

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



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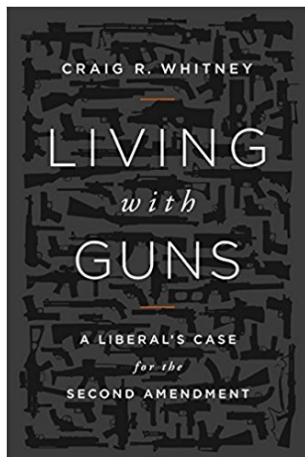
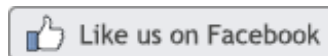
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**This Sunday,  
Sept 17 @10  
a.m.**

**LIFT UP THINE  
EYES –**

## September 17, 2017

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

Those of you attended the Sunday Forum last week heard me tell of a favorite bicycle route that I embark upon whenever time allows. From Grace Church I take 9<sup>th</sup> St. over to the Hudson River bike path, then up in the 90s I cut into Riverside Park, and then over to Central Park where I pedal the six-mile loop. The Central Park loop can be a thrilling, even harrowing ride with tourists to dodge, horse-droppings to avoid, and a terrifically tough climb at the back end of it. I am always trying to improve the time it takes me to complete the circuit, but I never do. I race against myself, but if the truth be known I am also racing against other unsuspecting cyclists. Years ago on bike rides my goal was never to be passed. Now I have tempered my drive and people pass me all the time (unless they are on Citi Bikes; that's where I draw the line).

So around the loop I go, passing and being passed. If I am really paying attention I start to recognize the other cyclists. One day last summer, after finally reaching the top of the steep hill towards the end, I came up behind another cyclist whom I had blown past long ago. How had this person - riding a Citi Bike, no less - beaten me to the top of the hill? Alas, I have learned that it's possible to skip the hill entirely by taking a path that simply cuts across the park. The point is, you can claim to do the Central Park loop, and avoid the hard part.

We can claim to do the Christian life, too, and attempt to avoid the hard parts. Around and around we can

***update!***

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to our capital campaign, [Lift Up Thine Eyes.](#)

The campaign has been a resounding success! As of now, over 150 Grace Church families have pledged \$3,090,765. This total is 19% over our primary goal of \$2,600,000. If you haven't made your pledge yet, there's still time! Every gift of every size is welcome.

Visit [HERE](#) to make your pledge or contact James Romanik [here](#) or at 212-254-2005 with any questions.

## **HURRICANE RELIEF**

For information and advice about ways to help, we suggest visiting the website of Episcopal Relief & Development [HERE.](#)

go deftly dodging the difficult conversations that may be contentious or uncomfortable. We can justify ourselves by stating that proper Christian discourse doesn't delve into certain depths. But as the Psalmist declares, *"the earth is the Lord's, and all that dwells therein."* Therefore, God is concerned about every aspect of life. What is more, it is ultimately more rewarding to pedal the difficult route rather than avoid it. And the more we take it, the easier it becomes.

I write all this in reference to our upcoming Sunday Forum offerings. From time to time, the Adult Education Committee will be presenting what we are calling "Hot Topics." The first will be this week, when we will be joined by the distinguished author, Craig Whitney. The hot topic will be politics of gun control. Please read below for a full description of the presentation. Next month we will host a session about the ongoing strife in Syria, and we will also hear various presentations pertaining to the U.S. Presidency. You can click [here](#) for a copy of the brochure that will outline the entire fall offerings. Join us at 10 am in the Reception Room. Coffee and breakfast treats are served.

See you in church.

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

## **This Sunday**

**September 17th**

**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

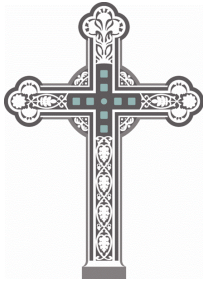
Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

**6 p.m. Holy Eucharist**

Sermon: The Rev. J. Donald Waring

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

*Please pray  
for...*



*those who suffer*

Marion McDaniel  
Kristin Whitehurst  
Josephine  
Ferraiuolo

*and those who  
have died*

Bévisse Paul

**THE POLITICS OF GUN CONTROL – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM** with Craig R. Whitney, author of *Living with Guns: A Liberal's Case for the Second Amendment*. Gun violence on a massive scale has become a plague in our society, yet politicians seem more afraid of having a serious conversation about guns than they are of the next horrific shooting. Can we ever reach common ground on this contentious issue? As a former foreign correspondent and editor at the *New York Times*, Whitney covered Vietnam, and was bureau chief in Moscow. *Sunday Forum Fall 2017 brochure* [here](#).

#### **ACOLYTE TRAINING FOR NEW AND RETURNING**

**VOLUNTEERS** – Adults and children in grades 3 and up are invited to serve as acolytes. Acolytes carry the processional cross and torches, help with the collection and at the altar during Holy Communion, and are a vital part of the sacred pageantry of our worship. If you are interested in serving, or if you are a returning acolyte, *please attend one of our three trainings: Sunday, Sept 17, from 12:45–1:30 pm; Sunday, Sept 24, from 12:45–1:30 pm; or Wednesday, Sept 27, from 4:30–5:15 pm. [Email Father Chase](#) for more information.*

**YOUTH GROUP @2:15** – The Grace youth group for 7th–12th graders will meet from 2:15–3:30 pm, following the High School Singers rehearsal. We will meet in the Third Floor Conference Room. *The next meeting will be on Sunday, Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**"TEA TIME" AFTER THE 6 PM SERVICE**—All are welcome for light refreshments outside the Chantry directly after the service. Grab a cookie and say a quick hello to clergy and fellow worshippers or catch up with new and old friends over a well-steeped cup of tea.

*Coming Soon*

**SEPT 19 – ECW EVENT – NOTES FROM THE NY HAITI PROJECT** – with special guest the Rev. Sam Owen of The Haitian Congregation of the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church. The New York Haiti Project seeks to assist in the building of a new Episcopal school and church in the rural village of Martel, Haiti, and to expand spiritual relationships between the Episcopal Dioceses of Haiti and New York. Parishioner Rachel Salvato, with support from the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), undertook a mission trip for the project this summer, and she, along with Fr. Owen, will join us to speak about this inspiring work. Tuesday, Sept 19th from 6:30–8:30 pm in the Reception Room.

**SEPT 21–OCT 26 – *THE BOOK OF JOY* FALL DISCUSSION SERIES** – Chase and Martha are leading a weekly discussion group this fall on *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. We will meet on Thursday evenings between Sept 21st and Oct 26th, 6:30 to 8pm in the Reception Room. Feel free to eat dinner beforehand or bring dinner with you. **RSVP by Sept 17th to [Martha](#).**

**SEPT 24 – A COLUMBARIUM FOR GRACE CHURCH – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.** The Rector will lead today's presentation about the columbarium that will be installed in the south transept by the end of this month. We will touch on the changing burial practices in America, various religious perspectives on cremation, and how the idea for a columbarium at Grace Church got started. We will also hear from Grant Marani and David Pearson of Robert A.M. Stern Architects who designed the columbarium.

**OCT 1 – AUDEN, THE PSALMS AND ME – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM** – with J. Chester Johnson. As one of two surviving members of the drafting committee for the retranslation of the Psalms that were included in the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*– and as one who replaced W. H. Auden as the poet on

that committee, J. Chester Johnson will speak about his recently published text which offers an account of his experience that illuminate this part of the Episcopal Psalter story and Auden's contribution, and describes the key elements that drove the creation of this retranslation

**OCT 1 – 20's/30's BRUNCH** – Young adult parishioners and guests are invited to brunch after the 11 am service and coffee hour on Sunday, October 1. We'll meet in the Rectory Garden by the 802 Broadway gate at 12:45 and walk to a nearby restaurant. Plan to bring \$10–20 in cash. [RSVP](#) to the Rev. Chase Danford.

**OCT 8 (Columbus Day Weekend)** The Sunday Forum is on recess.

**OCT 8 – NEWCOMERS CLASS** – New people to Grace are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, October 8th in the reception room at 12:30pm. Each session will discuss how to become a member of Grace, as well as this session we will be talking about *Church History*. We recommend that you attend at least three classes throughout the year, as a way to get acquainted with the clergy, with other new members, and to grow in your faith. *Lunch will be provided, so [RSVP to Martha](#).*

**OCT 15 – GRACE CHURCH & THE CIVIL WAR– THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM** Jason McDonald is a technology and history teacher at Grace Church School. In Fall 2017, he is teaching multiple sections of Civil War and Reconstruction. He has connected the course to the history of Grace Church and other New York City locations. McDonald will discuss the class and the Civil War sermons of Grace Church Rector Thomas House Taylor, the Union Rally of 1861 in Union Square, Tom Thumb's wedding, and the 1865 Lincoln Funeral procession. Some students will be available to discuss their learning and experiences.

**OCT 24 – OPEN DOOR VOLUNTEERS FALL RECEPTION** – A Paella & Sangria Social! Please join the Open Door Volunteers for fellowship and fun as we kick off a new year of welcoming visitors on weekend afternoons to the newly restored sanctuary. Seafood & fully loaded paella as well as Malcolm's signature sangria, along with a virgin/mock/nonalcoholic variety, will be served. [RSVP to Singleton Cox](#) or write her to learn more about Open Door. Ole!

**NOV 11, 12 – GRACE CHRISTMAS FAIR** sponsored by the ECW. Saturday, Nov 11 10am – 7pm, Sunday, Nov 12, 10am – 4pm in Tuttle Hall. \$2 admission will be donated to the NYC Food Pantry. NEW CAFE! Savory items and sweets available for purchase throughout both days. GREAT vendors! *For more information* [e-mail Elana Foundos](#).

**NOV 17–19 – PARISH RETREAT @HOLY CROSS MONASTERY** – Join others from Grace Church as we spend the weekend at the Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY. Cost is \$190/person, which includes lodging, food, and group sessions led by one of the brothers. *Sign-up by October 1<sup>st</sup> by emailing* [Martha](#).

**DEC 2 – GRACE CHURCH/GO PROJECT VOLUNTEER DAY!** Ever considered volunteering with the GO Project, but not sure you can make a year-round commitment? How about signing up for a one-day event? GO invites all Grace Church members and friends to participate on Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9 am–12:30 pm. Come and see this wonderful program in action, meet the students served by the program and pitch in to help! *Sign up by* [e-mailing Olivia Nunez](#).

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*To find service information,  
you may visit [www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org), updated weekly.*

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