



WHAT'S GOING ON AT GRACE: OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

THANKFULNESS FOR THE GIFT OF VOLUNTEERS WHO
SHARE THEIR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE



Ministers' Message: In Gratitude for Our Gifts from God

Now that you have welcomed the Anointed One, Jesus the Lord, into your lives, continue to journey with Him and allow Him to shape your lives. Let your roots grow down deeply in Him, and let Him build you up on a firm foundation. Be strong in the faith, just as you were taught, and always spill over with thankfulness.
Colassians 2: 6-7 (*The Voice Translation*. Ecclesia Bible Society, 2012).

Dear Friends,

Blessings as fall brings shortened days, cooler nights, and different hues to the leaves. We hope the changes fall brings are accompanied by rest, reflection, connection with family and friends, with Grace, and with God.

This October we grateful for all that we have at Grace! Here are a few examples: The people who make up Grace! Grace's building with spaces for making and sharing food with our congregation and the community, Church School and Grace Kids and Youth, singing and music from the organ and our choirs, Grace's South Sudanese and Anyuak congregations, the folks who are connecting with us online from across Canada and beyond, the growing community we are a part of outside the sandstone walls in the Beltline, and gifts given in gratitude to help Grace have all this vibrancy! We are truly blessed.

We are thankful for the time and talents of the many volunteers who help Grace be a place where lives are being transformed by God's grace. The work of volunteers supports people inside and outside of Grace! This newsletter highlights the work that volunteers make happen here at Grace.

We are also incredibly grateful for financial gifts supporting the ministries at Grace. These gifts help Grace hold Cake Bake and Church School, create a safer sanctuary by installing balcony railings, share our worship services with people who are home-bound or watching us from a whole different country, and support

ministers and staff who help Grace with its many events, activities, faith-based programs, hospitality and outreach that take place each week.

Please consider sharing in what Grace is offering this month - Worship services (in-person or online), the Sabbath Rest and God's Provision Bible Study led by Rev. Jake, events such as Grace OPEN MIC Night and Trunk N Treat - where we offer hospitality, community, and belonging to one another and to our neighbours. Please consider what gifts you can share.

We are thankful for you and look forward to deepening our connection this October.

Rev. Christian and Rev. Jake (Rev. Maren McLean Persaud is on parental leave until April 2023)



Congregational Connection Story: Thankfulness for Time, Talent and Treasure *Blessed to be a Blessing*

Contributed by Cindy Stephenson, Coordinator of Volunteers

Hebrews 12-28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

"Blessed to be a blessing." It's a simple phrase but summarizes so well our sense of gratitude for the many incredible gifts from God and our response to God in that sense of gratitude. We thank God for those gifts and recognize that they are not ours to hold on to, but to be shared generously. It's not just obedience to God's call upon our lives - it's about joy and thanksgiving.

As Coordinator of Volunteers at Grace, I try to track the contributions of time and talent that the people of Grace share.

[Read More](#)

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT STORY: TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE IN GRACE'S COMMERCIAL KITCHEN

Grace Commercial Kitchen

The Past: The Gift of a Commercial Kitchen
Grace's Commercial Kitchen was remodeled in 2006 - time and talent were provided by Project Coordinators Carol Evans and Ed Demmers. Treasure included donations. One private donation was \$200,000 (A Century of Grace 1906-2005).

Why a Commercial Kitchen?

The congregation and community groups require a safe, clean and high-functioning space for many volunteers to prepare large quantities of food. Many organizations can only use commercial kitchens.



The Commercial Kitchen Today

The Present: The Commercial Kitchen Today
Financial donations large and small help upkeep the kitchen, provide cleaning and facilities staff to support those using the kitchen, and support costs of gas and electricity that power the kitchen.

Groups that use the Commercial Kitchen:

- Cake Bake
- Grace Bethany
- Grace Kids and Grace Youth
- Grace congregation meals - Connection Lunch, Stampede Breakfast, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Parties
- Connaught School
- Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids
- Wedding, funeral and baptism ceremonies
- Rental groups...and more...

The Future:
What does stewardship
of the kitchen look like
in the future?

September 2022: Cookies for Connaught

Grace volunteers baked 896 cookies for Connaught School - our Beltline neighbour - for a back to school celebration.

Did you know? Students at Connaught speak 45+ first languages!

Stewardship in Action:

- **Talent:** Relationships and project management: Identification of Beltline area needs through relationship with Connaught School, organize the space and volunteers. Operations staff ordered the supplies, helped set up, and cleaned the kitchen.
- **Time:** 8 volunteers and Rev. Jake gave 24 hours to bake 896 cookies
- **Treasure:** Donations powered the development of the commercial kitchen. Donations large and small pay for electricity, gas, operations staff to open the building and clean the kitchen and support volunteers with materials.



Connaught Elementary School

Thank you to all for your gifts of time,
treasure and talent. Find more stories and
opportunities to share gifts at
www.GraceChurchCalgary.com



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace

Stewardship Moment

Rectangular Strip

**When you invest your time, talent
and treasure
in the eternal,
your investments
have a divine return.**



Tony Evans

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

**ENGLISH
CLASSES
2022**



Community Connection: English Language Learners Reboots English Classes this October

English classes at Grace start this October! There are 5 Sessions over the year, that run on Mondays, between October and June from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you know anyone in need, please click Read More and share the link...

**Read
More**



**Thank you for all you are doing
to reconnect this fall!**

Thank you for all you have done to help reconnect with one another - and with the community. Here are just some of the things you have done this fall: The Congregational Connection Lunch, 60th Cake Bake, English Language Learners, Food Bank, Cookies for Connaught, Baptism of Asha Persaud, Blessing of the Backpacks, Choir Music Lessons, Orange Shirt Day, Grace Quilters quilt gift to Chief Leonard at the Listening Circle on Repatriating the Sacred Stone...and more...

Joan from the Grace Choir
www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/connect/music/



CHURCH BUSINESS: MAJOR MONTHLY CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECISIONS AND UPDATES



Monthly Fall Financial Update

Please find the [monthly financial update for August](#)
*Find full financials on the [Giving and Financials website page \(find monthly, periodic, and annual financial reports, as well as Report to Congregation and Community with 2021 financial snapshot\).](#)

Session Highlights: September 12 (Session meetings take place monthly. The October meeting is on Monday, October 3.)

- Opened with prayer and reflected upon Psalm 94
- Expressed thanks for the leadership of Kate Van Pernis as Coordinator of Children & Youth and the increased use of the church building, including revenue generating rentals
- Noted the need for nursery volunteers
- Agreed to receive new members during the October 9 worship service
- Established a team of elders to work with a prospective candidate in the discernment of becoming a candidate as a Minister of Word and Sacrament within The Presbyterian Church in Canada

- Received a very informative report on the Communications results and plans, including a calendar for the next year
- Agreed to continue including a Land Acknowledgement in the bulletin, to be read at the beginning of weekly worship
- Approved updates to the Congregational Roll
- Supported the creation of two new Deacon roles to build upon our pastoral care resources: a Deacon for Mental Health Care and a Deacon for Family Care
- Received updates on the programs that are overseen by the Engagement & Service Committee now underway (Food Bank, Connaught School, Cake Bake, Earth Care) and planned (English Language Learner classes, Community Hospitality Booth)
- Supported the integration of the continuing work of Truth, Healing and Reconciliation into the workplan of the Engagement & Service Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee was dismissed with thanks.
- Approved Freda Pascoe joining the Human Resources Committee
- Agreed with the use of the Sanctuary for a thanksgiving service by the congregation of Our Saviour Anglican Church, as well as another gathering for KAIROS
- Received reports for information from Minister Resource, (which included highlights of the work of the Rev. Jake Van Pernis and the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris over the summer) and the Spiritual Growth Committee (which identified many faith formation programs and events underway through the fall for adults and children)
- Closed with prayer and a benediction.

*Session Highlights are shared in the bulletin and posted on Grace's website following Session meetings.

Red Paint and Truth, Healing and Reconciliation

October Update

Grace remains committed to the work of Truth, Healing and Reconciliation. The Beltline Community and media have been highly engaged with Grace in this work. Events have drawn many of our diverse Beltline neighbours, and media coverage of Grace from September 25 to September 30 included event collaborator newsletters, a Beltline neighbourhood newsletter, and local, regional and national news. Social media participation has included Grace congregation members, other churches and ministers, Indigenous organizations and members, Beltline businesses, organizations and residents, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, non-profits, and more. This greatly extends Grace's audience and profile and we are extremely grateful.

- This work now takes place under the Engagement and Service Committee.
- Sunday, September 25 Ceremony and Prayer called Red Paint Painted Over took place to address the red paint, the tan paint, and to move into Grace having the doors repainted to their original colour. The media have been very interested in red paint updates. Coverage included [CTV Calgary and Vancouver](#), CBC, the [Calgary Herald \(this story went national and appeared in the National Post\)](#). CTV and Global TV, in a story on Stardale Women's Group, also mentioned the October 30 Orange Shirt Day event at Grace, helping to promote the event.
- Work with an Indigenous artist is being done around creating a permanent marker- further information to come
- Grace co-hosted a Friday, September 30 event with Stardale Women's Group called *Reconnection, Reconciliation and Resilience – an event for hope and a better future in honour of Orange Shirt Day*. The event expanded to become a Beltline community event with participation from Stardale, Grace, Urban Fair, the Beltline Neighbourhood Association, and the Canadian Race Relations

Foundation to help share the lived experience of Indigenous girls and women and issues they face in Calgary. Approximately 150 people attended, and social media and traditional media coverage amplified the event. This included an article in the Beltline Neighborhood newsletter The Beltline Brief, a [Calgary Herald article on what to do in Calgary for Orange Shirt Day](#), a [Calgary Herald article on what happened in Calgary on Orange Shirt Day](#), and Global TV. Stories included interviews with Stardale drummers, young Indigenous women who are working to share their stories and experiences of life in Calgary.

Last Month's Update: Tuesday, August 30 Update (following Monday, August 29 Session Meeting)

For context, the Session decision on the red paint is repeated this month.

At approximately 2:00 a.m. on the morning of Monday August 29, the red paint on the two sets of front doors of Grace were painted over with tan paint by unknown people (the sandstone and stained-glass windows were not impacted). Grace is working with the Calgary Police Service to investigate.

Grace's Session met on Monday, August 29 and made the decision that the east doors of Grace's building will be repainted, to the cream colour they have been, following a Sunday, September 25 gathering of prayer and ceremony that the congregation and community are invited to marking this new step on Grace's journey of Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation.

Grace's Session has also made the decision that a commemorative marker be made that reminds both Grace and the community of the story of the red paint on Grace's doors and the ongoing commitment to the work of truth, healing, and reconciliation. The congregation will be invited to share input about possible options for a commemorative marker. Announcements about how input on possible options for a commemorative marker will be announced in the bulletin, on Grace's website, and in worship.

Lead Minister Search Committee Fall Update

The Lead Minister Search Committee has received national and international applications and is confident God will bring us the candidate God has identified for Grace. We had hoped there would be a preach for the call this fall but that remains in God's hands. We continue to receive applications and interview candidates and will keep the congregation informed. Please continue to hold the committee and the candidates in your prayers.

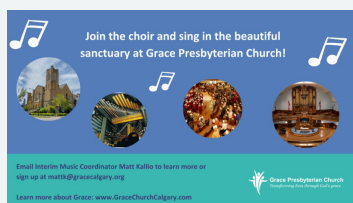
Janet Hyde (Co-convener), Clark Hanna (Co-convener), Elizabeth Cressman, Jan Dewar, Flora Stephenson, Jennifer Lee, Greg Retzer



Music Notes

Join the Choir!

The choir is up and singing! Practices run on Thursdays, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Would you like to join? Email the Interim Music Coordinator, Matt Kallio, at Mattk@gracecalgary.org.



Singing Lessons taught by the choir

Have you ever wanted to learn how to improve your singing skills? The choir has filmed a series of videos to help with sound, breath and more. Thank you Joan and Taylor for sharing your gifts of talent and time in music and teaching. Lessons are on the Music Ministry website page and [YouTube](#) (see the sneak peek of 2 lessons

here) www.gracechurchcalgary.com/connect/music/



October and Fall Calendar: Activities, Events & Opportunities

Month of October:

- Sunday, October 2: Worldwide Holy Communion (All Ages Worship); First Grace Youth Lunch
- Tuesday, October 4: National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Monday, October 10: Thanksgiving Day
- Wednesday, October 12: *Learn more and register here:* [Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision](#)
- Friday, October 14: Open Mic at Grace - Do you have a hidden talent to share?

We need your act - even if you're shy! (Stand-up, music, monologue - and more!) [Click to learn more and submit your act by October 5](#)

- Sunday, October 16: Gratitude at Grace: Congregational Lunch to thank Volunteers [Click to learn more and register - please support organizers by signing up by Wednesday, October 12](#)
- Wednesday October 19: Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision
- Wednesday October 26: Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision
- Sunday, October 30: Reformation Sunday
- Monday, October 31: Trunk N Treat - Grace needs vehicles, candy or candy-funding donations, and folks to hand out candy to excited trick or treaters! [Click to learn more and register](#)
- Earth Care Program: The Engagement and Service Committee is starting an Earth Care program. [Please find the Leave the Leaves message!](#)

Fall and Winter Forecast Calendar

Committee planning is underway for the fall and winter. Below please find activities with tentative dates, times and topics. Further details and additional activities will be added in monthly newsletters, on the website and in the bulletin as they are approved by Session and submitted by committees and project leads.

November:

- Wednesday, November 2: Bible Study: Sabbath Rest and God's Provision
- Sunday, November 6: Remembrance Sunday and Daylight Savings
- Friday, November 11: Remembrance Day
- Saturday, November 19 and Sunday, November 20: 60th Anniversary of the Chapel Celebration (*Details to come*)
- Sunday, November 27: Hope, the First Sunday of Advent
- Sunday, November 27: Congregational Meeting, 7:00 p.m. [Click to learn more and register](#)
- Wednesday, November, 30: Advent Study

December:

- Sunday, December 4: Peace, the Second Sunday in Advent, Holy Communion
- Wednesday, December 7: Advent Study
- Saturday, December 10: Advent into Christmas Concert
- Sunday, December 11: Joy, the Third Sunday in Advent
- Wednesday, December 14: Advent Study
- Sunday, December 18: Love, the Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services: Details to come
- Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day
- Monday, December 26: Boxing Day

January:

- Sunday, January 1: New Year Day
- Friday, January 6: Epiphany
- Sunday, January 8: Baptism of Jesus
- January 18-25: Prayer for Christian Unity

Worship: In-Person and Online

Donate Online

Visit our



Feedback

Our goal is to create value with this newsletter, so it's helpful to know what you think. Send your feedback to communications@gracecalgary.org. We may not always be able to incorporate suggestions, but we'll do what we can to respond to interest and need.

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