

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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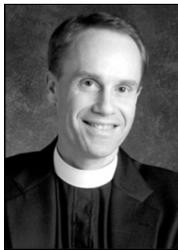


St. Augustine and the Sacred



October 12, 2014

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

One of the fun things I am doing this year is teaching 5th Grade Bible over at Grace Church School. It's a weekly class that meets for an hour on Wednesdays, and my task this fall is to acquaint twenty-two 10-year olds with the New Testament. The syllabus is something I am making up as we go along, based on how much material we are able to cover and how engaged they seem to be. Generally, we spend the first half of the class on the background of the New Testament: these are the Gospels, these are the Epistles. Who wrote them? When, and why? Lately we have been looking at the infancy narratives of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Those children who are already somewhat familiar with the Christmas story are puzzled to learn that the accounts are quite different from each other. Matthew talks about Wise Men following a star, but he makes no mention of shepherds or a manger. One student declared, "That's just wrong! Jesus was born in a manger!"

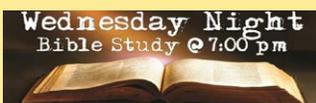
During the second half of the class we shift gears and try to dive down into one of the parables of Jesus as

October 19th

EAT PIE



For the Choir
Special Projects
Fund! (click the pie)



with Grace Church
Pastoral Resident,
Hershey Mallette.
Explore different
ways to examine,
engage and enter the
lectionary text for
the coming week.
Wednesday evenings,
directly after the 6
pm Eucharist.

told in the Gospels. My goal here is to help the students encounter the mindset of Jesus, and what he was trying to teach about the nature of God and God's kingdom. If possible, I choose a parable that's coming up in the Sunday lectionary cycle so that the students may hear it again at school chapel services, in choir, and even at Tuesday evensong. The thing about the parables is that they present an unvarnished look at life. People disrespect family members (the Prodigal Son), steal from their employers (the Unmerciful Servant), envy the success of others (the Laborers in the Vineyard), even beat and kill each other (the Wicked Tenants). This week's Gospel reading is commonly called the Parable of the Marriage Feast (Matthew 22:1-14). A king throws a wedding feast for his son, but nobody wants to come, so he burns down the town and invites in people off the street. Then he notices that one guest isn't wearing the proper garment, so he binds him hand and foot and throws him out! Upon hearing this one student closed her Bible and protested, "This is horrible!"

In the student's complaint I heard a frustration we've probably all felt. We want God and faith to take away the pain and suffering of life, not present us with more of it. We want to see good people rewarded and bad people punished. We hear enough about ISIS and the Ebola virus all week long. Can we not escape the jagged edges of life even in the Bible? No, the witness of the New Testament is that God saves us in and through the times that try our souls, not apart from them. Coming to a grown-up faith is daring to believe that God is especially present with us in the experiences we would never willingly choose to endure. If you happen to be traveling such a dark and difficult road right now, know that at Grace Church you can find a supportive community who will walk with you, and pray that you come to know that nothing in all of creation can separate you from the love of God.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday, October 12th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer
Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton
Music: The Adult Choir

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

THE SUNDAY FORUM – is on recess for the holiday weekend.

COMING SOON

OCT 14 – NO CHORAL EVENSONG. Our Junior Choristers will be on a long Columbus Day Weekend Holiday. Choral Evensong will resume on Tuesday, Oct 21 at 6 pm.

OCT 15 – THE GLASGOW ACADEMY CHOIR & INSTRUMENTALISTS will offer a free noon day concert in the Church. Under the direction of Martyn B. Marshall, this talented group of young performers from Scotland will present a program of popular sacred pieces, traditional Scottish folk songs, Highland music and popular classics. Details [HERE](#).

OCT 19 – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM – ST. AUGUSTINE AND THE SACRED: The Church, the World, and the Heavenly City. Few if any post-Biblical writers have had so great an impact on Western Christianity as St. Augustine of Hippo (354–430). In his great treatise *The City of God*, written in response to a devastating political crisis – the Visigoths' sack of Rome – he described an inscrutable mingling of sacred and secular history, the earthly sojourn of the City of God in the worldly City of Man. Dr. Roy T. Tsao, who spoke at Grace Church last spring about Augustine's Confessions, returns this season for a discussion of *The City of God*, in the context of Augustine's ministry as a bishop in Roman

Africa. Dr. Tsao has taught the history of political thought and philosophy at Brown, Georgetown, and Yale universities. *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!*

OCT 19 – REJOICE IN THE LAMB BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN
– Choral Evensong will be offered by the Choir of Men and Boys on Sunday, Oct 19 at 4 pm, featuring Britten's moving REJOICE IN THE LAMB.

OCT 19, 26, NOV 2 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS ON SUNDAY *Evenings* – Members of the clergy speak, and answer questions, about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and what it's like to be a member of Grace Church. This series of classes will be convenient for those who attend the 6 pm service, but anyone new to Grace Church in the past year is welcome to participate. 7 pm on Sundays Oct 19, 26 and Nov 2 in the Honor Room. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in January and April. For details on these and other events, watch this space.*

OCT 26 – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM – IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED IN SOUTH AFRICA – Hershey Mallette is a senior at General Theological Seminary and the Pastoral Resident of Grace Church for the academic year 2014–15. In the latter role she is helping to pilot a new initiative at the seminary to accelerate the leadership skills of future clergy. This past summer Hershey was on pilgrimage in South Africa, witnessing the spiritual, economic, and political challenges of a country that in the past generation has moved from apartheid to integration. Join us at 10 am in the Reception Room to meet Hershey and learn more about the church in South Africa.

OCT 26 – HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL Sunday Oct 26th in Tuttle Hall from 2:30–4 pm. All children and families are invited for an afternoon of spooky fun and games, featuring mask-making, craft projects, and cupcake decorating! Lend a hand by donating candy or financial support, or helping at one of the tables. \$15 per child suggested donation. Drop off or deliver candy/cupcakes to 802 Broadway now through Friday, Oct 24th. 20s30s are invited to come help set-up and run the Carnival, then stay, play and enjoy some treats from 4:30–6 pm. *Contact Melissa Spindler for more information at mspindler@gracechurchnyc.org.*

OCT 29 – THE LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF MEN

AND BOYS will sing a noontime concert at Grace Church as part of their North American tour. The concert is free, and promises to be not only inspiring, but also to have you back to work by 1 pm!

NOV 2 – ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY During the services we'll light candles and remember all those connected with Grace Church who have died but still remain on the hearts and minds of their loved ones. *To include a name on this year's list, please send the name to Jennifer Metz at jmetz@gracechurchnyc.org by Tuesday, Oct 28.*

NOV 6 – FALL NEWCOMERS' WELCOME EVENT. Please join us for fellowship and fun at our Fall Newcomers Welcome Event – A Taste of Spain! All Grace Newcomers are invited to enjoy Spanish tapas and beverages on Thursday, Nov 6, from 6:30pm–8:30 pm in the Chantry. *RSVP to Singleton Cox at singleton.cox@gmail.com. OLE!*

NOV 15 – 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, Nov 15th 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, Director of Community Engagement, at onunez@goprojectnyc.org.*

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

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