

GRACE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Interlock Project Update
- Kids Corner

ONLINE OR  
IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

VISIT  
[WWW.GRACEORLEANS.CA](http://WWW.GRACEORLEANS.CA)



# Good Gracious Gracious

## September 2025

### Patches and Wineskins

*[Jesus said] "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

Matthew 9:16-17 (NIV)

In June, I (Meg) went back to school to start my Doctor of Ministry program at Acadia Divinity College. It is an exciting and challenging opportunity to deepen my faith and my tools as a minister. One of my summer courses was called Innovating Church. Through the course and readings, we learned about some of the interesting ways churches are connecting with their neighbours. We practiced different tools for listening well to God, to our neighbours, and to each other. We were reminded that our God chose to reveal himself in the resurrected Jesus and that new life often comes out of apparent death. We were encouraged to take risks and to embrace failure because God uses our failures to show us what we need to learn.

When I reflect on that experience, this passage above from Matthew comes to mind. Some of the disciples of John the Baptist have come to Jesus and asked why his disciples don't fast the way John's followers and the Pharisees do. Jesus, in answering them, challenges their assumptions on what it means to be a good follower of God. In this exchange, he doesn't say that fasting is no longer needed but that it isn't appropriate for the particular time they are in (where Jesus is still with them).

He then gives two parables about change: a clothing patch and wineskins. We often focus on the wineskins. The message tends to be that we cannot allow the past to limit what we can imagine for our future. And that is true. But the first metaphor is important too. We cannot put unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Notice that the solution isn't to throw out the old garment. It is to shrink the new cloth first, so that when the repaired clothing gets washed post-patch, it will stay intact. I think Jesus is encouraging us both to not get stuck in our ruts and to make sure our innovations fit with our congregation.

This fall, as we get back into our church and school routines, do you have an idea of how Grace might connect with our neighbours? Do you have something you'd like to try in worship or as a fellowship or learning activity? The first step could be to suggest your idea to a friend at church. If they think it is a good idea, talk to your elder and see what they think. Who knows, God could have planted this idea as the next way Grace is being called to worship or to witness to our neighbours. We won't know unless we try!

*Denise Allen-Macartney and Meg Patterson, Interim Moderators*

## Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

Can you believe the summer is winding down and fall start-up of ministry is upon us. I do hope that everyone had a peaceful and healthy summer with time to enjoy God's creation.

I had an unusual and busy summer keeping me away from the church for many weeks. I would like to thank Shirley and Brian for taking up the slack while I was gone. My husband and I enjoyed a wonderful 2 week bus tour of Scotland followed by 4 days on our own in London. God's creation was on full display especially in Scotland and it didn't rain! Then I spent 2 and a half weeks of August babysitting our 21 month old in Waterloo while her parents worked and her sister was in daycare. That was precious family time.

Now it's time to return to reality and catch up with what's been happening at Grace. First of all, I would like to welcome Linda Paquette to lead elder duties. The addition of her and Allan Smith sharing the leading of worship has been welcomed especially by Brian and me.

We were blessed over the summer with visits from some Mission partners, some of whom preached. We thank them for their partnership in the gospel.

The landscape around the front door of the church is changing. Thank you for safely navigating the entrance as the renovation work is progressing. This was a necessary repair as the old brickwork was disintegrating and becoming unsafe. As you can imagine, the price tag is hefty so our Miracle Sunday offering this year will go towards paying that bill.

The church building was well used over the summer with 5 congregations worshipping on Saturdays and Sundays, STEAM camp here every weekday except the week of VBS co-ordinated by Grace and Living Faith. Our government sponsored summer students Majelle and Stacey (Living Faith) returned to plan and implement VBS and Sunday School over the summer. Majelle agreed to stay on to teach Sunday School into the fall. We employ her for 3 hours per week. We're hoping that a consistent person leading Sunday School will encourage young families to bring their children. This is part of the church growth strategy.

The elder election process will commence soon. Stay tuned for details. In the meantime, please pray for discernment on who God is calling to this leadership position. Only communicant members can become elders and only communicant members can vote. Please don't approach anyone who you may be considering. Let the Holy Spirit work to determine the results of this process. Pray for the people God wants in these positions.

The profile committee has submitted the profile narrative to Session for their comments and will soon be shared with the congregation. Thank you for your patience. Our next Session meeting is September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Did anyone read an inspiring book over the summer? There is always room for a book review in Good Gracious. Please consider sharing good devotionals or Christian books.

I leave you with this: "Be strong in the Grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 2:1)

## Eldership at Grace

In the Presbyterian Church in Canada, elders are men and women ordained to share along with the minister in the leadership, pastoral care, and oversight of the congregation. Through their ministries, the Word is proclaimed, God's people are nourished and nurtured, supported and guided.

We follow a model of community leadership that is found in the Bible. In Acts 6, when the apostles didn't have time to properly see to the distribution of food to the poor, they brought in new leaders to help. Here and elsewhere, we see that God calls communities together and raises up particular people from those communities to lead. From Scripture and tradition, here are a few traits that make someone a good elder:

- Has strong faith in, and love for, Jesus
- Lives a life that is a good example to others
- Is a regular participant in the life of Grace
- Is willing to learn, serve and lead others
- Cares about people in and outside the church
- Works well in a team

Notice that having the Bible memorized and knowing all the answers are not on the list! None of us are perfect, and elders have the same access to both God and temptation as everyone else. At the same time, elders are ordained (set apart) for the special tasks of leading the congregation. We have many resources available for those considering eldership or who are newly ordained. Elders are elected by members of the congregation and must be members themselves.

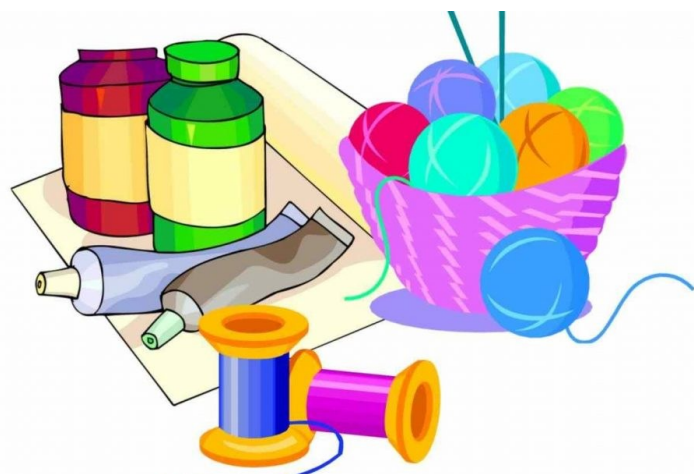
Professing members in our congregation are the ones who nominate candidates for eldership. Ballots will be distributed in the fall. Please stay tuned for more details on the election process and consider whether anyone in our congregation comes to mind when you think of the traits above. Please do not consult the people you may nominate. Instead, allow the Holy Spirit to work. Finally, and most importantly, please pray that the right people for our Session are nominated and agree to serve!

## Craft and Chat

**Tues. Sept. 23rd 9:30 to 11:30am**

Bring your project (knitting, sewing, scrapbooking, or other craft) and join us for a time of fellowship and coffee/tea. This is a great way to meet some of our Grace Family and get crafting done at the same time!

All welcome!



## Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke

### The Orthodox Presbyterian Uganda Mission [OPUM] – Leah Hopp

Leah and her family were active members of Grace Church at one time. Grace Church has been prayerfully and financially supporting Leah's mission work for fourteen years.

Leah has now been living and working in Karamoja, Uganda for fourteen years with the OPC Uganda Mission. Previously, she had graduated with a Bachelor of Health Sciences from the University of Western Ontario and a Biblical Studies certificate from Kuyper College. After spending one year as a public health intern in rural Tanzania, she returned to Canada to work for Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship's Urbana 2006 Mission Conference and also IFES's World Assembly in 2007. As a Health Educator, she started a community health program in conjunction with a mission clinic to employ six Karimojong health teachers in Uganda. They walk in pairs to teach in six villages alongside two primary schools and at the mission clinic. A Ugandan nurse now assists with the management of the team allowing Leah to conduct locally relevant research. After graduating with a Master of Public Health, she has published two journal articles and is embarking on further research in conjunction with a very well-experienced Christian, Ugandan, research advisor.

The members serving on the Karamoja station labor in the areas of evangelism, church planting in Nakaale, leadership training, village Bible instruction, literature production, literacy training, medical care through the work of Akisyon a Yesu Presbyterian Clinic, community health instruction, and other works of mercy such as the operation of a farm.

One of the objectives of the Mission was to plant an indigenous self sufficient church. Last year Pastor Julius was installed as an ordained minister in the newly formed denomination called the RCEA (Reformation Church in East Africa) and the Nakaale church plant where Leah is. The tiny mission church is now a church plant of the RCEA! Praise God!



In December of 2023, the clinic staff were finally able to move into their new houses (pictured above). There are six duplexes on the new compound behind the mission church, each with a large yard. The photo next to this is Leah with her community health team (photo from 2024).

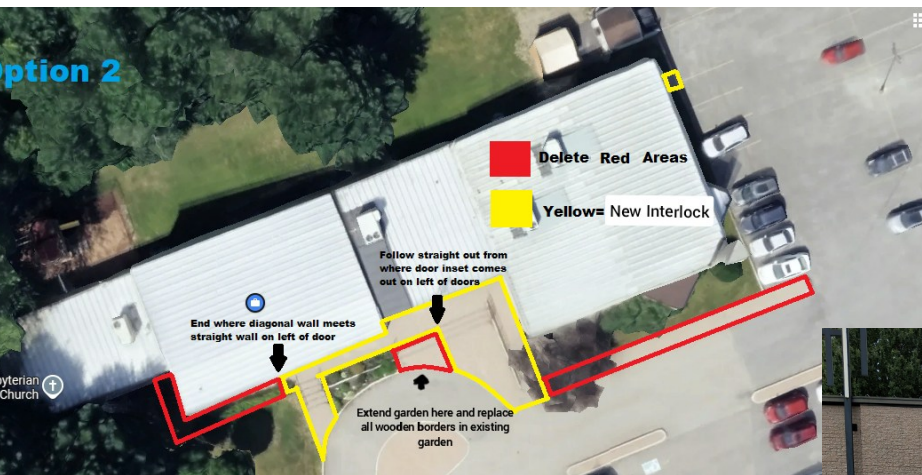
A Yesu (The Compassion of Jesus) Presbyterian Clinic (AYPC) is a small, outpatient-only clinic located in rural Uganda. It was originally opened in 2002. AYPC provides many medical and laboratory services in the context of a Christian environment. AYPC has a well-supplied laboratory which often receives referrals from the surrounding clinics and hospitals. Many tropical and infectious diseases are diagnosed here. Various procedures and many immunizations are done routinely. Weekly outreaches include such things as malnutrition screening, childhood immunizations, HIV counselling and testing, health education, and a Bible lesson. Routine preaching is done at the clinic, prayers are offered regularly, and patients are invited to church. The compassion of Jesus is shown to the patients. This is where Leah spends most of her time now.





# Interlock Project Update submitted by Arlene Lamadeleine

Our big “Miracle Sunday” project is to redo the interlock in front of the church. All of the pink bricks have been removed (except for in the parking lot) and new bricks will be laid. We will not be replacing all the areas with interlock in an effort to reduce costs. You can see from the picture below (Thanks Lauren!) that we will be losing the extra path to the parking lot and the “path to nowhere” past the hall doors. These have been seeded with soil and grass instead. The garden in the front will double in size and the stairs are now in and are more substantial but not as wide as before. New retaining walls and foundation work has been completed. The foundation along the front was crumbling and the parking was mostly gone. Harmerstone had someone come in immediately and repair and replace the parking for an additional cost of \$2,700 (net after HST rebate) over two days. This expense was taken from (and exceeded) our external maintenance budget line. The ramp is usable but still gravel packed as of today. We expect the work to be completed in the next couple of weeks. We are asking for both your patience as well as your financial support to pay for this much needed building improvement. The total cost is just over \$70,000 and to date we have received \$1500 towards the goal. This will take a few years to pay off for sure but we will be able to start enjoying the safe new entrance and walkway shortly! You can donate in any of the usual ways by marking “Miracle Sunday” or “Interlock” on your donation. (e-transfer, cheque/cash, monthly from your account through PAR auto-debit, online through Tithe.ly or by text)





SEPTEMBER  
2025

# Kids Corner

Kids Club Planning is high gear and our first event of the year will be Sept. 26th 6:30 to 8pm. Our first theme will be Spy Night! We will have a fun puzzle-based spy mission, themed snack, games, spy gear craft, memory verse and short story/object lesson. This year a bunch of ladies have answered the call to help! A big thank you to Anne Walker, Leslie Bryson, Kate Pilkington, Belinda Barnes and Joan Wilson for attending our

planning session. We may have a few more ladies in the volunteer wings that didn't make the planning meeting. God is good!

Sunday School is now being planned and covered by our former summer student, Majelle Guillemette. We are excited to have Majelle looking after the kids every Sunday. If you would like to help by being a second body (a position I like to call "crowd control" LOL), please speak to Majelle Sunday mornings or contact the office.

If you have any questions or wish to help in children's ministry, please contact me in the office at [admin@graceorleans.ca](mailto:admin@graceorleans.ca) or 613-824-9260.

*Arlene*

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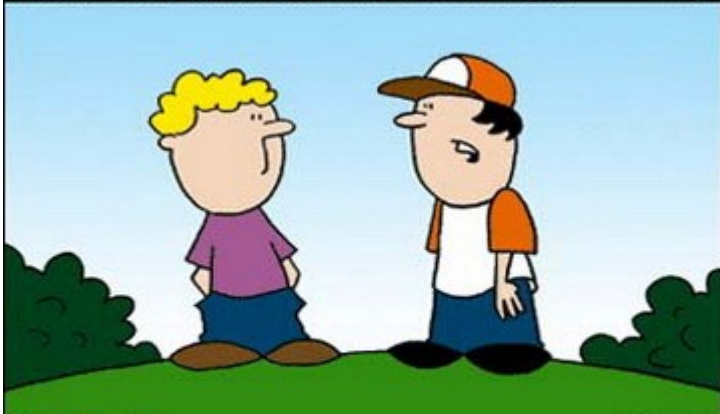


Thanks to Ian (See Mark 4:35-41)

06-23-2006

JUST GIVE ME FIVE MORE MINUTES

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(See psalm 100)

02-05-2004

MOM SAYS WE SING HYMNS TO MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD ... I PERSONALLY LIKE TO YELL "YIPPEE" EVERY NOW AND THEN

## Kids Club—Spy Night

Sept. 26th 6:30—8pm



Can you  
solve the  
mystery?

# Grace's Ministry Groups

The six functional groups and there leaders are:

1. Worship Coordination: Brian Wilson
2. Discipleship: Linda Clarke
3. Pastoral Care: Yohanna Kimoun
4. Faith Sharing: Linda Clarke
5. Temporal Support: Shirley Blank
6. Personnel Support: Linda Clarke



## Opportunities to Serve!

- **Fundraising Committee:** looking for people to help plan, setup, take down, cook, and participate! Talk to Linda, Shirley or Arlene for more info.
- **Want to be part of the meal ministry?** Contact the office or speak to an elder.

**Contact the church office for more information on how you can help!**  
**admin@graceorleans.ca or by phone at 613-824-9260.**