

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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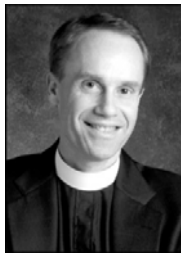


**The Things That
Make for Peace**
the Rev. Nadim Nassar
on Syria...



September 8, 2013

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all, and Happy September. This coming Sunday is a day we informally call "Welcome Back Sunday." The choirs are back, Sunday School resumes at both the 9 and 11 am services, and the Sunday Forum will hold its first session of the fall at 10 am.

Two things about the Sunday Forum: First, weather permitting we will gather in Seymour Close, our lovely courtyard through the patio doors in Tuttle Hall. As many of you know, Seymour Close had been off limits for the past two years while it was filled with excess stone from our various building projects. Last spring we finally found a place for the stones (the Cathedral of St. John the Divine agreed to take them), and after extensive cleaning the space is available for use again. I am looking forward to a number of parish events in the crisp, fall air, and this week's Sunday Forum will be the first.

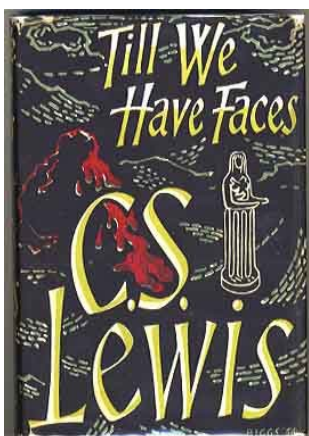
Second, the speaker. If you paid attention to the news over the summer, you know that the nation of Syria has continued to implode on itself, and that the current regime likely unleashed poison gas on the rebels, killing thousands of civilians. How should the United States and other western nations respond, if at all? Many Americans are opposed to military intervention, citing the recent quagmires of Iraq and Afghanistan. Others believe that the

See the **SUNDAY FORUM 10AM...**

Celebrating the New Bicentennial Organ, Opus 65!

See Sept 21 under **COMING SOON...**

Wednesday Night Book Study
with the Rev. Sarah Wood



See Oct 9 under **COMING SOON...**

use of poison gas is a crime against humanity, and failing to respond to it only gives permission for future occurrences. Christians themselves, the world over, have always held strikingly different views on whether the use of force can ever be consistent with the kingdom of God. The Rev. Nadim Nassar is a Syrian born Anglican priest who has been a friend of Grace Church for a number of years. He has preached from our pulpit and taught numerous classes. This Sunday he will be with us at the Sunday Forum to give his perspective on Syria. Nadim has long labored for peace through interfaith dialogue, Christian education, and cultural awareness. Of course, we promise no easy answers to the international problems that our elected officials must decide upon, but we do promise a spirited conversation. I hope you will join us.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday, September 8th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: The Combined Grace Church Choirs

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

(Service times are updated weekly on the [website](#).)

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY - The combined Choir of Men and Boys with the Girls' Choir will sing at the 11 am service. **Join us for a festive fellowship hour after the 11 am service on the lawn** of Huntington Close (*we give special thanks to the Hospitality Committee for a bountiful repast*)! **AFTER THE 6PM SERVICE**, stay for Pimms Cups and light refreshment in Huntington Close.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-8 at both the 9 and 11 am services. *Seeking classroom*

helpers and teachers for the fall! For details e-mail [Melissa Spindler](mailto:Melissa.Spindler).

SYRIA: THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - Today we launch a new season of adult Christian education. We begin with a distinguished speaker: **the Rev. Nadim Nassar, a Syrian born Anglican priest** who has worked for years to promote peace through interfaith education, dialogue, and mutual understanding. Nadim has taught and preached at Grace Church in the past. This week he will be speaking to us about **the current crisis in Syria**, where his family still lives, and what, if any pathways lie open to restoring peace to a shattered land. *Held outside in Seymour Close, weather permitting.*

WEEKEND ORGAN MEDITATIONS 4PM (resumes today)
Diverse Repertoire of the King of Instruments offered in forty-five minute meditations.

CANTERBURY DOWNTOWN CAMPUS MINISTRY DINNER 7PM (returns today!) - The Rev. Mary Cat Young welcomes all college students to share a meal in the Reception Room after the 6 pm service. Visit canterburynyc.org for more information about this group.

COMING SOON

SEPT 9 - OUTREACH MONDAY The first meeting of the season will be held in the Reception Room from 6:30-8 pm.

SEPT 12 - ECW "Kick Off" PARISH WIDE MEETING on Thursday, Sept 12 in Tuttle Hall, 6:30-8:30 pm. "No Pressure" Pot Luck!" * Upcoming events * Many speakers * Grace and the Arts at Christmas update. Come for fun and fellowship!

SEPT 13 - SAINTS AND SAVORIES with the Episcopal Young Adult Network (20's-30's) Engaging conversation and fellowship with young Episcopalians, and their friends, from the NYC area! Find out more about upcoming events this fall. Reception Room, Friday, Sept 13, 6:30-7:30 pm.
For more info: <http://edny20s30s.wordpress.com/>.

SEPT 15 - 20s30s SECOND SUNDAY BRUNCH resumes this month! (just for the month of September, the brunch actually takes place on the third Sunday). We will dine at JACK Bistro, 80 University Place. *RSVP is required to Melissa.*

SEPT 21 - An Exhibition Celebrating the New Bicentennial Organ, Opus 65! If music be the food of love, play on! This special program of music features some of our talented

friends: David Hurd, *The General Theological Seminary*; Renée Anne Louprette, *Organist / Director of Music of L'Église de Notre Dame*; Raymond Nagem, *The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine*; Jennifer Pascual, *Saint Patrick's Cathedral*; John Scott, *Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue (Episcopal)*; William Trafka, *Saint Bartholomew's Church (Episcopal)*. Saturday, Sept 21 at 3 pm. Free Admission - Bring a dry good to help feed the hungry of our City.

SEPT 24 - OPEN DOOR FALL RECEPTION - *We are in need of 5 new volunteers!* Parishioners and friends who **have an interest in sharing their welcoming presence with weekend visitors** to Grace Church are encouraged to join this team. The time commitment is only 2 hours per month on Saturdays or Sundays. Please come on Tuesday, Sept 24th at 7 pm in the Reception Room for fellowship and celebration of the coming volunteer year. RSVP to [Singleton Cox](#) by Friday, Sept 20.

SEPT 26 - NEW TO GRACE CHURCH? Just moved to New York and church shopping? Don't have a grill in your studio apartment? **Come for a casual evening of fun and fellowship-** a barbecue on Thursday, Sept 26, 6:30-8:30 pm. Meet friends new and old, beat the heat with burgers and lemonade, and watch (laugh?) as your clergy serve as grill masters. RSVP to [Jennifer Metz](#), Parish Administrator.

SEPT 29 - C.S. LEWIS' THE GREAT DIVORCE Join fellow Grace Church parishioners for lunch at 1 pm and a 3 pm performance of the theatrical adaptation of C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*. At turns funny and acerbically serious, Lewis's work explores our sense of self, will, and sin, inviting self-examination and a bit of humor too. Info: <http://greatdivorceonstage.com/about> Email [Melissa Spindler](#) to reserve a ticket--\$30 per person plus lunch.

OCT 9, 16, 23 WEDNESDAY NIGHT BOOK AND FILM STUDIES! Join the Rev. Sarah Wood for a variety of book and film discussions this year, beginning on October 9th with ***Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold***. This 1956 novel by **C. S. Lewis** retells the ancient Greek myth of Cupid and Psyche from the perspective of Orual, Psyche's older sister. This stunning piece was Lewis' last novel, which he considered his most mature, and was written in conjunction with his wife, Joy Davidman. You are welcome to this book study time together, sure to inspire some great literary and theological reflection! Wednesday evenings, Oct 9, 16, 23, directly after the 6 pm Eucharist.

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