



# Grace Presbyterian Church

“To see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ.”

## Update from Pastor Mark

This past Sunday we had our annual Thanksgiving service, during which our congregation expressed gratitude and gave thanks for all that God has been doing in our lives. As person after person rose to share how God has blessed them this year, I was struck by what a testimony this is to the goodness and faithfulness of God. Through the ups and the downs, the victories and the challenges, the still waters and the trials – Christ has shepherded Grace Presbyterian Church with great faithfulness and love.

One thing I keep reminding myself is that God has established our church, at this very time and place, so that the 40,000 plus people who call the Hamptons their home (plus the 250,000+ who spend time out here each year) may hear the good news of God and turn and find life in Christ. The Hamptons is a very spiritually dry place – as is all of Long Island. But God is using us to make an eternal difference in many people lives. It is my firm belief that, as a church, we are just getting started.

One thing that has me excited for our community is the large number of people attending our Evangelism Workshop. The people of Grace Church want to know how they can better reach our neighbors on the East End as their hearts are growing to be more like our heavenly Father’s heart, which loves his creatures made in his image. They are learning to understand our culture and how scripture teaches us to evangelize our neighbors, and they are gaining practical skills that will give them confidence to share the gospel. I am excited for the fruit that their labors will bring, and I ask that you would pray for many to come to faith through their loving commitment to share the gospel.

As 2016 is ending we are looking to

build upon the foundation God has established. In April of 2017 we will celebrate ten years of worshipping as a church – ten years of God’s establishing a worshipping community on the far East End of Long Island. Now we are looking to the next ten years and beyond. Our focus as a church must now shift from making sure we are established to becoming a greater force for the advancement of the gospel, in the Hamptons but also throughout Long Island and the world.

With this in mind, I would like to share that we are now beginning in earnest to fulfill two of our long-established vision goals. One is to plant other churches throughout Long Island. And the other is to establish a Christian counseling center on the East End. We estimate that perhaps as little as 3% of Long Islanders are alive in the gospel. We hope to change this, one new church at a time. In 2017 we begin in earnest to plant our first church! We also begin in earnest to work towards opening a counseling center on the East End! The need is great as there is no referable Christian counseling center within sixty miles!

These are important and worthy projects for our church to begin to undertake. So, I ask that you would pray for us as we plan and prepare. These initiatives will require resources that will stretch our small church. The leadership needed for both these endeavors will stretch us thin, so pray for effective leadership. And we are stretching ourselves financially. So please pray that God would continue to cause us to be cheerful and generous givers. And please pray that we would finish this year on a solid financial footing and therefore be better equipped to enter



Operation Christmas Child - Total Count at Grace: 592



Thanksgiving Service Project



Second Saturdays Out!



New Members- November 20th

our second decade of honoring Christ on Long Island.

Yours truly,  
Rev. Mark Middlekauff

Adriana Piraz

## Evangelism Workshop

When most people hear the word “evangelism,” they pretend they didn’t hear it and run the opposite direction! So, who would have thought that when the REACH Team decided to offer an Evangelism Workshop, 27 people would sign up? Well, that’s what happened! Not only have 27 people signed up but they have also showed up, which is a great sign that people want to learn how to share the love of God in this community.

The Evangelism Workshop is just that – a workshop. This format allows for the interaction of participants as they learn practical ways to share the love of God with their neighbors, family, and friends here on the East End. The 5-week workshop is being led by Pastor Mark, who gives a lecture every week followed by homework and role playing, allowing the participants to engage with the material provided.

One of the reasons people are so frightened when they hear the word “evangelism” is that they feel inadequate for the task. This workshop gives tools and confidence to those who attend, allowing them to speak to people in our community winsomely and gently about the love of God! Our prayer at Grace Church is that through the process of this class, many in our community will hear about the love of God and come to know him.



Samantha Krzyzewski

## Meet Samantha Krzyzewski

My first introduction to Grace Church was thirteen years ago. I was helping to care for the children of a group of people meeting as a Bible study who desired to become a Redeemer church plant. Eventually Grace Church was planted, and I enjoyed being a part of GraceGroup, GraceCamp, and SecondSaturdaysOut! During college I began attending regularly on Sundays while home on break.

In 2014, I graduated Houghton College where I studied Psychology, Family Studies, and Education and enjoyed many ministry classes. Shortly afterward, I moved to Nashville, TN where I took part in a post-graduate Fellows Initiative Program that included taking seminary classes, serving at a PCA church, living with a host family, and working an internship at a private elementary school. At the completion of the program I started work as a nanny/personal assistant for a family whose mission is to share Christ’s message through contemporary hymns. I am incredibly thankful for the experiences I have had over the years since I first moved away. My heart for living the gospel out day-to-day and for healthy community has grown, and I am thrilled to be back and able to engage daily with friends and family on Long Island.



I joined the staff at Grace as a Ministry Assistant in the beginning of October. My duties include co-directing our Children’s Ministry, assisting the SERVE Team, helping to lead SecondSaturdaysOut!, and accomplishing various administrative tasks. It is with gratitude and excitement that I am looking forward to all that lies ahead in this role and in everyday life back on Long Island.

Adriana Piraz

## Women’s Retreat

The month of October ended with a bang for us at Grace Church as we held our first ever Women’s Retreat. Eighteen women gathered at the home of Arlene Lucas to spend the weekend reading God’s word, resting, and being encouraged. The women of Grace Church enjoyed considering who God says we are according to His word. Amid a culture that is quick to tell us what we should look like, how much money we should make, where we should live, etc., how are we to really know who we are? The Bible tells us that we have been created in the image of God to bear his image to the world. We are, therefore, called to love, care for, and redeem all that he has given us. As we looked at Genesis, we were challenged to be women who truly reflect God’s image to our community. Needless to say, it was an encouraging weekend, and it ended like every women’s retreat should – with singing and laughing by the fire.

