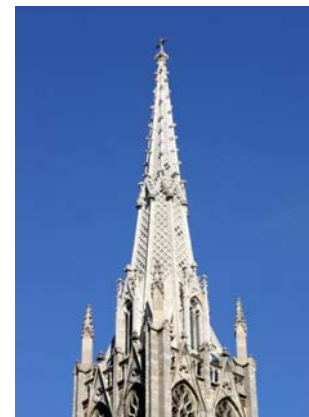


The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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"How can we reclaim the Jesus Story?"

The Sunday Forum
Resumes!

Details under "This Sunday"...

**LET'S BUILD IT
TOGETHER! HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY & GRACE
CHURCH**

January 10, 2016

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord



Dear Friends,

As the news of war and devastation in Iraq and Syria has played before our eyes on what seems to be a continuous loop, I have frequently remembered a friend of Grace Church named Nadim Nassar. Some of you will recall that Nadim was a guest preacher and teacher among us on several occasions. Most recently he spoke

at our Sunday Forum in September of 2013 at a time when the civil war in Syria was rapidly spiraling out of control. Nadim grew up in Syria as a Presbyterian, who later became an Anglican, and eventually a priest in the Church of England. Thus, Nadim quips that he is probably the only person in the world who is a Syrian Anglican priest baptized by the Presbyterians.

Nadim has a wonderful sense of humor, and is equally passionate about his mission to build ecumenical bridges in a world that is torn by religious strife. He travels the globe in the effort to encourage dialogue between Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Since he was last here with us he has even traveled to Syria and Iraq, places where most of us would dare not, nor be allowed to go.

This week, out of the blue, I received an email from Nadim. I am pleased to report that he is well and that his work is flourishing. But the reason for his email had nothing to do with his work in the Middle East. Rather, he was asking about us. Specifically, he posed the following question: *If you were asked to name three issues that would be the top concerns for Christians in your part of the US, what would your answer be, and why?* I thought long and hard before responding to Nadim, and I found the exercise to be a good challenge. I also told him that I would check in with all of you.

My guess is that Nadim will be reaching out to his Jewish and Muslim contacts as well in hopes of finding common ground. So here's your chance to weigh in or merely to think more deeply about



We've built in New Orleans, West Virginia, Staten Island, and this year we'll build a house for a family in Queens. Visit our website [HERE](#) to learn more about this project--and how you can help by making a financial gift, signing up to volunteer for a build day, and keeping the families and volunteers in your prayers.

Future build days: Saturday, Jan 23 (9:15am-5pm), Wed, Feb 10 (1-5pm), Sat, Feb 20 (9:15am-5pm).

In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life...

the question yourself. As a Christian, what are the three things that concern you the most? Send me an email, if you like (by clicking on my name, below), and I will collate our responses and send them to Nadim. He is arranging a US speaking tour, so I am hoping that we will have the pleasure of having him among us again sometime soon.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Baptisms

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

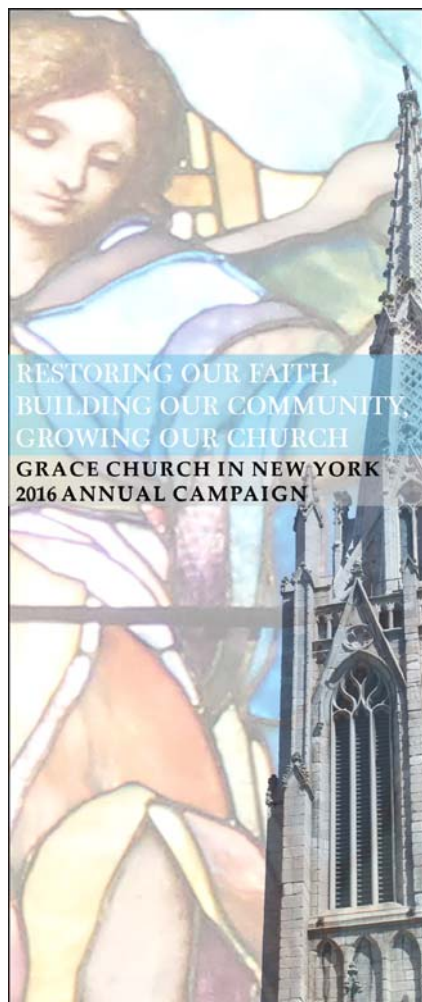
6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

TELLING OUR STORIES--AND LISTENING TO GOD'S - THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM Our Presiding Bishop has called us to join again in the Jesus movement just as the first apostles did. We read in scripture of how those evangelists drew massive crowds to hear the story of Jesus as Messiah. And yet the idea of "evangelism" can seem scary, presumptuous, or even oppressive. How can we reclaim the Jesus story? How do we tell our own stories? And what is it that we can learn about God? Come for a conversation with Fr Stephen Holton. Skeptical evangelists, this one's especially for you! *Join us each Sunday for coffee, lively discussion and spiritual enrichment in the Reception Room at 10 am!*

Coming Soon



Don't forget to [make YOUR pledge!](#)

PARISH PRAYERS



Please pray for...

those who suffer

- Gabriel Teodorescu
- Dan Mahony
- Elizabeth & Sam Brown
- Flor Hernandez
- Jack McDaniel

ADA CALHOUN

Book Reading and Signing

“St. Marks Is Dead:
The Many Lives of America’s Hippest Street”



Ada Calhoun is the author of *St. Marks Is Dead: The Many Lives of America's Hippest Street*, out this month from W.W. Norton. She has written for the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, and *New York* magazine, and recently was on the cover of the *Village Voice*, which called her “the most important new voice on old New York.” She grew up on St. Marks Place.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

6:30 - 8:30pm in the Reception Room

“No Pressure” pot luck

Admission: 1 donation for the food pantry

ALL are welcome!



JAN 17 – LOVING YOUR ENEMIES – THE SUNDAY FORUM 10 AM

– Nicholas Birns will speak about Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1957 sermon, "Loving Your Enemies," and how its perspective on Jesus Christ relates to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's recent call to "join the Jesus movement."

JAN 24 – ECW – BOOK DRIVE RESULTS! On Sunday, Jan 24th,

there will be a list of donors and honorees in the service bulletins at all services. All 246 new pew books, with dedication

Ronnye Brickous
 Bill Nave
 Greg Gillies
 Josephine Ferraiuolo
 Howard Small
 Trish Lawrence
 Paul Tillotson

those who have died.

labels, will be on view in Tuttle Hall after the 9, 11, and 6 o'clock services. Thank you for your generosity in restocking the pews at Grace Church!

JAN 24 – THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR TREBLE VOICES – The Junior Choristers of the Grace Church Choirs with Dr. Barry Rose and the Whiting of Novices. Held in the Church at 4 pm.

JAN 31 – THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held in Tuttle Hall on Sunday, Jan 31st, immediately following the 11 am service. Reports will be given by the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, the Head of Grace Church School, the Senior Warden, and the Rector. Lunch will be served (\$5 per person suggested donation).

FEB 7 – SHROVE SUNDAY! Come celebrate Shrovetide this year with a fabulous Sunday brunch of pancakes, bacon, eggs and fruit. Fun activities for all ages included. Share a meal with friends before Lent begins. Held in Tuttle Hall after the 11 am service. \$15 per person requested donation at the door. Volunteer help is most appreciated! To find out how you can help, please [contact the Rev. Chase Danford](#).

FEB 14, 21 – 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, Feb 14 and 21, from 12:45 – 1:45 pm in the Reception Room. *Additional Newcomer classes will be held in April.*

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

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www.gracechurchnyc.org

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