

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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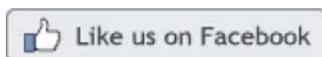
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### DEACONESSES!

Expanding the role of women in the life of the church.

**With Nicholas Birns,**  
Ph.D., Associate  
Professor of Literature.  
*(Details at right, under  
"This Sunday.")*

## January 29, 2017

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

Back in the 1980s when I was a student at General Seminary, one of the assigned books for a particular class was the novel, *Silence*, by Shusaku Endo. Today, I confess that my reading of *Silence* was only as deep as it needed to be in order to get through the class. But I always kept my copy of the book with the good intentions that someday I would give it the time it deserves. Just a few years ago I did that very thing, and the experience did not disappoint.

Now [Silence](#) is a major motion picture directed by the legendary Martin Scorsese. A few weeks ago I'd heard that the film was not doing well at the box office, so I hurried to see it with my 17-year old son, James, while we still had time. The movie is faithful to the book and wonderfully done. It is well worth seeing. (I should add, parenthetically, that the theater was packed.)

*Silence* is an engrossing tale about the challenges that 17<sup>th</sup> century Jesuit missionaries faced in Japan. It was a time when all Japanese Christians were under intense persecution, often given the stark choice between renouncing Jesus (apostatizing), or facing death. The outward expression of renunciation would be stepping on something called a *fumie*, which was an image of Christ on the cross or perhaps Mary carved in stone or painted on wood. When the Christians were arrested they were told, "The sooner you get through with it, the

**THE SUNDAY FORUM  
@10 AM.**

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



**COME THOU  
FOUNT OF  
EVERY BLESSING**

*Grace Church in New York  
2017 Annual Campaign*

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

**OUR CUPBOARD IS  
LOOKING BARE!**



**SEEKING MORE  
DONORS of COFFEE  
HOUR GOODIES!**

Our hospitality mission  
is to welcome and nourish  
all who seek fellowship

sooner you'll get out of here. I'm not telling you to trample with sincerity and conviction. This is only a formality. Just putting your foot on the thing won't hurt your convictions." Endo continues, "All you had to do was put your foot on it. If you did that, nobody cared what you believed."

The novel is based in history. The fact is, while many do put their foot on the fumble, many others refuse to do so and suffer the ultimate consequence. *Silence* raises challenging questions about faith that are forever relevant. What does it truly mean to become and remain a Christian? What is the relationship between our inner convictions and outward actions? Who gets to define what outward actions negate inner convictions?

The Adult Education Committee and I believe that some of these questions are so important that we want to address them at some upcoming Sunday Forums. We are looking towards Lent, specifically, the First Sunday in Lent, March 5. Yes, that's over a month away, but this means you have time to do your homework. Here's the assignment: Go see the movie, or read the book, or both. It is worth it. More on this to come.

See you in church.

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

**This Sunday  
January 29th**

**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

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry**  
Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young

at coffee hour, **each and every Sunday**. This requires lots of goodies! **Two ways to support the mission:**

1. Fresh-baked (or freshly-purchased), bite-sized, sweet or savory goodies. Sign up for a Sunday with Hospitality Co-chairs Ellen McElduff or Dana Foote [here](#).
2. Tasty sweet or savory **packaged** items. We like to keep the cupboard stocked with these, for days when there are no fresh donations. Bring them any Sunday to Tuttle Hall.

We hope to make it easy, so that everyone can pitch in. *See you at coffee hour!*

**Please pray for...**



***Those who suffer***

- Yong Lee
- Jong Lee
- Cynthia Stewart
- Barbara & Keith

**Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists**

**DEACONESSES: GRACE CHURCH & THE ASCENT OF FEMALE MINISTRY- THE SUNDAY FORUM**

**@10AM.** The Episcopal Church instituted deaconesses in the late nineteenth century as a way of returning to the role women had in the early church and expanding the role that women had in the life of the church. Many of the early deaconesses came from Grace Church, and we will examine their lives and ministries and how they prepared the way for women being ordained priests. *Led by Nicholas Birns, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Literature at NYU School of Professional Studies.* Join us in the Reception Room. Coffee and pastries are served.

**WELCOME JUNIOR CHORISTERS!** This morning at 11 am the combined Junior Boy and Girl Choristers are taking up the treble seats in the Choir. Last Sunday during the Annual Concert of Music for Treble Voices with guest conductor Dr. Barry Rose, 11 New Juniors received their surplice in the traditional "whiting" ceremony. Congratulations!

**NEW JUNIOR BOY CHORISTERS:** Kristjan Burke, Julien Collet, Charlie DiDomenico, Kadin Hussein, Phineas Sinclair, John Zaccaro.

**NEW JUNIOR GIRL CHORISTERS:** Isabella Kim, Anna Paulson, Chloe Rensky, Arielle Sibley-Grice, Thea Sinclair.

**THE REV. ALISSA ANDERSON** is in her home Diocese of Indianapolis this weekend for her ordination to the diaconate on Saturday. Alissa is now officially "the Rev.," and when she returns this week she will begin assuming the deacon's role in our liturgies. Congratulations Alissa!

***Coming Soon***

Archer  
 Rayma Hayes  
 Bill Pope  
 Josephine Ferraiuolo  
 Howard Small  
 Trish Lawrence

*and those who have  
 died*

Donna Lee  
 Bruce Dungan

**FEB 4 – JOIN THE NEXT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAY** – 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 last summer and would love to have you join them! Details [HERE](#).

**FEB 5 – (PART I) COULD THE TEXT OF THE GOSPEL HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY EARLY EDITORS AND SCRIBES? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.** Most Christians are not aware the autographs of our Biblical books have not survived. So what happened to the text in between the books' composition, and the earliest manuscripts we have access to? In this lecture, Elizabeth Schrader gives an introduction to the many different manuscripts and manuscript variations of the New Testament. *Elizabeth 'Libbie' Schrader is a recent graduate of General Theological Seminary. In September, Libbie's M.A. thesis 'Was Martha of Bethany Added to the Fourth Gospel in the Second Century?' was published by the Harvard Theological Review." Part II of this talk takes place next week.*

**FEB 5 – THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 11 am service. Reports will be given by the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, the Head of Grace Church School, the Senior Warden, and the Rector. Lunch will be served (\$5 per person suggested donation).

**FEB 5 –SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** – Bring cash to the annual parish meeting to support Grace Church's food security programs. If you want your team to win the Super Bowl, drop a few bills into the corresponding soup pot. Donations will go to local food ministries.

**FEB 7– 20'S AND 30'S-ish 'SMALL GROUP'** – Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 7th at 7:15 pm for the next meeting of Grace Church's 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. Contact the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#) for more details.

**FEB 11 – YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAY AT HABITAT "RESTORE"** – Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to join our Habitat for Humanity partnership by volunteering from 10 am–2 pm at ReStore, a nonprofit home improvement store and donation center in Queens. Volunteer activities include both customer service and backroom organizing. *RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#) required by Feb. 3.*

**FEB 12 – (PART II) WAS MARTHA OF BETHANY ADDED TO THE FOURTH GOSPEL IN THE 2ND CENTURY? – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.** In part II of her talk begun last week, Libbie Schrader shows us the troubling manuscript variations around Martha in the Fourth Gospel, and based on the oldest manuscript that exists of John 11, she argues that Martha was not present in the earliest circulating version of the text. Would Martha's absence in the Fourth Gospel provide us with new information about the identity of Mary Magdalene?"

**FEB 12 – 20s/30s DODGEBALL**– Grace Church is hosting the 2017 Young Adult Network Dodgeball Tournament. Meet 20's and 30's types from around the city and diocese for some old-school fun. Bring your team or just yourself – everyone who wants to will get to play, or you can just watch the action and cheer! \$5 donation at the door. Snacks and water included. Sunday, February 12, 2:30 – 5 pm. *RSVP to*

*the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#). (This event replaces a brunch, which is rescheduled for March.)*

**FEB 12 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS** – Newcomers to Grace Church are warmly invited to our Newcomer Classes for 2017. The classes are held on the second Sunday of the month in the Reception Room at 12:30 pm. Each class will discuss how to become a member of Grace Church, as well as a variety of special topics (this month: The Bible). We suggest that you attend at least three classes throughout the year, as a way to get acquainted with the clergy, meet other newcomers, and grow in your faith. Lunch will be provided, so kindly *RSVP to Martha [here](#)*. (And don't miss the Winter Newcomer Reception, on Feb 23, details and RSVP info below!)

**FEB 12 – HELP PROVIDE A HOME COOKED MEAL FOR NYC RESCUE MISSION GUESTS** – On Sunday, Feb 12th we will sponsor a meal for guests at the NYC Rescue Mission. We are seeking volunteers to prepare pot roasts and cupcakes at home and/or to help 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 guests and staff at the mission. You may sign up online here <https://goo.gl/UOG4yY> or by e-mailing Lillie Chance [here](#).

**FEB 18 – "DON'T WALK BY"** – In this annual outreach ministry to the homeless of New York, we will be fielding a team to assist on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 1:30 to 8:30pm. This ministry involves walking a designated area in lower Manhattan, engaging homeless people on the streets, offering them a bed for the night, a hot meal, and medical care. If you would like to learn more, you may go to the website ([dontwalkby.org](http://dontwalkby.org)); if you would like to volunteer, please contact our team leader, Mike Watson ([mwatson@gts.edu](mailto:mwatson@gts.edu)).

**FEB 23 – WINTER NEWCOMER RECEPTION** – Save-the-Date for our winter Newcomer Event! Anyone new to Grace Church who would like to connect with other members and church leaders is invited to join us on Thursday, Feb 23rd at 6:30 pm in the Reception Room. Guests will be treated to refreshments and a tour of Grace Church led by the Rector. *RSVP to James V. Romanik at [jromanik@gracechurchnyc.org](mailto:jromanik@gracechurchnyc.org).*

**FEB 25 – GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY** – Join other members of Grace Church as we volunteer together at the GO Project. We will meet Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, in the front hallway of Grace Church School (86 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.) at 9am for a 30 minutes orientation, and then volunteer until 12:30pm. *RSVP to Martha [here](#).*

**FEB 26 – HOW GRACE ADDRESSES FOOD SECURITY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND AROUND THE WORLD – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.** In February, the Outreach Committee will be raising the issue of food security through various ways within the Grace Community. As part of this, the Sunday Forum on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> will be a panel of three parishioners who will present how we partner with other organizations to reach the homeless and hungry in our neighborhood and around the world. We will feature our work with Hope for Our Neighbors in Need (feeding program), NYC Rescue Mission (housing and re-establishment programs), and the youth trip to the Heifer International farm (international aid).

**FEB 26 – SHROVE SUNDAY BRUNCH!** Come celebrate Shrovetide this year with a fabulous "Mardi Gras" Sunday brunch of pancakes, bacon, eggs and fruit. Held in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service. \$15 per person/\$25 per family requested donation at the door. Volunteer help is most appreciated! To find out

how you can help, please contact the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#).

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

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