

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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IT'S SHROVE SUNDAY..

February 7, 2016

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

Those of you who attended the annual meeting last Sunday will recall that a photo of the restored Roman urn graced the cover of this year's report. The urn has lived in the rectory yard since 1885, and by last spring it had deteriorated so badly that it would soon be good for nothing except perhaps to be administered this coming Ash Wednesday. Recognizing that the urn is a relic and something of a quirky neighborhood icon, we made the decision to restore it, and now it is back and hopefully able to withstand the vicissitudes of New York City weather for another hundred-plus years.

The urn can stand as a good symbol of the church's mission. A favorite prayer of mine occurs on p. 528 of the BCP and includes this petition: *Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* The phrase echoes the Nicene Creed when we say, *We look for the resurrection of the dead.* The mission of Grace Church is to join God's work of restoration, renewal, and raising up that which is cast down. The mission involves people more so than buildings and relics, but let us not forget that people need buildings. Our buildings are sacramental in that they are an outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace at work among us.



AT GRACE CHURCH!

ASH WEDNESDAY
is next week, Feb 10

**Holy Eucharist and
Imposition of Ashes**

8:00 a.m. in the Chantry.

12:10 p.m. in the Church.

6:00 p.m. in the Church,

w/music by the Adult Choir.

Sermon at all services: The

Rev. Chase Danford.

**The Litany of Penitence
and Imposition of Ashes**

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:00 pm

*(Sign up to "Pray as a Parish
for Lent." See below [right.](#))*

**Confirmations &
Receptions, May 22.
Sign up, or inquire,
now for classes in
March!**

In my remarks to the annual meeting I shared how the Vestry and I, as well as the Fabric & Grounds Committee are in the beginning stages of determining the next phase of interior restoration. Certain sections of the nave are looking as dilapidated as the old urn appeared before its repair. Peeling paint and falling plaster neither enhance our mission, nor convey that we are being good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. If indeed God is calling us to embark on another phase of restoration, doing so will require raising funds - yes, conducting a capital campaign.

A very rough timeline of all this is as follows. This spring the F&G Committee will investigate the scope of work that must be done. At the same time the Development Committee will interview stewardship consultants who may guide us with a capital campaign. In the fall of 2016 the firm we choose will conduct a feasibility study to determine how much we can raise. The hope is that we are able to raise enough to restore a section of the church, and pay back a portion of what we borrowed from the endowment to accomplish the work we did five years ago. If the light is green we will proceed with a campaign in the first part of 2017. Then in the summer of 2017 we will commence with the work, hopefully getting a major portion of it done during our less busy months.

Obviously, the plan is preliminary and includes many moving pieces. I share it with you because I know you love Grace Church, support its mission, and want to know what is on the horizon. You can read the entire 2016 Annual Report on the church website by clicking [here](#).

See you in church. I am looking forward to the pancakes!

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

This Sunday

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

CONFIRMATION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS will take place on Sunday, May 22, the day of the Bishop's visit. **All who desire to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church are welcome.**

Classes are planned for early March.

To sign up for youth classes (7th-12th grade), contact [the Rev. Chase Danford](#). To enquire about adult classes, contact [the Rev. Stephen Holton](#). **Questions about what it means to be "Confirmed" or "Received?"** You are most welcome to contact Frs. Chase or Stephen with your questions! *Please respond by Ash Wednesday, Feb 10.*

Please pray for...



those who suffer

Regina Chiou

David Korn

Alla and Liam Harrington

Sekou and Stacy Andrews

Elsie Lewis

Bill Nave

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Candlemas blessing, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

THE RELIGIOUS WORLDS OF SHANGHAI AND NEW YORK – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM

Dr. Mark Larrimore, Associate Professor of Religion, The New School, Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts. **Dr. Larrimore will share experiences from a year spent in Shanghai,** and suggest parallels and contrasts with the religious ecology of New York. Join us at 10 am in the Reception Room for coffee and discussion.

SHROVE SUNDAY PANCAKES & "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING"

Come celebrate Shrovetide with a fabulous Sunday brunch of pancakes, bacon, eggs and fruit. Share a meal with friends before Lent begins. **As we enjoy our meal and fellowship, we will remember hungry New Yorkers** by sponsoring a collection for "Souper Bowl of Caring," a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. Last year's national efforts raised over \$8 million in cash and food for those in need. All monies collected here by the young people of Grace will benefit our partners at the Church of the Village feeding ministry. Brunch held in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service. \$15 per person requested donation at the door. (Can't attend? You can still support Souper Bowl of Caring by clicking [here](#).)

Greg Gillies

Josephine Ferraiuolo

Howard Small

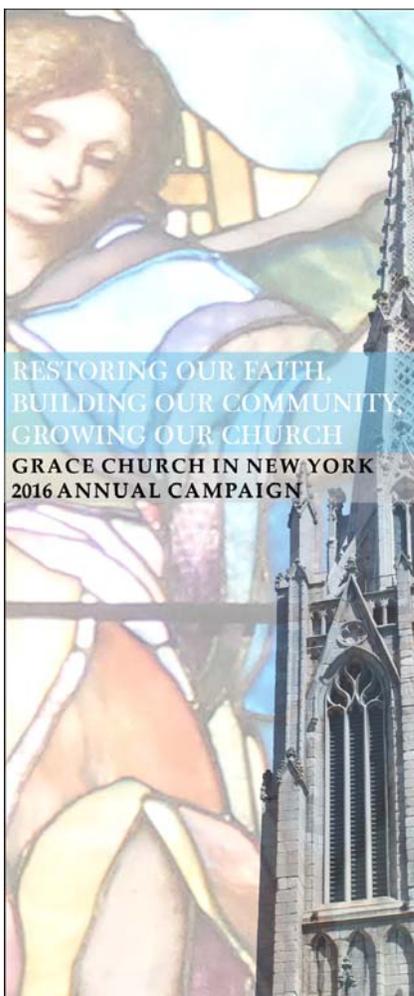
Trish Lawrence

Paul Tillotson

and those who have died

Dixie Lynch

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



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

CANDLEMAS– the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple @6

PM –Today at the 6pm service we will observe the feast of the Presentation. Sundays after Epiphany are often associated with the light of Christ breaking into the world, and people traditionally have blessed candles on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation, to use in their homes. You're invited to bring a candle from your home to be blessed and lighted during the service.



Coming Soon

FEB 10 – PRAYING AS A PARISH FOR LENT

Thinking about a Lenten spiritual discipline? Want to engage in a practice of daily prayer but not sure where to start? **Consider taking two minutes out of every day to pray using a daily devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for each other and delivered daily (Mon–Sat) to your e–mail inbox. These devotions begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb 10, so sign up today by clicking [HERE](#).**

FEB 10, 20 – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAYS – JOIN US! Grace Church is overjoyed to be partnering with Habitat for

Humanity to rehabilitate a condemned house in Laurelton, Queens, for a family in need. Our next build days are Wed, Feb 10 (1–5pm) and Sat, Feb 20 (9:15am–5pm). Click [HERE](#) to learn more and sign up.

FEB 14–MAR 13 – GOD BREAKS IN!

THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – During Lent many of us feel an urgency to make a deeper connection with God. We may embark on Lenten disciplines: giving things up, taking things on, etc. At the end of Lent we may be a few pounds slimmer, but perhaps no closer to God. Yet **God seems to break into our lives according to no script or recipe that we can follow.** (Which does not mean we should throw away the scripts – perhaps they help alert us to God's presence.) 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: Feb 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13.

FEB 14, 21 – NEWCOMERS' CLASSES –Members of the clergy speak, and answer questions, about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and what it's like to be a member of Grace Church. A light lunch will be served. Sundays, Feb 14 and 21, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in April.*

FEB 14 – HOME COOKED MEAL FOR NYC

RESCUE MISSION – On Sunday, Feb 14th we will serve a meal of pot roasts and cupcakes to hundreds of guests at the NYC Rescue Mission. We are seeking volunteers to prepare pot roasts and cupcakes at home and to serve the meal at the Mission. We have a super easy and delicious pot roast recipe for you! Please join us in this rewarding volunteer opportunity which is so

appreciated by folks at the mission. You may sign up online [here](#) or by e-mailing Lillie Chance at lilichance@gmail.com.

FEB 21 – ACOLYTE MEETING & TRAINING –The clergy will lead a training for new and current acolytes on Sunday, Feb. 21 after the 11 am service (approx. 12:30–1 pm). All current acolytes are asked to attend. Please join us if you're in you're in 4th grade and up and might like to carry a torch, light the candles, serve at the altar, or even carry the cross! [Contact the Rev. Chase Danford](#) with any questions.

FEB 25 – NEWCOMERS' WELCOME EVENT– All Grace Newcomers are invited to join us for light refreshments and a special tour of the church by the Rector, Thursday, Feb 25 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the Reception Room. [RSVP to James Romanik](#). *We're looking forward to seeing you there!*

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

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