

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Session Snippets
- Mission Moment
- Read This! Book review
- Hazelwood
- Kids Corner

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Good Gracious Gracious

May 2025

The search for hope

*On that day they will say to Jerusalem,
"Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.
The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing."*

Zephaniah 3:16-17 (NIV)

This week, Brian, Linda and Shirley will participate in the last session of the Certificate for Mission-al Leadership program. The program has offered us much hope, as we've heard about other small congregations doing God's work in their communities. It has also challenged us on what it means to be a church of King Jesus and a blessing to our neighbours. God's hope and challenge are both helpful when we are discerning our future.

The Old Testament prophets often speak judgement and challenge, and they also hold out extraordinary hope.

These verses from Zephaniah are directed at the remnant of Israel. A remnant is a small, remaining group of something. God often talks to the remnant of Israel because so many fall away at various times in their history, due to sin, war, or illness. Whatever their circumstances, God wants his people to remember that He is the one who saves. God encourages us to remember that as well.

God is the one who delights in us, and rejoices with us. God doesn't want us to simply survive, but to thrive. And in that thriving, God gives us opportunities to share the source of our hope with people around us.

In a world where our news cycle is dominated by stories of conflict, division, and growing inequality, we are invited to share the Mighty God who delights in people, and rejoices with those who turn to him. This is hope for the world!

As we head into spring, with joyful celebrations of Easter fresh in our memory, let's enjoy noticing sources of hope within the church and around the neighbourhood. As you see the crocuses and daffodils start to bloom around you, and as the tulips start to come up later in the month, remember the work God was doing below the surface before those blooms appeared.

Already this spring, God has encouraged us through baptisms, new members, and stories of people's growing faith in Jesus. Let's delight in these blossoms too. Let's invite God to make us people whose hope in him spills into all of life.

Friends, God is so very good and rejoices over us in the work happening in our community!

Denise Allen-Macartney and Meg Patterson, Interim Moderators

Session Snippets – Linda Clarke

Christ is Risen – He is risen indeed! A solemn but beautiful joint service with Grace Church and Living Faith Bible Church was held on Good Friday. We were able to focus on the unimaginable sacrifice and indescribable love that Jesus has for us. On Easter Sunday we returned to hear and sing of the glorious resurrection of our Saviour and the hope that is ours for eternal life with God. Praise be to God for His gift to us!

April 6th was a celebration as well. Our co-interim moderator Denise Allen-Macartney was on hand to officiate the baptism of Jane and Kate Pilkington. Their parents Carolyn McDougall and Adam Pilkington as well as Joscelin and Krysta Simon were welcomed as Communicant members. We praise God for bringing these young families to Grace.



The final installment of the Missional Leadership online course was held on April 26th. We have been challenged to do a community outreach. Our version of this will be a community BBQ following the church service June 22nd. Please save the date. More details will be announced later but we will be providing invitations for the congregation to pass on to your neighbours, friends and family to attend the BBQ. You can begin thinking of people you could invite. Those personal connections are so important.

We are pleased to announce that government funding for a summer student has been approved for 8 weeks at 32 hours per week. Alongside the student from Living Faith, we will have leadership for VBS and some office coverage in the summer.

On April 14th, a few of us gave out food to students at Carleton U. at their Pause Table. The students are so appreciative to receive this gesture of God's love during exams. Thanks to all who joined the sandwich making party on the 13th after the worship service.

The Profile Committee reports that there were 34 surveys completed. The Committee will use the information gathered to prepare part of the church profile. That will be shared with the congregation when completed.

Spring brings renewal of God's creation, may we all experience spiritual renewal as well.

Mission Moment: by Linda Clarke



The information and photos below were taken from the Camp Cherith website.

Camp Cherith® Lanark is a co-ed, interdenominational, Christian camp located on the banks of the beautiful Clyde River. This Christ-centered camp offers a variety of outdoor skill development within the context of a community committed to the pursuit of Biblical teachings and values. The desire is for children, youth, and adults to continually experience the joy of life and the beauty of God's love. Campers have the chance during the week to learn from the Bible, and understand how it can apply to their lives, and how they can grow as Christians.

The history of the camp goes back as far as 1948 when Camp Cherith® was first held at a Brethren camp in Saint Jerome, Quebec. Laurentian Camp Cherith® was incorporated in 1976, initially as an all-girls camp. Boys started coming to camp in 1987. For about 40 years, they rented the campsite at Camp Kalalla, on Lac Notre Dame in Quebec. In 2008, they purchased their own property in the Lanark Highlands – formerly the River Farm Christian Campground – and they ran their first summer camp at the new property in 2009.

Camp Cherith's mission is to help children and youth put Christ first in every aspect of life, to nurture healthy relationships, and to develop a positive self-image.

There are traditional overnight camps for ages 8-16 for 3 different weeks in the summer. There is a weekend of family camp. There's also 2 weeks for day campers age 4-15 who don't want to stay overnight. Daily bus transportation is available from Kanata or Almonte. Every fall for youth ages 12-19, a long weekend is planned with a guest speaker and awesome worship. There's also a leadership training camp, CILT for ages 14-17 throughout the summer which prepares future leaders and camp counsellors.

Since 2017 Rev. Joey Molloy has served as Executive Ministry Director with Camp Cherith, Lanark. He also leads 'implementa' which is a ministry committed to training, equipping and encouraging youth pastors/leaders and the ministries to which they are called. Grace Church is thankful for the partnership with Joey who came to preach for us in April. There's a big expansion being planned for a modern kitchen, expanded dining hall and extra meeting spaces. Their fundraising goal is \$1,300,000 so donations are most welcome.



READ THIS!

Submitted by Al Howatson

Book: **Concise Theology**

Author: J. I. Packer

"Concise Theology", written by the author of "Knowing God", is a series of 94 short chapters, 2-4 pages each in length. They were originally written in 1993 as a series of notes for a study Bible. As Packer begins in his Preface, "This book sets out in short compass what seems to me to be the permanent essentials of Christianity, viewed as both a belief system and a way of life". As such, "Concise Theology" is an excellent supplement to The New City Catechism which we have been following at Living Faith. While the book does not following the structure of the Catechism, it nevertheless puts "meat on the bones."

Also in his Preface, Packer says "Remembering that the Lord Jesus Christ called those he wanted fed *sheep* rather than *giraffes*, I have aimed to keep things as simple as possible." But don't let this simplicity fool you!

Like the teaching of the Bible itself, simple does not mean "simplistic!" It deals with the most profound knowledge that we have. It takes an author who really knows his subject well to write simply without distorting his subject, or missing nuances. And Packer certainly knows theology.

For example, in the short piece on "Glory", he says:

"Glory in the Old Testament carries associations of weight, worth, wealth, splendor and dignity, all of which are present when God is said to reveal his glory. God was answering Moses' plea to be shown God's glory when he proclaimed to Moses his name (i.e., his nature, character and power, Exod. 33:18-34:7). With that proclamation went an awe-inspiring physical manifestation, the Shekinah, a bright shining cloud that could look like fire, white-hot (Exod. 24:17). The Shekinah was itself called the glory of God; it appeared at significant moments in the Bible story as a sign of God's active presence (Exod. 33:22; 34:5; cf. 16:7,10; 24:15-17; 40:34-35; Lev. 9:23-24; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Ezek.1:28; 8:4; 9:3; 10:4, 11:22-23; Matt. 17:5; Luke 2:9; cf. Acts 1:9; 1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 1:7). New Testament writers proclaim that the glory of God's nature, character, power and purpose is now open to view in the person and role of God's incarnate Son, Jesus Christ (John 1:14-18; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Heb. 1:1-3).

Packer has peppered each chapter with biblical texts to look up (as above),...."for it is basic to Christianity to receive biblical teaching as God's own instruction, proceeding, as Calvin put it, via human agency from God's holy mouth."

I keep my copy of "Concise Theology" for bathroom reading - one chapter per visit!

Allan Howatson

Hazelwood – “U-turns Allowed” by Donald Corbet (LFBC)

“Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.””

Acts 9: 1-6 (NIV)

I have travelled to, and driven vehicles in, many places around the world; and you would be surprised at the variances in the rules of the road – particularly when it comes to U-turns. In some places it is illegal, while in others there are places in the road system to allow the manoeuvre to be conducted safely. Then, of course there are drivers who make U-Turns regardless of the local traffic laws.

But U-turns aren’t exclusive to driving a vehicle; they can happen in a person’s life as well. Sometimes they are gradual, while at other times they can be almost instantaneous. Either way, you end up facing in a completely new direction. I speak from experience when I say that if you find yourself headed in the wrong direction, Jesus can, and will, pick you up, turn you around, and point you in the right direction.

In his book, *The Case for Christianity*, C.S. Lewis wrote: “We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. There is nothing progressive about being pig-headed and refusing to admit a mistake.... Going back is the quickest way on.”

In Acts 9:1-6, we read that Saul is headed to Damascus to continue his reign of terror against those who belong to the Way. As a Pharisee, Saul is convinced that his zealous and barbaric actions are righteous, and clearly in support of God’s Law. God is about to show him that he is on the wrong road, headed in the wrong direction and that a dramatic, and immediate, U-turn is in order. “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” Saul the Executioner, becomes Paul the Evangelist.

To become a follower of Jesus requires a person to turn away from the ways of the world and to turn towards the cross. For most, this will require a U-turn. It is a decision; the subtlety is that the decision is always in response to a call. “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is calling. Calling for you and for me”

Jesus’ call to turn around and follow him is usually a gentle, but persistent, tug at our heart-strings until we finally respond and fall into his arms. Sometimes when someone, like Saul, is too stubborn and set in their ways, Jesus will resort to more persuasive methods that demand an immediate U-turn. It doesn’t really matter how long it takes to “turn your eyes upon Jesus”, it only matters that you do so. The key is that when you walk with Jesus, you are on the right road and headed in the right direction.

We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man. There is nothing progressive about being pig-headed and refusing to admit a mistake.... Going back is the quickest way on.” C.S. Lewis

Continued on page 6

Hazelwood – continued...

Responding to the call is just the beginning. Staying on the road towards the cross can be a challenge, particularly with the siren call of the world constantly trying to seduce you back to your old and sinful ways. The good news is God will send people to walk along with you, just as he did by sending Ananias to help Saul become Paul. This is why we worship as a congregation and not on our own.

The entire book of Acts is filled with words of encouragement. It tells us that Jesus is always with us, and through the power of the Holy Spirit he continues the ministry he began more than two thousand years ago. Jesus can change people; and he can change you for the better.

Are you feeling that there something in your life that is not quite right? Are you unsure about how to deal with it? It could be that you are finally hearing Jesus' call. Believe me, he is right there with you, and will help you make that U-turn.

Just get down on your knees, pour out your troubles, ask for his help, and he will carry you through.

God Bless,

Donald

Save the date!

Grace Community Picnic

Sunday June 22nd noon to 2pm

We are inviting all our neighbours to come for a free BBQ lunch and a chance to get to know each other. More details to come.





Financial Update submitted by Arlene Lamadeleine

Here is some information about where Grace stands as of April 30th.

Income is right where we expected it to be at \$53,645.05 which is right on budget for this point in the year. A big factor in our favor is all the groups renting from us which has really helped cover some of the costs of operating our building. (15 groups!) We have just over \$20K in rental income so far which is ahead of our budgeted amount. (Total of \$46K budgeted for the year) The STEAM camp is confirmed again for this summer which will provide just under \$9K of rental income.

Expenses are just under budget (96%) at \$56,936.64 which leaves us with a small deficit of \$3,291.59. (Note: our budget calls for an expected deficit of \$18K for 2025)

As for our Grace family, we have 40 people who have given to support Grace and its ministries so far in 2025 broken down through the various methods:

Method	# people
E-Transfer	7
Auto-debit (bank account)	14
Envelope (cash or cheque)	15
Other Platforms (online)	1
Tithe.ly (credit card)	3

A new fund was created at our Congregation Budget meeting held in November, the Pastor Fund. Thanks to a surplus from 2024, just over \$11K was added to the fund at the start of this year. With a few donations made this year, the Pastor Fund now stands at \$12,362.94. As you may be aware, we are raising money to be able to hire a new pastor. If you would like to help us reach that goal, just mark your gift "Pastor Fund". We hope to raise \$50K this year and \$100K in total.

Our big building project for this year is to replace the interlock at the front of the church and repair the stairs near the hall entrance. This is our "Miracle Sunday" project for 2025. If you are able to help with this big repair, just mark "Miracle Sunday" on your donation. We will also be looking for people to help rip out the old interlock to save some money. (Date TBD)



MAY
2025

Kids Corner

Kids Club had their Birthday Party Night April 25th with lots of balloons, games and a few prizes as they celebrated everyone's birthday. A big thank you to Anne and Leslie for organizing the event and for everyone who came out to help!

Our camp registration is completely full with 30 kids registered plus another 7 families (13 kids) on a waiting list. The Step Right Up carnival themed camp will run from July 28th to August 1st 9am to 3pm. We will be looking for lots of volunteers to run this camp. The online sign up form is up. (graceorleans.ca/events) The physical sign up sheet is also

now up on the bulletin board.

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



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FAITH CUP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- ROMANS 5:2 KJV

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!

- **Children's ministry:** We need people on "stand by" Sunday mornings to take any kids out for Sunday school. There are lots of ways you can help! We also appreciate your prayers.
- **Fundraising Committee:** looking for people to help plan, setup, take down, cook, and participate! Talk to Linda, Shirley or Arlene for more info.

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