

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Hazelwood
- Update from the Office
- Kids Corner

ONLINE OR
IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

VISIT
WWW.GRACEORLEANS
.CA



Good Gracious Gracious

September 2026

The Catch

Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch. – Luke 5:4

All night, they fish. Their boats' wooden planks creak and groan amid luminous swells of dark water. Again and again the men hurl the heavy nets, and haul them back. Empty. By daybreak their shoulder muscles burn. Weary, they beach the boats and begin laboriously to clean and stow their nets.

It's busy on the beach today. Old women, boys, fishmongers, bakers—they've come to hear the Teacher's stories. "Simon, let me onto your boat," Jesus says. "Folks will be able to hear and see better." Maybe Simon is glad for the distraction—it takes his mind off the poor night's work. He manoeuvres the boat a little off shore.

Jesus tells intriguing tales of God's persistence and grace, God's Kingdom coming near. Then he tells Simon. "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

"Seriously, Master? We've just cleaned up. It was useless last night. Wasted energy."

But, out of respect for the Teacher, Simon complies. He and his buddy row again out to the deep water. They lift the folded nets and heave them overboard.

And the water froths. Nets tug and bulge with fish. As Simon and his buddy strain to haul in the catch, waves slop over the side and the boat lists dangerously. Simon gestures urgently for the other boat to help. They limp to shore, two holds laden with mounds of slippery, silvery fish. Enough to feed the whole village. Provision for their families for who-knows-how-long.

The men are stunned. Jesus says: "Don't be afraid. From now on, you'll catch people." And that's what they do. They leave their boats to follow Jesus, on a mission they could never, in their craziest dreams, have imagined.

Jesus has provided what they could not provide for themselves.

But there is a catch to this catch. It is not meant just for them and their families.

The catch enables them to embark on work with Jesus. To participate in something bigger than their ambitions. To be agents of God's grace for people they have never even met. They will be bearers of faith and love and hope.

That's Jesus call to Grace Church: To follow him, as *agents of God's grace*. People who reach out to bless neighbours, strangers, and fellow-travellers.

To equip us, Jesus says: "Let down your nets for a catch."

We thank God for your generous gifts to the *Pastor Easter Fund*, moving steadily toward the goal of \$120,000. We thank God for your engagement with Kids' Ministries, and the New Commandment Men's Group. We thank God for kids drumming in worship, and for folks singing in choir under Kim's musical leadership. We thank God for deepening friendships, as you share faith stories with one another.

This fall, Session is asking Presbytery to support our application for a Renewing Ministries Grant from our national church. Please pray. Pray. Pray. Ask Jesus to provision us for his work. To fill our nets, and then to lead us, so we may serve as agents of God's grace to our neighbours for generations to come.

Denise Allen-Macartney & Meg Patterson, Co-Interim Moderators

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

In the church community September always seems like New Years. Regular programs are launched and people come back from summer vacation rested and more motivated to tackle ministry. Wayne and I just returned from a 12 day bus tour of Newfoundland and 5 days on our own in Halifax and surrounding areas. We were blessed with great weather. We were awed by the beauty of God's creation at every turn and so thankful to be able to experience it. We landed home Wednesday in time for a Session meeting that evening .

This summer at Grace was amazing. We are excited to see new families joining us. We enjoyed meaningful faith conversations with one another over coffee. We experienced the joy of the birth of Emily, daughter of Seng and Sein, Penielle, daughter of Noel and Marina and finally the miracle birth of Maisie Grace, daughter of Sarah and Dan Hall. I particularly enjoyed the celebration for Penielle where we were able to share in the customs of the Cameroon community. As our faith community becomes more multicultural, I hope we take every opportunity to share our customs with one another as we praise God together. We enjoyed our summer visitors Martin and Margaret, and Frances who jumped right in to participate in the life of the church. And who didn't love our little drummers!!

Our Faster Pastor fund is growing. When we reach \$100,000 we will start the search process for a pastor. In the meantime, the Interim Moderators, elders and Arlene have been working on the application for a Supporting Ministry grant from the PCC which is due Sept. 8 to the Presbytery and to PCC October 1. If we receive the grant, we will be given an amount receding over 5 years to help with the payment of the stipend for a new pastor. They want to know who we are, how God has been working in our midst, our goals and objectives, our current financial status and projected budget for next year as well as a glimpse of our mission story including photos. It's a big job and I'm thankful for all the input from various people. Please pray that the PCC will look favourably upon us and see the potential in investing in Grace Church.

The Ottawa Presbytery will convene for their September meeting here at Grace Church, September 15. This is the group of pastors and representative elders from every Presbyterian church in Ottawa, totaling approximately 40 people. We will provide supper and host worship including the celebration of Communion. Thanks to Pastor Meg, Kim and the social committee for their contributions.

“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.”

Psalm 100:2-3

Personal note from Linda: Thank you for your prayers for my 2 1/2 yr. old granddaughter, Noelle who had hip surgery mid-July. She is out of the hip spica cast now and into a brace for a few more weeks giving her more mobility. She is healing well. Praise God!

Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke

Ethnos Canada



Grace Church has been partnered with Dave and Judy Wright from 1996-2015 while they were in Papua New Guinea and since then in northern Saskatchewan. We are pleased to receive updates, prayer requests and occasional visits to hear of their ongoing ministry. Dave and Judy have dedicated their life's work to establish ways to bring the gospel to unreached peoples in their own heart language.

Why did they come back to Canada from Papua New Guinea? "While on furlough in 2015, a Woodland Cree Elder/evangelist pursued Dave, eager to learn how to effectively build a church that would continue to mature. He asked if what had been developed by Ethnos overseas could be shared with his people here. This was the beginning of 'Establish – A foundational disciple-making series.' Now, through Establish, God is beginning to bless both aboriginal and non-aboriginal churches right here in Canada." They have progressed to the second version of Establish 103 which is about Acts. They have published a new tool entitled 'The Maturing Church' which is a tool to assess the maturing of the churches that they plant around the world.

Their 'equipping groups' are multiplying in Saskatchewan and Central America.

They are working on translating their 'Who is God?' booklet, an evangelizing tool, into Mandarin and Portuguese. They are waiting for funds to translate the booklet into Farsi and Arabic.

Their daughter, Katie felt God's call on her life for mission. Much of her childhood was spent in Papua New Guinea and she has seen the impact her parents have made.

Recognizing that obedience would require preparation, Katie sought out training to be equipped for cross-cultural ministry. She applied to Ethnos Canada's cross-cultural church planting program (ethnostraining.ca), where she gained essential skills for ministry among unreached people groups. She later completed an advanced linguistics course, further preparing her for the work ahead. Katie has visited churches and met with individuals to share her vision for ministry as she prepared for her upcoming move to Papua New Guinea this fall as a Bible translator on a new church planting team. She is raising her support team and is ready to go.

INSPIRATION FROM INTERVARSITY

Grace Church has committed to dedicate 10% of our annual income to Missions for the past many years. One of those missions is InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, divided amongst U Ottawa, Carleton University and Algonquin College. Below are 2 testimonials from students who have been impacted by this group on U Ottawa campus. I hope you find their stories inspirational. If you know of any students heading off to university or college this month, please let them know to contact IVCF on campus to join a ready-made community of believers and friends.

Hannah Mae's Story:

"As a young woman fresh out of high school, I made the pilgrimage 5 hours north of my hometown for my first year at Carleton University. Was I ready to be on my own for the first time? Was I ready to manage my own time, deliver papers and projects, and navigate the ups and downs of the end of my hormonal teenage years alone? The answer is... probably not. My first year ended up being one of exploration, anxiety, isolation, and confusion. In this I was made aware of something profound: my need for community.

"During the first term of my second year, I was determined to make friends. I tried every campus ministry. InterVarsity stuck. Inductive Bible Study felt like a balm to my soul. Friday night events took us downtown, or into each other's homes to share meals. My love for the community grew and grew, until I joined the student leadership team, moved into an InterVarsity community house, and began leading my own Bible Study.

"Today I live and work in yet another community of faith. Windstone Farm is a place that explores the intersection of theology, ecology, and the arts, all held together in community. InterVarsity was one of the first places where I felt seen and celebrated within a wide community of students and mentors who truly did life together. That thread has woven throughout my experiences ever afterwards. "Looking back, my experience in the InterVarsity community helped me realize that people are always worth my time, scripture study is nourishment, and ordinary life is sacred.

Michel's Story

"During my time as a student, InterVarsity played a significant role in my spiritual and personal growth. I was involved both as a participant and as a student leader. I participated in Bible studies, discipleship, and simply doing life alongside fellow students, mentors, and teachers such as Deirdre. Today, I serve as a preacher, teacher, and youth leader, continuing the work of discipleship that was first invested in me.



"My time in InterVarsity radically changed my life because it disciplined me holistically. It nurtured not only my faith but also my character and relationships. Through the community, I developed a deeper love for theology and Scripture, learned to listen more attentively to others, and grew in compassion. Most importantly, I came to better understand the depth and breadth of God's love and discovered meaningful ways to remain connected to Him in everyday life.

"What I appreciated most about InterVarsity was its emphasis on authentic community. It provided a space where believers from different backgrounds could grow together, challenge one another, and encourage one another in faith. I was also deeply blessed by the guidance of mentors like Deirdre, whose wisdom, patience, and investment left a lasting impact on me."

Hazelwood—Remember and Trust By Donald Corbett (Living Faith Bible Church)

A few weeks ago a good friend, Ben Cousineau, came to share the message at Living Faith Bible Church. After the service, he and I discussed how things were going and what I saw for the future. That evening, by way of encouragement, he sent me a short devotional, written by Rev. Joel E. Kim, that he had recently read. I found it encouraging, thought provoking, and well worth sharing. I trust this article, based on Rev Kim’s devotional will provide you with some encouragement as we each face the changes and transitions in our lives.

Change is inevitable and times of transition have a way of exposing both our vulnerabilities, and our hopes. Change could stem from the beginning of a new school year, the start of a new job, or perhaps a move. The list is endless; and while the stress is real, it is important to remember that we are not alone, and to trust in the one who is with us always.

One of the most profound transitions in the Bible is the passing of leadership from Moses to Joshua. In Joshua 1, we have the people of Israel, standing on the east bank of the Jordan, all set to enter the long-promised land. Then we read the opening passage, **“Moses my servant is dead”** (Joshua 1:2). With these words, the Lord reminds Joshua – and us – that life in a fallen world is marked by unavoidable change and seemingly overwhelming challenges. Joshua is facing a major life change – he was about to take on the leadership of the people of Israel.

Change, even when ordained by God, can be deeply unsettling. And yet it is precisely in such moments that the Lord calls on his people to remember and trust. Psalm 77:11 says, **“I will remember the deeds of the Lord”**. We are called to remember and trust today — not for the sake of nostalgia, but with a Spirit-enabled remembrance of God’s unwavering faithfulness to His people. Remembering naturally leads to trust. Three times the Lord commands Joshua, **“Be strong and courageous”** (Joshua. 1:6, 7, 9).

Courage never arises from within ourselves; it comes from the unchanging promise of God’s presence. The Lord anchors and grounds His command, with His promise: **“I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you”** (Joshua 1:5). This promise reaches its climactic fulfillment with the conception and birth of Jesus Christ— Immanuel, God with us. Then in the very last phrase of the book of Matthew 28:20, the risen Christ assures His disciples saying, **“I am with you always”**. From this we know that—not tribulation, persecution, or even death—can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

In these uncertain seasons, each one of us is called to remember God’s faithfulness; and trust in His presence. Please take a moment and pray with me: **“Lord you are so amazing; your love for us is unbounded and unchanging. Yet the world in which we live is full of turmoil and uncertainty. We look to you for steadiness; and yet when we least expect it - you call us to do something uncomfortable. Not to create fear, but to teach us to trust in you. You called your servant Moses... He argued, and then trusted. You called on Joshua, and he led your people into the Promised Land. You call on us, and we humbly ask that you help us to trust you always; and heed your call without argument. AMEN”**

God Bless,
Donald

Footnotes:

- 1) Rev. Joel E. Kim is a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow, president and assistant professor of New Testament at Westminster Seminary California in Escondido, Calif., a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church in America, and a Ph.D. candidate at Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Mich. He is featured teacher for the Ligonier teaching series “Everything in Christ” and author of “Romans: Nothing But Grace”.
- 2) Romans 8:35-39

REAL FAITH.
REAL TALK.
REAL COMMUNITY.

R.O.K.C

REALLY OUTRAGEOUS KINGDOM CREW

IS GOD
THE
REAL
DEAL?

Come hang out and
get to know God
for yourself.



2ND FRIDAY
EVERY MONTH



KICK OFF
SEPTEMBER 11



7:00 TO 9:30



AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN/
LIVING FAITH CHURCH
1220 OLD 10TH LINE ROAD

AGES
12-17

BE REAL... BE BOLD.



Update from the office....

Back to school. Back to work. Everything is gearing up for fall!

After taking a break over the summer, we are again focusing our efforts on getting a new pastor! As you are probably aware, a critical part of this process is our Pastor Fund (aka Pastor Faster Fund). We are now just over \$79,000! As soon as we hit the \$100K mark, we can start the process to hire a pastor. Our goal is to have \$125K in the fund before our new pastor starts to make sure we can pay them for several years as we grow the church and are able to pay for the pastor's stipend on our own.

As you read in Linda's article, Session has been working on our grant proposal which needed some figures and documents pulled together including a draft budget for next year and trying to project income and expenses for the next several years. My contribution was a small part but the elders and Pastor Meg have been hard at work on this for months. This has been a big job and I want to take a moment to thank Linda, Meg and the elders for their work on this.

You can help us reach this goal by marking "pastor" on your donation. You can donate by e-transfer (admin@graceorleans.ca), online or by cheque/cash. A big thank you to everyone who has generously donated!! I am excited to see what God does next!

Arlene



SEPTEMBER
2026

Kids Corner

Our joint youth group, Really Outrageous Kingdom Crew (R.O.K.C) kicks off the year on Friday Sept. 11th at 7pm. A big thank you to the Daltons for leading this. You can check out their awesome poster on page 6.

Kids Club has their kick off on September 25th with a Wacky Transformation theme. There will be an escape style game, a craft that transforms a jar into a

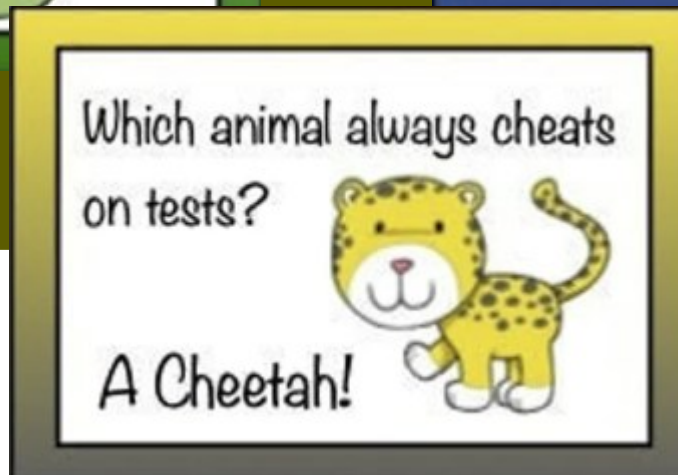
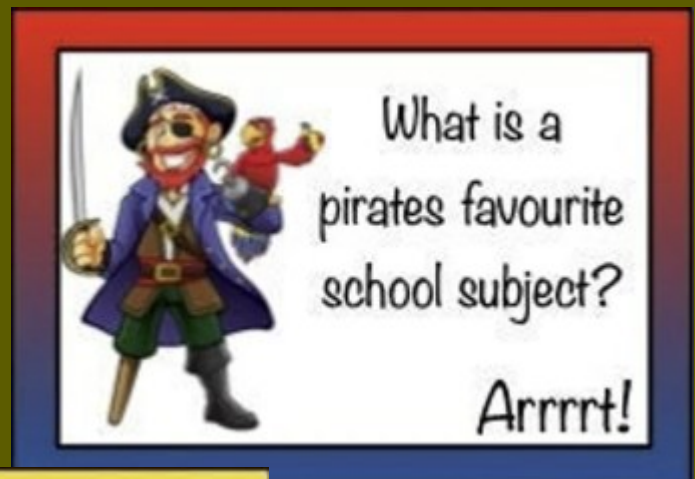
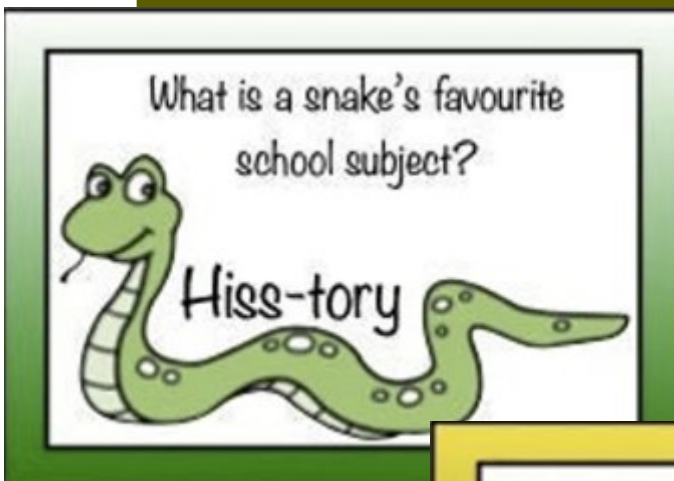
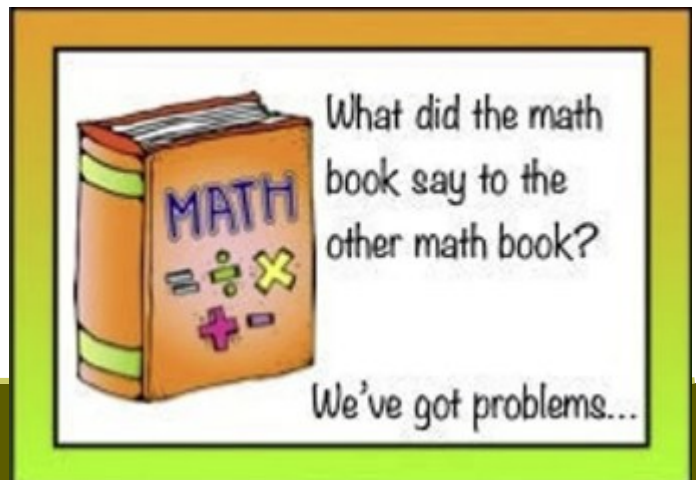
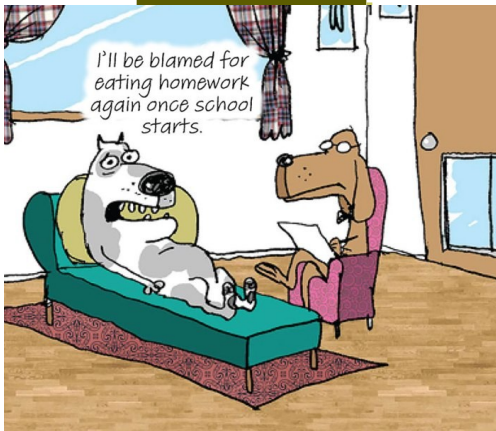
beautiful lantern, a snack that is not as it appears and a lesson about being different for God. Kids are encouraged to wear

wacky clothes and hair to celebrate the theme. Kids Club is looking for an adult volunteer to handle the greeter position: welcoming people as they arrive and checking kids in. Please speak to Anne Walker, Belinda Barnes or myself (office) if this is something you could do. Kids Club

meets on the 4th Friday of the month Sept. to Nov. and Jan. to May.

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



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.
- **Want to help with the website? Facebook?** Speak to Arlene in the office.
- **Gardener?** Our church garden near the sign will need weeding and the ornamental tree near the “steeple” needs some cleaning up.
- **New garbage shed:** As part of a new waste and recycling program we will have with the city, we are installing a new garbage shed the week of June 21st. If you want to help, speak with Alain or contact the office. (Shed has been purchased but ground preparation, platform, cement patio stones and assembly is required.)

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