

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[Almost Time to Deck the Halls!](#)

[Christmas Service Details](#)

[Make a Pledge Today!](#)

[Choral Society Tonight!](#)

[Parish Prayers](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

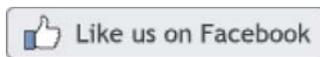
[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Make Your PLEDGE](#)

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[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



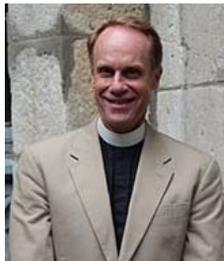
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & GREENS - IT'S TIME!



Every year at Christmas time it is the generous donations from our

December 4, 2016

The Second Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

It is only December 2nd today, but already it feels like the race towards Christmas is at full speed. Tonight and tomorrow the Grace Church Choral Society will be singing their Christmas concert. Parties, concerts, and additional worship services are all in preparation. On Sunday evening, the Christmas trees of those who ordered through the church will be here for pick-up. On the home front, you have shopping to do and cards to send.

Don't get me wrong: I love Christmas, and the season of Advent that leads up to it. In fact, if I had any power over the weather (some people quip that clergy do. Alas, we don't ☹.), I would call for more of a chill in the air and even a dusting of snow on the ground. So this is not a curmudgeonly complaint against the commercialization of Christmas. Rather, I write to remind us all - myself included - to pace yourself over the next weeks. Find some quiet time away from your phone. Disconnect from the 24-hour news cycle that justifies itself by generating news when there really is no news. Be still, and listen for the voice of God at the center of your soul.

Earlier this week I was out in the church mid-day when the doors are open for the public to enter, rest, and pray. It was pouring rain outside, and I wanted to see if we really had fixed the persistent leak in the south aisle. Great news: everything was dry! I wanted to whoop for

parishioners and friends that enhance the beauty of Grace Church. We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. *For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletins, it must be received by Tuesday, Dec 13th.* [Click the image, or HERE, to donate now!](#) (Write your dedications in the "comments" box.) Thank you!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Click image for service times.

All Grace Church members and friends are encouraged to make a financial pledge to the work of the Lord for the year 2017.

joy, but then I saw throughout the nave a dozen or more people sitting quietly in the pews. Some were deep in thought or prayer, working through in their minds some concern or simply connecting with God. I was grateful for their example of being still before the Lord, and grateful that we can provide them a peaceful place to do just that.

If you've been paying attention to the Epistle and bulletin announcements, you may have been expecting a capital campaign feasibility survey to arrive in your inbox this week. Fear not, it will be coming early next week. We had some production issues to work out with the Episcopal Church Foundation, but now we are all set to go. Please participate when it arrives.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

December 4th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Combined Junior Choristers with Adults

4 p.m. Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols

Music: The Adult Choir

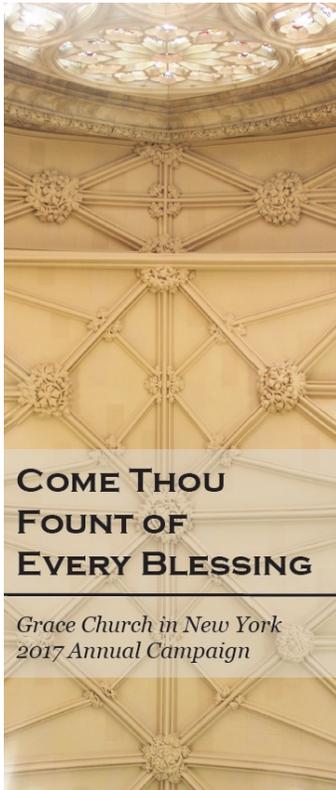
6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

THE GO PROJECT AT THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM

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.)

Concerts tonight and tomorrow! (Dec 2 & 3)



THE CHORAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Tickets are still available for today,

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 10th (see below).

ADVENT PROCESSION OF LESSONS AND CAROLS @4PM – 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. Details [HERE](#).

THE ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS for local charities will continue on Sunday, Dec 4th, with a collection of 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!

CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP – Those who ordered a Christmas tree will be able to pick them up on Sunday, Dec 4th after the 6pm service in the Rectory Garden.

2017 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN – All Grace Church members and friends are encouraged to make a financial pledge to the work of the Lord for the year 2017. God has blessed us with a vibrant parish family, stunning architecture, glorious music, a tradition of reaching out to the least and the last in society, and most of all, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this

Friday, Dec 2 at 8 pm and Saturday, Dec 3 at 3 pm at Grace Church. Featuring one of Mozart's great Salzburg masses (Mass in C, KV 262 "Missa longa") along with music by Palestrina, Handel, and an audience carol sing. Tickets [HERE](#).

life, and to empower the ministries of the church, please commit to a financial gift for the coming year. Pledge letters and brochures were mailed to your homes and are available in the pews. *To make your pledge, please fill out the pledge envelope, return it to the parish office, or place it in the offering plate today. You are also welcome to make your pledge [HERE](#).*

Please pray for...



Those who suffer

- Nora Webb
- Johanna Bell
- Walton E. McLeod
- Leroy A. McLeod
- Peter Duncan
- Julia Harvey
- Donna Lee
- Josephine Ferraiuolo
- Howard Small
- Trish Lawrence

and those who have died

- Philip Manitta

VESTRY NOMINATIONS – Many thanks to those who have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee this year. According to our parish by-laws the Committee must consist of the Warden not up for reelection (Leona Chamberlin), two Vestry members (Singleton Cox and Jennifer San Cartier), two parishioners named by the Rector (Colbert Cannon and Jack Browning), and the Rector, who serves as an ex-officio member. If you would like to nominate a Grace Church parishioner to serve on the Vestry, please fill out the form you will find on the table outside the Reception Room and *place it in the "Vestry Nominations" box by Sunday, January 1st.*

Coming Soon

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FEASIBILITY STUDY – Thank you to all who have participated in the discernment phase of the capital campaign and for your feedback. Now, it's time to hear from the rest of the congregation. Due to scheduling, the electronic feasibility study will now be emailed out during the week of Dec. 5th by the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). 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. The deadline for completing the survey is Friday, December 30th.

DEC 7 – THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this annual event, held 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. 10th, 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 (RSVP BY DEC 6!) – Decorate a holiday gingerbread house with your children or grandkids after the 9 and 11 am services on Sunday, Dec 11. \$20 minimum suggested donation per house, which will help support "The House that Grace Built" Habitat for Humanity project. [RSVP to Chase Danford](#) *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.

DEC 17 – 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 17, Jan 7, and Jan 21. For more information, photos and to sign up, please click [here](#).*

DEC 22 – GREENING OF THE CHURCH – A few good souls are needed to help dress the church on Thursday, Dec 22, for the joyous celebration of Christmas. *If you would like to sign up, you must contact Ellen McElduff [here](#).*

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

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

Grace Church in New York, 802 Broadway @10th Street, New York, NY 10003

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