

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



#### In This Issue

[Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist](#)

[Make a Pledge Today!](#)

[Christmas Trees Fresh from the Farm!](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

[Feasibility Study - watch your inbox](#)

#### Quick Links

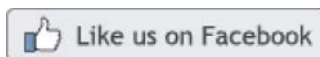
[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Make Your PLEDGE](#)

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[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



**Come, and give thanks!**

**Thanksgiving EVE  
WEDNESDAY,  
November 23  
6 p.m. Holy Eucharist,  
in the Chantry  
Sermon: Ms. Alissa  
Anderson**

## November 27, 2016

The First Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

It's the Tuesday before Thanksgiving as I write this, and I spent a good part of this afternoon signing thank-you notes to everyone so far who has made a financial pledge to support the ministries of Grace Church in 2017. As

I worked my way through the letters I found myself marveling - yet again - at the big-hearted generosity of this parish. At the bottom of some letters I was moved to scrawl further thanks to the thanks I'd already tried to express in the letter itself. My handwriting is a challenge to read, sometimes even to me, so if you find some indecipherable scribbles at the bottom of your letter, just know that it is meant to convey thanks upon thanks for your generosity.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and in our worship service we will hear a reading from the Epistle of James. One verse (1:17) in particular stands out: *Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* What I have always taken this to mean is that the impulse to give comes from God. When you dig deep and give of yourself you are sharing in the life of God. You are merging the flow of your life with the mighty river that is the life of God. God is the giver of every good gift, so to practice generosity is to taste divinity.

**Thanksgiving DAY  
THURSDAY,  
November 24  
11 a.m. Holy  
Eucharist,  
in the Chantry**  
Sermon: Ms. Alissa  
Anderson

**All Grace Church  
members and friends**  
are encouraged to make a  
financial pledge to the  
work of the Lord for the  
year 2017.  
**Read more by clicking  
the brochure below...**



**COME THOU  
FOUNT OF  
EVERY BLESSING**

*Grace Church in New York  
2017 Annual Campaign*

**Make your pledge  
[HERE!](#) (No payments  
have to be made until  
next year.)**

James goes on in his letter (1:23): *But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.* This coming Sunday begins the short season of Advent. Every Advent we take up special collections to benefit organizations working to help the homeless and hungry. You can read below what we're asking you to bring on the first three Sundays of Advent and place in the bins you'll find in the narthex. Also, every Sunday throughout the year we collect canned goods for local food pantries. I read today that in September, nearly half of the food pantries in New York reported running out of food, forcing them to turn people away. In our land of plenty, such want should never be. By being doers of the word and not merely hearers, by continuing to give and share and align our lives with the life of God, you and I can make a difference, even if only one hungry person at a time.

This Advent, let's reflect the light of the Father into the dark corners of our community. And no, we have not yet come close to reaching our goal for the 2017 annual campaign, so if you haven't pledged, let's get that done, too. Click [here](#). You'll get a nice thank-you letter in the mail!

Happy Thanksgiving, my friends.

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

**This Sunday  
November 27th**

**9 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek  
Music: The Parish Choir

**11 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek  
Music: The Adult Choir

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek  
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!



At the DiDomenico Tree Farm!

**Christmas trees** from the DiDomenico Tree Farm are once again available for purchase to **benefit the continued restoration and preservation of Grace Church!** Share in the fun and **place your order by Monday, Nov 28th.** Your tree will be available for **pick up on Sunday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> after the 6pm service.** You may get details and place an order with James Romanik [here](#), or online [here](#). Thank you!

**Please pray for...**

**THE LITURGICAL SEASON OF ADVENT** begins today. The word Advent derives from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival, or approach. In our worship, the hymns and Scripture readings take on a mysterious, urgent tone as we anticipate the coming of Christ. One-by-one we light the four candles of the Advent wreath. The Gospel readings shift to Matthew, the liturgical color is purple and we begin a new Church Year.

### ADVENT BEGINS – COME AND MAKE A WREATH!

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way to keep our thoughts focused on the coming of Christ, and to help teach our children the real meaning of Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent, Nov 27th, after the 9 am, 11 am or 6 pm services we'll have all the materials ready for you. All are welcome! Experienced wreath-makers are encouraged to help others! Sign up as a volunteer by contacting Fr. Chase [here](#). (Min. sugg. donation per wreath: \$25.)

**THE SUNDAY FORUM** is on recess today.

**THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS** for local charities will begin on Sunday, Nov 27th, with a collection of **travel size toiletries for the Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea project.** On Sunday, Dec 4th, we will collect hats, scarves, and gloves for the Church of the Ascension food pantry. On Sunday, Dec 11th, we'll collect new men's underwear (larger sizes) and socks for the NYC Rescue Mission. Donations will be collected in the baskets at the back of the church at all services. Please give generously this Advent!

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FEASIBILITY STUDY** – Thank you to all who have participated in the discernment phase



### ***Those who suffer***

Walton E. McLeod  
 Leroy A. McLeod  
 Peter Duncan  
 Julia Harvey  
 Donna Lee  
 Dilys Smith  
 Linda Bridges  
 Debbie McAdams  
 Josephine Ferraiuolo  
 Howard Small  
 Trish Lawrence

### ***and those who have died***

Edward James Bisconti

of the capital campaign. We've hosted receptions and tours that have provided background on our proposed plans. Now, it's time to hear from you. On November 27th, the Episcopal Church Foundation will be sending out an electronic feasibility study survey to the congregation. We ask that you participate in the survey thoughtfully; this is a chance to share your thoughts about the campaign and consider how you'd like to help. Be on the lookout for an email from Erin Tharp at ECF: [erin@episcopalfoundation.org](mailto:erin@episcopalfoundation.org).

### ***Coming Soon***

#### **NOV 30 – NEW 20'S AND 30'S-ISH 'SMALL GROUP'**

– Join us on Wednesday, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm for the next meeting of our new spiritual formation and fellowship opportunity for young adults. Activities during this time will include reflection on the Sunday scripture readings, short presentations by the clergy, and engagement in various other spiritual practices, such as Christian meditation, lectio divina, and Compline. Held in the Reception Room; light refreshments will be provided. Questions? [Email](#) the Rev. Chase Danford.

#### **DEC 2, 3 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERTS** Tickets are now on sale for Friday, Dec 2 at 8 pm and Saturday, Dec 3 at 3 pm at Grace Church. Mozart: Mass in C, KV 262("Missa longa"). With music by Palestrina, Handel, and audience carol sing. Tickets available online [HERE](#).

#### **DEC 3 – 20'S & 30'S ST. NICHOLAS DAY PARTY**

– The Revs. Mary Cat Young and Chase Danford invite college students and 20's and 30's-ish parishioners and guests to celebrate the generosity of St. Nicholas with a gathering of young adults from churches around the city! In the spirit of Old St. Nick, donations at the door will help Haiti with ongoing

recovery in the wake of Hurricane Matthew. Saturday, Dec 3, 6:30–8:30 pm, at St. Paul's Chapel, 209 Broadway @Fulton. [RSVP to Chase here](#).

**DEC 3, 18 – SIGN UP FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAYS** – As you have no doubt been hearing, we are partnering with Habitat for Humanity to rehabilitate a condemned house in St. Albans, Queens for a family in need. Volunteers have already been hard at work since July and would love to have you join them! *Next build dates: Dec 3 & 18. For more information, photos and to sign up, please visit [HERE](#).*

**DEC 4 – THE GO PROJECT AT THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM** – Join us in the Reception Room to hear from GO Project Senior Director of Community Engagement, Olivia Nunez, as well as Grace Church members who are on the GO Project Board: Cree Harland, Charlie Johnson, Dominique Schulte, and the Rev. Martha Korienek. Olivia will share about the need for the GO Project in our city, and how it's meeting that need. Board members will share about what it's like to volunteer at the GO Project and answer any questions, especially for anyone considering volunteering on December 10<sup>th</sup> (see below).

**DEC 4 – ADVENT PROCESSION OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** Readings of scripture foretelling the coming of Christ are interspersed with beautiful music of the season from the four corners of the church. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

**DEC 7 – THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING** All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this festive annual event! 12:15 – 12:45 pm in the Church.

**DEC 10 – GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY!** Ever considered volunteering with the GO Project, but not sure you can make a year-round commitment? How about signing up for a one-day event? GO invites all Grace Church members and friends to participate on Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am–12:30 pm. Come and see this wonderful program in action, meet the students served by the program and pitch in to help! *Sign up by e-mailing Olivia Nunez [here](#).*

**DEC 11 – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AT THE SUNDAY FORUM.** Join us at 10 am in the Reception Room for an update on the Habitat for Humanity "House that Grace Built" project. Frances Hardy, from Habitat for Humanity NYC, and volunteers who have worked on the house will share photos and plans for finishing the house in 2017.

**DEC 11 – GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING –** Decorate a holiday gingerbread house with your children or grandkids after the 9 and 11 am services. \$20 minimum suggested donation per house, which will help support "The House that Grace Built" Habitat for Humanity project. [RSVP to Chase](#) *is required by Tuesday, Dec. 6th to make sure we have enough supplies.*

**DEC 11 – A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN** 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.

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

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[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)

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