

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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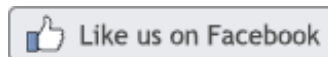
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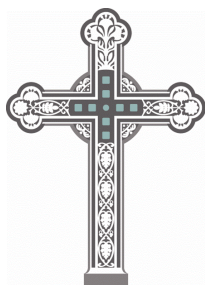
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**Grace
Church & the
Civil War**
Sunday Oct 15th
@10 a.m.

*Please pray
for...*



those who suffer

October 8, 2017

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Dear Friends,

One of the fun things I get to do is teach 5th Grade Bible at Grace Church School. For one hour every Wednesday it is my duty and delight to introduce approximately twenty

10-year olds to the New Testament. Lately we have been looking at the birth stories of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew paints an especially dark picture of Herod the Great, who was king of the Jews from 37-4 BC. This week in class we read the story commonly called "the slaughter of the innocents" (Matthew 2:16-18). When Herod learned that a rival king of the Jews had been born in Bethlehem, he sent his troops into the town to kill every male child who was under 2-years old. Scholars debate the historicity of the story, but it's safe to say that atrocities like it happened back then. Sad to say, they continue to happen today.

I thought of King Herod earlier this week as news of the recent slaughter of innocents broke from Las Vegas. When Herod set his deadly deed in motion, he was a world removed from the streets of Bethlehem. He was 80 miles away in Jerusalem, behind the walls of his palace, probably asleep for the night with guards posted at his bedroom door. He was completely insulated from the sheer terror that must have ensued when thundering hoofs and flashing swords came crashing into a community. Likewise Stephen Paddock, the gunman in Las Vegas, was 32-stories above the concert venue, and a thousand yards away from the crowd he was massacring. He was insulated from the terror as bullets rained down on people, almost as if he

Those affected by
the shootings in
Las
Vegas
John Hill
Marion McDaniel
Kristin Whitehurst
Josephine
Ferraiuolo

*and those who
have died*

58 Souls lost to
gunfire in Las
Vegas.

were playing one of the violent "first person shooter"
video games that are popular these days. The
disconnect is deeply troubling.

The aftermath of yet another mass public shooting is as
predictable as it is necessary. The police will investigate
the crime and ascertain if others were involved. Mental
health professionals will grapple with the human
psyche, trying to understand what makes certain
people snap, and what might be the warning signs. We
will grieve. We will marvel at the heroic actions by
which some gave up their lives for others. A renewed
debate about gun control has started already, the
question this time being: does the 2nd amendment really
protect your right to add a "bump stock" to your
semiautomatic rifle, effectively turning it into a machine
gun? Perhaps the time has finally come when all parties
can agree on sensible gun legislation.

Finally, people of faith are likely to respond that "our
thoughts and prayers are with the people of Las
Vegas." These can be empty words if all we do is say
them before quickly returning to our own routines. But
if we say them and mean them, persistent prayer has a
way of changing the one who prays even more so than
the one prayed for. We say, "Let us pray" a lot at Grace
Church. Let us pray, indeed, for the dead and
wounded and grief stricken of Las Vegas. Let us pray
for the police and legislators who are busy at work. But
most of all, let us pray that God will make us
instruments of peace.

See you in church.

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

This Sunday

October 8th

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: The Adult Choir

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sermon: The Rev. Chase Danford

Music: Hymns with Instrumentalists

THE SUNDAY FORUM (10AM) is on recess for Columbus Day weekend. See below for details on next week's forum: Grace Church and the Civil War.

NEWCOMERS CLASS – New people to Grace are warmly invited to join us on Sunday, Oct 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](#).*

YOUTH GROUP (2:15PM) is on break for the holiday weekend, and will resume weekly meetings on Oct 15.

"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

OCT 14, 15 – OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK – Grace Church is pleased to once again participate in this year's Open House New York Weekend, a citywide showcase of distinctive examples of architecture, engineering, and design. Tours of the church will be offered by our Open Door volunteers from 12–5 pm on Saturday and 1–3pm on Sunday afternoon during usual visiting hours. Visit www.ohny.org for more information.

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 15 –REJOICE IN THE LAMB BY BENJAMIN BRITTEN Choral Evensong will be offered by the Choir of Men and Boys on Sunday, Oct 15 at 4 pm, featuring Britten's moving REJOICE IN THE LAMB.

OCT 22 – SYRIAN SCHOLAR & ACTIVIST NAILA AL-ATRASH with Grace parishioner, Catharine Stimpson. 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.

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 – HABITAT BUILD DAY – Grace Church is working with Habitat for Humanity to preserve and maintain affordable housing **within Manhattan**. We will be doing home maintenance repair for a co-op on the Lower East Side. *To sign up to help, please visit the [Outreach page](#) of the website.*

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 – THE POETRY OF WWI – 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 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 will be donated to a NYC food pantry. NEW CAFE! Savory items and sweets available for purchase throughout both days. GREAT vendors! For more information [contact Elana Foundos](#).

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.

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. 2nd, 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](#)*.

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

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