

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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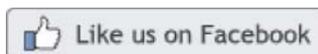
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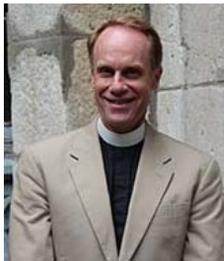
**12/24 THE
PAGEANT LIVE
STREAMS AT 4PM!**



Click [HERE](#).

December 24-25, 2016

The Nativity of Our Lord



Dear Friends,

Here we go! Christmas is just about here, and preparations at Grace Church are in high gear.

On Saturday -- Christmas Eve -- we plan to tell the story of Jesus' birth in three distinct and beautiful ways. At 4:00 pm we will present a magnificent pageant that includes a cast of approximately 60 costumed angels, shepherds, wise men, friendly beasts, and villagers, all in addition to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, of course. Then by 8:00 pm the choir stalls will be back in place in the chancel for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a service in which we "read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God, from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child." Finally at 11:00 pm we will celebrate the midnight Eucharist, by which we remember and make present God's giving of Jesus. When we receive him in bread and wine at the altar, the Word becomes flesh in us. If three services in one evening leaves you hungry for more, we do indeed have one more: the Christmas Day 11 am Eucharist: a bright, happy liturgy with carols, choir, and sermon. Take your pick, and come prepared to sing praises to the newborn King. If you are traveling or unable to attend any of the services, you can watch the pageant live by clicking [here](#).

Finally, a few notes of parish business:

***The Epistle
E-news goes on
recess until
Sunday, Jan 8.***

**Next week's
Sunday Services:**

SUNDAY, January 1
The Holy Name of Our
Lord Jesus Christ

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The Rev.
Chase Danford
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The Rev.
Chase Danford
Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The Rev.
Chase Danford
Music: Hymns with
Instrumentalists

*(Sunday school on
recess today.)*

Please pray for...



Those who suffer

1. At all four Christmas services the entire offering we collect goes to the Vestry Fund for Outreach. It is from this fund that we make grants to agencies of mercy in the city working to combat homelessness and hunger. As you know from simply walking down any street, the need is great, so please be as generous as you possibly can be when the offering plate comes by in your pew.
2. When Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, as it does this year, Christmas takes precedence and we do what we normally do on Christmas Day, not on Sundays. In other words, we will have one service at 11 am. There will be no 9 am or 6 pm services on December 25.
3. If you haven't already done so, don't forget to complete your feasibility survey by December 30. Check your email inbox for an email from Erin at the Episcopal Church Foundation and follow the instructions. We are gauging our willingness and ability to take on the next critical phase of interior restoration (the nave and north transept ceilings), hopefully to be accomplished this coming summer.

Merry Christmas to you and yours. See you in church.

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



DEC 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

4 pm Christmas Pageant

Kim Sanderson
Donna Lee
Aunt Ruby
Jeffrey Hargrave
Javon Hargrave
Cordy Ryman
Nora Webb
Johanna Bell
Julia Harvey
Josephine Ferraiuolo
Howard Small
Trish Lawrence

*and those who have
died.*

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 & Cello**
John Thiessen, *baroque trumpet*, Cynthia
Roberts *baroque violin*, Allen Whear, *baroque
cello* & Patrick Allen, *organ*.

11 pm Candlelight Choral Eucharist
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

DEC 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

(No 9 am or 6 pm services today. No Sunday School.)

11 am Holy Eucharist with Carols
The Adult Choir. Sermon by the Rector.

(Details on the music
for Christmas services, click [here](#).)

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

Coming Soon

JAN 1 – THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess and will
resume on January 8, @10 am in the Reception Room.
See description below.

JAN 1 – SUNDAY SCHOOL will not meet today, but child care will be provided in the nursery.

JAN 8 – STUMP THE CLERGY! – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM. – Join the clergy in the reception room for a chance to ask those things you've always wanted to know. Want to know why we cross ourselves at certain times? Want to know why we wear what we wear? Want to try and stump us with a difficult theological question? Now's your chance.

JAN 8 – AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS This beautiful [seasonal opera](#) by *Gian Carlo Menotti* will be offered as part of Choral Evensong. Originally written over 50 years ago as a television piece, it has become a loved part of the season. Please join us for this special offering at 4 pm.

JAN 10 – ECW PLANNING & FELLOWSHIP– ALL WOMEN are invited to a "No Pressure" pot luck supper hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) on Tuesday, Jan. 10th from 6:30–8:30 pm. Let's meet for fun, fellowship – and to discuss programming ideas for 2017! Please bring a dish, a snack or a beverage if you are able! Contact [Teresa Conway](#) or [Sara Queen](#) with any questions. Childcare will happily be provided with prior arrangement – just email us and let us know your child's ages(s). See you there!

JAN 22 – THE NINTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES – The Junior Choristers of the Grace Church Choirs with Dr. Barry Rose and the Whiting of Novices. Held in the Church at 4 pm.

FEB 18 – "DON'T WALK BY" – For the past six years Grace Church has organized a team to participate in "Don't Walk By," an annual outreach ministry to the homeless of New York. This year we will be fielding a team to assist on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 1:30pm to 8:30pm. This ministry involves walking a designated

area in lower Manhattan, engaging the homeless people on the streets, offering them a place to stay for the night, a hot meal, and medical care. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, you may go to the website (dontwalkby.org); if you would like to sign up to volunteer, please contact our team leader, [Mike Watson](#).

EPISTLE E-NEWS ON RECESS NEXT WEEK!

The next issue will arrive in your inbox during the week leading up to Sunday, January 8, 2016. Wishing to you and yours a joyous Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year!

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

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