

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



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**MEDIA AND  
RACE IN  
BALTIMORE...**  
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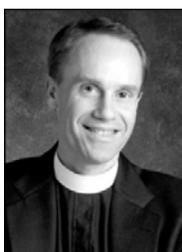
**The Sunday  
Forum @10 a.m.**

**HOSPITALITY  
FIRST!**



## May 3, 2015

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Dear Friends,

This morning I was awakened before 7 am, not to the sound of an alarm clock but by the noise of helicopters already hovering over lower Manhattan. Thus begins another restive weekend in America, when protestors are planning demonstrations in cities across the country. The activity is in response to the recent death of yet one more African American man in police custody, this time in Baltimore.

At the very least we are all participating in a challenge of perception. First we have the perception of those who are taking to the streets. They believe that the police are too heavy handed in their tactics, and that black men usually bear the brunt of it. Then we have the perceptions of the general public, who eye the protestors themselves and draw a wide variety of conclusions. Are they noble citizens exercising their right to free speech? Are they anarchists in the making, who enjoy confronting authority merely for the sport of it? Are they curious onlookers who get caught up in the moment? Lately we've also been hearing about our perceptions of the media, and how their coverage influences how we understand the drama on the streets. Are they covering the peaceful protests and the violent riots in proportion to their occurrence, or are we seeing more of the latter in the news simply because it makes better press? In all this, the question that we might ask is: Is perception reality?

At this week's Sunday Forum we are going to examine our perceptions. Fr. Stephen Holton and parishioner Margaret Hoover will host a conversation about the images we have

This Sunday the Hospitality Team will have a bin in Tuttle Hall to collect donations of **packaged** sweet and savory items to have on hand if no fresh goods have been donated. (This is a way to make it easy for everyone to give.) *Please be sure to bring items requiring no refrigeration or freezing. Many thanks for supporting hospitality at Grace!*

been seeing in the media. Margaret is a media personality, as well as a political commentator and author, so she will be able to give us an insider's viewpoint on what gets covered, what doesn't, and why. I am grateful to both Stephen and Margaret for pulling together a timely presentation, even as events are still unfolding. The Sunday Forum meets in the Reception Room at 10 am. Coffee is served. Read below for more information.

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. 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. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

### **MEDIA AND RACE IN BALTIMORE– THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM.**

Media outlets were full this week of images from Baltimore. Is Baltimore burning? Protesting? How do we understand and respond to the events there in the past week? And what does our response to images from Baltimore say about how race and privilege are framed in our national conversations? Pray for the people of Baltimore, and join commentator Margaret Hoover and Fr Stephen Holton for a discussion about some of the images from Baltimore this past week—and how racism and privilege might impact how we receive those images. *Margaret Hoover, political commentator, author, and media personality, hosts "Get it Right" on Sirius XM channel*

*121, noon Monday through Friday. Read more about her and find her blog at [margarethoover.com](http://margarethoover.com).*

**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*

**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.*

**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.*

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

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