

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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A Mission in Exile



The Sunday Forum

January 11, 2015

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord



Dear Friends,

The news of the Paris massacre this week is troubling on multiple levels. As you know, on Wednesday morning two gunmen burst into the offices of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* and killed a room full of cartoonists and editors. Not only are 12 people dead, but the stated reason for the killings was apparently in retaliation for the magazine's publishing of cartoons mocking the Islamic figure Mohammed. Thus, it was an attack on freedom of expression, civilization, and life itself. What is more, the terrorists did what they did in the name of their religion. We can say, "Yes, but that's Islam and we're Christians." But consider that the Parisian police officer who lay wounded on the sidewalk before being executed by the terrorists was a Muslim.

These days I am afraid that an increasingly secular world paints all religion with one brush. They look at this sort of thing and conclude that religion in the public square does as much evil as good. Since the news lately has been mostly about the evil deeds, who needs organized faith? Is it true that if nobody had faith in God, or at least people stopped talking about their faith in God, then people would stop killing each other in the name of God?

with the Rev. Dr. Titus Presler. This Sunday at 10 am.

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2015 Annual Campaign
Grace Church in New York

**Questions?
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Just contact Rhianna Murphy, Director of Finance, at 212-254-2000 x 116 (or [click here](#)) to ask any questions at all.

Obviously, I think the answer to the above question is no. People will always find reasons to kill each other. False religion is any doctrine or creed that enjoys and encourages violence and killing. True religion, on the other hand, is that which inclines the otherwise selfish human heart to deeds of love, mercy, and beauty.

Someone who has lived courageously in the places where good and evil in the name of religion often come face to face is our speaker at this week's Sunday Forum, the Rev. Canon Titus Presler. Titus has spoken to us numerous times in the past. He has an amazing story to tell, and always brings a fresh and faithful perspective on the work of the church in some of the world's most difficult places. You can read more about Titus' presentation, below. Join us on Sunday, 10 am in the Reception Room. Coffee is served!

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Baptism and Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

MISSION IN EXILE: A PAKISTAN JOURNEY INTO AMBIGUITY – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM

Canon Titus Presler, Principal-in-exile, Edwardes College, Peshawar. In a series of talks at Grace Church since 2011, the Rev. Dr. Titus Presler has shared with

the congregation stages of the ministry he undertook as Principal of Edwardes College in Peshawar: initial hope and promise; a flourishing ministry in higher education in a polarized environment; emerging threats; and physical attack as government officials sought to wrest the college from the church. Today Canon Titus reflects on the experience of exile from the Pakistan ministry as the local church seeks to retain him in a post that he currently can fulfill only through prayer, consultation and advocacy from a distance.

Join us each Sunday for coffee, lively discussion and spiritual enrichment in the Reception Room at 10 am! (The Forum is on recess next week, Jan 18th for MLK weekend, and continues on Jan 25th.)

JAN 11, 18, 25 – NEWCOMERS' CLASSES – 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 served. Sundays, Jan 11, 18 and 25, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in April.*

2015 WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES are available at Coffee Hour after the 9 and 11 am services, and in the Reception Room after the 6 pm service. If you would like envelopes for 2015 and have not yet made a request, please contact Rhianna Murphy [here](#) or at 212-254-2000 x116.

Coming Soon

JAN 18 – SUNDAY FORUM ON RECESS for the holiday weekend.

JAN 25 – THE SEVENTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES – will take place on Sunday Jan 25 at 4 pm in the Church. Our friend Dr. Barry Rose will be back to work with the Novice and Junior Choristers and lead them in this special annual event that celebrates music for the soprano chorister's voice. At the concert 27 Novice

Choristers will be "whited" (awarded their surplice) and promoted to Junior Chorister.

FEB 1 – THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Feb. 1 immediately following the 11 am service. Reports will be given by the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, the Head of Grace Church School, the Senior Warden, and the Rector. A delicious lunch (\$5 per person suggested donation) will be served.

FEB 12 – WINTER NEWCOMERS' EVENT All those new to Grace Church over the last year are invited to "Carnival" on Thursday, Feb 12th 6:30–8:30 pm in the Chantry! Join us for a festive evening of fellowship, refreshments, and fun. Please contact Singleton Cox (singleton.cox@gmail.com) for information and to RSVP. Let's Carnival!

FEB 15 –SHROVE SUNDAY! Come celebrate Shrovetide this year with a fabulous Sunday brunch of pancakes, bacon and eggs, and fruit salad. \$15 per person requested donation at the door. Fun activities for all ages included. Share a meal with friends before Lent begins. Held in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service.

FEB 21 – "DON'T WALK BY" HOMELESS OUTREACH Volunteers for this annual outreach and rescue mission seek to offer every street person food, warm clothing, blankets and the opportunity to get off the streets for good. This year, the Grace Church team, led by parishioner Mike Watson, will work on Saturday, Feb 21, from 2–8 PM, departing from Calvary Baptist Church on West 57th St. If you are interested in joining the group please contact [Mike Watson](#) for instructions on how to sign up. For details on the project, please visit www.dontwalkby.org/

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