It's a new record! Many thanks to all who gave generously, and a *special thank you to the [diocesan Young Adult Network](#) for designating a part of their St Nicholas Party fundraiser to the Advent Drives this year!* Your participation and your prayers are appreciated.

Christmas Eve at 4, 8, and 11 pm, and then again on Christmas morning at 11 am, every dollar you give (except those in pledge envelopes) goes to help alleviate the misery caused by poverty and homelessness.

Specifically, the Christmas offering goes into what is called "The Vestry Fund for Outreach," and from this fund we make grants to the agencies of mercy throughout the city that have programs to help the poor reclaim their lives. Every year the fund is becoming a stronger instrument, able to do more and more good. In fact, you can read below about the recent grants the fund has made.

It's true that we all have many appeals to sort through at this time of year, but the Vestry Fund for Outreach is one I pray will have your special attention. Please be generous with a Christmas offering this year. And you don't have to wait until Christmas to give it. If you will be out of town, you can make a donation right now by clicking [HERE](#).

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

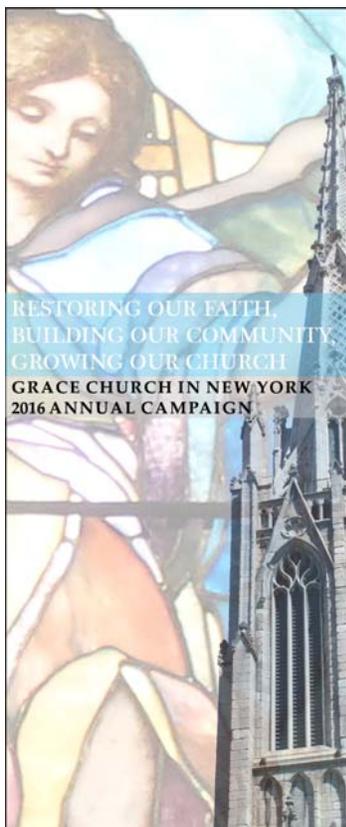
Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

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

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



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

PARISH PRAYERS



Please pray for...

those who suffer

- Ronnye Brickous
- Timothy Tung
- Bernie Karl

joyous celebration of Christmas. If you would like to sign up, you must contact Ellen McElduff at ellenmcelduff@aol.com.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS AT ALL SERVICES will go to support the Vestry Fund for Outreach, which makes grants to help alleviate hunger and homelessness in our city. In 2015 grants from the Fund supported the food pantry at Church of the Village (13th St at 7th Ave), Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, and International Rescue Committee (for emergency housing for refugees in New York). Please give generously this Christmas!

DEC 27 – SUNDAY SCHOOL is on recess and will resume on Jan. 3.

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.

JAN 14 – "ST. MARK'S IS DEAD" – AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING! Journalist Ada Calhoun is the author of *St. Marks Is Dead: The Many Lives of America's Hippest Street* (Nov 2015), "revelatory" (*Kirkus*), "captivating" (*Publishers Weekly*), "timely, provocative, and stylishly written" (*Atlantic*) "ecstatic roll call" (*New York Times Book Review*). The Village Voice named her "the most important new voice on old New York." She attended Grace Church and will join us on Thursday, Jan 14th, 6:30–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. "No pressure potluck." (Bring something to share, if you can.) Admission is one non-perishable item for the food pantry. Presented by the ECW.

JAN 24 – THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES – The Junior Choristers of the Grace Church Choirs with Dr. Barry Rose and the Whiting of Novices. Held in the Church at 4 pm.

Please join us for Christmas Services!

DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

Jack Browning
 Jay Johnson
 Bill Nave
 Greg Gillies
 Josephine Ferraiuolo
 Howard Small
 Trish Lawrence
 Paul Tillotson

those who have died.

Virginia Folger
 The Rev. Jae Chung
 Agnes Blondean Nelson

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, updated weekly.*

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