

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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STARTING ON SUNDAY: A PARISH STUDY



Paul's Letters to the
Corinthians.

September 20, 2015

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

One of the fun things I've been doing since last year is teaching 5th Grade Bible over at Grace Church School. For an hour on Wednesdays it's my duty and delight to introduce twenty or so 10-year olds to the New Testament. I

get half the 5th graders in the first semester, and then a fresh class begins in the second semester, so each class runs for about 15 weeks. Last fall I was a rank beginner, building a curriculum on the fly, week by week. This fall I have learned a few tricks of the trade. On the first day of class I administer a survey that attempts to measure how much the students know. What follows is a sampling of the questions. Quiz yourself:

- Who is the main character of the New Testament?
- In what city was the main character of the New Testament born?
- In what city did the main character of the New Testament die?
- Name the first four books of the New Testament.
- What is the most important event of the New Testament?

How did you do? Are you smarter than a 5th grader? I won't reveal how the 5th graders themselves do, other than to say we usually have a lot of ground to cover.

Many Christians quietly feel inadequate regarding how much they know about their faith. What is more, the news

The Sunday Forum
@10 am. Details at
right, and [HERE](#).

RE-LAUNCHED! The 20's and 30's-*ish* Group.

A new name and new energy: We're re-launching our ministry to parishioners in their 20's, 30's, and early 40's - 20's and 30's-*ish* - with three upcoming events. **ART & PICNIC: On Saturday, Sept 26**, from 11:30 - 2:30, join with young Episcopalians from other Manhattan churches for a visit to the Cloisters and picnic lunch in Ft. Tyron Park. **SUNDAY BRUNCH: On Sunday, Oct. 11**, after the 11 am liturgy and coffee hour, join us for brunch at a nearby restaurant. **SERMON TALK-BACK AND SOCIAL HOUR: On Sunday, Oct 18**, come to the 6 pm service and afterwards join us at a nearby location for a social hour and time to discuss the sermon. [RSVP to Chase](#), or *contact him for more details. And look for more social, spiritual, and service opportunities in coming weeks!*

media often portrays a "straw man" version of Christianity that suggests followers of Jesus are all Biblical literalists, socially intolerant, and morally hypocritical. It can all be very confusing, and many people with busy lives to live decide that it's better to be "spiritual but not religious."

Beginning this Sunday we are offering two different opportunities to inform your faith. At 10 am in the Reception Room, the Sunday Forum is back, and we are starting a series about St. Paul's letters to the Corinthians. What was life like for the earliest Christians? Were they all saints with halos around their heads? In the coming weeks we'll engage in conversation with a variety of speakers who will help us take an unvarnished look at life in Christ then, and how it can inform life in Christ now.

Newcomer classes also begin this week at 12:45 pm in the Reception Room. For the next three weeks we will be looking at the origins of Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and Grace Church. If you're new to Grace Church in the past year, do join us.

As it is at the beginning of 5th Grade Bible, so it is for us; we have a lot of ground to cover. We always will, and no question is too elementary. (By the way, the answers to the above questions are: 1. Jesus, 2. Bethlehem, 3. Jerusalem, 4. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and 5. The Resurrection.)

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

September 20, 2015

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

DO YOU WANT TO HELP STRUGGLING STUDENTS SUCCEED?



[THE GO PROJECT](#) Needs YOU! Like working with children? Want to participate in a community partnership made possible by Grace Church? Then **[the GO Project](#)** may be your perfect volunteer opportunity! On most Saturday mornings, from October to April, volunteers work under the supervision of trained teachers to support some of NYC's most struggling elementary and middle school students. Join the GO team and together we can help level the playing field for all students in NYC. For details, please **[contact Olivia Nunez](#)**, Director of Community Engagement.

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring
Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

A PARISH STUDY: PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM – This Fall, the Sunday Forum will focus on Paul's letters to the Corinthians. Together, we'll examine the historical context of the letters and the issues they raise, including church factionalism, ethics and morals, women as church leaders, Christian–Jewish relations, spiritual charism, and more. We'll explore how the community in Corinth navigated these topics and how the narrative of their communal life may have relevancy for us at Grace Church. Forum attendees are encouraged to read designated passages of Corinthians in advance of each Sunday session so they can fully participate in a guided discussion. Held in the Reception Room at 10 am. All are welcome. *This week the Rev. Stephen Holton leads a discussion of the ancient city of Corinth, the people who lived there, and the context of Paul's letters. Please read 1 Corinthians: 1–4 before class if possible. More info on the series, including class dates and readings, [HERE](#).*

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, [HERE](#).*

NEWCOMERS' CLASSES BEGIN – 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.*

NEW PRAYER BOOKS AND BIBLES FOR GRACE – DONATE IN HONOR OF A LOVED ONE! The ECW has offered to help replace many of the well-worn and loved books in our pews by sponsoring a book drive. For just \$25 per book, you can help! Find members of the ECW at coffee hour after the 9 and 11 am services on Sept 13, 20, 27 & Oct 4 to place your order. You may also contact [Jennifer San Cartier](#) or [Cathy Minuse](#) for information and order forms.

Coming Soon

SEPT 24 – FALL GARDEN PARTY – FELLOWSHIP AND FUN! 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 26, OCT 11, OCT 18 – 20s and 30s-*ish* – A new name and new energy: We're re-launching our ministry to parishioners in their 20's, 30's, and early 40's – 20's and 30's-*ish* – with three upcoming events. **ART & PICNIC:** On Saturday, Sept 26, from 11:30 – 2:30, join with young Episcopalians from other Manhattan churches for a visit to the Cloisters and picnic lunch in Ft. Tyron Park. **SUNDAY BRUNCH:** On Sunday, Oct. 11, after the 11 am liturgy and coffee hour, join us for brunch at a nearby restaurant. **SERMON TALK-BACK AND SOCIAL HOUR:** On Sunday, Oct 18, come to the 6 pm service and afterwards join us at a nearby location for a social hour and time to discuss the sermon. *RSVP to Chase, or contact him for more details [HERE](#). And look for more social, spiritual, and service opportunities in coming weeks!*

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.

OCT 4 – HIGH SCHOOL STUDY BREAK – On Sunday, Oct 4, at 4:30 pm, high school students are invited to meet our new Assistant Rector for Youth and Family Ministry, the Rev. Chase Danford, at Sundaes and Cones (95 E. 10th St. at 3rd Ave). Socialize, enjoy some unique frozen flavors, and brainstorm about how Grace Church teens can serve those in need in our city and around the world. *Walk-ins welcome, but if you know you're coming, [RSVP to Chase HERE](#).*

OCT 20 – OPEN DOOR MINISTRY FALL RECEPTION (Potential new volunteers welcome!) Open Door is a team of friendly volunteers who provide a welcoming presence to weekend visitors, answering questions about our beautiful building, our community and its history. Please join us on Tuesday, Oct 20th, 7–8:30 pm in the Reception Room. We'll enjoy fellowship and be happy to welcome anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering. Commitment is just 2 hours per month, and no experience is necessary! [E-mail Singleton Cox](#) with your RSVP, or just to find out more.

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

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

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