

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



In This Issue

[E-Devotional](#)

[Parish Prayers](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

Quick Links

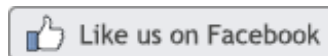
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[Make Your PLEDGE](#)

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[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



Grace Church Daily E- Devotional!

(You can still sign up!) Take two minutes out of every day to pray using a **brief, daily devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for each other** and delivered daily (Mon-Sat) to your e-mail inbox. These

February 18, 2018

The First Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

Sadly, as you all well know, it's happened again: another mass shooting, this time at a Florida high school, with a loss of life that is staggering to our sensibilities. Seventeen people - a combination of students and teachers - who had left their homes on an otherwise typical Wednesday morning - were dead by the end of the school day. It happened to be Ash Wednesday, and in various photos and news clips from the location, survivors and emergency personnel could be seen with the mark of ashes on their foreheads. The cruel irony was hard to miss. Here were people who earlier in the day had taken the time to be reminded of our mortality, only to be confronted hours later with more evidence of mortality than anyone should ever see.

Earlier this morning a radio station called Grace Church hoping that a priest would come to their studio and be interviewed about the Florida massacre. If the truth be known, I was relieved that my calendar is rather full today because I am really at a loss for words. What is the calling of Christian people in the wake of these events? To say that "our thoughts and prayers are with the victims" is a tired response that is rightly being skewered as meaningless. What good is prayer if it leads to inaction so that the same type of thing can happen again and again?

On the other hand, if prayer emboldens us to act more in accordance with God's will, then it is time well spent. This Lent, I will be praying for everyone who is involved in trying to get out in front of these mass shootings and prevent them: for those working to enact sensible gun

devotions began on Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, so sign up [here](#) today.

2018 is Here!
Please let us hear from you...

ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Grace Church in New York
2018 Annual Campaign

Many thanks to those who have responded to our call to make a pledge for 2018. Read about pledging by clicking the image above. **Want to make your pledge now?** You may do so [here](#). Questions about pledging? Contact James V. Romanik at 212-254-2005 or [here](#).

Please pray for...

legislation, for those trying to untangle the thinking of the criminally insane, for those scouring social media for early warning signs that someone is about to snap. For all those who are striving to restore a measure of safety and sanity to our society, I give thanks. You are doing a holy thing.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

February 18th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

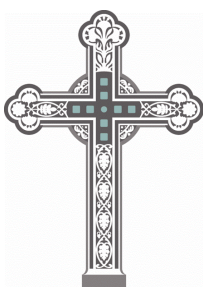
Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

LITURGICAL CHANGES FOR LENT – Our Sunday worship takes on a different tone for these next five weeks of Lent. We will begin each service with a Penitential Order, which includes a recitation of the 10-Commandments. The word "Alleluia" is omitted from all hymns, versicles, and responses, and you will see no flowers on the altar. The goal of the scarcity is to highlight the abundant life that will be ours to claim at Easter.

THE SUNDAY FORUM is on recess for the holiday weekend.

LENTEN PRACTICE: UNITY HOUSE FUNDRAISER – "Unity House" is the next house rebuilding project that



those who suffer

Gordon Matheson
Jason Russell and
family
Peter Schmidt
The Lester Family
The Peck Family
Bela Fletcher
Ysanne Spevack
Josephine

***and those who
have died***

17 people killed in
the Florida high
school shooting

Grace Church is doing through Habitat for Humanity, this time partnering with the Muslim community Who Is Hussain. We need to fundraise \$50,000 for Unity House, so this Lent you are invited to help raise these funds through your Lenten spiritual practice. Each day this Lent, you are invited to read the daily Bible reading to help you reflect upon your blessings, and then give thanks for your blessings by contributing financially to Unity House. To help you with this Lenten practice, there is a daily email and a paper calendar. To receive the emails or get a copy of the calendar, or with any questions, please email Martha [here](#).

Coming Soon

FEB 20–MAR 20 – WHAT OUR FAITH SAYS ABOUT RACE, JUSTICE & PERSONHOOD: A LENTEN READING GROUP – Join the Rev. Chase Danford and the Rev. Martha Korienek as we explore the writings of prominent African–American thinkers from the 19th through the 21st centuries. Tuesdays Feb. 20–Mar 20 from 7–8 pm.

FEB 21 – ADULT BAPTISM CLASSES – Wednesdays in Lent, there will be a class for adults who are interested in being baptized at the Easter Vigil (March 31st at 7pm), 7–8 pm in the Reception Room on 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28. *To sign up, please [email Martha](#).*

FEB 24 – SERVING TOGETHER AT "HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED" – Join with other volunteers from Grace Church as we serve together at Hope for Our Neighbors in Need, the soup kitchen of Church of the Village (201 W. 13th St.). We will be serving from 11:30 am to 3pm on Saturday, Feb 24th. *To sign up, please [email Martha](#).*

FEB 25 – JUST WHAT WAS THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS? THE SUNDAY FORUM @ 10 AM – For two centuries, many Americans have claimed that the United States was founded on Christian principles. Others—including some of the key Founding Fathers themselves—have disagreed. Brooke Allen, author of *Moral Minority: Our Skeptical Founding Fathers*, will examine the Enlightenment origins of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, and will look specifically at the religious beliefs—or lack thereof—of six

of the founders: Franklin, Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton. Brooke Allen teaches Literature at Bennington College. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

FEB 25 – NEWCOMERS CLASS – New people to Grace are warmly invited to our Newcomers Class on Sunday, Feb 25th in the reception room at 12:30pm. Each session will discuss how to become a member of Grace, as well as this session we will be talking about *The History of Grace Church*. 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. *Lunch will be provided; [RSVP to Martha](#).*

FEB 26–MAR 26 – LENTEN BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE – We will read and discuss portions of the Gospel According to St. Luke on Monday evenings during Lent, from 6:30–7:30 pm in the Reception Room: Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26. Whether you have never read the Bible before or you are a New Testament scholar, you are welcome to join in as we explore the story of Jesus and learn about different ways to approach scripture. *On Feb. 26, the Rev. Chase Danford will present an overview of Luke. You are encouraged to read chapters 1–3 of Luke before class, if you can.*

MAR 4 – HOWARD THURMAN: MYSTIC, THEOLOGIAN, AND CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER – THE SUNDAY FORUM @ 10 AM – Remembered by many primarily as a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., Howard Thurman was a prominent leader in his own right as a scholar, author, and church planter. It was his articulation of a theology of non-violence that inspired Dr. King and other civil rights leaders. He also served as the first dean of chapel at Howard University and later dean of chapel at Boston University (where he met Dr. King and where he became the first African-American dean of chapel at a predominately white university). In today's session, the Rev. Chase Danford will lead a presentation and discussion of some highlights of Dr. Thurman's thought and spirituality.

MAR 4 – ECW "THANK YOU TEA" in the Reception Room immediately following the 11 am service. The ECW would like to thank ALL the Grace Christmas Fair volunteers, cooks and bakers – MEN ALSO! Join us for tea, sandwiches and sweets!

MAR 10 – HABITAT BUILD DAY – We will be partnering with the Islamic community service organization "Who Is Hussain?" to work on a Habitat home in Queens. *Unity House* will be a symbol of interfaith dialogue and action and importance of building community grounded in diversity and inclusiveness. *For more information or to register, visit our [Outreach page](#) or contact*

Martha.

MAR 17 – GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY!

Ever considered volunteering with the GO Project, but not sure you can make a year-round commitment? How about signing up for a one-day event? GO invites all Grace Church members and friends to participate on Saturday, March 17th, from 9 am–12:30 pm. Come and see this wonderful program in action, meet the students served by the program and pitch in to help! *Sign up by [e-mailing Olivia Nunez](mailto:Olivia.Nunez@gracechurchnyc.org).*

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

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org