

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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Is the Church in Crisis?



The Sunday Forum
@10 am
Apr 10 & 17

April 10, 2016

The Third Sunday of Easter



Dear Friends,

In earlier editions of the current (1979) Book of Common Prayer, the opening anthem for funeral services included these verses: *We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the*

Lord. The verses come from the Biblical books of Job and 1st Timothy, and even though they are no longer part of the Burial Office, they still have a familiar echo in our culture. If you quote them, people know you are saying something important, but they are not sure where you got it.

In any case, I thought of these words last month when we received a call from the Metropolitan Museum of New York. It turns out that they are recalling a long term loan of the two iron candlesticks that have graced either side of the high altar for the past 33 years. We knew that that candlesticks belonged to the Met as they called every year to make sure we still had them. Frankly, we assumed that the candlesticks had been here much longer - from the days of Catherine Lorillard Wolf, an original benefactor of the Met and member of Grace Church until she died in the late 1800s. Nope, they came in the 1980s, and we don't know who arranged it. We also assumed that the candlesticks dated from medieval times. Wrong again. In fact, they are not medieval, but merely 19th century. Finally, we assumed that they were on permanent loan to us. Strike three, and they're out! So *the Met gave, and* (soon we shall say) *the Met hath taken away.* Yes, those are the words that popped into my head when I learned all this.

(Details at right, below)

April 23 & May 21



**Join us for a
build day!
Details under
"Coming Soon."**

(Click image)

Please pray for...



those who suffer

William Susman
Bill Nave
Greg Gillies
Josephine Ferraiuolo
Howard Small
Trish Lawrence
Paul Tillotson

***and those who have
died***

David Flanders

Within a week or two the Met will come to reclaim their candlesticks, and when they do, we will thank them for the loan. If the truth be known, however, I would prefer that we acquire our own candlesticks. I will be working with a small group of knowledgeable parishioners to find a similar pair. We are already in touch with a firm that rescues antique artifacts from churches that have closed, and they've shown us some good possibilities. Stay tuned.



Lastly, the church has more important things to worry about than candlesticks. Over the next few weeks the Sunday Forum will be addressing the state of the Anglican Communion, and asking, *Is the Church in Crisis?* Read more, below, and plan to attend.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 Girls' Choir with Adults

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

with Excerpts from Part III OF HANDEL'S *MESSIAH*
Music: The Parish and Adult Choirs

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

ANGLICANISM IN THE PRESENT: ARE WE IN CRISIS? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. *Today we begin a series of Sunday Forums* in which we will discuss the state of the Anglican Communion past and present, with special focus on the status of The Episcopal Church USA (TEC) after decisions made during the [Primate's meeting of Anglican Archbishops](#). How might it affect our community at Grace Church, and the Episcopal Church at large? The Rev. Stephen Holton will provide context. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

APR 10, 17, 24 – NEWCOMERS' CLASSES @12:45 – 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, April 10, 17, 24, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room.

Coming Soon

APR 16 – MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE – THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) OF GRACE CHURCH INVITE YOU TO A QUIET DAY led by Grace Church Pastoral Resident, Gretchen Ratterree. (Men are invited too!) We will explore our potential as God's creation through prayer, meditations, and art. Saturday, April 16 from 10 am to 2 pm. We'll begin in the Reception Room in the Parish House at 10 am for coffee and snacks provided by the ECW. We ask everyone to bring their own bagged lunch. Childcare is available upon request: [contact Sara Queen HERE](#).

APR 17 – ANGLICANISM IN THE PRESENT: ARE WE IN CRISIS? PART 2 – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. *The Very Rev. Michael Battle, Ph.D., Professor of Church and Society at the General Theological Seminary,* will provide a global perspective on the work and status of the Anglican Communion.

APR 17 – ACOLYTE TRAINING Current and new acolytes are encouraged to attend a training/refresher from 12:30–1 pm on Sunday, April 17. Please let Fr. Chase know if you can attend [HERE](#).

APR 23, MAY 21 – COME AND BUILD WITH 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 dates are April 23 and May 21. To register and sign up, click [HERE](#). Questions? Contact the Rev. Stephen Holton [HERE](#).

APR 24 – HOW WE GOT HERE: ANGER AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE 2016 CAMPAIGN – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. Grace Church parishioners and political commentators Margaret Hoover and John Avlon will lead a spirited discussion on the bruising 2016 presidential campaign.

APR 24 – PLEASE JOIN THE ECW AT COFFEE HOUR after the 11 am service for cake and kind words in honor of Elana Foundos and her five devoted years of service as President of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church!

APR 29 – THE ANNUAL SPRING CHOIR CONCERT with the Combined Choirs of Grace Church – Men and Boys, Girls, Adult and Parish Choirs – takes place on Friday, April 29th at 7 pm. Music by E.C. Bairstow, Malcolm Boyle, S.S. Wesley, Louis Vierne and others.

APR 30 – 20's and 30's-ish FIELD DAY – Join young adult Episcopalians from around the city in Central Park for a picnic (bring your own lunch), outdoor Eucharist, and some good old fashioned field games. Saturday, April 30, 11:30 am to 3 pm at Norman's Landscape. [RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford](#).

*To find service information,
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