GOOD GRACIOUS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION

Generous & Joyful!

"This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God."

– 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, *The Message*

It takes faith to be generous. But faith in what? In the Universe? In a form of Karma that says "what goes around comes around?" Much of the world operates on the principle of Karma. You do something bad; it comes back to bite you. You do good, and you get rewarded.

Denise says: One woman I knew lived by this inner calculator. She kept a running bar-tab of merits and demerits. If she ate a McDonalds hamburger, she knew that was trouble (Major Demerit points). So she'd balance things out by calling her mother-in-law for a chat, or baking muffins for a neighbour (Major Merit points).

Even people who follow Jesus sometimes operate by Karma principles.

The question is: what sort of God do we trust in? Whose people are we?

We are called to something more radical than Karma. More shocking. And transforming. It's called *grace*. Grace is generosity unplugged. Grace is generosity that gets into your psyche.

Grace flows out of *love*. Grace operates on the principle that *you get more than you deserve*. And you *give* more than what's reasonable.

God's Grace is what we are named for, as Grace Church. This is our DNA. Paul describes a community in relationship with the God of *Grace*: He loves people who are unlovely. He forgives those who don't deserve it. He invites people to *trust him*. This God gives until it hurts. Gives until it kills him.

This God loves with a power that splits open the tomb. Conquers death and sin. When God gave himself for us in King Jesus, something fundamental shifted in the world. Jesus shattered the law of Karma.

Now he invites us into a community of faith. Not faith in the Universe, nor in vague optimism. But faith in *God's* generosity and *God's* faithfulness. Faith in *God*, who raised Jesus from the dead.

The more we trust this God, the more generous we become. And the more generous we become, the more our faith grows. We see God magnifying our gifts, and working through what we do.

We are blessed people. Every blessed one of us. God invites us all to share in building Grace Church community and blessing neighbours. God invites us to be generous. With time. Talents. Compassion. Faith. Friendship. And Funds.

As we partner with our faithful, generous God, his Holy Spirit will do more than we ask or imagine. So let's give. Serve. Laugh. And keep our eyes peeled.

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

SESSION SNIPPETS BY LINDA CLARKE

It's November already! Next Sunday, we will be having our Remembrance service. I always find this service very poignant and beautiful as we remember with thanks those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and those that continue to serve today in our armed forces, ready to be called to wherever they are needed. Thank you to Maureen who will have the sanctuary decorated beautifully. Thanks to Fraser for playing the bagpipes and to Gabriel for sharing his talent on the trumpet. In what has become a tradition after the service, the social committee will be serving clam chowder and another soup choice.

On October 31st, the Session met with our Interim Moderators at Genesis Garden in Orleans for a day retreat. We worshipped, prayed, shared personal updates, celebrated Communion and discussed some goals and objectives for the next year. One of the goals that we identified in our grant application to PCC was a desire to grow closer to one another spiritually. We recognize that God has been at work in our midst answering prayers and we desire to seek more of God's blessing. We want to encourage each other to share burdens with one another to lighten them. Living out our faith is better done in a community rather than alone. We will be encouraging deep spiritual conversations at coffee time where it is safe to be vulnerable. We should ask for what we sense is what we need but accept the gifts that our Father gives. We invite you to use those gifts.

The Worship Committee has decided on our Advent readings for the Christmas season. Brian will be approaching 5 families to read during the lighting of the Advent wreath each Sunday. If you would like to participate in this way, please speak with Brian.

An invitation has been extended to anyone who is considering baptism or joining the church as a Communicant member. Preparation classes will be planned as we look to the spring for a possible baptism Sunday. Talk to an elder if you are considering this step of faith.

In this month of Remembrance we reflect on John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."



REMINDER!

SHOEBOXES ARE DUE BACK SUNDAY NOV. 15TH

Mission Moment *by Linda Clarke*

Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF | UNITED KINGDOM

Grace Church has been participating in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project for many years. But there is more to Samaritan's Purse than this.

History of Samaritan's Purse: "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Bob Pierce wrote these now-famous words in his Bible after visiting suffering children on the Korean island of Koje-do. This impassioned prayer is what guided him as he founded and led the ministry of Samaritan's Purse in 1970. His mission for this organization was "to meet emergency needs in crisis areas through existing evangelical mission agencies and national churches."

Mission of Samaritan's Purse: After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." The mission is to follow the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

Samaritan's Purse Canada has been doing essential relief and development work in Jesus' Name all around the world since 1973. The Emergency Disaster Relief programs provide urgently needed assistance including food, water, and temporary shelter. They meet critical needs and give people a chance to rebuild their lives here in Canada and around the world.

The eldest son of Billy and Ruth Bell Graham, Franklin Graham serves as President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Under his leadership, Samaritan's Purse has met the needs of poor, sick, and suffering people in more than 100 countries. As an evangelist for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, he has led evangelistic outreach initiatives around the world.





International Crisis Response: Samaritan's Purse is ready to respond at a moment's notice whenever and wherever disaster strikes. They specialize in meeting critical needs for victims of conflict, natural disasters, famine, and epidemics throughout the world, often working through local ministry partners to do so. They

provide emergency food, water, shelter, medical care, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. They responded to the devastating earthquakes that hit Venezuela on June 24th that killed more than 6000 people. S.P. delivered 1000's of pounds of relief materials to assist over 31,000 families. 1000's of patients were helped in the Emergency Field Hospital which was capable of treating more than 100 patients each day. Over 400 family shelter tents were set up. Two desalination systems have provided clean water. Partnering with local churches, they provided hot meals as well as training pastors and leaders in trauma recovery.

Another important response was a 767 cargo plane airlifting relief to Nepal after the deadly flooding recently.

Canadian Disaster Relief: Samaritan's Purse mobilizes specialized staff and equipment as well as hundreds of volunteers when natural disasters occur on Canadian soil. They provide emergency aid and help with cleanup in the wake of severe wildfires, floods, hurricanes, tornados, and more e.g. wildfires in B.C, flood relief in Manitoba and Ontario including Ottawa after the July 1st flooding. Apparently, 8 individuals chose to follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour in the Niagara region in response to S.P. workers sharing the Good News with victims of the flooding there this summer.

Sharing the Gospel Through Agriculture: Senegal sees a high level of people facing acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Samaritan's Purse hosted an agriculture project in a rural community. They provided seeds, tools, and training. Now, vibrant fruit trees, bean plants, and moringa plants burst from once dry ground. Chickens and ducks also wander around contentedly.

Providing Safe Water to Drink: Unsafe water is a reality faced by countless children in the developing world. Roughly 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water. For school-age children, that's an estimated 443 million school days missed. Over a million deaths annually are attributed to unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene. BioSand filters are being installed by Samaritan's Purse in many areas of the world improving the health of many children.

Medical Assistance: Samaritan's Purse responded to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo this year by sending 70 disaster assistance response team (DART) members to support the effort.

World Medical Mission: a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, places volunteer Evangelical Christian physicians, dentists, and other medical personnel in short-term service at mission hospitals and clinics around the world.

Jesus promised, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20 (NIV)

HAZELWOOD *BY DONALD CORBET (LIVING FAITH BIBLE CHURCH)*

TO ABSENT FRIENDS

On October 29, 2026, I stood before an audience of some one hundred people and offered a few words of encouragement – mostly directed at the thirty new Canadian Armed Forces recruits who were there to take the Oath, or Affirmation, of Allegiance and thereby complete their enrolment process. With my talk completed, I moved to centre stage and a young lady, the first to be enrolled, came and stood before me. With her left hand firmly clutching the family Bible, she raised her right hand and we went through the Oath of Allegiance:

"I, Victoria Heldrick, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, King Charles the Third, King of Canada, His heirs and successors according to law. So help me God."
KR&O 6.04

I then put my arm around her shoulder, turned to the crowd and announced, "Private Heldrick is my niece; I am so proud to welcome her to the Profession of Arms!" It was wonderful to share such a positive and emotional experience with her, particularly during this period of Remembrance. I will cherish that memory forever.

Not all memories are like that; some can be heart breaking – particularly when it involves the loss of a close friend or family member. In military circles, particularly during the days leading up the Remembrance Day, be it during a formal, or informal gathering, we will often raise a glass to honour "absent friends".

"Let's raise a glass to absent friends; for every road must end. You'll always be there in our hearts; our special absent friends!" Carol Ann Rattray

In downtown Ottawa, at the foot of the National War Memorial, rests the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In addition to that one individual, there are more than 27,000 Canadian Service members remain missing in action with no known grave from the First World War, the Second World War, and the Korean War. Many of them lie in mass graves in the countries where they died fighting. Others are buried and memorialized by gravestones declaring them known only to God.

When I was in Sunday School, we often sang "I'm in the Lord's Army". These days there seems to be less emphasis on the "Church Militant". Nevertheless, as followers of Christ, we serve an all-knowing, all-caring Lord; and cannot be, nor will we ever become, an unknown soldier.

Scripture tells us that the eyes of the Lord are on us at all times, and that he sees everything. We are never beyond His care; the Holy Spirit is in all places, at all times. Thus, God knows everywhere we go, everything we do, and is intimately acquainted with all our ways. Jesus, our good shepherd, knows all His sheep and loses none. Jesus promised, **"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** We can be assured that every moment of every day he is with us, and we are with him.

Rest assured that through faith in Christ we will never be an unknown soldier, and the absence of friends is only temporary. **"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that we who a still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 (NIV)**

God Bless,

Donald

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UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE

During October, we had a fun Stone Soup theme for the kids and collected over 16 bags of groceries that were delivered to the OCCRC Food Bank! The kids (both actual and inner) had a great time singing the children's song and learning about sharing with others in need while "making" stone soup. Both adults and kids alike, enjoyed collecting items from the pews and the "actors" in Kim's Stone Soup story had the room in stiches. I know my belly was sore from laughing so hard! We had a wonderful soup lunch on the 18th. So many people stayed for soup that we had to keep adding chairs! All the homemade soups and desserts were delicious.

We are also very thankful for all the people who gave towards getting a "Pastor Faster". We collected over $4,000 during Thanksgiving/Miracle Sunday weekend. To date we have collected $88,420.78 towards our goal of $125K. We are so close to hitting our $100K milestone which will signal the creation of a search committee to begin the process! You can still be a part of this exciting journey! You can give by etransfer, cheque/cash, automatically from your bank account or online with a credit card through our website at www.graceorleans.ca and mark it "Pastor Fund".

Now our attention is turning towards our Remembrance Sunday service on Nov. 8th. We have a couple of guest musicians – both a trumpet and bagpipes! Plans are already underway for advent and Christmas Eve services and our Christmas Banquet has been set for Saturday December 12th. Tickets are available after the service or through the office. (You can just send an etransfer and mark Christmas dinner tickets in the memo.)

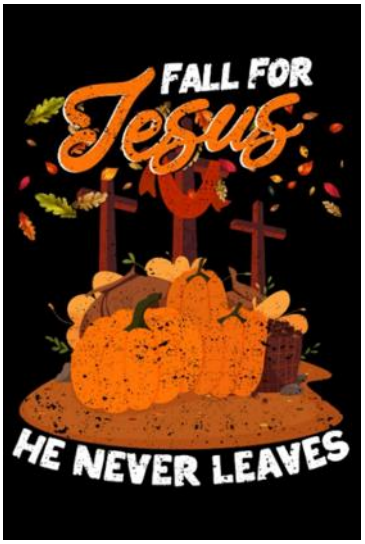
The Cairine Wilson Craft fair is coming up this month on the 14th. We are looking for any donations of handmade items like jam, pickles, baking, crafts, knitting, crochet, hand-sewn items… Our Grace family has creativity and talent and we are looking forward to seeing what you can make! Come out to the craft sale on Saturday and swing by the table in the hall on Sunday Nov. 15th as I will be selling any leftover items. See you there!

Our proposed budget for 2027 will be distributed next week in advance of our budget meeting Wed. Nov. 25th at 7pm. Come early to enjoy some homemade desserts in the narthex before we head into the sanctuary to look at what we expect for 2026 and our hopes and plans for 2027. Everyone is welcome to attend and vote on our financial plans for the new year. (Hint: You will see a new pastor's salary forecasted for Q4!) This is your chance to support Session and the Board of Managers and cast your vote for Grace ministries in 2027. (Plus snag some awesome desserts and coffee)





Kids Corner



Here's what happened at October's Kids Club!

Attendance: 10

Theme: Halloween

Bible time: 1 Samuel 16:7 "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart". The verse was explained and examples of how we can appear one way on the outside, but another way on the inside was provided. Then, a bible-themed "left-right" game was played where the children sit in a circle and pass two pumpkins around a circle but change direction each time the word "left" or "right" was said. Small prizes were given to the two winners.

Craft: Children placed soft metal tape over a foam pumpkin. After drawing a face on it, they imprinted designs on the soft tape by pressing down with a pen, then used sharpies to colour the whole pumpkin and wipe off the excess to polish it up and expose the designs.

Game: The "octopus" tag-style game was played whereby the person who is the octopus must tag others who then become "seaweed" and try to tag others as they try to cross over the line.

Snack: Hot dog "mummies". Hot dogs were wrapped in strips of dough and edible eyes were added to create the "mummy".











Upcoming Events:

Nov. 8th – Remembrance Service 10:30am

Nov. 13th – Donations due for craft fair (church open 9am to 2pm and 6:30-7pm)

Nov. 13th – Really Outrageous Kingdom Crew (R.O.K.C. Youth Group) 7pm

Nov. 14th – Cairine Wilson Craft Fair 9am to 3:30pm (Leftovers on sale Nov. 15th at Grace)

Nov. 25th – Budget Meeting 7pm (come early for coffee and desserts before the meeting)

Nov. 27th – Kids Club Christmas Party 6:30 to 8pm (Grades 1 to 6)

Nov. 28th – First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 12th – Grace Christmas Banquet (deadline to buy tickets is noon Dec. 8th)

Dec. 24th – Candlelight Carol Service Christmas Eve 7pm

Dec. 31st – Deadline for 2026 tax receiptable donations

Opportunities to Serve:

- **Kids Club** is looking for an adult volunteer to greet at the door and take attendance from 6-7pm on the 4th Friday of the month. Join a dedicated team of volunteers in a growing ministry! Speak to Leslie, Belinda, or contact the office for more info.

- **Fundraising Committee** – Do you enjoy hosting and/or party planning? Do you have great ideas? The fundraising committee is looking for a few more people to help plan, organize and put on events during the year. You can volunteer for just one event or help with planning or work on cleanup. Whatever your gifts, we can use your help! Speak to Arlene or Shirley (or contact the office)

- **Board of Managers**: The BOM is looking for someone willing to coordinate maintenance around the church and report at our monthly meetings. We are a fun and friendly group. There are volunteers willing do maintenance tasks inside and out – just need someone to take the lead. We have the following positions open:
  - Internal Maintenance Manager
  - External Maintenance Manager

- **Facebook and Website content creators** – we are looking for some people willing to create posts for our Facebook account and/or our website. Take some photos, read some pages to make sure they are up-to-date, promote events at the church. These are jobs that can be done from home whenever you have a spare moment. Arlene would appreciate the backup!