

Jubilation!



Jubilation! is the newsletter of Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive * 416-447-6846 * www.jubileeunited.ca

Norm's Notes

Philately or Not Philately, that is the question.

I once heard "if Atheism is a religion, then not collecting stamps is a hobby". It made me smile. It did bother a couple of my non-theist friends... and they immediately set me straight about wanting to be freed from the tyranny of Christendom, ignorance, fear and intolerance. They went on to describe to me my foolish faith and parochial practices. (And yes, they did use alliteration!.)

As a note to my Atheist friends who read this Newsletter (and surely they are legion):

I do not believe in God because I want to go to heaven.

I do not believe that there is no good without believing in God.

And I'm not afraid of what God will do to me, if I don't believe in God.

Honestly. Truly. Verily, even.

Perhaps as a result of my engagement with the Free Thought Association in the past couple of years (remember the Bus Ads?) or it might be thanks to Face Book or even my weight loss that I am suddenly conversing with atheist or non-theist friends on matters Spiritual, Deistic and Theistic (and not just when I make the mistake of sharing bad jokes). For their benefit and because this is a special Easter Newsletter, and is therefore deserving of *gravitas*, allow me to share four of the reasons that I believe in God (there are others beyond wanting my pension, I assure you).

1. I have seen individuals touched by something beyond my comprehension; something that has inspired them to such

power and extreme love that I have felt a sense of the "Holy" about them. This intuition and experience points me to something more than my usual experience.... I want more of that... and I believe that intuition and experience points to God.

2. I see in Jesus Christ, a life so full of meaning that I believe it informs me about the nature of God.... The story makes sense in the light of God, but without God I simply cannot fathom the how and why of Jesus' life.

3. My experience is that there is rarely a simple choice between Right and Wrong. It is often a choice between good, pretty good, better, not so good and not good at all. My engaging in prayer, community and scripture, always challenges me to re-examine my actions and attitudes, trying for good, better... or a new "good". My faith is self examining and self critical, so I often change my mind. Without God, I might be tempted to stop changing... become static and set in my opinions and ways.

4. I believe that most people want to do the right thing; they want to do "good". God helps me to find new ways of doing "good"... but more than that, God encourages me to do "good" even when my rational mind tells me that there's no point. In the face of great poverty, why would I give a couple of bucks to a homeless man? In the face of rampant racism, why would I bother to treat others with respect? Why bother with a simple act of kindness when I'm never going to turn the tide of inhumanity? Because I know that all of these things matter to God... I believe that beyond my power and my ability these things will get better because they are part of God's agenda. Even if I will never see an end to racism, poverty and cruelty, I will still fight against them, because God gives me hope beyond my power and beyond my life. I like being on God's side, not because it means I'm right, but because it gives my struggle

meaning, beyond victory in my time. For me, believing in God assures me that right will prevail; kindness will out.

I'm not suggesting that you have to believe in God to be interested in doing the right thing; to be motivated to improve the world or to be challenged... all I'm saying is that believing in God helps me with all of those things and the more that I get involved in these same pursuits, the more my intuition and experience points to something (someone) beyond my experience... a something (someone) that I experience in love... a someone (something) that I call God. The same someone (something) that Abraham called God; the same someone (something) that Jesus called "Abba".

Now, as long as I'm waxing theologically, allow me to share with you why I believe in the resurrection... I'm on a roll; it's Easter... let's go for broke!

I believe because Peter believed.

I believe because Mary believed.

I believe because it would have been easier for both Peter and Mary to NOT believe, unless it was true.

I believe because so many people experienced the resurrected Jesus that they changed their lives forever without material profit or gain.

I believe because so many people experienced the resurrected Jesus that they spent the rest of their lives sharing their experience with others; inviting them into their own experience of Jesus and God.

I believe because so many people experienced the resurrected Jesus that they changed not only their lives, but the world.

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EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 17	10:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday, April 21	6:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 22	10:30 a.m.	Good Friday Service
	All Day	Open Labyrinth Walk
Sunday, April 24	8:00 a.m.	'Son'rise Service
	10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Service

Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive
(Lawrence and DVP)

What's the Big Deal with the Resurrection?

Holy Week – Reflection and
Bible Study

**Monday – Friday, April 18-22,
8 – 8:50 am**

Join us as we look at the stories
and thoughts around Jesus'
resurrection. What did it mean
then? What could it mean now?

Do you have to believe in a
physical resurrection to be
Christian? Take a little time and
reflect on scripture – no tests, no
right or wrong... just a little time
to let the stories sink in and for
the Spirit to speak to you.

Bright and Early

In the Heritage Room – the
Coffee will be hot and the
welcome, warm.

Norms Notes... continued from page 1

I believe because the resurrection reveals a love that cannot be destroyed by the worst that the world can do... humiliation, injustice, ignorance and death don't win when I recognize the resurrected Jesus.

I believe because the resurrection of Jesus reveals for me, my ultimate fate: Eternal life. Jesus does not remain dead because we do not remain dead; we live on in the presence of God, even as Jesus indicates God living on in the presence of humanity.

But that's just me... (and Paul, Ignatius, Clement, Polycarp, Marcion, Tertullian, Melito, Origen, Augustine, Aquinas, Eckhart, Teresa of Avila, Julian of Norwich, Luther, Menno Simons, Wesley, Rauschenbusch, von Balthasar, Bonhoeffer, Bultmann, Cobb, Gutierrez, Niebuhr, Tillich, Moltmann, Wright, Willimon... alright, now I'm just name dropping).

I am also very happy to speak of the community that in memory, action and love could not let Jesus remain dead, but brought him back to life in it's life... revealing, too, the presence of God that cannot be stopped by injustice or death.

Ultimately, to my friends Theist and Non-Theist, I say without reservation: Christ is Risen... Christ is Risen, Indeed!
(Make of that what you will.)

Happy Easter

Norm



A Woman's Retreat Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14, 2011

"True Colours"

Friday Evening Wine & Cheese
7 – 10p.m.
Entertainment by *Poor Tom*

Saturday Workshops:

 *True Colours Self Discovery
Workshop*
with Katherine McLeod

 *Journey Through The Chakras*
with Cathy Mines

 *Playing with the Colour Wheel*
with Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

 *Musical Leadership for
the day*
by Alcina Chiu



A Message from the Pastoral Care Committee

Pastoral care is everyone's responsibility. The Pastoral Care Committee appreciates hearing from members of any concerns they have, any illnesses, accidents, deaths or events that they feel a contact from us would be helpful. We especially like to know of people who are alone and cut off from every day events. We appreciate hearing about extraordinary good news events that everyone can celebrate as well.

We contact members throughout the year on a regular basis. We try to make sure they know someone cares and is available to help if needed. Telephone calls take place monthly with visits occurring occasionally as well. Cards are frequently sent to keep in touch.

Please let us know about anyone with whom we should be in contact. Thank you.

Ruth Nicholls at 416-445-2642.

PAY IT FORWARD
THE ALISTAIR HOY MEMORIAL BLOOD DONOR CLINIC
FRIDAY APRIL 29
AT
JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH
3 PM TO 8 PM
Enjoy BBQ, Raffle and Car Wash

*Please call 1-888-2-DONATE (1-888-236-6283) today
to book your appointment.*

In January of this year our community lost 14 year old Alistair Hoy due to complications of Leukemia. During his seventeen days in hospital, Alistair was given 162 units of blood. Given that we only have 5-6 Litres in our body, and each donation unit is 450ml that is a tremendous amount.

On Friday, April 29 Gary, Cynthia and Spencer Hoy along with Canadian Blood Services are holding a blood donor clinic appropriately named "PAY IT FORWARD" The Alistair Hoy Memorial Blood Donor Clinic. Our goal for the day is 162 units with each donation being 1 unit.

Friends, family and neighbours are asking everyone to come out to donate blood and enjoy a BBQ, raffle and car wash at Jubilee United Church on Friday, April 29.



facebook Search Project 162 Pay it Forward on Facebook

Life Events

Sympathy:

Art Tinker, Nov 12, 2010
Mabel Dolly Smith, Dec 28, 2010
Alistair Hoy, January 6, 2011
Robert Kennedy, January 7, 2011
Donalda Donni McLean, March 7, 2011
Vivien Wolff, March 7, 2011
Irene Secord, March 25, 2011



Vacation Bible School

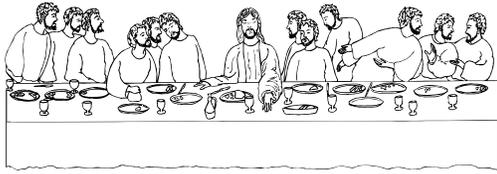
July 4 – 8, 2011

**Youth and Adult Volunteers Needed
Come and join the summer fun!!**

Contact Lee-Ann for more
information: leeann.ac@jubileeunited.ca
416-447-6846 ext. 104

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday, also called Holy Thursday, is the Thursday before Easter. Christians remember it as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist or Communion.



Just so you know,
The word "maundy" likely comes from the mangling of the latin
"Mandatum novum do vobis" ("a new commandment I give to you")
Now that you know everything,
perhaps you would like join us at Jubilee for a

Maundy Thursday Service to be held on Thursday, April 21 at 6:00pm.

It will be an intimate service of worship around the table sharing food.
In the sharing of a simple meal we will search for meaning in the symbols and memories that are always with us.
We will have foot and/or hand washing; we will share food, laughter, companionship and we will complete the evening with candles and a shared reading of The Last Supper, the Betrayal, the Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus.
(much like a Tenebrae service).
The service will be casual and intimate and you are invited.
All that we ask is that you sign up so that we can prepare the appropriate amount of food for all. The sign up sheet should be easy to find in the front foyer... or you can phone the church office, or even email nseli@jubileeunited.ca

Just to keep you up to date for Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY

Words and Music celebrating the beginning of Holy Week, an intergenerational Service with Communion April 17th, 10:30 am

MAUNDY THURSDAY

An informal celebration of the Last Supper. Story telling and personal reflection around a meal of Beef Stew and Bread. Thursday, April 21st, 6:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

The story of the Passion. A time for personal reflection and perhaps a new progressive way to see the cross and understand the story of Jesus' crucifixion. Friday, April 22nd, 10:30 am

EASTER "SON"RISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 24th
Out on the Labyrinth at 8:00 am. –
Inside/Outside (depending on the weather)
– guitar and voice provide an informal celebration of Jesus' resurrection and the joy of new life!
Afterwards, stay for breakfast!

EASTER SUNDAY

April 24th, 10:30 am
The Big One!! Words and Music; Celebration for the Whole Family.
Even if you've never been to church before, there is something here for you!
(Come early and join us for breakfast at 9)



Saturday June 18th

Jubilee is helping to build a home with

Habitat for Humanity.

Anyone 16 or older is welcome to join us and you don't have to be able to swing a hammer.... You can help with food, cleaning, assisting, carrying... there is good, important work for all physical abilities... so put the date on your calendar and await further news!!



*You're Invited
to a Social Afternoon*

On Wed. May 11th
at 1:30p.m.

Please join us for singing,
a communion service,
refreshments and a pleasant
gathering time to
share with others.

*If you need a ride let the church
office know and we will arrange
to have you picked up.*

JUBILEE CARD PARTY

Tuesday April 12, 2011

Bring your own cards

Prizes

Refreshments at 7 pm

Tickets \$12.50 – Available through the UCW or Church Office

Everyone Welcome

From the Outreach Network

We aim to highlight the many important social justice groups and community agencies in which the Jubilee family is interested.

Today we present Judy Wells, whom you see making music with the Jubilants, and who actively participates in the Brookbanks Grannies and Friends group, which is part of the Stephen Lewis Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign. The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) supports community-based organizations that are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. We support women who are ill and struggling to survive; assist orphans and other AIDS-affected children; reach heroic grandmothers caring for their orphan grandchildren;(Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign) and sustain associations of people living with HIV and AIDS. Since 2003, SLF have funded over 300 projects in 15 countries.

Judy Wells initially was attracted to Jubilee because of Definitely Not Church , and now attends Ulterior Worship. She was introduced to the Brookbanks Grannies group by Mary Anna Higgins. She was looking for new ways to “re-invent my life” after her husband, Bill Wells, a United Church minister, died. She loves to help people and this group appealed to her. “ I think Stephen Lewis is wonderful and I have admired him for years. I think that HIV Aids is a world issue.”

Judy has lots of ideas, and she has the ability to organize. When she was in Florida she saw some hand made bracelets, and immediately thought “I can do that”, so she bought the materials and made a lot of bracelets which she sold to benefit the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign. Another project was to take orders for quiches which resulted in close to 80 pies being made and sold by a small group of grannies , with profits going to the Grandmothers campaign.

Judy has participated in spreading the word about the Brookbanks Grannies and is now on their planning committee for a splendid community Afternoon Tea, (proceeds to benefit you know what), which will take place at Donway Covenant church in early June. She hopes to see you all there, and more information will follow.

Judy is very interested in the environment and was on a Toronto Conference committee on the environment. This committee is responsible for prodding General Council to add to the United Church Creed the following words: To live with respect in creation”. At present she is busy trying to stop any use of Styrofoam cup use at Jubilee.

Judy is an inspiration to us all, of how one person can make a difference. We are lucky to have Judy in our midst. We hope you will speak to Judy about her interests, and perhaps join in some of her work. 



The Pastoral Care Committee would like to have a list of people willing to give rides to people who do not drive and are unable to attend church. We would like to have enough people on the list so that you would only be asked occasionally -- maybe once a month for example.

Please consider putting your name on the list and helping out. We would pair you close to home, not expect you to drive a long distance.

If you can help, please let Ruth Nicholls know at nichollsr@hotmail.com or by calling the church office at 416-447-6846.





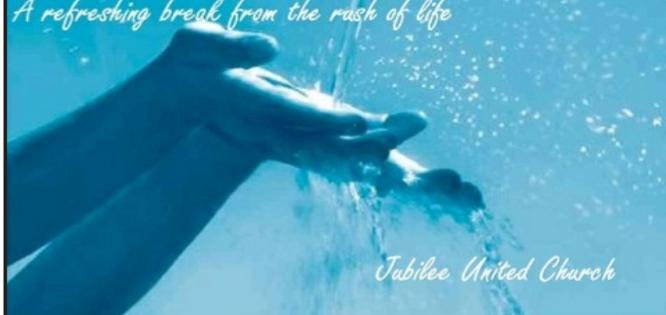
Something Very Special
Something a Little Different

Something to Sing
Something to Engage

Something for You
Something LIKE CHURCH

Sunday, May 1st @ 12 Noon!
 Sunday, June 5th @ 7pm
 (with BBQ at 6pm)

Uterior Worship
A refreshing break from the rush of life



Jubilee United Church

Monday nights at 8:35pm
 With music by
 MaryAnna Higgins,
 thoughts, prayers and ideas by
 Rev. Norm Seli..
 A quiet safe place to re-charge and
 engage the Divine.

April 4, 18;
May 2, 16;
June 6, 20

Jubilee Artcraft

Friday Nov. 4th 2 – 9 pm
with special Wine Reception 7-9pm!
 Saturday Nov. 5th 10 am – 4 pm

**An Annual Sensation,
 Celebration and Sale**

*featuring unique hand crafted treasures,
 including clothing, jewelry, pottery, art,
 photography, baked goods
 and other delights!*

Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Dr.
www.jubileeunited.ca



Jubilee United Church
 and the Howling Heretics
 invite you to
 Definitely NOT Church
**Lives of
 the Saints!**

Sunday, May 15
@ 7:30pm

This is no Roger Moore Festival!.
 The Howling Heretics use the
 music of the past 6 decades to
 share with you the heart warming
 stories of torture, martyrdom
 and talking animals!
www.jubileeunited.ca





HONOURING GOD'S EARTH



On Saturday, March 26th we gathered to honor the earth for the annual International Earth Hour. Adults, youth and children played imaginative games, created artistic renderings of a New Earth through clay, collage and poetry. While powered out, we shared stories, sang together, gave thanks and offered prayers for the earth. Sue Hawton fed us, Deb Johnston brought the clay, Jo Dullard and Donna Rutz brought the candles, Lee-Ann set up the collage center with Lauren Good's able assistance, Roslyn Rus was our guest to lead us through the creative New Earth activity and Judy Wells taught us a wonderful chant. Many helped with the clean up and all of us together created some very special memories.

DISCOVERY ZONES



Recap

March DZ leadership was provided by Lori Mater, Caeleigh Wannamaker and Iona Williams. The theme, Our Hands are God's Hands, invited the children to think about the many things they do with their hands and how their hands can be the presence of God in the world.

Coming in April ... New Life & Transformation

Barb O'Brien and David Que will explore the theme of Easter by focusing on many ways God's power of transformation is revealed in nature and in our lives.

Coming in May ... Song of Faith led by Daniel Gaito

this earth hour

We walk a mountain path
climbing up from the forest
and the gnats and nettles
of our human history

to find the open summit of Now
and see laid bare before us
the endless vista of
the future

Here between Earth and Sky
the air is clear at last
and the fresh wind blows in
a new way.

And as we walk
and seek a pathway forward
one question alone guides our
steps
what kind of world
do we want to live in
together?

- David Westbrook



**Does Membership
really have its Privileges?
Join us and find out!**

Sunday, June 12th is Pentecost Sunday and we will be receiving New Members at Jubilee United Church. We will be glad to receive members by Transfer or Profession of Faith.

In May we will have a couple of information evenings, so that you can learn more about the United Church, Jubilee United Church and how you might wish to be further involved in the life of the community. We really do want to include your gifts, interests and passions within our community. The dates will be set soon and published in the Sunday bulletin and on the web-site... **Attendance is not mandatory for joining the Church and the gatherings are open to any and all who wish to attend!** To transfer your membership, please contact the church office; to join by Profession of Faith, be in touch with Rev. Seli. *If you don't know the difference (you're not alone), contact Rev. Seli.*

JUBILEE GARAGE SALE 2011

Start your spring cleaning and save it for Jubilee's Annual Garage Sale! We will be selling all the goods we collect on **Saturday, May 7th, from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm.** We are happy to receive donations of furniture, jewellery, books (not text books or magazines!), gently used clothing, sporting goods, toys, framed pictures, kitchen aids, and any treasures you can part with! This will be our third year selling plants. It has been a very active part of the sale, and we hope it continues to grow! We also have a bake sale. We really appreciate any baked goods, jams and treats our congregation donate. There will also be a barbeque, so come and have lunch with us!

We will be accepting donations in the auditorium on Thursday, May 5th and Friday, May 6th from 9:30 am – 8:00 pm. All the money raised goes to the church so we try to get the best price possible from your donations!

If you are interested in volunteering for the sale, we will have a sign up board at the back of the church in the next few weeks. In the past we have been so happy with the number of volunteers. It is a fun way to meet new people in the congregation and a great way to contribute to the success of the day!

Thank you in advance for donations and help!

Your Garage Sale Team,
Beth Frise, Mary Kutarna, Lori Mater and Andrea Mozas

Questions? Contact: Andrea Mozas at 416-483-8575 or andreamozas@gmail.com

The Jubilee Order of Good Cheer



presents



**"ONE HUNDRED
CHORISTERS"**

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

For the fifth consecutive year, we welcome the "Toronto Choristers". This talented group of singers and musicians will be presenting an entirely new program of songs from many different musical genres, and as always, this will be a great way to conclude the Jubilee Order of Good Cheer 2010-2011 concert series.

**Admission at the door: Adults: \$10.00
Youth: \$5.00**

EASTER EGG HUNT

Join us for an
Easter Egg Hunt
following
Easter Sunday
(Apr 24)
10:30am service.
Weather permitting
there will be Easter
eggs to be found out
of doors at Jubilee.
All are welcome to
join in the hunt for
Easter Eggs!



Editor: Deborah Johnston