



# Grace Presbyterian Church

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

## Update from Pastor Mark

Ten years ago this past August Lesley and I and our three girls, all four years old and under, landed on the East End of Long Island to join in with a few faithful people to plant a new church in the Hamptons. Over the following months we studied our community and prayed for understanding from God as to a vision and strategy for planting Grace Presbyterian Church. The following April we launched our first worship service in a church we rented, but now own.

While we had so much uncertainty in those days about what God would do and how he would do it, we also had a lot of confidence—confidence not so much in ourselves but in the fact that the God who called us to this wonderful work is faithful. Looking back, though it seems like every year we faced difficult obstacles and challenges, we are able to see countless ways in which God has lovingly worked out his good purposes in our fellowship. With ten years under our belts, we are still not locals according to the standing requirement of needing to have landed in the New World in the mid-1600s. And yet, we feel now that we are much better equipped to know and love our community and the people God has called us to serve and lead. Lesley and I continue to be energized by God’s gracious call upon our lives to serve here, and we plan on being here as long as God desires. And so with the past in clear view we press on in joyful confidence that God has so much more in store for his people. This year alone he has challenged us to become a more generous and sacrificial church. And we have responded well; our giving has rebounded wonderfully and we are on track to finishing the year on good footing.

We also begin the Fall with some big changes in our staffing. Our longtime music/youth/building/communications/hospitality team leader, Josh Huizing, is moving on from full time staff duties. He and his wife, Hannah Faye, will continue to call Grace Church home and Josh will serve as the part-time music director going forward. I am so thankful for this as both he and Hannah Faye bring so much to our music team.

With Josh stepping down, we are happy to have Samantha Krzyzewski join our staff as a part-time Ministry Assistant. She will wear a number of hats, some of which Josh wore and some of which Lesley Middlekauff wears. Samantha has a tremendous heart for the Lord, and she is eager to return to Long Island and serve at Grace Presbyterian Church. She begins in October!

With Samantha on board, Lesley will return to overseeing the youth group. She lamented needing to step down from the youth ministry team a few years ago, and so she is really excited to return to serve there.

And so, with ten years in the rear view, and a wonderful staff, and a fantastic church body, I look forward to what this Fall holds for us here at Grace Presbyterian Church. May we all, with one heart and mind, unite to see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Yours truly,  
Rev. Mark Middlekauff



Summer Beach Party



Ladies Night Out: Kayaking



Josh's Last Youth Group

Josh Huizing

## Music Team

One of the things that draws people to Grace Church is the music in our worship service. This was true for me as a visitor back in the spring of 2008, and I have now been fortunate to be involved in making and planning our music since the end of 2009. Even though my time directing the Youth Ministry is over, I plan to keep leading our music team. As we look to the future, I would like to share what makes our music beautiful and worshipful here at Grace.



Throughout history, the people of God have lifted their voices to praise him and edify one another. The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 5 to address each other “in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,” so our music should encourage everyone in the congregation to join in singing. Otherwise, our service is just a free concert! We aim to sing melodies that are easy to learn, and the words of our songs are just as important as we only use lyrics that tell the truth about God, people, and the world around us.

Along with good tunes and helpful texts, our music at Grace makes use of plenty of talent! Our band mostly consists of men and women from our congregation giving of their skills and time to serve their brothers and sisters, and some new musicians are joining the team more regularly in the coming weeks and months. I’m excited that the team is growing, and I am thankful to the group for soon giving me a break to

rest and renew my creative energy between now and November.

I hope our music continues to be a taste of the scene described in Revelation 5 as we join in praising God along with Christians from every nation!

Lesley Middlekauff

## GraceCamp: Holiday Edition

It was a very festive week at this year’s GraceCamp: Holiday Edition! When the campers arrived, they were surprised to find a small house constructed in the Sanctuary. Each night, they would gather in the GraceCamp living room to celebrate a different holiday. And with each holiday, they were encouraged to contemplate the wonder of God’s perfect gifts. On Valentines Day, we celebrated the gift of God’s perfect love. On Christmas, we celebrated the gift of God’s perfect son. On Easter, we celebrated the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. And on Thanksgiving, we responded to God’s perfect gifts with great thanks. Of course, we had a lot of fun dressing up in silly costumes. The kids would light up when they saw Cupid, Santa, the Easter Bunny, and, best of all, a giant turkey enter the room!

Each group of campers also had fun dressing up, shouting, and cheering for their designated holiday. They competed in silly games and then headed off to enjoy amazing professional workshops. This year the campers enjoyed Hip Hop Dancing, Pysanky Egg Art, Holiday Baking, and Shark Adventures. We topped off the week



on Friday with an incredible holiday feast complete with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pie. Over 200 people came to celebrate their camper’s achievements throughout the week. Thanks to all the amazing people that volunteered their time and energy to make GraceCamp amazing. It continues to be many kids’ very favorite camp and a great way to love and connect with our community here on the East End.

Adriana Pariz

## Women’s Summer Study

Every summer we take a break from our men’s and women’s Bible studies, partly so that our staff can take a break from planning and leading these studies. This summer, Christine Marocco (about whom you may have read in our previous newsletter) decided to lead a women’s Bible study from her home in Amagansett.

We were not sure how well it would be attended as people are really busy in the summer, but it has been a great success! We have found that this Bible study has revealed a few things. First, Christine is a wonderfully gifted teacher of the Scriptures – she has done an amazing job leading from the book of Philippians. Second, it really ministered to the women living on the “far” East End of Long Island since they were able to attend a Bible study so close to their home. Third, it was a joy to see a member of our church take the initiative to use her gifts to minister to others, even though she was unsure if it would be fruitful.



We have seen how Jesus’ words in Luke 10:2 are very true in the Hamptons; he says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” We rejoice that he is answering our prayers and sending laborers into this plentiful harvest!

