

# The Epistle *E-news*

## GRACE CHURCH

### in New York City



#### In This Issue

[Parish Prayers](#)

[This Sunday](#)

[Coming Soon](#)

#### Quick Links

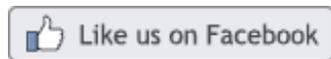
[GIVE to Grace](#)

[Make Your PLEDGE](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Did You Miss a Sermon?](#)



### Naila Al- Atrash

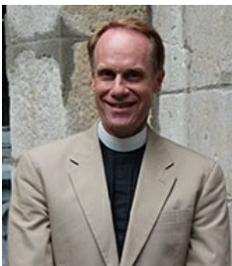


**On Syria**  
**Sunday @10**  
**a.m.**

*Please pray  
for...*

## October 22, 2017

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

It's no secret that we live in frightening times. The headlines are filled with threats of nuclear war with North Korea, terrorism at home and abroad, and sharp divisions of race and class in America. When I turn to the world of sport for a momentary diversion, I look up and see the very real possibility of a Yankees-Dodgers World Series. (As a lifelong Mets fan, I simply cannot root for either team.) The only silver lining I can find in that cloud is that one of them will have to lose, and that I will have plenty of free time that I otherwise would have devoted to watching baseball. Am I being a poor sport? Yes. Bitterness comes with being a Mets fan.

But I digress. Earlier this month I received a letter in the mail from someone I didn't know. Inside was an historic postcard of Grace Church with a postmark on the back from 1907. To be sure, it's an image of Grace Church that I've seen many times, but I couldn't help but pause and take in the scene. The church building remains today almost unchanged from how it was then - with the exception of all the ivy growing on the walls. To the right is the old Vienna Bakery building where Huntington Close is today. Further to the right, where the Stewart House apartment building currently stands, you can see the Wanamaker's Department Store just above the roofline of the bakery. Rising behind the nave roof is 80 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a building that the church bought about the time of this postcard, and still serves as an important source of our revenue for



*those who suffer*

Rick Panetta  
Ernest Rose  
Linda Flood  
John Hill  
Josephine  
Ferraiuolo

*and those who  
have died*

Marion McDaniel  
Jerome D. Anderson

ministry. At the bottom of the postcard, the person who originally mailed it 110 years ago wrote: *Was in here today - Went to Hippodrome this pm. all by myself - Bertha.*



The person who sent the postcard to me claims to be 89 years old and "still going strong." He explains that it's a hobby of his to buy old images of buildings and places and then send them "home to where they can be appreciated. Our heritage is important to us all and should be preserved." He also notes that he paid \$6.00 for the card, and if I'd like to reimburse him, he will take his wife out to lunch. (Apparently, she doesn't believe that I will reply.) The sender concludes, "I like to call my little hobby a re-distribution of happiness. Our world sure needs it."

Well, the sender is right. Our world surely does need a redistribution of happiness. Having checked him out

online, I see that he really is an octogenarian with a hobby of redistributing happiness through antique postcards. Yes, I will reimburse him for the postcard, and even add a little bit so that he can take his skeptical wife out to lunch! What fun, and what a nice diversion from the troubles that beset the world.

The challenge before us is to find ways to redistribute happiness - to take stock of our blessings and share them. If you are looking for Scriptural support for this idea, check out Acts 20:35: *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

See you in church.

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

Rector

## This Sunday

October 22nd

### 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

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**SYRIAN SCHOLAR & ACTIVIST NAILA AL-ATRASH**  
with Grace Parishioner, Catharine Stimpson –  
**THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM.** Syrian theater director, educator, and human rights activist Naila Al-Atrash is known for her challenging plays which explore society, economics, and politics. Currently teaching at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Naila will discuss the diverse cultural, religious and ethnic background of Syria before the 2011 conflict, along

with her own personal history. Grace parishioner Catharine R. Stimpson, University Professor at NYU and Dean Emerita of the Graduate School of Arts and Science, is Board Chair of [Scholars at Risk](#), a network dedicated to promoting academic freedom and protecting threatened scholars. Held in the Reception Room; coffee is served.

**YOUTH GROUP TODAY @2:15 PM** – Youth in grades 7–12 are invited to take a break from studies and meet for snacks and conversation on faith and life. We'll meet in the 3rd floor Conference Room from 2:15–3:30 pm. (Choristers, please note: we'll now be meeting weekly after high school choir rehearsal. On weeks when middle school choristers rehearse, they are also invited to join after rehearsal.)

**"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.

**2018 ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN** – Today we ask all Grace Church members and friends to begin thinking and praying about a financial pledge to the work of the Lord through Grace Church for the year 2018. God has blessed us with a vibrant parish family, stunning architecture, glorious music, a tradition of reaching out to the least and the last in society, and most of all, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, and to empower the ministries of the church, every October we urge everyone to commit to a financial gift for the coming year. Watch your mail this week for pledge information, including a pledge card. Next week, October 29, is Pledge Sunday, when we begin receiving the commitments of those who are ready to pledge, and distribute cards to those who have not received them by mail.

*Coming Soon*

**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 to learn more about Open Door. Ole!

**OCT 28 – NEXT HABITAT BUILD DAY: Projects in Manhattan and Queens!** On Saturday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> we offer a choice of two projects: in Manhattan we are now working to preserve and maintain affordable housing, this week by doing home maintenance repair for a co-op on the Lower East Side. While over in Queens, we will put finishing touches on "The House that Grace Built." To sign up, please visit the [Outreach page](#) of the website or [e-mail Martha Korienek](#).

**OCT 29 – PLEDGE SUNDAY –** At all three services we will kick off the 2018 annual campaign. All parishioners and friends of Grace Church will begin turning in the pledge cards they've received by mail or find in the pews. In this way we not only support the church, but give thanks to God for all the blessings of life.

**OCT 29 – A PIRATE STATE, ORGANIZED FOR BENEVOLENCE: Herbert Hoover and the Commission for the Relief of Belgium.** At the outbreak of WWI, a humanitarian crisis of epic proportions loomed just inside the Western Front. With the German army marching west, the forces that successfully conquered the Kingdom of Belgium and Northern France refused to take responsibility for feeding the civilian population it occupied. Into this murderous stalemate stepped Herbert Hoover and the story of Belgian relief -- which marked the turning

point in history where international relief became operationally effective on a massive scale and where American philanthropy became a force in geopolitics. As told, here at Grace, by his great-granddaughter, and Grace parishioner, Margaret Hoover.

**OCT 29 – HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL** Sunday Oct 29th in Tuttle Hall from 2:30–4 pm. All children and families are invited for an afternoon of spooky fun and games, featuring mask-making, craft projects, and cupcake decorating. Lend a hand by helping at one of the tables, making a donation, or contributing non-candy snacks. Drop off packaged snacks to the parish office now through Friday, October 28; baked goods can be brought to Tuttle Kitchen on Sunday morning, Oct. 29 or right before the party. Middle and high school students are especially encouraged to volunteer. *Please [contact The Rev. Chase Danford](#) with questions.*

**NOV 5 – ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY** During the services we'll light candles and remember all those connected with Grace Church who have died but still remain on the hearts and minds of their loved ones. *To include a name on this year's list, please [e-mail the name to Jennifer Metz](#) by Tuesday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.*

**NOV 5 – THE POETRY OF WWI – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10 AM** – More than 9 million soldiers and 7 million civilians died in World War I. This carnage, the deployment of chemical weapons (such as tear and mustard gasses), and the brutality of trench warfare had a profound impact on poetry. A movement away from idealism and toward skepticism and disillusion inspired powerful poetry that still moves us. Led by Dr. Diana Benet, Grace Parishioner and professor at the University of North Texas.

**NOV 5–REQUIEM, Opus 48 by GABRIEL FAURÉ**–The Adult Choir with the Parish Choir at 4pm in the Church.

**NOV 5 – POST-HALLOWEEN CANDY DRIVE** – On Sunday, November 5 we will collect individually wrapped Halloween candy for the benefit of the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI), a ministry to mariners since 1834. Your donation will be part of SCI's Christmas at Sea project, which distributes gift bags to seafarers, toiling in maritime commerce, far from home at the holidays. Here is an opportunity to clear your home of excess Halloween candy, as well as to take advantage of half-price sales after the holiday! Please leave it in the baskets marked "candy" near the door of the church or chantry.

**NOV 7 – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SIGN-UPS AND INTERVIEWS!** All children and youth aged 5 and older are invited to participate in the annual pageant, held on Christmas Eve at 4 pm. All participants must submit an online cast information sheet by Nov 6. Those interested in singing a solo, duet, or trio must also sign up for an interview (Tues, Nov 7 from 2–6 pm in the Music Room). A full pageant schedule is available on the bulletin board in the Parish House. *Please [email the Rev. Chase Danford](#) for links to the cast info sheet and the interview sign-ups.*

**NOV 11, 12 – GRACE CHRISTMAS FAIR** sponsored by the ECW. Saturday, Nov 11, 10am – 7pm and Sunday, Nov 12, 10am – 4pm in Tuttle Hall. \$2 admission to feed the hungry. NEW "CATHARINE'S CAFE"! Savories and sweets available for purchase throughout both days. GREAT vendors! Children's table! For more information [contact Elana Foundos](#). VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – MEN ALSO!" To help, [contact Lethe Black](#).

**NOV 12 – GRACE CHURCH AND WWI** – From the innovative war writing of city residents John Dos Passos, Edith Wharton and Willa Cather to the ideological convulsions of chauvinism, pacifism, and disillusionment, New York grew up as a city during World War I. Grace Church contributed to this process, sending over a dozen men to give their lives in the war. The massive deaths of wartime caused Christians to think differently about the afterlife, reflected in the

revisions in the 1928 Prayer Book partially written by Grace's rector, Charles Lewis Slattery. Led by Dr. Nicholas Birns, Grace Parishioner and professor at The New School and NYU.

**NOV 12 – NEWCOMERS CLASS** – New people to Grace are warmly invited to our Newcomers Class. The class is on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 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 *the various ministries of Grace Church*. 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](#).*

**NOV 15 – WALK IN GRACE (FALL NEWCOMER EVENT!)** – Anyone new to Grace Church may join us on Wednesday, Nov 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm for light refreshments and a tour of our beautiful church led by the Rev. J. Donald Waring. *RSVP to James Romanik [here](#).*

**NOV 19 – HOME COOKED MEAL FOR NYC RESCUE MISSION** – On Sunday, Nov 19<sup>th</sup> we will serve a meal of pot roasts and cupcakes to hundreds of guests at the NYC Rescue Mission. We need volunteers to prepare pot roasts and cupcakes at home and to serve the meal at the Mission. We have a super easy and delicious pot roast recipe for you! Please join us in this rewarding volunteer opportunity which is so appreciated by folks at the mission. To sign up, [e-mail Lillie Chance](#) or click [here](#).

**NOV 19 – LINCOLN'S DEATH AND THE DANGEROUS THEOLOGY OF CERTAINTY – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM** – Abraham Lincoln was shot on Good Friday, and he died the next morning. That Easter Sunday, preachers throughout the North tried to comfort their congregants and make sense of the president's assassination. The sermons that

survive include several that are deeply unsettling to modern ears. The Rev. Robert Pennoyer II, will speak about those sermons, about Lincoln's own theology, and about how Episcopal schools are well suited for grappling with matters like these. The Rev. Robert Pennoyer II is the Assistant Head of School and Director of Studies at Grace Church School.

**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](mailto:Olivia.Nunez@gracechurchnyc.org).*

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

802 Broadway New York NY 10003 (212) 254-2000  
[www.gracechurchnyc.org](http://www.gracechurchnyc.org)