



Grace Presbyterian Church

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

Update from Pastor Mark Middlekauff

When Grace Presbyterian Church was just over four years old, God stretched our faith, and we purchased the property we now call home. We raised close to \$3.5 million to purchase the property, and we paid it off in December of 2019. Today, we look forward to a new chapter at Grace Presbyterian Church as we embark upon a long-awaited for renovation and remodeling of our building.

Last fall we formed a Building Renovation Feasibility Committee (BRFC) which is tasked with understanding the current needs and desires of our church and then providing cost estimates and plans for a renovated building. The team has been very fruitful, and I am so excited to share some preliminary details here.

I think the big question people have is why? And the answer to that question is multi-faceted. One, the building is over 50 years old and was built on the cheap. Which means much of the building is beyond the help of a fresh coat of paint and new carpet; it needs renovation. Two, we simply need more room for the growth of our ministries in the church, which means we need to add space. Three, the building was designed long before anyone worried about security. Which means we need a redesign which incorporates proper security practices, especially in the children’s ministry areas. Four, we aim to have an aesthetically attractive building and landscaping. Some think beauty is of the least importance to our Lord, but this is far from the truth. God’s design for the temple was a thing of beauty. Plus, consider how we all long for our own homes to be a place of beauty. How much more so our house of worship? The designers we ultimately hire will design an aesthetically beautiful and well-functioning building.

So, the plans will include more than doubling the main entrance foyer, adding and improving adult and children classrooms, a dedicated youth room ministry space, more staff and lay leaders’ offices, office space for a new Spanish language congregation, a renovated fellowship hall and kitchen, an elevator, central air-conditioning throughout the building (finally), more and renovated bathrooms, a private counseling room, a conference room, a communion prep/bridal room, ample storage, mechanical and janitorial rooms, an enclosed sound booth, new pews and lighting in sanctuary, a new playground, a multi-purpose outdoor court, patio and pavilion. Plus, an updated septic system, security system, and outdoor lighting. And of course we would also have a new, beautiful façade that augments the surroundings, plus appropriate landscaping to tie it all together. And lastly, we will install a beautiful steeple to replace the one that blew off in a Nor’easter decades ago.

What’s next? We have narrowed down the list of possible architects to four finalists. After finalizing the architect, we will work to provide some rough plans and sketches in the next few months. Then we will share more details, including estimated costs. In the meantime, please be in prayer for our BRFC team.

We have enjoyed the blessings of having this property for twelve years! It has served us well. Now, let us prepare well for our growing congregation and the generations that will follow us.

Grace & Peace,
Mark Middlekauff



GraceYouth and leaders at the Great Escape



Ladies Night: Game Night!



Egg Hunt Victory



Kurdistan Partnership



GraceYouth and leaders at the Great Escape

Adriana Pariz

Spring Kurdistan Trip

Pastor Mark, along with myself and eight others from various churches, traveled to Kurdistan at the beginning of April. The goal for our trip was to figure out how we can best serve that region in planting churches. We spent most of our time in the city of Duhok as there are very few churches there. We met with church leaders, recent converts, someone working on translating the Bible into Kurdish, and many who have moved from their home countries to serve in the Kurdistan region. We also got to visit a couple of Yazidi refugee camps. We were treated with kindness, generosity and hospitality, everywhere we went.

One of the things we learned from those with whom we spoke, is that there are no churches in Kurdish, in the city of Duhok. There are churches in English and Arabic, but not in Kurdish. The Kurdish language has three dialects which are spoken in different areas. The dialect spoken in Duhok, for example, is not the same as in Erbil, which makes it a little complicated. We also learned that it is tough to have Kurdish leaders in the church because as they convert from Islam, they are often persecuted by their family or community and have to flee the region. In summary, we learned that this will be a tough work.

But as we met with many in the area, we also heard the multiple ways in which God is already moving in Kurdistan. And one of the ways seems to be through Brazilians living in the area – so it was quite providential that God would have me on this trip! We met many Brazilians who are from the Reformed Presbyterian church in Brazil and who are doing a wonderful work in Duhok and the surrounding area.

So, what was our take away? First, Duhok needs a reformed, Kurdish church. Second, we now have connections in Kurdistan who would like to help that become a reality. Thirdly, we need to be patient and seek God as we move forward. So, will you join us in praying for the work God is doing in Kurdistan? Specifically, for clarity in the way we should proceed and with whom we should partner. Pray also for those who are converting to Christianity, that God would keep them safe and bring their families to saving faith.



Mollie Duggal

Meet The Duggals

The Duggals (Michael, Mollie, Faith, Christian, and John) are happy to be part of the Grace Church family. They came to Grace Church because they wanted to attend a strong Bible-based church with an active youth group, children's ministry, and a heart for serving and sharing God's love with its community and the world.



Michael is originally from Ardsley, New York, and Mollie is originally from North Carolina. Michael and Mollie met at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City where they both served as deacons and leaders of the young adult fellowship group there. Faith is in her second year at St. Andrews University in Scotland, studying History and Theology. Christian is a junior at Southampton High School who plays soccer, runs track, and volunteers as a leader in the school's Natural Helpers and HUGs programs. John is a freshman at The Stony Brook School who runs track and serves as the school's Chapel delegate, in the Chick-Fil-A leadership program. Both Christian and John enjoy their time with Grace Youth Group.

Michael serves as an Usher and on the BRFC. Mollie enjoys teaching Sunday School and loves the Tuesday morning Women's Bible study. Christian and John are happy to be volunteering on the Production Team. Faith and the whole Duggal family also enjoyed volunteering at Grace camp last summer!

The Duggal family loves how members of Grace have a heart to serve and use their unique spiritual gifts to help in their own way. They are also thankful for the amazing music ministry that fills them with the energy and passion of the Holy Spirit each week. They love that Grace is a dynamic, spirit-filled community with a vibrant children's ministry and youth group. They are honored to serve and contribute to Grace and are thankful their three children/teenagers have a place to nurture and develop their faith. They love attending the church and are looking forward to continuing to learn, grow and serve with the Grace Church family!

Adriana Pariz

Christianity Explored

We began hosting Christianity Explored classes at Grace Church in 2010 and have enjoyed how it allows us to engage with many in our community who are interested in learning more about Christianity. Christianity Explored answers the questions: 1. Who is Jesus?, 2. Why did he come? And 3. What does that have to do with me?

We kicked-off this seven-session class at the end of March. We were praying that forty people would register and were thrilled when fifty-one signed up! Each evening began with a home cooked meal which allowed us to get to know people in the different groups (there were three small groups). We then moved into our small group discussion, where we discussed our reading from the Gospel of Mark. For a lot of people, this is the first time they have read a book of the Bible in their lives. We then watched a video all together and ended the evening in our small groups discussing what we learned from the video. Each of our three small groups enjoyed lively discussions each night wherein genuine doubts, questions, and misconceptions about Christ and the gospel were addressed. We are so thankful for this program as it provides a forum where skeptics, new Christians and "old" Christians alike can learn and grow in the faith. We are also praying that the relationships will continued on well past the end of the class.



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