

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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Meet Our Newest Members of Staff

Come to the Sunday Forum @10 am!

GRETCHEN

RATTERREE has joined the staff of Grace Church for the program year 2015-16 as our new "Pastoral Resident," and she will function as a member of the

September 13, 2015

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

As I write these words it's about 8:45 am on Friday, September 11, 2014. Just about now, 14 years ago today, two hijacked airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, begetting a death toll that Mayor Rudolph Giuliani declared would be "more than we can bear."

Many people remember exactly where they were on this day in 2001 when they first heard the news. I was the rector of a church in suburban Cincinnati. Members of the staff and I gathered around a TV, trying to comprehend the magnitude of what was taking place. Then the phone rang and it was a parishioner telling us that his son, who worked for AON, had called from one of the upper floors of the south tower. He was trying to find his way out. "Please pray for him." Suddenly, what seemed far away at first was now up-close and personal. The young man perished that day as did thousands of others, and the world has not been the same.

Since then religion has been on the defensive. As people adjusted to the new reality in which we continue to live, many have concluded that if the terrorists could do the evil they did in the name of God, then rational society should want nothing to do with religion. Too much violence and too many wars are the direct result of religion, they declare. Never mind that nefarious people have also coopted politics, patriotism, profits, and science to serve their own selfish agendas. Religion most often takes the blame these days as a force that impedes human progress.

clergy team as we continue to collaborate with a new initiative at General Seminary called "The Way of Wisdom."

THE REV. CHASE DANFORD joins us as Assistant Rector for Youth and Family Ministry. Chase most recently served as Assisting Priest at Grace Church, Brooklyn Heights and worked full-time for the International Rescue Committee. Prior to his move to Brooklyn he was the Curate at St. John's Church in Larchmont, NY for two years, and he is a 2011 graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary. Chase is eager to get back into full-time parish work, and particularly passionate about empowering young people to explore their spirituality in a supportive Christian environment.

Parish Life

REPORT ON THE 78TH GENERAL

At Grace Church I believe we have a unique opportunity to show the world a different way. I believe we have a responsibility to model what it means to be a faith community, filled with the Spirit of God, following in the footsteps of Jesus. Here we are, occupying a prominent location in a global city at the beginning of a new program year. I give thanks for the witness we bear: for the fellowship we share and the welcome we extend, for the ways we reach out to the poor and needy of our community, for our striving to glorify God through music and art, for our listening to the voice of the Lord in the Word and Sacraments. I rejoice in it all, and I look forward to this new year ahead. Let's remember that God has blessed us to be a blessing. Welcome back! Here we go!

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. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Combined Grace Church Choirs

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. Stephen C. Holton

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY/THE 121st SEASON OF THE CHOIRS OF GRACE CHURCH/SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES – The Combined Grace Church Choirs (Choir of Men and Boys, Girls' Choir, Parish Choir and Adult Choir) will sing at the 11 am service. Join us for a festive fellowship hour afterwards! (After the 6 pm service, stay for fellowship and refreshments in Huntington Close.) *We give special thanks to Dana*

CONVENTION Find out what happened from the people who were there. Thursday, Sept 24, 6–8 pm, Donegan Hall, Diocesan House on the Cathedral Close. [Register here.](#)

A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Robin Leaman, longtime parishioner and wife of John Leaman, will be held in the church at 11 am on Saturday, September 26th.

EVERY KID IN A PARK

The Obama administration recently launched Every Kid in a Park, a comprehensive initiative to get children and their families to our country's federal lands. For the 2015–2016 school year, all fourth graders around the country are entitled to a free one-year pass to any of the 2,000 parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries that dot the American landscape. Together, let's get outside, get

Foote, Ellen McElduff and the Hospitality Committee for a bountiful and bubbly "Welcome Back" repast!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES FOR AGES 4–12 – Classes take place most Sundays at both the 9 and 11 am services. At 9 am parents take children directly to the Sunday school classrooms off Tuttle Hall, and children will rejoin parents in time for Communion. At 11 am, parents and children begin together in the church; children follow the crucifer to their classes before the sermon, and are picked up by parents after the service. On Holy Eucharist Sundays, children return to church for Communion. AGES 9–12 will generally meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month (non-Eucharist Sundays), during the 11 am service only.

If your child is new to Sunday school at Grace Church, he or she is most welcome to attend today. Please be sure to contact the Rev. Chase Danford [HERE](#) or 212-254-2000 ext 113 for registration.

THE SUNDAY FORUM RESUMES @10 AM – THE BOOKS OF CORINTHIANS I & II

– For the fall season we'll focus weekly forum discussions on the letters of Paul to the Corinthians – from scripture and historical context to issues for the contemporary church. Rich with topics for exploration, these books give us perspective on the Corinthian people, Corinth as the crossroads of the Greco-Roman world, life after death, women in the church, Christian-Jewish relations and more. Watch this space for details on topics and speakers, and then plan to come to the Sunday Forum each week at 10 am in the Reception Room for coffee, lively discussion and spiritual enrichment! *(Today, join the Rector as he reveals "what's new at Grace" this year and gives an introduction to this season's study of Corinthians.)*

MID DAY ORGAN MEDITATION (NEW!)


Sundays after the 11 am service, around 12:25 pm, when the schedule permits. Based on the tradition of "L'Auditions" practiced in the great churches of Paris, the organ will sing for half an hour pieces drawn from across the diverse repertoire of the pipe organ.

active, and explore the natural wonders around us. More information can be found [here](#).

SEPT 13, 20, 27, OCT 4 – NEW PRAYER BOOKS AND BIBLES FOR GRACE! The ECW has offered to help replace many of the well-worn and loved books in our pews! Read on...

ECW BOOK DRIVE

Help us restock the pews of Grace with
new Prayer Books and Bibles



To place an order come to the ECW table
at coffee hour on
SEPTEMBER 13, 20, 27
OCTOBER 4

*Sponsor a book in thanksgiving for
or in memory of loved ones.*

\$25 per book

You may also contact [Jennifer San Cartier](#) or [Cathy Minuse](#) for information and order forms.

Coming Soon

SEPT 15 – BACH AT NOON RESUMES in the Church on the Bicentennial Organ at 12:20 pm, Tuesday through Friday each week.

SEPT 16 – WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES under the leadership of our Pastoral Resident, Gretchen Ratterree, in the Reception Room 10:45 am–12 pm. (Arrive 10:45, grab coffee and say hello to friends. Class starts

promptly at 11. All women are welcome!) *For more info, [contact Gretchen](#).*

SEPT 17– EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) "Kick Off" PARISH WIDE MEETING on Thursday, Sept 17, 6:30–8:30 pm. "No Pressure" Pot Luck!" * Upcoming events * Many speakers * Christmas Fair plans. Come for fun and fellowship! All women attending Grace Church are members of the ECW!

SEPT 20 – ACOLYTES – CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE! All are asked to attend a meeting in the sanctuary of the church following the 11 am service on Sept 20. Anyone in the 4th grade or older is welcome to join our merry band! Come to the meeting, or [write to the Rector](#) for more information.

SEPT 20, 27, OCT 4 – NEWCOMERS' CLASSES – Do you have questions about Christianity and the Episcopal Church? Would you like to learn more about becoming a member of Grace Church? Meet the Clergy and fellow parishioners for a lively discussion and Q&A about parish life at Grace Church on Sundays, Sept 20, 27 and Oct 4, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. For more information and to sign up for the class, contact [Stephen Holton](#). *Newcomer classes are held 3 times per year. Dates are announced in this space.*

SEPT 24 – FALL GARDEN PARTY – On Thursday, Sept 24th please join us for a festive party for adult parishioners on the Rectory Lawn. We'll enjoy fellowship, drinks and light hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6 pm. *Admission is free, but you must [RSVP to James Romanik](#) by Monday, Sept 21st to be added to the guest list.*

SEPT 30 – ECW LECTURE – WORKING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN – with Sheila Dauer, Ph.D., Wednesday, Sept 30 at 7 pm in the Reception Room. ALL parishioners, family and friends invited! "No Pressure pot luck." Admission is one donation for the Church of the Village food pantry.

*To find service information,
you may visit www.gracechurchnyc.org, updated weekly.*

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

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