

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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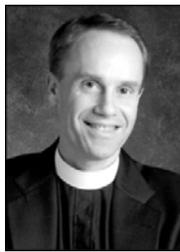
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WHAT ARE THE BIG QUESTIONS FOR GRACE CHURCH?

**The Sunday
Forum @10 a.m.**
(details below)

May 10, 2015

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Dear Friends,

Years ago when I was a new priest I served as the Curate on the staff of a large, Midwestern church. The bulk of my responsibilities involved the youth groups, and one spring we embarked on a trip here to New York City. We did everything that

tourists could possibly cram into a weekend: from the Brooklyn Bridge in lower Manhattan to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on the upper west side, and many sites in between. Of course we took the subway if it made sense, but much of the time we traveled on foot. Imagine: keeping 25 or so Midwestern teenagers in line and intact from one place to another through the crowded streets of Manhattan. I would need chaperones.

I recall that one of the adult helpers whom I recruited was a young man named Rob. The benefit of Rob was that he was that he was immensely funny, and the teenagers loved being around him. But the other benefit was that Rob was extremely tall - about 6'11 if memory serves. Whenever we were walking from one place to another, my job was to lead the way, and Rob's task was bring up the rear. He was to allow no child to fall behind. I remember on many occasions looking nervously behind me, hoping that our group was all together. Seeing Rob in the background, standing head and shoulders above the waves of humanity on the crowded sidewalks was always a relief. He was easy to spot, and I knew that he was on the job.

New York is often called the greatest city in the world, and the United States is the wealthiest nation on earth. Nevertheless, too many people are at risk of falling behind

due to poverty, homelessness, hunger, and addiction. To help combat these conditions and all the problems that ensue from them, the Diocese of New York has established [Episcopal Charities](#). Episcopal Charities is the outreach arm of the diocese, helping to fund nearly 100 parish based programs, including our own GO Project. Many of these programs are soup kitchens and food pantries. In recent years, dramatic funding cuts, especially in government grants, have reduced the capacity of benevolent organizations to feed hungry people. At the same time, hunger is on the rise, and some agencies have seen a 10-20% increase in the number of people coming to their doors. Episcopal Charities keeps these programs going, and at the same time, strengthens the life, witness, and ministry of neighborhood Episcopal churches.

I like to think that Episcopal Charities is like Rob in the background, making sure that every child keeps up with the group. It's a relief to look and see this organization standing tall, doing good work. But it will only be so if you and I support them. To this end the Diocese of New York is asking us to observe Episcopal Charities Sunday this week, and you will find an offering envelope in your bulletin. Please consider making a donation of any amount above and beyond your normal giving. Sunday is also Mothers' Day, so perhaps you might consider making a gift in honor of your mother. 100% of what you give goes directly to helping children and their families keep pace and strive for a better life. To learn more about Episcopal Charities, visit their [website](#), where you can also make a donation online.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)

Rector

TONIGHT (AND SATURDAY)

Duruflé
REQUIEM

with works by **BRITTEN, HOWELLS,**
and **VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**

John Maclay, *conductor*
Tami Petty, *soloist*

The **CHORAL SOCIETY**
and **ORCHESTRA**
of **GRACE CHURCH** in **NEW YORK**

FRIDAY, May 8, 2015 • 8:00 PM
SATURDAY, May 9, 2015 • 3:00 PM

Tickets **\$25-\$150**
available at www.thechoralsociety.org 802 Broadway at East Tenth Street

The 70 minute program features some of the most heartfelt and elegiac choral music ever written. Tickets on sale at www.thechoralsociety.org.

This Sunday

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys
with The Girls' Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all mothers in our midst, in our minds, and in our hearts today. We give thanks for the countless ways that God has shined his love upon the world through you.

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? Join us in the Reception Room for coffee and conversation as the Sunday Forum concludes for the season.

BRAVO! 10 SENIOR CHORISTERS TO BE ELEVATED at the 11 am service on Sunday. Congratulations to our newest Senior Choristers who have been leading with strength and joy in the Junior Chorister services, rehearsals and concert this year! *BOYS: Marcus Dawkins; Duncan Longley and Alex Sibley-Grice. GIRLS: Cindy Barbosa; Rania Challita; Lola Jakob; Emily Lopez; Ginger McCoy; Nylah Mulzac and Anna Sorensen.*

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. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Coming Soon

MAY 17 – NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY SACRED SITE OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND – Grace Church in New York will be participating in the New York Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Site Open House Weekend, "Celebrating New York's Diverse Houses of Worship". This year marks the 50th anniversary of New York City's Landmarks Law and we are thrilled to take part in this notable two-day event. On Sunday, May 17th, guided tours of Grace Church will be conducted

from 1–3:30 pm. For more information on the Sacred Sites Open House Weekend, please click [HERE](#).

JUNE 2 – 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.*

JUNE 7 – THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC AND CHOIR RECOGNITION SUNDAY – All Grace Church parishioners and friends are welcome and encouraged to come to Huntington Close following the 11am service! Join us in celebration of the choir ministries of Grace Church and to help bring our program year to a joyous and festive close. Suggested donation at the door is \$10 per person. There are many ways to support this event so please contact [Melissa](#) to find out how you can help.

JUNE 29–JULY 1 – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JOSEPH'S DREAMS & MULTICOLORED COAT! –Through three days of Bible stories, games, lots of music and awesome activities the children will learn to turn to God as they join Jacob's sons through sibling rivalry, dream–interpretation, and surviving a famine by sticking together! All children aged 4–12 are welcome. Class will meet from 9:30 am–1:30 pm. Suggested donation of \$30/child for all three days. *Please contact [Miss Melissa](#) by Sunday, June 14 to sign up.*

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000
www.gracechurchnyc.org

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