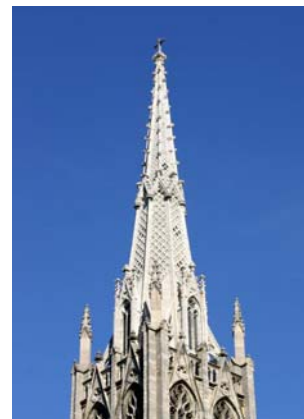


# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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**JUST A FEW  
MORE WEEKS...**



Each year at Easter time your generous donations bring a glorious display of spring blooms to Grace Church. Will

## February 28, 2016

The Third Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

On a recent weekday I had a meeting on my calendar with a clergy colleague from the diocese. After we sat down in my office he explained that he'd arrived early and spent about 15 minutes sitting inside the church.

"Wow," he said, "I was surprised by how many people were there in the pews."

He's right. The church is open to the public Monday through Saturday from noon to 5 pm and on Sundays from 8:30 am to 5 pm. The hours are longer, of course, when evening services occur. If you go into the church during the open hours when no liturgy is scheduled, you will usually find anywhere from four to forty people scattered throughout the nave. Some are sitting quietly, some are strolling about taking the cell phone tour, others are kneeling in a pew deep in prayer.

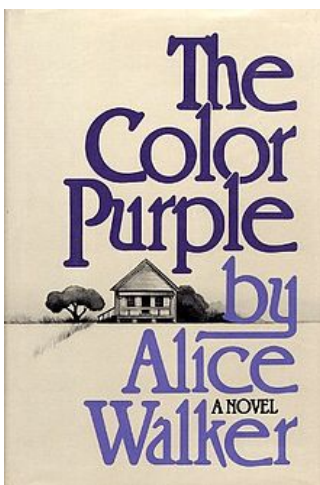
I believe that the first line of ministry that God calls Grace Church to offer is to keep the building open as much as possible. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit and the sacred space will conspire to make a positive difference in people's lives. We trust that those who come inside tired, anxious, and overwhelmed will leave in some measure refreshed, renewed, and reassured of God's living presence. Indeed, even those contemplating some wrong may rethink their ways and leave resolving to do the right thing.

Yes, it's expensive to open the church even when no services or concerts are on the calendar. Not only do we have to keep it heated in the winter, cooled in the summer, and lighted when the public is welcome, we also have to

you make your gift now? You may click [HERE](#) to give online (And if you wish, you may fill in your dedication to a loved one in the "comments" box). We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount you can give. Thank you!

*For your dedication "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Easter service bulletin, it must be received by Palm Sunday, 3/20.*

**When God Breaks In! This Sunday @10am**



*The Sunday Forum with Dr. Catharine R. Stimpson*

keep a staff person inside to assure that it's safe. The expense is well worth it.

Earlier this week George Fergus, our Organ Scholar, was doing some research in the archives and he came across a memorable quote from William Reed Huntington, who was the 6<sup>th</sup> Rector of Grace Church from 1884-1909. Apparently, when Huntington took office the church was closed during the week, but one of the first moves he made was to open it. He met with resistance, but defended the new policy with an interesting argument: "*The exemption of ecclesiastical property from taxation by the State can only be defended on the score of the usefulness of the Church as a bulwark for public morals. The Church would seem, therefore, to owe it to the citizens to make her sacred buildings as accessible as possible. Even if no prayer be said by the casual visitor, the influence silently exerted upon him by the architecture and symbolism of such a church as Grace Church can scarcely fail to be a wholesome one.*"

My prayer is that God always gives Grace Church the will and the way to keep this place open - not just for ourselves, but for anyone who would come inside.

See you in church - and you don't have to wait till Sunday.

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

## **This Sunday**

### **The Third Sunday in Lent**

#### **9 a.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

#### **11 a.m. A Penitential Order & Morning Prayer**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

#### **6 p.m. A Penitential Order & Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

Please pray for...



*those who suffer*

Lori Interlicchio  
Alana Duran  
Julie Harvey  
Bill Nave  
Greg Gillies  
Josephine Ferraiuolo  
Howard Small  
Trish Lawrence  
Paul Tillotson

*and those who have died.*

**UPDATE:**

**SUCCESSFUL  
DINNER AT THE  
MISSION!**

**DINNER AT THE NYC  
RESCUE MISSION ON  
FEB 14 was a great  
success!** Parishioners prepared over 100 lbs. of pot roast, 50 lbs. of vegetables, over 235 cupcakes and several large carrot cakes—as well as Valentines chocolates for everyone! It was the biggest, most

### **GOD BREAKS IN! THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM**

Speakers for this Lenten series will draw on their own experience—whether through the lens of art or literature, work or leisure, joy or sorrow, to describe those times when they feel that God has been trying to get their attention. Sundays in Lent. **On 2/28: Alice Walker (b. 1944) is a leading voice of womanist theology and its spiritual journeys. We will discuss her 1982 novel, *The Color Purple*, the first novel by a black woman to get the Pulitzer Prize, and the basis of a triumphant revival of the musical now on Broadway. Speaker Dr. Catharine R. Stimpson is University Professor and Dean Emerita of the Graduate School of Arts and Science at NYU. She is considered one of the pioneers in the study of women and gender, and is a founder of feminist criticism. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.**

**TEEN STUDY BREAK** – Youth in grades 7–12 are invited for snacks and conversation this Sunday, Feb. 28 from 4:30–5:45 in the Parish House (3rd Floor). Enter at the 802 Broadway entrance. Contact the Rev. Chase Danford for more information.

### **Coming Soon**

**MAR 2, 9, 16 –SACRED CONVERSATION ON RACE AND JUSTICE: A 20's and 30's-ish Lenten Book Study.** Grace Church invites young professionals and students (ages 18–45) from around NYC to a discussion series on Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. We will meet in the Reception Room from 7 to 8:30 pm to discuss the book and whether the church might be called to respond to the issues raised. We hope you'll be able to join us for all three evenings, but you're welcome to come as you can. Note that dinner will be provided on March 2; RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#).

**MAR 4, 18 – 20s/30s-ish SUSHI FRIDAYS** – Parishioners 18–45 are invited to join other young adults from NYC Episcopal parishes at our annual Lenten Sushi Fridays. On March 4, Trinity Church will host from 6:30–8:30 pm. On March 18, Grace Church will host from 6:30–8:30 pm, with a tour of the

delicious meal we've produced yet, and was much appreciated by the Director and guests of the mission.

**Special thanks** to Lillie Chance for her leadership and to all our volunteers and supporters. E-mail Fr. Stephen Holton [HERE](#) if you'd like to be kept informed of future Outreach projects.

church (perfect opportunity to invite a friend!), sushi and the brief but beautiful service of Compline (Night Prayers). Meet in the Reception Room via the 802 Broadway entrance to the Parish House. RSVP for either evening to the Rev. Chase Danford at [cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org).

**MAR 6 – THE PURITAN REJECTION OF LENT – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM** – We will look at the reasons why the English Puritans rejected Lent and Lenten practice in the seventeenth century. A poem by Robert Herrick and a reading from the Bible will guide us in a consideration of questions arising from observances of Lent. Led by parishioner and scholar, Dr. Diana Benet.

**MAR 12 – GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY**  
As you may know, Grace Church is a longtime supporter of the GO Project. On most Saturday mornings, from October to April, GO volunteers work under the supervision of teachers to support some of NYC's most struggling elementary and middle school students. If you'd like to see the program in action, you are invited on March 12 to visit, or to volunteer for the day, helping the children with hands-on learning, games and fun! Saturday, March 12th from 9 am–12:30 pm. *RSVP to Olivia Nunez at [onunez@goprojectnyc.org](mailto:onunez@goprojectnyc.org).*

**MAR 20 – EXCERPTS FROM HANDEL'S MESSIAH** On Palm Sunday at 4 pm in the Church, the Adult Choir will offer Choral Evensong featuring excerpts from Part II (the Easter Portion) of Handel's MESSIAH.

**MAR 26 – CHILDREN'S EASTER EVE WALK** – Join us on Holy Saturday, March 26, from 10:30 am–1:30 pm, as we experience the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus through interactive storytelling. There will also be crafts, treats, and an Easter egg hunt! Activities are designed for kids ages 4 and up, but the whole family is welcome. Suggested donation (\$10 per child, \$20 for family), includes a pizza lunch. To attend, RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford at [cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:cdanford@gracechurchnyc.org).

**APR 5 – EASTER DAY** – No Sunday School. Activity bags available to help kids sit through church!

*To find service information,  
you may visit [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org), updated weekly.*

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