

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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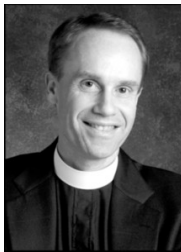
#### Guest Choir!



Girls' Choir from  
Christ Church  
Cathedral, Ottawa

## September 21, 2014

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

Are we living in boring times? If you pay attention to the headlines in the news, you would probably conclude, no. On the world stage Sunni militants are terrorizing the border regions of Iraq and Syria, Vladimir Putin boasts about how quickly he could send Russian troops to numerous European capitals, and the people of Scotland voted on Thursday to remain part of the United Kingdom. The times are interesting, even harrowing for many.

Recently, I was having a conversation with a person in the financial industry who described the current climate as "boring." I am not a finance person so I can't be sure I was entirely grasping his argument. Nevertheless, his point seemed to be that people are reluctant right now to take big risks. Nobody is really willing to play fast and loose, so nobody is going to make huge profits. The flip side would be that nobody is going to suffer huge losses either. Boring.

In the life of faith, boring stretches are an inescapable phenomenon. We all experience those times when "the word of the Lord is rare, when there is no



## Reach Out to Struggling School Kids

*46 years ago, members of Grace Church and parents of Grace Church School students, together created the [GO Project](#) as an educational outreach program for struggling public school students. The program has grown to now serve 560 students and their families!*

YOU can help!

On most Saturday mornings, from October to April, [volunteer tutors](#) work under the supervision of trained teachers. *For details, please contact [Olivia Nunez](#), Dir. of Community Engagement.*

[Tickets are now on sale for the annual Fall Cocktail Party](#) hosted by the Young Leadership Council (YLC)! Your participation will directly benefit GO students and their families. Thursday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup> at the Union Square

frequent vision (1 Samuel 3:1)." It could be that you are not taking the types of risks you should. Or it could be that God is not beholden to being on a 24-hour news cycle, texting and tweeting and updating the divine Facebook page every time a sparrow falls out of its nest. Sometimes God is silent. Boring?

As for me, I have found that the times I have grown the most spiritually have often come at considerable cost, and not at an hour of my own choosing. Yes, eventually we can give thanks for the times that try our souls, but not usually when we are in the middle of them. If your times right now are not trying your soul, think not that you are boring. Enjoy the relative peace and quiet. More "interesting" times are sure to come. In the meantime, slow and steady wins the race.

See you in church.

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

## This Sunday, September 21st

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 Combined Girls' Choirs of Grace Church and Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, with Adults

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry  
Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton  
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

WELCOME [GIRLS' CHOIR FROM CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OTTAWA](#) with your director, James Calkin and your parent volunteer team and chaperones. It is a joy to have you join our own Girls' Choir and Adults to lead the music at the 11 am service today.

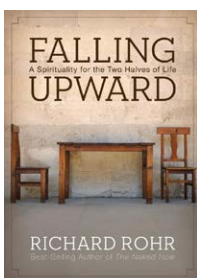
THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM – IN SEARCH OF THE

Ballroom. *Tickets and details, click [HERE](#) or e-mail [Liz Trout](mailto:Liz.Trout).*



SACRED IN ONE ANOTHER—Homelessness and Help. The Rev. Stephen Holton. Each day in the streets of New York we encounter men and women who are homeless, suffering, and often impacted by mental illness and/or addiction. What does it look like to see all people we meet as our neighbor—and how do we respond to them? What happens when we see the sacred in one another—even when the neighbor we meet is dirty, unpredictable, drunk, or unclean? This pastoral conversation is part of a year-long invitation to prayer and discernment regarding how we live out our faith in loving and serving others. *This fall our theme "In Search of the Sacred" will explore locating the sacred through both traditional and nontraditional means. Join us each Sunday for coffee, lively discussion and spiritual enrichment in the Reception Room at 10 am!*

SEPT 21, 28, OCT 5 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS BEGINS – This three-part series meets in the Reception Room on Sundays, Sept 21, 28, and Oct 5, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm. Come to learn more about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and Grace Church. Led by the clergy of Grace Church. A light lunch will be served. Childcare for children aged 0–3 is available in the Nursery.



FALLING UPWARD – A SUNDAY EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION Led by Grace Church parishioner and seminary student, Mike Watson. Fr. Richard Rohr, a globally recognized ecumenical teacher, author and Franciscan priest, in his book, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, teaches that our failings can be the foundation for our ongoing spiritual growth; our heartbreaks and disappointments are stepping stones to spiritual joys. "Second-halfers" don't have to be in their later years, but they do have to learn to forgive themselves for being less than perfect, so they can reach a perfect happiness. Join us for discussion after the 6 pm service on 9/14, 21, 28 and 10/5. E-mail Mike with questions: [mwatson@gts.edu](mailto:mwatson@gts.edu).

## COMING SOON

SEPT 22 – FAMILIES' SUMMER BBQ! – Don't feel like cooking? Drop by with the kids for burgers and hot dogs (and salads and drinks) from 5:30 – 7 pm in Seymour Close. Rain or shine – the kids can run around Tuttle Hall even if the weather is bad. Suggested Donation: \$20/family – or bring a salad,

dessert or beverage to share! *RSVPs are always greatly appreciated to [Melissa](#).*

SEPT 24 – WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES with Hershey Mallette. Explore different ways to examine, engage and enter the lectionary text for the coming week. Wednesday evenings, Sept 17, 24, Oct 1, directly after the 6 pm Eucharist.

SEPT 24 – OPEN DOOR MINISTRY FALL RECEPTION (Potential new volunteers welcome!) Open Door is a team of friendly volunteers who provide a welcoming presence to weekend visitors, answering questions about our beautiful building, our community and its history. Please join us on Wednesday, Sept 24th, 7–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. We'll enjoy fellowship and be happy to welcome anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering. Commitment is just 2 hours per month, and no experience is necessary! E-mail Singleton Cox at [singleton.cox@gmail.com](mailto:singleton.cox@gmail.com) with your RSVP, or just to find out more.

SEPT 28 – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM – IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED IN THE DIGITAL REALM with the Rev. Jake Dell, Office of Communication Advertising and Marketing Senior Manager. Ask Google a question about God, the church, or Jesus Christ and chances are that you'll get a Mormon answer. Digital Media is a powerful marketing and recruiting tool that's being used effectively by major religious organizations, popular household brands, start-ups and terrorist organizations alike. But The Episcopal Church has yet to really jump in with both feet. Find out about a small, digital test campaign being conducted right now in the Diocese of New York by Office of Communication of The Episcopal Church and how this powerful medium can be used to grow the Church and win converts to the Faith. *The Rev. Jake Dell is the manager of digital marketing and advertising sales for the Episcopal Church. He is also a Lieutenant in the Chaplain Corps, United States Navy Reserve and an assisting priest at Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City. He has previous industry experience in information technology, database marketing, fundraising, marketing and digital media. He is a graduate of Yale University and Nashotah House Theological Seminary. He is canonically resident in the Diocese of Albany and licensed to officiate in the Diocese of New York. He lives and works in New York City.*

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