

September 2, 20124

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Happy September! I hope you all had a great summer and enjoyed the long Labor Day weekend. I am back in the office after two weeks of vacation during which my wife Susan and I travelled out to Virginia, up to Maine and back. Along the way, we spent time with our boys, connected with old friends and spent time near the water. It was just the way summer vacations should be.

I am excited to be back now and look forward to seeing all of you. This coming Sunday, September 7 is Ministry Sunday, the kick-off to our new program year. Sunday School and Youth Group both resume, and we will welcome our new Sunday School Coordinator, Trevor Liburd. After both the 8:00 and 10:30 worship services, representatives from our different ministries will be available to talk with you about their ministry and how you can get involved. A delicious lunch will be provided after the 10:30 service, and there be activities for the kids as well.

Adult Forum also gets underway Sunday, and for the next two weeks, the Forum will focus on two important events which occurred over the summer: this Sunday, the Rev Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas will discuss a Christian response to the shooting of Michael Brown, the unarmed teenager who was killed by police in Ferguson, Missouri; then, on Sunday, September 14, our very own Michael Moodie will give a presentation on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Both Forums should be very insightful.

This Sunday marks the successful conclusion of our Capital Campaign. As you know, we launched the campaign back in February with the goal of raising \$1 million in order to overhaul our HVAC system, renovate the downstairs of the church building and refurbish the organ. The campaign was a resounding success thanks to your support and the hard work of many volunteers, and this Sunday, we celebrate our great achievement. The Undercroft should be completed and available for everyone to see. I hope you will join us for this special occasion.

Finally, in addition to our weekly Thursday email highlighting all the news and upcoming events at Grace Church, I will be sending out an email every Tuesday with personal reflections on life, faith and church. The email will be titled *A Note of Grace*, and hopefully it will give you something to ponder throughout the week. Please look for it in your inbox and feel free to respond - I would love to hear from you.

See you in church,
Andrew