

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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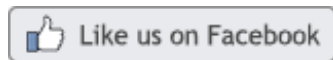
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LENTEN E-DEVOTIONAL

A brief, daily devotional guide written by Grace Church parishioners for each other and delivered daily (Mon-Sat) to your e-mail inbox. Devotions began on Ash Wednesday, but you can still [sign up today!](#)

Why Should You Make a Pledge?

February 25, 2018

The Second Sunday in Lent



Dear Friends,

Earlier this week came the news that the Rev. Billy Graham had died at the age of 99. Even though the headlines have been dominated (rightly so) by the conversations that are gathering momentum in the aftermath of the Florida school shooting, still the death of a revivalist preacher gave the nation pause. Graham wasn't just any preacher. He was called "America's pastor" for being a close, personal advisor to 12 presidents, stretching from Truman to Obama. It has been estimated that more people turned out to hear his message of God's love than they have for any other preacher in history. When Graham came to New York City in the summer of 1957, he filled old Madison Square Garden night after night, and once drew 85,000 to Yankee Stadium. (Fun fact: the Rector of Grace Church at the time, Louis W. Pitt, was on the steering committee for Graham's NYC tour, and can be seen in some photos on stage with him.)

Next week Billy Graham's body will lie in state in the rotunda of the US Capitol. It will be the first time that any religious leader has received such an honor. The image may suggest to some a blurring of the line between church and state. Would the founding fathers have approved not only of this final tribute to Graham, but of his access to the corridors of political power throughout his long career? As the nation faces a litany of seemingly intractable challenges - gun violence being only one of them - how much influence should religion, any religion, be allowed to have?

At this week's Sunday Forum, the distinguished author and educator Brooke Allen will be leading us in a discussion

ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL



Grace Church in New York
2018 Annual Campaign

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...



those who suffer
Gordon Matheson
Jason Russell and family
Peter Schmidt
The Lester Family

that will take on questions such as these. Please read below for more details, and make a special effort to attend. I believe it will contribute to all of our being better equipped to engage in the concerns of today.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

February 25th

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

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

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. The book will be available for purchase.

NEWCOMERS CLASS @ 12:30 – New people to

Josephine

*and those who
have died.*

Grace are warmly invited to our Newcomers Class 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, so RSVP [to Martha](#).*

LENTEN PRACTICE: UNITY HOUSE FUNDRAISER –

"Unity House" is the next house rebuilding project that 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

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.

THE GOSPEL OF ST. LUKE: A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – 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. *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](#).*

MAR 24 – ECW ONE-DAY RETREAT – Join the women of Grace Church for a one-day retreat where we will reflect upon Jesus' final week together. 9:30 am to 2:30 pm in the Reception Room. Lunch is provided; \$5 suggested donation. Childcare can be provided if requested in advance. *For more information or to register, [contact Martha](#).*

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

