

GRACE CHURCH PARISH NEWS

First Sunday of Advent

3 December 2017

*The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Maria Kavanagh
and in thanksgiving for the birth of Christina Maria Turner.*

Sunday, December 3: First Sunday in Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:15 am Family Eucharist
10:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am North Room Chat (North Room)
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Parish Choir
12:30 pm Bereavement Group (Colonial Room)
1:30 pm AA Group (Choir Room)
3:30 pm Gentle Yoga (Gym)

Monday, December 4

3:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Room)
6:45 pm AA Group (Gym)
7:00 pm Vestry Meeting (Choir Room)
8:00 pm AA Group (Gym)

Tuesday, December 5

12:30 pm Advent Organ Recital (Sanctuary)
6:00 pm NA Group (Gym)
7:00 pm Centering Prayer (Chapel)
8:00 pm NA Group (Gym)

Wednesday, December 6

6:30 pm EfM (Choir Room)
7:30 pm Al-Anon Group (Gym)

Thursday, December 7

6:30 pm Parish Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
6:45 pm AA Group (Gym)
8:00 pm AA Group (Gym)

Friday, December 8

6:00 pm NA Group (Gym)
7:30 pm Couples Group (Choir Room)
8:00 pm NA Group (Gym)

Saturday, December 9

10:00 am AA Group (Gym)

Sunday, December 10: Second Sunday in Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:15 am Family Eucharist
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Stroller Group Christmas Brunch
(Gym)
10:15 am North Room Chat (North Room)
11:00 am Holy Eucharist with Parish Choir
1:30 pm AA Group (Choir Room)
3:30 pm Gentle Yoga (Gym)

Coffee Hours after 8 and 9:15 am services are held in Guild Hall; after 11 am service, in rear of church.

Welcome to Grace Church! Visitors and guests are invited to sign a Welcome Card and place it in the offering plate. If you are new to Grace, welcome! Attractive magnetic name tags are available for you to wear when you are at church. These are a huge help in helping us learn each other's names and in building community. If you don't yet have a name tag, fill out a Grace Contact Form on the Welcome Table, in the rear of the church. Name tags are not only for newcomers...we all wear them, including kids! *If you have a pacemaker, you should not wear a magnetic tag; we have an alternative tag for you.* Questions? Contact our Parish Administrator, Christian DeRuiter, in the Parish Office at 718-624-1850. **Parents:** There is Staff-supervised Nursery Care offered from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm in the Colonial Room, upstairs across from the kitchen. **Children's Activity Materials and Bulletins** are available on the Children's Table in the church. Children are always welcome at worship. **Hearing assistance devices are available on the Children's Table.** If you would like one, please ask an usher. **If needed, a Chairlift to the Guild Hall is available;** please ask an usher for assistance.

TODAY AT GRACE

Sunday Parking: Please note that Sunday parking for Grace parishioners is available at **44 State Street Garage (at the end of Willow Place)**. The hours are only on Sundays from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm unless a holy day (such as Good Friday, Christmas Eve) is scheduled for another day of the week. Please drop off your car at the garage, bring the ticket to an usher for stamping, and give the stamped ticket to the valet.

Grace Bereavement Group returns: Today, *Sunday, December 3, 12:30 to 1:30 pm* in the Colonial Room. Any who have suffered a loss (recent or not) are most welcome to come.

It's not too early to participate in our Advent Outreach ministry this Christmas season: Grace Church will be supporting St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway by donating toys to their annual holiday party. You can help by donating toys for children from newborns to age 16. (Toys are especially needed for children ages 13-16). Two wicker baskets are located in the back of the church by the Welcome Table, *ending on Sunday, December 10*. To learn more about our other outreach ministry initiatives to non-profits, please see flyers in rear of church, elsewhere in this bulletin's pages or contact Sheila O'Neill at sonNeill@schimoler.net.

Sunday North Room Chats begin. Have you been looking for a little something "extra" from church on Sundays? Join us on Sundays at 10:15 am in the North Room for a pilot version of "Sunday North Room Chats," where we'll discuss spirituality and Christianity in bite-sized chunks. No need to prepare in advance. This is not a series where if you miss one chat, you're behind. Just be open to learning something new, sharing your own life experiences, and, most importantly, growing in the Christian faith. The first Chat will be *TODAY, Sunday, December 3* from *10:15 to 10:45 am* in the North Room. Anne Silver will lead a discussion on night prayer in Christian/spiritual tradition. If desired, we hope to continue these Chats in the new year with a variety of topics. Join us!

NEWS AT GRACE

Rector Search Committee: A Message from the Co-Chairs. On Monday night, November 27, the Search Committee handed over to the Vestry the names of three final candidates for their consideration as 15th Rector of Grace Church Brooklyn Heights. The Committee's work is done; the Vestry's work has begun.

As Co-Chairs, we want to take this opportunity to publicly thank each member of the Search Committee for their hard work and tireless dedication to the process that was entrusted to us. During our 18 months together, there were major life events both joyful and sad — births, deaths, medical challenges, career milestones — but nary a bump in the road to affect our discernment work. We bonded both as friends and coworkers in our mission — and journey — of spirituality, aided by our Spiritual Guide Anne Silver, and by the daily prayers offered for our work by our Assisting Priest, Jim Hagen. We were truly blessed to have such wonderful colleagues. Please join us in prayers of thanksgiving for each of them, as Jim offered on Tuesday:

We praise you and thank you, good Lord, for these wonderful folks who gave so much for the search of our next rector. We thank you for their rough times and for their good times, for the loneliness of this task as well as the fruits of their labor. Give them a sense of peace and rest knowing that their work is done, and done well. And give them confidence that your guiding hand will be there in the weeks to come as one of their candidates is chosen. We name them one by one. Bless them as we thank them. In Christ's name.

<i>Thomas Baldwin</i>	<i>Brianna McCarty</i>
<i>Sarah Davies</i>	<i>Michael Rychbeck</i>
<i>Marilyn Grant</i>	<i>Anne Silver</i>
<i>Chris Larson</i>	<i>Craig Whitney</i>

With heartfelt gratitude,

Barbara Becker and Vivian Harrison
Rector Search Committee Co-Chairs

2018 Annual Giving Campaign. Our 2018 Annual Giving Campaign is well underway. Pledge income is critical as we build our 2018 budget and prepare to carry out the many important ministries of Grace Church. You can pledge online or through Realm, our church management system, or by completing a pledge card found in the pews and leaving it in the collection plate. Please visit Grace's web site (<http://gracebrooklyn.org/give/>) for more detailed information on ways to give.

Advent Organ Recitals begin Tuesday, December 5: We are once again having Tuesday Advent Organ Recitals at Grace Church on *Tuesdays at 12:30 pm at Grace Church* during the month of December. Please come and listen to wonderful music and to take a half hour out of your busy day for some quiet Advent reflection.

Stroller Group Christmas Brunch, December 10: Please join us downstairs in the Gym following the 9:15 am Family Service, to decorate gingerbread houses! This will benefit our friends at Habitat for Humanity. We suggest a minimum donation of \$5 for each house. We'd appreciate it if everyone remembers to make their contribution at the brunch. Please bring a dish to share! Some of our younger members have food allergies so if your dish includes nuts, please include a label for it.

Thank you and please be in touch if you have any questions! Becky Fruin (beckyfruin@gmail.com) and Lauren O'Garro-Moore (lauren.ogarromoore@gmail.com).

Grace Christmas Pageant: It's time! This year's pageant is coming up—*Sunday, December 17* at the *11 am service*. Everyone (not just Pageant Parents!) should visit the Grace web site or take a flyer from the rear of church to find out more and how to get involved. Most roles are open, so please discuss with your kids (ages 3 to 14) whom they'd like to portray. Clear your calendars for three Saturday morning rehearsals on *Saturdays, December 2, December 9, and December 16*. All rehearsals will begin promptly at *9 am* and end by *11:00 am*. Contact Brianna McCarty with any questions (mccarty.brianna@gmail.com). Don't miss this opportunity to share in a very special tradition here at Grace!

Wise Aging Forum continues: The next session of our Wise Aging Forum will be held on Thursday, *December 14* (North Room). We are going to read and discuss Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal. The book is available on Amazon.

Please remember that a Grace Church priest is available for hospital and home visits, and also to meet in the office for informal discussion of personal issues. Jim Hagen's phone is 917-627-0771. Small cards are available on the table at the church entrance with email and phone information.

Do you enjoy flowers? Why not donate flowers on a particular Sunday to remember a loved one who has died or to give thanks for a special blessing? Sign-up sheets are on the Information Table in the rear of church. Memorials and thanksgivings are included in the Sunday bulletin's Parish News section.

Contemplative Prayer Group meets on *Tuesdays at 7:00 pm* in the Chapel. Please join us for a silent respite at the end of your day. Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Lindsay Boyer (lindsay@lindsayboyer.com) with questions or just come by.

Get Connected with Grace Church e-News by signing up at www.gracebrooklyn.org. We send out an email to the parish every week. Also: **Follow us on the Grace Church Brooklyn Heights Facebook page** at www.facebook.com/GraceChurchBrooklynHeights.

GRACE CHURCH - A COMMUNITY OF PRAYER

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

Do you have a prayer concern? In addition to offering Healing Prayer during our services, Grace provides two other ways to have people or situations prayed for: (1) For confidential or emergency prayer concerns, please email Anne Silver at asilver@gts.edu. (2) For ongoing, non-confidential prayer concerns, fill in the 3-ring binder at the rear of the church, and your concerns will be printed below and prayed for by members of the congregation. Names on the "Ongoing Prayer Needs" list will generally be removed after one month unless you indicate that the need is long-term. There is also space in the 3-ring binder to indicate if a name should be removed from the prayer list.

Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer: Liberia, Sierra Leone.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Diocese of West Buganda, Uganda, The Rt. Rev. Henry Katumba-Tamale.

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Convention Committee on Dispatch; Holy Trinity, Valley Stream; St. Jude's, Wantagh; Parish Treasurers; Church of the Advent, Westbury; Church of the Resurrection, Williston Park; St. Thomas', Amagansett.

For Grace Church in This Interim Period: For the clergy, staff, Wardens, Vestry, Search Committee, and lay leaders of Grace Church Brooklyn Heights in this time of transition.

Parish Prayer Concerns: The Rev. Anne Richards; Wendy Hooker; Sally Forbes; Sybil Payne; Jacob Connor; Eric & Frances Harrison; Karl Steinbrenner; Bruni Suarez; Marti Renn.

Please pray for the ongoing needs of: Howard & Kathy Engstrom; Eric, Alejandra and Julio; Steve Berger & family; Marielle & Vivian; Roger Stenlund; Julian Douglass; Debby & Lee; Bill Frey; Ron Ford; Anne, Moe & their two daughters; Lori Pogharian Smith; Malcolm; Mercedes Peters; Jean Bergson; Julian; Chuck Jabaley; Mary Inwood; Dolores Vollmer; Lisa Everett; Kevin Kretz; Juliana O'Brien; Theo Levy & family; Elaine Robinson; David Pitou; Ron & Betsy; Hope Boyd; Andrew Campbell; for all who suffer from storms, flooding, fires and earthquakes; Jackie Rodriguez; Jackie Hunsicker; Jennifer Wallick; Christopher Tan; Jane; Mellonee Walker.

For those who have died, especially Anne and Richard Purpura. *Rest eternal grant to them, O God.*

Awaiting the birth or adoption of a child: Helen and Ken. *If you are expecting a child or awaiting an adoption, and would like to be remembered in prayer, contact the Parish Office at 718-624-1850, extension 10.*

Preparing for Marriage: Hilary Boller and Ben Aneff.

Upcoming Baptismal Date: January 7, 2018 (The Baptism of Our Lord) at 11:00 am. To inquire about Baptism, please call Christian DeRuiter in the Parish Office, at 718-624-1850, ext. 10.