

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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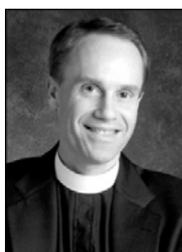
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changed the  
world...**

## April 26, 2015

The Fourth Sunday of Easter



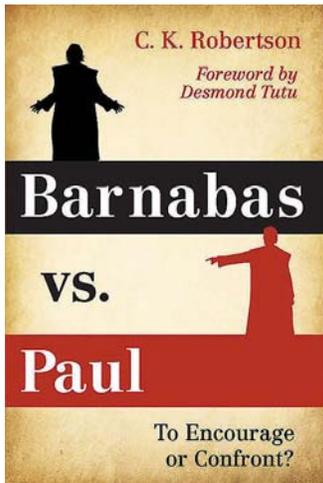
Dear Friends,

One of the things that people love most about Grace Church is the abundance of stained glass windows. The largest and oldest of them all is the "Te Deum laudamus" window (Latin for "we praise thee, O God") that rises above the high altar.

At this time of year the rising sun in the east hits the window straight on at just about 9:00 in the morning as the first Sunday service begins. The effect sends a wash of light and color down the nave that bathes the worshippers in a heavenly glow. It's really something to see, though at its peak I've thought that sunglasses actually might be helpful.

If stained glass windows have any down side at all, it is that they freeze the people they depict in one pose for all time. Thus, the saints in light and Jesus himself come through Sunday after Sunday as unflappably serene, pious, holy, and righteous. What we often don't see in stained glass figures is the real-life, messy struggle that is required in every age to be a faithful Christian. The fact is, Jesus himself struggled to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, and wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. All the stained glass figures, no matter how stern and dispassionate they may look in the windows, agonized through periods of spiritual drought and experienced the full range of emotions that we do.

Case in point: St. Paul the Apostle. At this week's Sunday Forum, the Rev. Canon Charles Robertson will be with us to tell us about his new book: *Barnabas vs. Paul: To Encourage or Confront?* Paul and Barnabas were friends and colleagues in Christ until conflict tore these two apart.



Really? Conflict between stained glass figures of the New Testament? Yes, indeed. Dr. Robertson is also Canon to the Presiding Bishop, so he will be able to reflect on the parallels he sees between conflict in the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century churches. Read below for more information.

Also, don't forget the choir concert tonight - Friday - at 7 pm in the church. Our young choristers have been working especially hard to present an evening of extraordinary music. God willing, they will thrill you. And you will thrill them by your presence. A lovely reception follows in Tuttle Hall, so do join us.

See you in church.

**Meet the author!**  
**The Sunday Forum**  
**@10 a.m.**

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

**APR 30 – Grace  
 Newcomers!**

Come for fellowship,  
 fun and to grow  
 your Grace Church  
 network!

*Details below!*

**TONIGHT!**

**THE ANNUAL SPRING CONCERT of the  
 CHOIRS OF GRACE CHURCH**



Tonight at 7 p.m. the Choir of Men and Boys, The Girls' Choir and The Adult Choir will join forces to offer some of **our favorite anthems by Bairstow, Beethoven, Byrd, Mozart, Palestrina, Stanford and Tallis.** Organ scholar, George Fergus will tickle the keys and pedals with an amazing display at the Bicentennial Organ and a merry noise will be enjoyed by all. The music offered is a sampler of the program the choirs will offer this summer as they tour France.

Get your tickets ([click HERE](#)) to the special benefit reception and help the Choirs raise funds for their summer concert tour to France.

## This Sunday

### 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 Girls' Choir with Adults

### 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

### **BARNABAS AND PAUL: HOW A FRIENDSHIP CHANGED THE WORLD –THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM.**

The Rev. C.K. Robertson, Ph.D., Canon to the Presiding Bishop, and author of the book *Barnabas vs. Paul: To Encourage or Confront?* Barnabas and Paul were close friends and colleagues until conflict tore them apart. Barnabas is barely remembered while Paul became, apart from Jesus himself, the most influential figure in the history of Christianity. Why did the Church canonize one man and push the other into relative obscurity? The Rev. C.K. Robertson will be here to give us a fresh portrait of both men and of a partnership that, quite literally, changed the world. **Signed copies of the book will be available to purchase for \$15.**

*Come to the Sunday Forum each week at 10 am in the Reception Room for coffee, lively discussion and spiritual enrichment!*

**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, Apr 19,

26 & May 3, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. *Newcomer classes are held about 3 times per year.*

### ***Coming Soon***

**APR 28 – EVENING EUCHARIST AND PRIVATE TOUR AT THE GENERAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY** –All women of Grace Church are invited! Private tour of this historical campus including the beautiful refectory and library, "Thomas Cromwell and the English Bible" exhibit drawn from the library's special collections followed by drinks and conversation at the home of President and Mrs. Kurt Dunkle. Guest preacher at chapel is the Rev. J. Donald Waring! *Tuesday, Apr 28 at 6 pm. Meet at 440 West 21<sup>st</sup> St. Questions, contact Elana Foundos at [elanafoundos@gmail.com](mailto:elanafoundos@gmail.com).*

**APR 30 – GRACE NEWCOMER NETWORKING RECEPTION.** Join us for the Spring Newcomers Reception, Thursday, April 30th 6:30–9 pm in the Reception Room. Meet Clergy, Staff and Parishioners who represent a diverse range of professional and Grace affiliations. Not sure if you are still a newcomer and want to get to know the Grace community better, please [contact Singleton Cox HERE](#) for more information. Come Grow your Grace Network!

**MAY 3 –THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM.** The topic and speaker are still to be determined. Stay tuned for more information.

**MAY 8, 9 – THE CHORAL SOCIETY AND ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERTS** at Grace Church: Friday, May 8 at 8 pm and Saturday, May 9 at 3 pm. REQUIEM with works by Britten, Howells and Vaughan Williams. The 70 minute program features some of the most heartfelt and elegaic choral music ever written. Tickets on sale at [www.thechoralsociety.org](http://www.thechoralsociety.org) (click CONCERTS).

**MAY 10 – EPISCOPAL CHARITIES SUNDAY** – This Mother's Day, celebrate Episcopal Charities Sunday,

and help reduce the impact of hunger on your neighbors in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Hundreds of thousands of people will directly benefit, many of them children and the elderly. On Sunday, May 10, you'll find an envelope inside your service bulletin, which we hope you will consider using to make a donation to this worthy cause.

**MAY 10 – BIG QUESTIONS FOR GRACE CHURCH – THE SUNDAY FORUM @ 10 AM.** The Rector will speak about the work the Vestry is doing with the Episcopal Church Foundation towards a long range plan for Grace Church. Along the way we are honing in on big questions that we will need to address in the next ten years. What are they, and what is the initial thinking around them?

**OPEN DOOR MINISTRY: SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!** Like spending time in the beautiful Grace Church sanctuary? Open to helping us to provide basic information and a welcome to over 14,000 weekend visitors yearly? Open Door is seeking volunteers just like you to round out our team. Come sit with an Open Door volunteer during their 2-hour shift on a weekend in April or May and give volunteering a try. Please contact Singleton Cox [HERE](#) for more info and to try Open Door. *And save the date for the next Open Door Celebration and Reception: June 2, at 7 pm in the Reception Room.*

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[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)

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