



# Grace Presbyterian Church

To see Long Island awakened to the glory of Jesus Christ

Mark Middlekauff

## Update from Pastor Mark

Toward the end of this summer a very special couple stayed at our home: Rev. Paul Hahn and his wife, Fran. Paul heads up Mission to North America (MNA) for our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Since MNA oversees church planting in North America and since Paul and Fran have planted two churches themselves, I was excited to have them visit and talk with them about the new church we are planting in Stony Brook, NY. While I did expect Paul to be really excited about helping us to plant a new church on Long Island, I didn't expect how much they encouraged Lesley and me. Paul and Fran gave us a chance to retell our story of eleven years here at Grace Presbyterian Church and all the lives that have been changed by the gospel of grace through our church. In doing so, I was encouraged and invigorated by the Lord's call upon my family and upon our church as a whole. God truly has established Grace Presbyterian Church as a life-giving church on the East End, and he is working in us to build up the body of Christ and to spread the gospel to our neighbors.

As for this fall, so far a lot of prayer and planning has taken place by our GRACE Teams and by our staff. Bible studies will begin anew. GraceDinners have been planned. A New Members class is scheduled. There is also a lot of excitement about our second annual Women's Retreat in late October. For these and many other reasons, I am so pleased by the community God has gathered here at Grace Church. Our lives are being transformed by scripture and we are growing more connected to each other as one body, the body of Christ. For his glory, Christ is building us up! And I cannot help but think that he has wonderful plans in store for us.

Samantha Krzyzewski  
**GraceCamp**

In mid-July nearly 90 campers and 50 volunteers gathered for GraceCamp: Extreme Survival 2017. This year, I got to co-direct GraceCamp alongside Lesley. Over the course of the week campers enjoyed survival-focused workshops directed by local professionals: Bugs, Woodworking, Up-Cycle, and Wildlife. They engaged in survival games along with challenge course elements including our own rock wall, rope swing, and water blob. They even got to build lean-tos for outdoor shelter!

Each night, part of the gospel was presented to the children through an allegorical skit where the main character, a young boy symbolizing us, went on a journey with the Survival Guide who symbolized God and created all the trails. Each day of the story focused on part of the gospel story, highlighting God's plan through creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration. The week was filled with a lot of laughter and excitement. On the final night, we hosted a BBQ for over 200 people complete with a fire pit and s'mores, and we ended GraceCamp 2017 in the sanctuary with a slideshow that highlighted the memories made during this joy-filled week.



Guy's Day Out: Surfing



Ladies Night Out: Paddle



Outdoor Sunday School Lesson on Jesus Calming the Storm.



Lesley Middlekauff

## Belize Mission Trip

At the time of our last newsletter we were gearing up for the Music Festival Fundraiser for our first-ever GraceYouth Belize Mission Trip. The festival on June 10 was a win-win situation as it turned out to be a great event for our community as well as a successful fundraiser. I want to express thanks to many of you who helped with our fundraiser and who gave to the Belize Mission Trip group. Our funds were successfully raised, and our team of twenty students and five adults set out for Belize on August 5, 2017.



Upon arriving, our team was greeted at the airport in Belize City by Mission to the World missionaries Jacob Roberts and Garry and Anita Chambers. We loaded onto an old school bus that would serve as our transportation for the week and enjoyed a ride that would show us a country much different from ours, with many new sights, smells, and a new understanding of "hot." We eventually made it to our hotel in Corozal, where we had an evening set aside for orientation.

The next day, we were excited to attend Bethel Presbyterian Church in the village of Cristo Rey where we would be working throughout the week. We enjoyed a morning and evening service with the church and were welcomed warmly. We were already starting to build relationships with the people and were excited to return on Monday for work.

Each day until mid-afternoon, we painted and replaced screens on the pastor's home, which had not had much repair in almost 40 years. Then we welcomed children from the village and led a Vacation Bible School at the church. After an already full day of work, our students did a great job of mustering up the energy to love on the children of Cristo Rey. Each day, we had a lesson and crafts followed by lots of fun with bubbles, piggy back rides, and, of course, soccer.

Our group of teens from Grace were complimented again and again on their energy and heart to engage with the people of Belize, and this was one of the greatest blessings of the trip. We learned about their lives and their hopes for their church, and it was beautiful to see that although our churches are in very different places, our desires are the same in longing to reach our communities with the powerful message of God's love and grace through his son, Jesus Christ.

We are grateful for this amazing opportunity that is sure to impact our lives in many ways. I believe we all left Belize with new perspectives and big hearts for the people of this little village in Belize called Cristo Rey!



Eric and Olivia Olson

## Meet the Olsons

We bought a house in Water Mill shortly after we got married in March of 2009. While we bought it primarily as a summer home, we soon learned how much we loved spending weekends in the Hamptons throughout the entire year.

Eric was raised in NYC and had grown up attending Calvary Baptist Church on 57th Street where his father had helped to revise the by-laws and his mother had served as a deaconess. Despite this, Eric never felt any personal connection to Calvary. Olivia had the same experiences with the churches she attended growing up in the UK.

One Sunday morning in early 1990, Eric and his father decided (partially out of laziness) to attend a service at a new church on the same block as his parents' place. There, a Presbyterian minister was preaching to a congregation of three; the minister's name was Tim Keller. Upon returning home, Eric told his parents that he had found his new church.



Eric's mother made us aware of Grace Church, a Redeemer plant, in 2011, but it was the work of Grace's Children's Ministry with Astrid that convinced us to become regular attenders. We have witnessed God's work through Grace Church's firm faith in the Bible, its warm congregation, and its service and outreach to the wider community on the East End. Through these things we found a personal connection to Grace that we had been missing and a new home for our faith.

*The Mission of Grace Presbyterian Church is to REACH the Lost, BUILD Community, GROW Disciples, SERVE our Neighbors, and in all things WORSHIP God.*

Grace Presbyterian Church  
1225 Montauk Hwy  
Water Mill, NY 11976



631.726.6100  
www.gracehamptons.org  
facebook.com/GracePresbyterianChurch