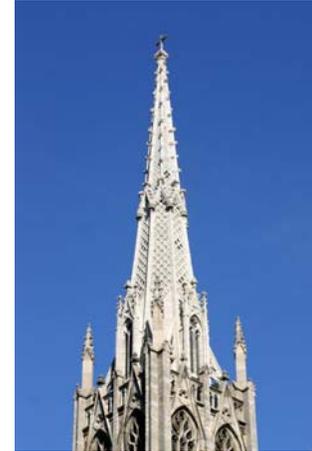


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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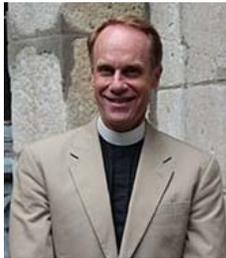
Think you can come up with a question that would "STUMP THE CLERGY?"

Give it a try!
The Sunday Forum
@ 10 am.

In thanksgiving for all the

January 8, 2017

The First Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ



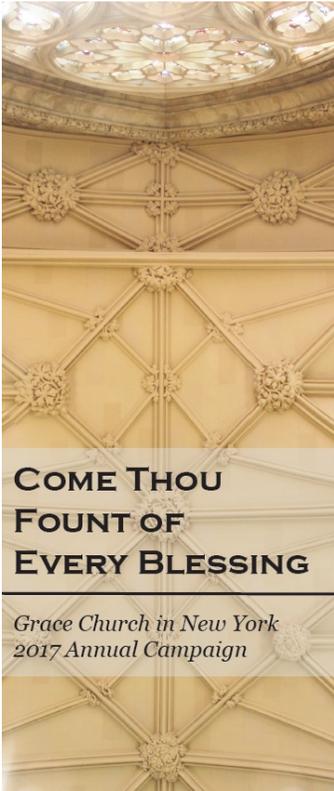
Dear Friends,

It is Friday, January 6th as I write this - the Feast of the Epiphany. I have just come back to my office after having a look out in the church, and let me tell you: the church is a mess! It is time to take down all the Christmas

decorations, including the two huge trees that graced either side of the altar, and all the surrounding poinsettias. On the Christian calendar Epiphany is a major date in its own right, but to me it has always meant just one thing: Christmas is over. I have always loved Christmas and the season of Advent that builds up to it, thus I am always sad to see it fading in the rear-view mirror. But it is time to move on and embrace a new year.

This year the whole world seems to be more anxious than it normally is. People are looking ahead with fear and foreboding. On the fringes of respectable news I read recently that a giant celestial body called Planet X, orbiting our solar system in such an oblong way that we can't see it, will collide with the Earth this coming October. Meanwhile, a Connecticut university professor of mathematics has calculated that the collapse of society will occur in the 2020s - that's next decade. My guess is that much of the current anxiety will coalesce around Inauguration Day on January 20. President-elect Trump is untested and unconventional, leaving many people ill at ease. Not knowing what to expect they fear the worst.

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!](#)**

(You have all of 2017 to fulfill it.)

So here we go. Who's ready for 2017? Perhaps we can take a lesson from Mary and Joseph, the parents of the infant Jesus, who's birth we just celebrated. The Gospels vary in detail, but both Matthew and Luke attest that the Holy Family did not linger long in Bethlehem. Luke reports that within eight days they were in Jerusalem. Matthew suggests that even sooner than that that they were off to Egypt, fleeing the tyranny of Herod. They moved on. As they headed into an uncertain future, they trusted that God would be present with them and for them wherever they went. It's a good lesson for all of us; the Spirit of God impels us on, and calls us to trust.

See you in church - and don't leave without taking a poinsettia with you.

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

****TOMORROW, SATURDAY, JAN 7TH****

JOIN THE ECW FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE MARTIN LUTHER EXHIBIT at the Morgan Library on Saturday, Jan 7 at 1:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to see the exhibit before it closes later this month. Students and seniors pay only \$11 and adults \$18. All are invited. There is a café at the museum where those who wish to can grab a bite afterwards. More info on the exhibit [HERE](#). *Space is limited, so you must reserve your spot by e-mailing Mary [HERE](#).*

Please pray for...



Those who suffer

Cynthia Stewart
Barbara & Keith

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: Jan 7, Jan 21, Feb 4. For more information, photos and to sign up, visit the website [HERE](#).*

**This Sunday
January 8th**

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Archer
 Rayma Hayes
 Bill Pope
 Kim Sanderson
 Donna Lee
 Aunt Ruby
 Jeffrey Hargrave
 Javon Hargrave
 Cordy Ryman
 Julia Harvey
 Josephine Ferraiuolo
 Howard Small
 Trish Lawrence

*and those who have
 died*

Jerry Evans
 Doreen Pope
 Arthur LeRoy McLeod

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Baptism & Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

4 p.m. Amahl and the Night Visitors

by Gian Carlo Menotti

Offered by The Adult Choir as part of Evening
 Prayer

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

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.

CHRISTMAS PLANTS – If you would like to take a Christmas plant with you today, please do so. With just a bit of care they can help you or a loved one enjoy the spirit of Christmas through the year.

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS @4 PM – This beautiful seasonal opera by *Gian Carlo Menotti* will be offered as part of Choral Evensong. Please join us for this special offering, originally written some sixty years ago as a television piece, and now a much loved part of our annual Christmas celebrations. Held in the Church at 4 pm.

2017 WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at Coffee Hour after the 9 and 11 am services. If you would like envelopes for 2017 and have not yet made a request, please contact James V. Romanik, Assistant Director of Membership & Communications, [here](#) or at 212-254-2005.



AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS
by GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY
AT 4:00 P.M.

THE ADULT CHOIR
Featuring
TAMI PETTY, ALVIN CRAWFORD,
JOSHUA PARRILLO AND
ARAM TCHOBANIAN

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WWW.GRACECHURCHNYC.ORG
INFO TEL. 212.254.2000/6

The Reverend J. Donald Waring, Rector
Patrick Allen, Organist and Master of Choristers

Photo: Vincent D'Amico Design: AKEffect

Coming Soon

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 age(s). See you there!

JAN 11 – 20'S AND 30'S–ish 'SMALL GROUP' – Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 21st at 7:15 pm for the next meeting of our new spiritual formation and fellowship opportunity for young adults. Light refreshments will be provided. Questions? Email the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#).

JAN 15 – THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess for the MLK holiday weekend, and will resume on Sunday, Jan 22 at 10 am. Details to follow.

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.

JAN 29 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS – Join us in the reception room at 12:15 pm for the first of the newcomers' classes of 2017. *RSVP to the Rev. Martha Korienek [here](#).*

FEB 5 – THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Feb 5th, 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 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, updated weekly.*

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

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