



Grace Presbyterian Church

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

Update from Pastor Mark Middlekauff

We have just wrapped up another wonderful summer season at Grace Presbyterian Church, though it seemed like it was only a week and a half long (they say that happens when you get older). It was a fruitful season as the Lord continues to lead us and care for us.

One way we are able to recognize that the Lord is in our midst is found in his words to his disciples in John's gospel. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). Not that we have no room for growth—we do—but I delight in how this local body of Christ, Grace Presbyterian Church, "loves one another." Jesus' "as I have loved you" is both our motivation and our model. This summer I have enjoyed seeing the numerous behind the scenes ways in which we have served one another, forgiven one another, prayed for one another, held accountable one another, grieved with one another, and walked through trials with one another. And certainly, all this brings joy to our Heavenly Father. This fall, my hope is that we will continue to grow in this grace of God as we look to Christ and his love for us, and then live out this great command to love one another as disciples of Christ.



Kids playing at our Church Picnic



Grace friends out to dinner



Grace Youth at the beach



Kids enjoying GraceCamp



Samantha's goodbye party



Gaga Ball at SecondSaturdaysOut!



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Lesley Middlekauff

A Wonderful GraceYouth Summer

GraceYouth had a great summer! We kicked off the summer with an opportunity to serve on our first GraceYouth Trip to the Bowery Mission in NYC. This trip was a great experience, as we were able to help them in their mission to serve over 1,000 meals a day to New Yorkers in need! We arrived at the Bowery Mission around 9AM and quickly were put to work. The operation was amazing. Somehow, with a group of fifteen volunteers that had no idea what they were doing, the kitchen manager was able to teach, lead, and get us organized in order to pull off a meal for over 200 guests by noon. We were grateful to serve and felt all our efforts were needed to help the Bowery Mission function that day.

The week following our trip to the Bowery Mission, our youth were called on to help make GraceCamp amazing. Many of the students in our youth program have at one point been GraceCamp campers themselves and remember their favorite youth helper that made it all so much fun. Now, they get to be those helpers and they really do bring a lot of fun and help to GraceCamp! This year we had twenty-four youth-age helpers!

The fun didn't end with GraceCamp. Throughout the rest of the summer we brought back some favorite events such as Kiddie Pool Kickball, where the bases are kiddie pools and we have a slip n' slide into home plate, as well as some favorite outings to places like Country Fair Entertainment Park for some rowdy go-kart rides and our annual trip to Splish Splash Water Park. We also enjoyed a GraceYouth beach bonfire and then finished off the summer with a Swim-In Movie - yes, a large screen movie viewed from the pool!

We are so grateful to have wonderful kids from all over our community join GraceYouth for our service projects and events. Our hope is that many will find our church as a welcoming place to find friendship, support, and ultimately the love of Christ. As we move into the fall, we are excited to get into our regular Youth Group schedule. We are looking forward to our regular GraceYouth gatherings as well as our Great Escape Youth Retreat in January as great opportunities for continued relational and spiritual growth. And as always, we also plan to have a lot of FUN!



Sharon Kerr

Meet Sharon

I grew up in New Jersey and spent summers on Shelter Island. When my dad passed away, my mom sold our house and moved to Hampton Bays to be by the water. After graduating college, I followed mom to the East End. Things weren't very stable since my dad passed at 49, so mom, my brother Paul and I had a tough time getting grounded. Although we had always gone to church as a family, we lost our bearings from losing all the pillars of our family: many aunts, uncles, grandparents and Dad in the span of 5 years.

Then, my brother, pretty much looking at the abyss, walked into Granada Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, Florida in the early 80's. God had mercy on him and Paul heeded God's call and gave his all to God. Paul wrote me letters imploring me to seek a church that preached the Gospel. I listened but didn't understand.

I have to say, I did not start going to Grace Church; Grace Church, in its infancy, started coming to me. In 2003, my brother called and said, "hey, there's a church starting and here is the number to the Horcher's, right around the corner from you, go get involved." So, from the first phone call, to a knock on the door, and a call to plant this church, God was inviting me to hear his word and help start Grace church. I just needed to let him in. It took some coaxing, some breaking down, and a lot of prayer. I hesitantly got involved. Things didn't quite make sense until I began to understand that grace was not earned, it was the gift from our Father - only took 20 years! I felt such relief! That was it, I was all in!

I am so thankful that God used this church family to bring me to a deep understanding and love for Him and for this community.



Adriana Pariz

Changes at Grace

Change is hard. We become comfortable with our way of life, and when transitions come, we have a tendency to get stressed out. We think: "how will these changes affect me?" But God uses changes to help us trust him with the unknown. In Isaiah 33:6, we are reminded that God alone is "the stability of our times." So, when everything is shaken, we can cling tightly to him because he will never change, he is always stable.

As the summer began, so did our transitions. Our faithful and fruitful Children's Ministry director, Samantha Krzyzewski, announced she would be leaving in August. Around the same time, Josh Huizing left his position as our Music Director and we began looking for someone to fill that role. We found ourselves praying that God would give us creativity as we figured out how best to serve him in these transitions - would we hire someone who could take their place? Would we forgo one of our current ministries and restructure our staff responsibilities? We are so thankful that God's faithfulness shines especially bright during times of change! Debbie Cuthel, Cathy Distefano, Jessie Burns, and Danielle Barton stepped in and began leading our Children's Ministry, while Sally Spanburgh and Sharon Kerr took over the leadership of the SERVE Team. These women are uniquely gifted and are using their talents to love our church and community in this important way - we are so thankful for them!

Then in July, we hired Hannah Faye Huizing as our new Music Director. Hannah Faye has been attending and serving at Grace Church since 2014. Once hired, Hannah Faye exclaimed that this was her dream job, and that she was thrilled! We feel just as joyful to have her join our staff team!

We praise God for his provision! May we continue to trust him with the unknowns and may he surprise us with his changes.

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