

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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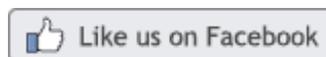
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**Please help to  
fill the sanctuary  
with beauty this  
Christmas  
Season...**



**by making a  
memorial or  
thanksgiving**

## December 10, 2017

The Second Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

When you come to church this Sunday (and I haven't the slightest doubt that you will come to church), you will see more scaffolding in the west gallery beneath the rose window. The

scaffolding is there to replace two steel tie-rods that serve as inverted buttresses, helping to bear the weight of the stone spire. When Grace Church was first built in the 1840s, Renwick's design specified a wooden spire. But the architect changed his mind and called for stone, even as the tower that would support the spire was only partially built. Alas, the funds were not available, so the workers proceeded according to the original plan, and crowned the tower with a spire made of wood.

The wooden spire remained for nearly forty years, until Catherine Lorillard Wolfe, the great benefactress of Grace Church, provided a third of the cost to replace it with stone. Would the tower and its foundation support the increased weight of a stone spire? Despite persistent rumors that they would not, Renwick insisted that lack of funds, not lack of strength, was the only reason why the spire was not stone from the start. So in 1883 the wood came down and the stone went up, vindicating what Renwick had been saying all along.

Somewhere along the way (possibly in 1883), four steel tie-rods were installed in the tower as added insurance that it would not buckle. Two are beneath the vaulted plaster ceiling, and two are above it, out of sight. Even the two that are visible blend into the rose window, and you don't really see them. A few weeks ago I was in the church after dark. With no sunlight on the window I was able to see the tie-

**offering for  
flowers and  
greens!**

You are invited to make your donation online [HERE](#). (You may also find a flower envelope around the church narthex and parish house.) We recommend donation amounts beginning at \$50, but are grateful for any amount. Thank you!

**For your donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" to be listed in the Christmas bulletins, it must be received by this Tuesday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. Online donors please put your dedications in the comments box.**

*Christmas  
Service  
Information  
can be viewed  
[HERE](#).*

rods, but the only reason I noticed them at all was because one was drastically askew. Since then we have been consulting with engineers to assess the condition of all four tie-rods. Two need replacing. One is already finished, the other will happen on Monday. Thus, the scaffolding you will see on Sunday.



Something else in our society is drastically askew. Thanks be to God: people are finding the courage to speak out about it and call our attention to it. Sadly, my guess is that fixing the problem is going to be a more complicated process than any building repair. I refer, of course, to the great reckoning that is taking place, calling out numerous politicians, artists, and entertainers for their sexual abuse and harassment. These prominent people have used their positions of power to make unwanted advances on others. They have crossed personal boundaries that they had no

ALL THINGS  
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Grace Church in New York  
2018 Annual Campaign

You may read more about pledging by clicking the image above. You may make your pledge [here](#). Questions about pledging? Contact James V. Romanik at 212-254-2005 or [here](#).

*Please pray  
for...*



*those who suffer*

Adelaide  
Peggy  
Kimberly and Sandy  
Louise Zonis  
Debbie McAdams

business crossing, and they counted on their deeds going unnoticed. No longer. Now their positions of power are being taken away from them. Is justice being done? In some cases it is too little and too late. But it's a start. At the very least, all of us (especially men) should raise our awareness of personal space, and take strides always to respect the physical dignity of others.

Perhaps the scaffolding you see on Sunday can serve as a reminder of the work we have to do so that everyone is safe. See you in church.

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

Rector

## This Sunday

**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 Choir of Men and Boys**

**4 p.m. A CEREMONY OF CAROLS**

**By Benjamin Britten**

**Music: The Girls' Choir with Alumnae of the  
Choir and**

**Women from the Adult and Parish Choirs**

**Nancy Allen, harp**

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist**

**Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young**

**Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists**

**THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – THE HOUSE**

**THAT GRACE BUILT IS NOW A HOME!** Grace

Church parishioners have answered the Biblical call to be good neighbors here in New York City and around the globe. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, we

Isabella  
Josephine

*and those who  
have died.*

spent many hours each month raising funds, digging dirt, drilling, hammering, sweating, laughing, and working together to raise the roof on 'The House That Grace Built' in Queens and at other sites in our community. Today, members of the Outreach Committee answer your questions about how everyone can help keep building! Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

**GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING** after the 9 & 11 AM services – There are a limited number of gingerbread houses available for those who did not RSVP, so please check at the donation table if you are interested. \$20 minimum suggested donation per house, which will help support "The House that Grace Built" Habitat for Humanity project.

**NEWCOMERS' CLASS @12:30 PM** – New people to Grace are warmly invited. Each session will discuss how to become a member of Grace. Also, today we will be talking about *Advent and Christmas Traditions*. We recommend that you attend at least three classes throughout the year as a way to get acquainted with the clergy, with other new members, and to grow in your faith. Held in the Reception Room at 12:30 pm. *Lunch will be provided, so RSVP to Martha [here](#).*

**A CEREMONY OF CAROLS BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN 4PM** offered by The Girls' Choir joined with Alumnae and women from The Adult and Parish Choirs. Nancy Allen joins the choir with her harp. This moving work is a special annual holiday tradition. Held at 4 pm in the Church.

**ANNUAL ADVENT COLLECTIONS CONTINUE TODAY** with a collection of hats, scarves, and gloves for the Church of the Ascension food pantry. On Sunday, Dec 17th, we'll collect new men's underwear (larger sizes) and socks for the NYC Rescue Mission. Donations are being collected in the baskets at the back of the church at all services. Please give generously this Advent!

**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 (Brett Pertuz), two Vestry members (Owen Boger and Elana Foundos), two parishioners named by the Rector (Singleton Cox and Jennifer San Cartier), 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, December 31<sup>st</sup>.*

## *Coming Soon*

### **DEC 16 – SIGN UP FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/GRACE CHURCH BUILD DAY: Projects in Manhattan and Queens!**

On Saturday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> we offer a choice of two projects: in Manhattan we are now working to preserve and maintain affordable housing, this week by doing home maintenance repair for a co-op on the Lower East Side. While over in Queens, we will put finishing touches on "The House that Grace Built." *To sign up, please visit the website [here](#) or e-mail Martha Korienek [here](#).*

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

**JAN 9–26 CATHARINE LORILLARD WOLFE ART CLUB** 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Open Exhibition at the National Arts Club, 19 Gramercy Park South, from January 9–26, 2018. Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8 pm Benefit Reception for the Travel and Research Fund of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A minimum donation of \$25 per person is required to attend. The Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club was established at Grace Church in 1896. The purpose at the time was to provide aid, counsel and exhibition opportunities to young women artists in New York City.

<https://www.clwac.org/>

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

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