

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



Good Gracious Gracious

October 2025

Called

Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. – Exodus 3:5

One day, God shows up at the office and calls Moses by name. Moses is not expecting this. He isn't seeking a new assignment. It's not one of his life goals.

And what an assignment! Waltz into Pharaoh's palace, tell him to release his slave labour force, then lead that band of hard-pressed, sceptical people on a circuitous detour until they become the community God wants them to be.

Understandably, Moses demurs. But God insists. Not that Moses has special super-powers. The key to this endeavour, God says, is this: *"I have seen my people..., I have heard my people..., I have come..., I am sending you,"* and the kicker: *I will be with you!*

That's God's refrain through the whole Bible narrative. God sees us, he hears us, he has come, he calls us into his work, and *he is with us!*

Here's what our Church says about eldership¹:

- Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation.... Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation, only suitable men and women should be considered. *They should be committed Christians, in regular attendance at public worship, persons of sound judgment and upright character....*
- An elder must be a professing member of the congregation and must be *"an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity"* (1 Timothy 4:12).

From the earliest days of Jesus' church, believers have appointed elders to help them live-out their shared calling. Over time, we've sometimes forgotten that the call is to *all-of-us-together*. Instead, we've relied on professional pastors to represent God for us. But that was never the plan. God's mission is way too broad to leave to professionals.

*"It is a spiritual tragedy of incalculable proportions that we... restrict 'ministry' to what 'the minister' does. Lay people are not there to help the minister run the church; the minister is there to help the lay people be the church."*²

Elders help us hear again the call of God who says: *I will be with you*. Elders pray for us, care for us when we're in trouble, and seek God's direction for us as a community. Most will tell you they are unequal to the task.

Which, of course, is normal. Just ask Moses. It turns out good leadership qualities are not really skills or techniques, they are gifts from God. Gifts God gives as we trust him.

And God's awesome promise is true: He equips the people he calls. He is with us.

This month we're asking God to call elders to lead us. So pray! Listen for God's leading. And take off your sandals... we're on holy ground.

Denise Allen-Macartney & Meg Patterson, Interim Moderators

¹ From *The Book of Forms* of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, sections 106, 107, 108, and 132.

² D.F. Wright, Eldership, quoted in Matthew, Stewart & Scott, Kenneth: *Leading God's People, a Handbook for Elders & Ministers*, St. Andrew Press, Edinburgh, 1986

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1

In this season of Thanksgiving, my heart is full of gratitude for so many things: my family, my friends, my church family, the beauty of the autumn but most of all for Jesus who died for us and brought us into a right relationship with the Lord. Praise be to God! May Grace Church be a beacon of hope and peace for our community. I pray that same prayer for all the churches who worship in our building, that we can be God's faithful witnesses in our community and that lives will turn to Jesus for hope and peace.

The election of new elders is well underway. Please continue to pray for discernment to recognize who God is calling to serve Him in this way. The votes will be reviewed October 15th. Candidates will then be approached and given time to consider and discern their calling. Names will be announced in due course and by November 23rd, we're hoping to have the ordination of the new elders. Please continue to pray for this process.

Tomm Kuiperij, after a leave of absence of one year from Session, has submitted his resignation. The elders give thanks to God for the faith and wisdom that Tomm brought to the table and wish upon him and Lauren God's continued blessing. We look around the property and see their impact: preacher's office, youth office cupboards, outdoor playground, storage shed, basketball court, parking lot lighting, etc. and most recently the garden. We thank them profusely for their commitment to see the interlock project through until the end. (Thank you, also, to Belinda and Karen for helping with digging up and replanting and to Dawn MacKinnon for watering). Thank you Tomm for leading the youth and for Lauren serving on the BOM.

Continuing on the gratitude theme, the Session would like to publicly thank members of Living Faith Bible Church and Eglise Liberte for their ongoing support of the Mihalik family. They came alongside to pray for Min when she was in hospital, they helped with the funeral reception for Min and the ongoing meals and rides to support Amanda and Donald. We are grateful to work together as one to show love to fellow believers.

The Grace Church narrative profile draft has been completed and sent to each of you. As you read it, consider the church's strengths and weaknesses and how you might personally contribute using your God given gifts.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

Electing new Elders @ Grace Church

Please pray! Ask the Lord to call new elders to our Church Session.

- Professing members are eligible to vote for new elders.
- Please do not consult people you may nominate. Instead, allow the Holy Spirit to work.
- **September 28:** Ballots & instructions will be available in members' mail folders.
- Return your ballot according to the directions **by noon on October 14.**
- Please pray daily over the next month, asking the Lord to guide our Elder election. Thank you!

If you are absolutely unable to pick up the voting package from your mail folder within the allotted time frame, please contact Arlene in the office and we will make arrangements for you to receive a package.



Miracle Sunday Oct. 5th 2025

Donate today in support of our front renovation project! Just mark "Miracle Sunday" or "Interlock" on your donation. You can give by etransfer to admin@graceorleans.ca, by cheque/ cash in the offering plate or online through the website at graceorleans.ca

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Since 1928, IVCF has been committed to inspiring youth, students and graduates to follow Jesus. Whether at their summer camps, in high schools or on college and university campuses, they introduce students to Jesus, encouraging them to follow him in every part of their lives. There is a longing to see young people emerge into adulthood with growing faith and the confidence to take on their next steps in life.

It all began with one student!

At 25, Howard Guinness followed God's call to put his medical studies on hold, leave his home and friends in Oxford and sail across turbulent waters for the sake of reaching out to university students in Canada.

It would have been easier for Howard to say no, to stay where he was comfortable. But he said yes. And with the help of a few friends, he raised funds for a one-way ticket to Canada.

He spent the next year travelling the country, urging students to see the campus as a place where God would capture the attention—even the very lives—of their friends. Broadening their strategy beyond the university, Howard and a group of student leaders organized the first InterVarsity camp for high school students. Going further, they took part in forming the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, a mission determined to introduce Jesus to students all over the world.

Through it all, they pursued Jesus with unwavering conviction. And because of the risky obedience that Howard and countless others have shown through the years, their work continues today, helping thousands of students across Canada hear God's call. Over 90 years later, they're still saying yes.

"By students for students" has always been the theme of the ministry of InterVarsity. They are committed to one thing: sharing the message of Jesus Christ with student-aged Canadians. The mission of InterVarsity is to radically change the globe with that message, carried by young people to every corner of Canada and the world.

Funding is provided to IVCF through our Presbytery dues each year. Grace Church has provided additional financial and prayer support for the work of InterVarsity for many years. Last year we enjoyed having 3 of the IVCF leaders come to preach.

Students from all 3 campuses have retreats together and attend Scripture Camp in May together. On all 3 campuses there are prayer meetings, Bible studies, faith discussions and fellowship meals to support and grow the community. There are many opportunities for churches to provide meals for the different groups. We receive regular prayer updates and requests. If prayer is a way that God is calling you to help, please ask Arlene to forward the monthly InterVarsity prayer updates to you.

Interlock Project Update submitted by Arlene Lamadeleine

Our big “Miracle Sunday” project was to redo the interlock in front of the church. The work has been completed and looks fantastic. A big thank you to Matthew and his team at Harmerstone. They were wonderful to work with.

Just this past week the new front garden work was completed and the mulch was added Oct. 1st. A huge thank you to Lauren for planning and organizing both the Harmerstone contract and the new garden. Lauren wants to give a big shout out to Belinda Barnes, Karen Smith, Grace Maher, and Tomm for all their help! She couldn't have done it without them! Also, a shout out to Linda Clarke and Anne Walker for donating some plants to the garden. Thanks to Dawn and Arlene for watering the plants and new grass.

Now we just have to raise the money to pay for this project! The net cost (after HST rebate) was \$65,371.43. As of Oct 1st we have raised a total of \$8100. \$3000 is from catered lunch fundraisers we did for the rental group once a month. (\$500/mo) We received donations of \$3000, \$2000 and \$100 from generous Grace family members to date. If you can help with this project, just mark your donation as “Miracle Sunday” or “Interlock”. You can donate by etransfer to the office at admin@graceorleans.ca or in the offering plate or online through our website at graceorleans.ca. Every dollar counts! Miracle Sunday is

Thanksgiving Sunday Oct. 12th and an annual tradition to support larger projects at Grace.



OCTOBER
2025

Kids Corner

Kids Club had our first event Sept. 26th—Spy Night! The craft and spy mission were a big hit. We had a 13 kids show up and another 3 send their regrets as they were sick. We also had a record breaking 8 volunteers! The kids were having so much fun, they ran out of time and had to take home their beautiful homemade cupcake snack with

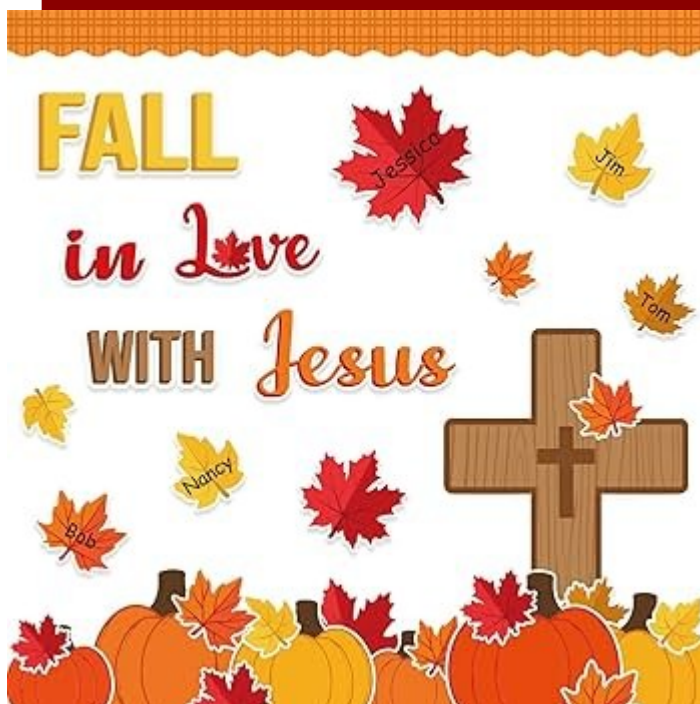
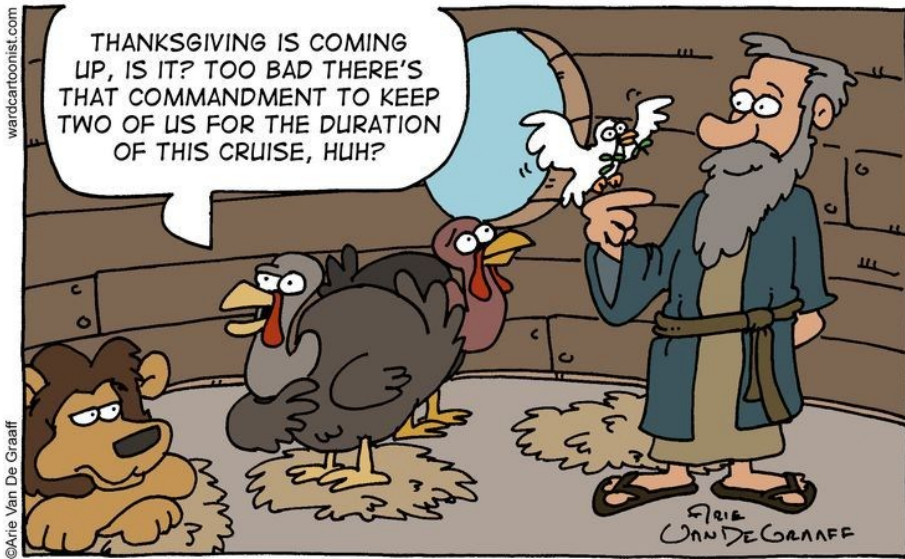
cookie magnifying glass! The extra volunteers that came out to help made the night easier and more fun for everyone. Our next event will be the Costume Party on Oct. 24th.

Sunday School continues to be 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 or 613-824-9260.

Arlene



GOBBLE UP GOD'S WORD



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.