

# 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

## December 6, 2015

The Second Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

Throughout the fall we have been talking about our new collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. This coming Sunday is finally "the big reveal" at the 10 am Forum in the Reception Room. Local leaders of Habitat will be with us to explain

how it will all work in 2016 when Grace Church takes responsibility for building a house in Queens.

Unfortunately, the excitement of the day will be tempered by the knowledge that yet another mass shooting in our country has claimed the headlines in the past week. In San Bernardino, CA, fourteen people are dead and many others wounded after a gunman and his wife stormed into a holiday party and shot up a room full of the man's own co-workers. Now we are learning that the couple, who themselves were killed in a gun battle with the police, seem to have had sympathies for - if not links with - the terrorist organization, ISIS. And yes, they were Muslims.

Strangely, earlier in the week before the attack I was having a conversation with a parishioner about the connection between religion and violence. Is it fair to blame religion in general and Islam in particular for the terror attacks in Paris and now San Bernardino? Does religion beget violence? First, we need to remember that not all terrorists and mass murderers commit their crimes with any religious purpose in mind. Timothy

donations from our parishioners and friends that enhance the beauty of Grace 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 15<sup>th</sup>.*

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

McVeigh and Adam Lanza were certainly not Muslims. They were not religious at all.

Second, it is true that religion often gets mixed up with violence. Religion can be part of the problem, but usually in a secondary way. We all have a propensity for violence that most of us appropriately suppress or creatively channel into acceptable outlets (the NFL comes to mind). The problem occurs when people lose their ability to keep their darker nature in check. The reason may be mental illness, some deep trauma, or a perceived inadequacy in themselves. When such people pick up religion - any religion will do - they can easily misconstrue it as a divine sanction for the violence they would commit anyway.

Religion that is true and pure builds people up and contributes to the welfare of the community. For this reason I am especially glad in this day and age for our collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. In the name of God we will build a house that a struggling family will call their own. Isaiah the prophet foretold the coming of the kingdom with these words: *They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations (61:4)*

See you in church.

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

## **This Sunday**

### **The Second Sunday of Advent**

#### **9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

#### **11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Combined Junior Choristers  
with Adults

### **4 p.m. Advent Procession of Lessons and Carols**



**2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**

**VESTRY NOMINATIONS**

Many thanks to those so far who have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee this year. According to our parish by-laws the Committee must consist of the Warden not up for reelection (Brett Pertuz), two Vestry members (Colbert Canon and Caroline Hubbell), two parishioners named by the Rector (stay tuned), and the Rector, who serves as an ex-officio member.

Music: The Adult Choir

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

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

**LET'S BUILD IT TOGETHER! HABITAT FOR HUMANITY & GRACE CHURCH – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM.**

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. For more info on this and other outreach projects, please visit [gracechurchnyc.org/outreach](http://gracechurchnyc.org/outreach). *(Join us next week for the conclusion of "Paul's Letters to the Corinthians.")*

**ADVENT PROCESSION OF LESSONS AND CAROLS @4 PM.**

Readings of scripture foretelling the coming of Christ are read from the four corners of the church, interspersed with beautiful music of the season. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

**DEC 6, 13 – THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS**

for local charities continue with a collection of 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!

*Coming Soon*

**DEC 9 – THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING** All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs

If you would like to nominate a Grace Church parishioner to serve on the Vestry, please fill out the form you will find on the table outside the Reception Room and place it in the "Vestry Nominations" box by Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

in this festive annual event! 12:15 – 12:45 pm in the Church.

**DEC 13 – 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 11am service. Click [HERE](#) 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 Chase Danford](#) *is requested by Wednesday, Dec. 9th to make sure we have enough supplies.*

**PARISH PRAYERS**



*Please pray for...*

*those who suffer*

- The victims of the San Bernardino shooting
- Bernie Karl
- Jack Browning
- Jay Johnson
- Bill Nave
- Nancy Keogh
- Gary White
- Arthur Hung & family
- Greg Gillies
- Josephine Ferraiuolo
- Howard Small
- Trish Lawrence
- Paul Tillotson

*those who have died.*

- Helen Roelker Sparrow
- Sisk

**DEC 13 – 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.*

**DEC 13 – A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN 4 PM** 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.

**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 HERE](#).

**ORDER NOW FOR TONIGHT OR TOMORROW!  
A FEW TICKETS REMAIN!**

THE CHORAL SOCIETY  
*of Grace Church in New York*



**Annual Holiday Concerts**  
John Maclay, *conductor*

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Friday, December 4, 2015, at 8:00 PM  
Saturday, December 5, 2015, at 3:00 PM

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Grace Church in New York  
802 Broadway at East Tenth Street

HANDEL: *Coronation Anthems*  
With music by Gibbons, Gjeilo,  
Rachmaninoff, and Parry, and  
audience carol sing

Tickets: \$30 each      WWW.THECHORALSOCIETY.ORG

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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