

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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

ONLINE OR
IN-PERSON

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SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

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.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

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.

Hazelwood – Are we ready for the Harvest? - by Donald Corbett (Living Faith)

“⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6: 7-10 (NIV)

The title of this passage is “Doing Good to All” and if you have been watching the news lately, you may be of the opinion that this is not what is happening around the world. I suggest you’d be pretty safe in saying it is very much the opposite.

Every day there seems to be a new threat to our way of life and the principles upon which our country was founded – Peace, Order and Good Government. Putting aside the political aspect, we need to focus on what is truly important and then get busy doing something about it. The passage provides some pretty sage advice on how we might plant the seeds and prepare for the harvest – the harvest that we will one day experience in Christ.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul challenges us to think about this issue from the standpoint of sowing and reaping. It reminds us that choices have consequences and that God cannot be fooled. Even though we may fool ourselves, and we may think we are fooling God, he cannot be deceived. **“God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”** Whatever seeds we sow through the choices we make, that is what we will reap.

I love to garden, I love the smell and texture of rich damp earth and I prepare it for planting. In the early part of this year we had a wonderful display of flowers, and shrubs; and our vegetable garden was setting up for a bountiful harvest. As the summer became hotter and drier, we had to work even harder. Then we went away for an extended vacation; sadly the heat and drought did not – we came home to a lot of brown. It only took a couple of weeks without daily care to lose a fair bit of our harvest.

It is much the same with our spiritual disciplines of prayer and bible study. It does not take long for them to wither either. On the other hand if we invest our time and energy in our spiritual garden, the soil of our hearts will be enriched, and we will reap God’s gifts as we invest (plant seeds) in the lives of others. Our garden’s seeds are planted long before the harvest. Similarly the spiritual seeds we plant in the lives of others may take years to show. We simply must persevere and the harvest will come in God’s time.

When we think of sowing the seeds of the Gospel, we tend to think of doing so amongst those who do not know Jesus. However, while this is important, Paul is telling us to pay just as much attention to the needs of the church as well. There are many hurting people who come through our doors every Sunday morning. They may be smiling; they may be among our best volunteers. They may also be dealing with difficult and painful issues. Take it from me; people who know and love Jesus need us to love and care for them just as much as those who have yet to meet their Saviour.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

God Bless,
Donald

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Dear Church Family,

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the loving support you extended during the loss of our mother Hermina Mihalik.

In my time of grieving, your prayers, encouraging words, meals, rides, donations, and acts of kindness carried us through days that felt overwhelming.

Your presence at the service, the thoughtful notes, and the countless ways you stepped up to help have reminded me that I am part of a community that truly cares.

Thank you for your generosity of time, compassion, and spirit. Your support has been a blessing to us and my family, and We are deeply grateful for the sense of peace and hope that your faith community has provided during this difficult period.

Big Thank You !

Love: Amanda And Donald

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.

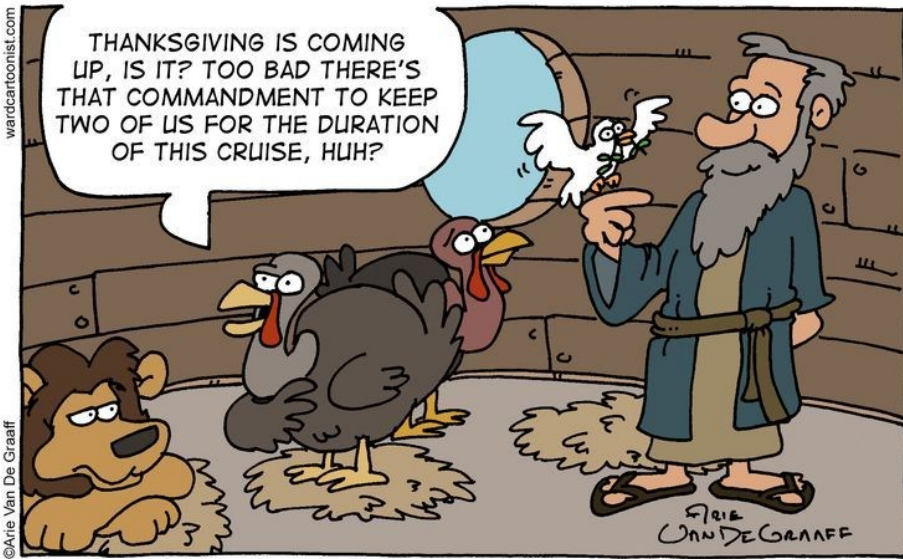
Sunday School continues to be planned and covered by our former summer student, Majelle Guillemette. We are

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

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),



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.**