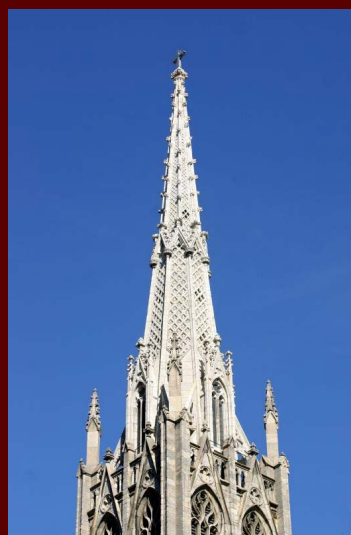


The Epistle *E-news* GRACE CHURCH in New York City



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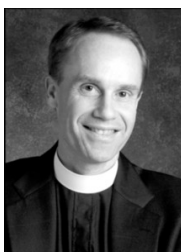
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Where does one
find the sacred
in the city?

October 5, 2014

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



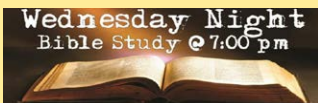
Dear Friends,

No doubt many of you have been hearing the news of the current controversy that is roiling General Seminary, on 20th St. between 9th and 10 Avenues. The Dean and the faculty are at odds with each other, so much so that 8 of 10 full-time faculty have refused to teach or participate in community life until the trustees meet certain conditions. In response the trustees have launched an investigation into the allegations of the faculty, but the faculty deemed this response insufficient. On Monday they made good on their threat of a work stoppage, which the trustees interpreted as the faculty members' resigning their positions. As you can well imagine, both sides have assembled legal teams, and in all of this the students themselves are caught in the middle.

Seminary communities are inherently fragile things. You combine the rigors of postgraduate academics with all the self-examination and scrutiny that goes into examining people who will care for souls. Mix into the equation the pressure to graduate and, in a changing church landscape, find a job that will be



The Sunday Forum at 10 am on Oct 5th



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.

sufficient to pay off student loans and support a family, and you have a combustible tinderbox on a good day. General Seminary itself was just emerging from a period of financial peril, and I fear that the institution won't be able to survive a blow like this.

More immediate than institutional fears, however, are the personal ties that bind us. Grace Church has a long and productive relationship with General. I am a 1989 graduate of General, as was my father in 1957. Hershey Mallette, the Pastoral Resident on our clergy team is here as part of a pilot program General is initiating for the training of new leaders. Bob Owens, the Professor of Old Testament, is a parishioner of Grace Church and one of the two faculty who has not walked out. David Hurd, who has stopped working, is one of the organists who played at the exhibition of our new instrument last fall. Kurt Dunkle the Dean and President was a guest preacher and Sunday Forum leader here last spring. These people are all friends with much to offer in service to God through the church.

Many people are online writing impassioned blogs about justice and authority and the nature of Christian community. My intention here is not to be in such a mode, but merely to urge your prayers for General Seminary and everyone involved. We have learned all-too well in previous years that no institution is too big to fail. The Episcopal Church can't afford to lose General.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday, October 5th

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 Girls' Choir with Adults

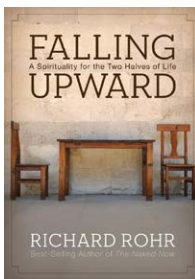
6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry
Sermon: The Rev. Mark Hummell
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM – IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED: The Grace of Place. Dr. Michael Crosbie, FAIA, Editor-in-Chief of *Faith & Form* magazine. Where does one find the sacred in the city? Dr. Crosbie, will contrast aspects of sacred space: "traditional manifestations of the holy, sacred places and spaces where some might posit God "resides," historically the most prominent edifices in the city" with "another type of manifestation of God encountered on a more intimate basis." Rather than a center-point of concentrated sacred space, Crosbie will discuss how one can "meet the holy throughout the city, in small lanes, between row houses, on rooftops and in cellars." *Dr. Crosbie is the Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture and Chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of Hartford. His most recent book is Houses of God: Religious Architecture for a New Millennium (2006). 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!*

(NOTE: Next week, Oct 12, the Forum is on recess for the holiday weekend.)

NEWCOMERS' CLASS CONTINUES – In this three-part series 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. A light lunch will be provided. Held in the Reception Room from 12:45 – 1:45 pm. Childcare for children aged 0–3 is available in the Nursery. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in October, January and April. Watch this space for details.*

FALLING UPWARD – A SUNDAY
EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION Led by



Grace Church parishioner and seminary student, Mike Watson. Discussion of Fr. Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, will conclude tonight after the 6 pm service.

COMING SOON

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.*

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 – NEWCOMERS' CLASS ON SUNDAY EVENINGS – Our next series of classes will be held at 7 pm on Sundays Oct 19, 26 and Nov 2. This session 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. More details to come.

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. Drop off or deliver candy/cupcakes to 802 Broadway now through Friday, Oct 24th. 20s30s are urged 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 mospindler@gracechurchnyc.org.

NOV 6 – FALL NEWCOMERS' WELCOME EVENT. Please join us for fellowship and fun at our Fall Newcomers Event – A Taste of Spain! All Grace Newcomers are invited to enjoy tapas and beverages on Thursday, Nov 6, from 6:30–8:30 pm in the Chantry. Please save the date, invitations will be sent soon.

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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