

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life...

and to empower the ministries of the church, we urge everyone to commit to a financial gift for the coming year.

November 17, 2013

The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

It has been nearly a decade now since we have seen the rise of a movement generally called "the New Atheism." Various authors such as Richard Dawkins, the late Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, and Daniel Dennett have been the recent champions of a world view that finds no room for the existence of God. These four even fancy to call themselves "the four horsemen," a title that plays on the four horsemen of the Apocalypse in the Book of Revelation, who ride in to signal the end of all things. Likewise, the four horsemen of atheism have ridden onto the lists of bestselling books in hopes of signaling an end to belief in God.

My understanding of the new atheists is that they are in large part a counter-creation of religious fundamentalism. They have been whistled into being by people of faith from all religions who wish to impose their own unscientific, antisocial, and archaic views on everyone else. Predictably, the strident voices of the new atheists have been met by equally strident voices of people who disagree with them. You can watch competitive debates online, at the end of which panels of judges will declare who is the winner - as if the existence of God depends on the outcome of our debates.

One of the most helpful, thoughtful, and calm voices in the fray has been the Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, the Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA, who is also the author of, among other titles, *Against Atheism: Why Dawkins, Hitchens, and Harris are Fundamentally Wrong*. Dr. Markham will be with us this Sunday to help us



2014 Annual Campaign!

Look for this brochure in your mailbox or around the Church or Parish House, and fill out the enclosed pledge envelope. You may also [pledge online](#) now.

Pledges do not need to be paid off today, or even all at once. You can take all of 2014 to fulfill your pledge!

PLEDGE TESTIMONIES

Today at the 11am service Sarah Cogan will tell us why she gives to God through Grace Church.

LAST CALL FOR A FABULOUS EVENT!

celebrate Grace Church School Sunday. He will lead the Sunday Forum at 10 am and then be our guest preacher at the 11 am service. Grace Church School Sunday is an annual tradition when we uphold the common mission and history of Church and School. It seems that one of the core elements of our identity we can celebrate together is the belief that you can pursue academic excellence at its highest level, and you can love God with all your heart, mind, and strength at the same time. You don't have to compartmentalize these essential qualities of being human into separate, airtight boxes of your brain.

I am looking forward to a stimulating Sunday. See you in church.

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

This Sunday, November 17th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys with The Girls' Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Sarah Wood

Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

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



[Tickets are still available!](#)

THE GO PROJECT YLC's first annual Fall cocktail party will raise funds to benefit our GO students. You can help to make it a big success!

Join other NYC young professionals, while enjoying a DJ, silent auction, open bar, food, and competitive games! All for a wonderful cause.

[Details and tickets available HERE.](#)

YOUNG LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (YLC) is a recently formed committee of young professionals interested in making a difference in the lives of NYC public school students.

CONVERSATIONS WITH ATHEISM: ARGUMENTS FOR FAITH

**With the Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham,
leading academic and writer**

Enter the Conversation!

**Sunday, November 17th
10 a.m. Forum Discussion
11 a.m. Morning Prayer Service
with sermon by guest preacher Dr. Markham
All are welcome.**

The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, author of numerous books, including *Against Atheism: Why Dawkins, Hitchens, and Harris Are Fundamentally Wrong*, *Truth and the Reality of God*, and *Do Morals Matter* joins Grace Church for a forum discussion and Sunday service. In his writings, Dr. Markham analyzes the atheistic world view and draws on ideas from Nietzsche, cosmology, and art to construct a powerful response. Don't miss an extraordinary opportunity to engage with a distinguished and faithful scholar.



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GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY & GUEST PREACHER The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary, joins us for our **annual celebration of the common history and mission of church and school.** At 10 am, Dean Markham will lead a Sunday Forum entitled *Conversations with Atheism: Arguments for Faith* (details below). At the 11 am service, Dean Markham will preach, and music will be offered by The Choir of Men and Boys and The Girls' Choir. ***After the service, please come to Tuttle Hall for a festive reception!***

CONVERSATIONS WITH ATHEISM: ARGUMENTS FOR FAITH - the Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology and Ethics will lead the above-titled Sunday Forum. Drawing on science, he argues that the theistic worldview makes more sense of the complexity of human experience than an atheistic worldview. On the way, the issues of cosmology, suffering, and other religions are discussed. *Meets in the Reception Room; Coffee is served.*

ALTAR GUILD SEASONAL MEETING- Please join the Rev. Stephen Holton and Co-Chair Helen DuBois in the

Reception Room after the 11 am service for a brief meeting (45 min.) to prepare for the upcoming season, and to share your constructive comments. *Anyone who would like to learn more about the service of the Altar Guild is invited to contact Co-chair Helen DuBois at hwDub@verizon.net for more information, or come to the meeting!*

PIE TASTING TODAY! THANKSGIVING PIES TO BENEFIT THE CHOIRS' 'Special Projects Fund' - *Come and sample the pies at coffee hour after the 11 am service!* You can order delicious pies for your Thanksgiving feast - **\$10 from every purchase goes directly to the Fund!** Place your order at the "pie box" in the parish house hallway. You may also [place your order online HERE.](#) (select Contribution Category 'Holiday Pies' and type your order selections under 'Comments.')

THANK YOU! *Order deadline: Tues. 11/19.*

COMING SOON

NOV 23 - SACRED VISIONS: 19th Century Biblical Art from the Dahesh Museum Collection. The ECW will host a trip to the [Museum of Biblical Art](#) on Sat, Nov 23 at 12:15 pm. \$5 per person for entrance and tour. All are welcome for fun and fellowship! For details, [Contact Elana Foundos.](#)

NOV 24 - CHOIR ALUMNI SUNDAY - At the 11 am service all former members of the Choir of Men and Boys and the Girls' Choir are invited to join the current choir in the chancel and sing the morning anthems including "I Was Glad," by C. Hubert H. Parry. For more details please [contact Patrick Allen.](#)

NOV 24 - BUSHWICK ABBEY, a new creative liturgical community on the L line in Brooklyn - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM - Faith in the 21st Century Series. The Rev. Kerlin Richter, Transitional Deacon, Church Planter, and assistant to the Canon of Missional Vitality in the Diocese of Long Island will describe her work 'planting' a new faith community, Bushwick Abbey. With worship at their "spiritual' heart," members are called to "question, to practice, and to explore incarnational, inclusive love, through ancient Christian practices and discovering them again for the first time." *Meets in the Reception Room; coffee is served.*

NOV 24 -FAMILY CRAFTS AND SPIRITUALITY - Parents and children aged 5-12 come together for some hands-on crafting fun and all-ages discussion of spiritual practices. \$15 donation per family covers all materials and pizza lunch. 12:45-2:00 pm in the Reception Room. [RSVP to Miss Melissa.](#)

NOV 27, 28 - THANKSGIVING SERVICES OF HOLY EUCHARIST will take place in the Chantry at 6 pm on Wednesday, Nov 27, and at 11 am on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 28. The Rev. Stephen Holton will preach.

DEC 1 - ADVENT BEGINS - COME AND MAKE A WREATH! Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way to keep our thoughts focused on the coming of Christ, and to help teach our children the real meaning of Christmas. On the first Sunday of Advent, Dec 1st, after the 9 am, 11 am or 6 pm services we'll have all the materials ready for you. All are welcome! Experienced wreath-makers are encouraged to help others! Sign up as a volunteer by [contacting Melissa Spindler](#). (Minimum suggested donation per wreath: \$15.)

DEC 6, 7 - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS - THE CHORAL SOCIETY and Orchestra of Grace Church, under the musical direction of John Maclay, will perform on Fri, Dec 6 at 8 pm and Sat, Dec. 7 at 3 pm. **Music of Palestrina, Bach, Mendelssohn, Parry, Pinkham and Gjeilo, and audience carol sing!** [Purchase tickets HERE](#) (click on "Concerts" and follow instructions for payment) \$25 general admission, \$150 prime reserved seating. Tickets sell quickly, so don't delay!

DEC 8 - WHAT DOCTORS FEEL - Danielle Ofri M.D. will be with us at the Sunday Forum, 10 am in the Reception Room, to discuss themes in her recent bestselling book, "What Doctors Feel." More information to come.

DEC 8 - ADVENT LESSONS AND MUSIC Readings of scripture foretelling the coming of Christ are interspersed with beautiful music of the season. Sung by The Adult Choir at 4 pm in the Church.

DEC 11 - THE COMMUNITY CAROL SING All are welcome to come and sing with The Combined Boys' and Girls' Choirs in this festive annual event! 12:15 - 12:45 pm in the Church.

DEC 15 - BELIEF IN THE 21st CENTURY - Author David Holmes, who has written extensively about the faiths of US Presidents, will be with us at the Sunday Forum, 10 am in the Reception Room. More information to come.

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