

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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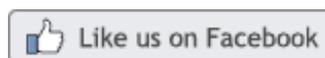
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LIFT UP THINE EYES!



We have now received **\$2.6 million in pledges** towards our stretch goal of \$3 million! Over the next month, we will be hosting more gatherings for the congregation to discuss the progress of the campaign and make a

May 28, 2017

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day



Dear Friends,

Where did Jesus go? It is Thursday afternoon as I write this: the fortieth day of Easter, which means that today is Ascension Day. What is more, this weekend we will celebrate "The Sunday after Ascension Day" with Scripture readings and hymns that would have us all believe that when the time came for the risen Jesus to depart from the company of his disciples, he defied gravity and flew away.

In the Book of Acts (1:6-11) we read that forty days after the first Easter, Jesus *was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight*. He just rose into the air until he disappeared into the sky. What are we to make of it? Why did the first followers of Jesus describe his departure in such dramatic terms? What did they mean? Were they describing a subjective religious experience, or objective historical fact? We take the resurrection of Jesus, including the appearances that followed, as plausible truth. It is the best explanation for the observable history that ensued. Presumably one of the resurrection appearances of Jesus turned out to be the final time the disciples saw him. Where did Jesus go, and why would the disciples imbue his last leave-taking with such mystery if it were no different from his other comings and goings?

Biblical scholars, theologians, and ordinary Christians have been puzzling over the Ascension for two-thousand years. To the question of whether the Ascension was objective history or subjective experience we answer yes. The Biblical writers were talking about both history and experience. To describe an event that was above the realm of their comprehension, beyond their sight, even out of this world,

pledge. Please contact [James Romanik](#) with any questions. If you haven't already seen the campaign's video, please click [HERE](#) to watch and learn more.

We Need YOU! On JUNE 3rd



Sign up now to join us at the next **Habitat for Humanity/Grace Church Build Day!** Come and help us to rehabilitate a condemned house in St. Albans, Queens for a family in need. *Information, registration, and more build dates [here](#) or contact Martha Korienek [here](#).*

Please pray for...



those who suffer

they reached for the language of poetry and theology. I think what they meant to convey is that the Ascension was a continuation but also the culmination of the Easter experience. If Easter was the sunrise after the dark night of death, then whatever it was that happened at the Ascension was the same day at high noon. God had released the risen Jesus from the final restraints of time and space. He is no longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but "comes to claim the here and now." (*Hymn 182*)

How does Jesus come to claim the here and now? The answer is both exhilarating and terrifying. It is through the church. It is through you and me, who have promised to follow Jesus and trust that his Spirit dwells within us. I must confess that I have good days and bad days when it comes to cooperating with the Spirit of Christ. On the bad days the challenge is not necessarily to try harder. Rather, it is to let go of my own willful, selfish schemes and listen to what the Lord God might actually be saying. What a responsibility, and what a joy it is to be on this journey together with you.

Where did Jesus go? He is right here at Grace Church whenever two or three of us gather in his name. See you in church.

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

This Sunday

May 28th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek
Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Martha S. Korienek
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

The Sunday Forum is on recess for the holiday

Elsie Lewis
Mitties de
Champlain
Geno Sparrow
The people of
Venezuela
James F. Hurley III
Kristin Whitehurst
Josephine Ferraiuolo
Howard Small
Trish Lawrence

*and those who
have died.*

Warren Musaus
Paige Mercer

weekend. Join us next weekend for the final Sunday Forum of the season.

Coming Soon

JUNE 4 – FAREWELL TO THE REV. ALISSA ANDERSON, our Pastoral Resident for the past year. Join us at coffee hour after the 11 am service to wish her well.

JUNE 4 – THE SUNDAY FORUM: Q and A with the Rector – The Sunday Forum concludes for the season with a session of questions and answers with Don Waring. What's the summer going to look like with all services in the chantry? Do we really think that the restoration in the church will happen on time and on budget? How is the capital campaign coming along? How is Grace Church reaching out beyond ourselves? Join us in the Reception Room at 10 am for an informative time. Coffee is served.

JUNE 11 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS @10 AM – Newcomers to Grace Church are warmly invited! Held on the second Sunday of each month, 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. Held in the Reception Room, this month at 10 am. *(Also, don't miss the **Newcomer Cookout on June 20th**! See below.)*

JUNE 11 – THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC AND CHOIR RECOGNITION SUNDAY – Grace Church parishioners and friends are welcome and encouraged to come to Huntington Close following the 11 am service! Join us in celebration of the choir ministries of Grace Church and to help bring our program year to a joyous and festive close. Suggested donation at the door is \$10 per person. There are many ways to support this event, from food and drink donations to

volunteering, so *please [contact the Rev. Chase Danford](#) to find out how you can help.*

JUNE 15 – ECW MEET AND GREET POTLUCK –
ALL WOMEN who attend the 9, 11 and 6:00 services are invited to a "No Pressure" pot luck supper hosted by the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) on Thursday, June 15 from 6:30–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. Let's meet for fun and fellowship! Please bring a dish, a snack or a beverage if you are able! [Contact Teresa Conway here](#) with any questions. See you there!

JUNE 18 – ALL SUNDAY SERVICES MOVE TO THE CHANTRY – The restoration of the church ceiling and protection of the organ will begin in earnest starting June 15, requiring the 9 and 11 am services to relocate until September 10. The chantry can seat up to 100 people, so if you normally attend the 11 am service, you might consider trying the 9 am or the 6 pm. Life is an adventure; it will be fun!

JUNE 18 – ECW TO HOST COFFEE HOUR – On our first Sunday with the 9am and 11am services being held in the Chantry, the ECW is hosting coffee hour after both services. This is a chance to not only celebrate our new summer worship setting, but also all the fathers of Grace Church on Father's Day. *If you would like to help with coffee hour on June 18th, please contact Martha [here](#).*

JUNE 20 – NEWCOMER COOKOUT – Calling all Grace Church newcomers! On Tuesday, June 20 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, we will host a festive celebration to welcome you. The evening will be held in Seymour Close (the courtyard off Tuttle Hall), and will be full of delicious grilled fare and fellowship. *We hope to see you there! RSVP to James V. Romanik [here](#).*

JULY 7–9 YOUTH TRIP TO HEIFER FARM – Youth completing grades 6–12 are invited to join a trip to Heifer International's educational farm in Rutland, MA. The 270-acre farm is filled with gardens and

livestock, including goats, pigs, yaks and more. Through interactive programs and activities, participants come to understand the complications surrounding hunger and poverty and to see their connection in creating change. We will conclude with an outdoor Eucharist on the beautiful farm grounds. Friday morning, July 7 to Sunday afternoon, July 9. *RSVP by Sunday, June 4 to Fr. Chase [here](#) or 212-254-2000 ext 113.*

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

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