

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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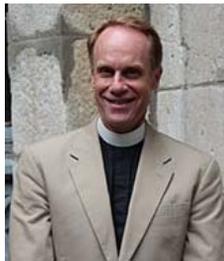
Martha of Bethany a later "addition" to the Gospel?



Elizabeth 'Libbie' Schrader continues

February 12, 2017

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany



Dear Friends,

Those of you who attended last week's annual meeting of the parish heard a number of reports about the overall health and vitality of Grace Church. For those of you who did not attend the meeting, you can still pick up an Annual Report outside the Reception Room and read it at your leisure or you may read it online [here](#). Also, in what follows, allow me to touch on some of the highlights of recent developments.

- In the past year the Fabric and Grounds Committee has been working with architects and construction managers to determine what the next phase of interior restoration should be. As you know, the answer is the nave and north transept ceilings. Everything is safe for now, but these areas - though perhaps not as unsightly as other sections - are critical. The cost will be \$2 million.
- Last fall the Vestry engaged the Episcopal Church Foundation to conduct a feasibility study among our members. The question was: Can we raise \$4 million? \$2 million would go to restoring the ceilings, and \$2 million would go to restoring the endowment, from which we borrowed to pay for previous work, such as installing the organ.
- The response rate of the survey was quite good -- 39% (40% is considered extraordinary). Also, the study indicates strong support to go forward with a campaign - though there is more support to

the discussion @ this week's Sunday Forum.

FEB 12 @ 10 AM

(Details at right.)

Please pray for...



Those who suffer

Carol Haines

Peter Mottar

Jennifer Nahoom

Susan Pannone

Yong Lee

Jong Lee

Josephine Ferraiuolo

Howard Small

Trish Lawrence

and those who have died.

Roy Martin Haines

Ina Scott

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

restore the interior of the church than there is to restore the endowment.

- Further, the survey indicates that while we do not have the capacity to raise \$4 million, a \$2.6 million campaign is well within our reach. It is possible that we can even set a stretch goal of \$3 million.
- At the January meeting of the Vestry, we received the report of the feasibility study, and voted to proceed with a capital campaign. The goal will be to fund restoration of the ceiling, and fund restoration of a portion of what we've borrowed from the endowment.

Finally, this just in: you'll see work beginning on the ceiling as early as next month, though no major scaffolding should interrupt our parish life until the summer. Clearly, you'll be hearing much more about all this in the weeks to come. Thanks to all who participated in the annual meeting, and thanks to you all for your love of Grace Church. See you Sunday!

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

Rector

This Sunday

February 12th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

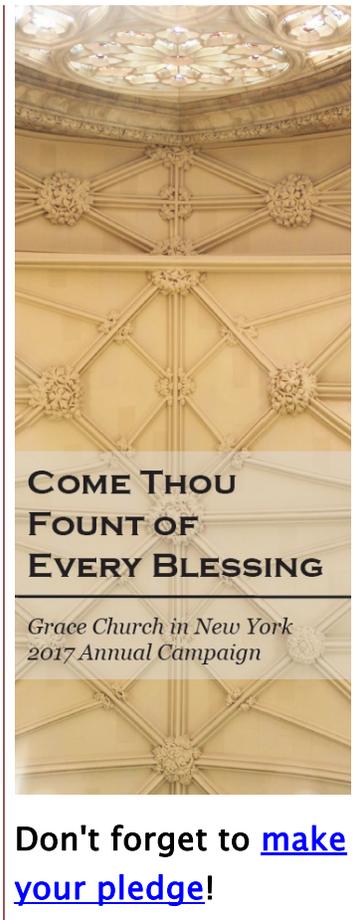
Music: The Girls' Choir with Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

(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 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?" *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.*"

NEWCOMERS' CLASS (TODAY) – Newcomers to Grace Church are warmly invited to our Newcomer Classes for 2017. 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 Korienek [here](#).*

(And don't miss the Winter Newcomer Reception, on Feb 23, details and RSVP info below!)

NYC RESCUE MISSION MEAL TODAY – Many thanks to all who contributed home-cooked pot roasts and desserts, as well as time and resources to provide a nourishing meal for hundreds of guests at the NYC Rescue Mission this afternoon.

20s/30s 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 – to play, or to just watch the action and cheer! \$5 donation at the door. Snacks and water included.

Sunday, Feb 12, 2:30 – 5 pm. *RSVP [to the Rev. Chase Danford](#) (This event replaces a brunch, which is rescheduled for March.)*

Coming Soon

FEB 18 – "DON'T WALK BY" – (Still time to join!) In this annual outreach to the homeless of New York, volunteers walk the streets, offering individuals a hot meal, clothing, basic medical care, and an opportunity for an alternative life. We will be fielding a team to assist in lower Manhattan on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 1:30–8:30 pm. For more info, visit dontwalkby.org. To volunteer, contact Grace Church team leader, Mike Watson (mwatson@gts.edu).

FEB 23 – WINTER NEWCOMER RECEPTION – 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 [here](#).*

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. 25th, in the front hallway of Grace Church School (86 4th Ave.) at 9 am for a 30-minute orientation, and then volunteer until 12:30 pm. *RSVP to the Rev. Martha Korienek [here](#).*

FEB 26 – HOW GRACE ADDRESSES FOOD SECURITY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD & AROUND THE WORLD – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. All this month the Outreach Committee will be raising the issue of food security in various ways within the Grace Community. Today a panel of parishioners will discuss 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](#).

MAR 1 – LENT BEGINS: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES will be held at 8 am in the Chantry, and 12:10 and 6 pm in the Church. The two earlier services are expected to last for approximately 45 minutes. All services include homily by the Rev. Martha Korienek, Eucharist, and the imposition of ashes.

MAR 1 – ADULT BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION CLASSES – Adults interested in being baptized at the Easter Vigil (April 15th at 7pm) or confirmed when Bishop Dietsche visits Grace Church (May 21st at 11am) are encouraged to sign up for classes. Held in the Reception Room on Wed. evenings, 7–8 pm, starting Mar 1st. *To sign up, please email Martha [here](#).*

MARCH – YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASSES – Classes for youth in grades 7–12 begin in early March to prepare for Confirmation on Sunday, May 21 at 11 am. *Please contact the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#) to register.*

MAR 2 – LENTEN BOOK STUDY – Members of Grace are invited to read and study *The Book of Forgiving* together on Thursday evenings in Lent. Written by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his daughter, the Rev. Mpho Tutu, the book is a journey into the meaning of forgiveness and a guide to

forgiveness in our own lives. Held in the Reception Room at 7 pm on Thursdays, Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6th. *The group is limited to 12, so please email Martha [here](#) reserve your place.*

MAR 4 – SIGN UP NOW! THE NEXT HABITAT/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAY – Upcoming dates: Saturdays, Mar 4, 18, Apr 1. Carpool to "the House that Grace Built" from in front of the church at 8 am. Return is usually by 4 pm. *Information and registration at <http://gracechurchnyc.org/outreach/>, or contact Martha Korienek [here](#).*

MAR 5 – 20'S AND 30'S-*ish* SUNDAY BRUNCH (Rescheduled from 2/12) – Young adult parishioners and guests are invited to brunch after the 11 o'clock service and coffee hour on Sunday, March 5. We'll meet in the Rectory Garden by the 802 Broadway gate and walk to a nearby restaurant. Plan to bring \$15–20 in cash. *RSVP to the Rev. Chase Danford [here](#).*

MARCH 7 – OPEN DOOR MINISTRY WINTER RECEPTION (Inquirers welcome!) This team of friendly volunteers provides a welcoming presence to weekend visitors, answering questions about our beautiful building and church community. Please join us for dinner, fellowship and answers to your questions about volunteering. Tuesday, Mar. 7, 7–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. *RSVP to Singleton Cox [here](#).*

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

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