

Jubilation Winter 2009

WINTER 2009



15 Jubilee Celebrating and Active
 2000-2010 United Church In Community

Christmas Notes from Norm

As I write this, I am at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. First Day. Opening Day. The day that Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall graced the Royal Winter Fair with their presence. AND I was invited to meet the Royal couple this very morning – as a reward for some the work that I do for the Royal (Fair not couple), I suppose. I imagine that it would have been rather formal (not an occasion for running shoes or untucked shirts). I imagine that it would have been rather brief, something of a receiving line (2 second with the Prince, and on your bike!). It might have been rather grand and kind of neat, I imagine. I imagine, because I was not able to attend. I had work to do, something at the Royal (again, Fair not couple) for which I was responsible required immediate attention. I will confess that I might have tried harder to make the reception, but I am also not entirely sure how I feel about the Monarchy. I mean, I am glad that HRH Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of Canada, but I’ve never really thought about it, just accepted it as the norm. I’m not clear on how I feel about elevating an individual above the general populace, Divine Right of Kings, Noblesse Oblige and frankly, I’m finding the third season of the Tudors a little slow. I also wasn’t sure about what I was to say, how I would address the Prince. Your Highness? Chuck? I hate it when I don’t know what to say or when I risk looking foolish.



And further... although I could have tucked my shirt in, I was wearing running shoes. So, I didn’t go. Right now, I kind of wish that I had. Allow me to help you to learn from my mistake. In a few weeks (actually, any time now) you will have the opportunity to meet a Prince. Some call him the Prince of Peace; the Prince of Promise... others call him Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, Saviour, Lord and Baby Jesus. We will celebrate his coming into the world on Christmas. But let’s be realistic: Christmas is a crazy time of year and you will have lots of reasons to not take the time and meet the Prince. Like me, you will probably find that:

1. Work gets in the way. You have responsibilities, places to go, people to see, always extra work at the office before a holiday, years end, retail fever – presents to buy, gifts to wrap, parties to organize or attend, schedules to manage, and food to prepare (don’t forget that Martha is lactose intolerant, Uncle Doug pales at the sight of cranberry, and adorable Sarah Jane won’t eat anything yellow). With so many things to do, it will be easy, even noble, for you to miss out on meeting the Prince.

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Thanks to those who helped make this Newsletter possible. Special thanks to my proofreader, Yvonne Kerr. Linda McNaughton, editor

LIFE EVENTS: Deaths: Muriel Hay, October 14th, 2009

Mariages: Joanne Van Veen and William Rishworth, October 24th, 2009

New Members: November 1st, 2009, by profession of faith:
 Kim David, Kelly Higgins, Resi Poppe, David Westbrook, Jan Westbrook, Adam Westbrook, Claire Westbrook





THE BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund is modest and discreet fund that I use to help folks in greatest need. There are no reports made or records kept; it is entirely at my discretion. Every year in December, I invite you to contribute to this fund as you see fit. Money can be given to me directly, through the office or on the Collection Plate in an envelope marked "Benevolent Fund". Although we consider this to be an "extra", if it arrives on the plate or through the office it can be added to your donations to Jubilee and be included on your tax receipt.

In the past year I have been able to help individuals and families in crisis with groceries, utilities, rent and medical expenses. 2009 was a particularly hard year for many of our neighbours as jobs and income were "downsized". The Benevolent Fund is a modest fund, so I work with people inviting them to help themselves rather than relying on us for support; assistance is a one time gift and it comes after due diligence. You will not hear about these efforts during the year as privacy is essential – but please know that your contributions are valued and make a difference in people's lives. Jubilee helped several people make up the difference even as they found new jobs and ways to live.

I thank you for your support of the Benevolent Fund in the past and invite you to contribute again this year as you see fit.

Thank You

Norm

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2. You're not sure how you feel about Christmas and Jesus. I mean, all of those religious people you see on TV, you don't want to be like "them". And when you talk about Christmas as a religious thing, people think that you have a closed mind, hate science and are rather smug and arrogant. And, truth be told, you don't really know how to explain how a little baby could be the "son of God" or what that really means – and you've got a pretty good idea that the Christmas Story is exactly that: A story.... So maybe you're not a believer after all. Simply put you have too many questions to be sure about anything!
3. Christmas services and traditions can be a constant invitation to the land of "faux-pas". You'll say the wrong thing, sit in the wrong place... if you go to church you risk singing too loudly...or to softly... blurting out words when everybody else has seen the secret signal for silence and/or revealing yourself a fool because you didn't realize that St. Swithun's day is after Christmas (for goodness sake!)
4. What will you wear? (Not that, I hope!) These days you never know if you're supposed to dress up or down for an event. If you don't dress up, you obviously don't respect the event, if you do dress up, you clearly don't respect the other guests who have had a bad year and are still wearing last year's Lacroix (dahling!). So, rather than figure out what to wear to meet the Prince of Peace, you stay out of it, comfortable in your running shoes, but pretty sure that they weren't going to pass muster on your way to the crèche.

Please, please, believe me when I say:

1. Work and responsibilities are important and deserve your attention, but not all of your attention, you do have a life.
2. At Christmas, we celebrate God's presence coming into the world in a way that is unique and new – as such, we can't even hope to adequately describe it – which leaves us with great latitude for expression. In other words, you really can't get it wrong; you don't have to know exactly how you feel to participate... it's enough to know that you want to feel.
3. Most people don't know more than one or two traditions... they just look like they know them all. Enter into the event, sit when it feels right, say "Merry Christmas" as you feel

inclined and know that God does not expect you to be a perfect dancer... just getting out on the floor is enough. (incidentally, St. Swithun's Day is in August... so it's pretty close to being both before and after Christmas)

4. It doesn't matter what you wear! Baby Jesus appears to be naked in most of the pictures... meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes, according to the story...meanly wrapped! Hardly haute couture.... and he did make his first appearance in a barn. You show up dressed as yourself and it will be fine.

What I'm hoping for you this Christmas, is that you can take a little time and consider what it is that we are recognizing at Christmas. I am recognizing that in Jesus I see that God comes to us open and vulnerable like an infant, reaching out and needing us... I recognize that God comes to me in surprising ways, ways that I would never suspect... I recognize that not everybody is going to get it, but that won't stop God's love.... I recognize that it doesn't matter where or how I live – at home or away from home – comfortable or struggling – God will appear in my life, just as God appeared in Jesus in that stable in Bethlehem. Finally, I recognize that just as babies grow and change, delighting me in one moment, challenging me in another, so too does God.... That's a lot to really consider...but in taking the time to do it, you get to meet the Prince.

In spending a little quiet time thinking about the Christmas Story, about seeing the light of God shining from a manger ... you get to meet the Prince.

In daring to participate in events and gatherings, you get to meet the Prince.

In quiet prayer... you get to meet the Prince. (And it won't matter that you are wearing running shoes!)

This Christmas season, don't let the excuses get in the way of your meeting the Prince and engaging with God... but if you can't find the time or it just won't work right now... don't worry, unlike meeting Prince Charles, this isn't a once in a life time event, you have the opportunity every day of your life ... so, please don't miss out.

Merry Christmas.

Norm

Didja Know?

Last month I was at an event with Deb Hopper. Deb is part of United Church of Canada National Office, with responsibilities for Financial Planning and Bequests. Last year she joined us at an event we produced in which we invited several professions with expertise in end of life issues. We heard from an Estate Lawyer, a director of Bequests, a Funeral Director, yours truly and others as we shared our insights and experiences with individuals and families as they plan for death, funerals and legacies. We answered a lot of questions, heard a lot of great stories and really did participate in an exceptional symposium. As the event wasn't about money, we didn't worry too much about who might have made bequests or inquiries – we just let the event stand for itself. But then, I ran into Deb. She all but bounced across the floor as she greeted me and told me that our event was just about the best event in which she has participated or even attended. She has begun to use it as a model for other churches across the country. I was pleased... then, she let the cat out of the bag... "You know the United Church of Canada and Jubilee got a lot of support after that event.... About 20 bequests thanks to that evening and I can tell you – people really love Jubilee and they have made sure that Jubilee will have financial resources in the future... you should be really proud".

In a time when we are appropriately concerned about budgets and fiscal responsibility, it's rather nice to know that so many have already invested in our future... and it's also somewhat flattering that what happens at Jubilee is being used to inspire other people and churches. Good for us.... Our ministry grows and shows great promise to continue for many years to come. Thought you should know...

Norm



Don and Marion Hunter

A Journey of Hope

Anyone who has been in the company of Marion and Don Hunter recognizes what special people they are.

While they have lived their entire married life in the Victoria Village area, their interests have led them to have friends much farther away. Family....two children and three grandchildren plus extended family have always been a priority and a source of love and pride. Then there are friends...some from early school days, or Teachers' College, or the Couples' Club, a group of 7 couples, all married for over 50 years, who meet socially every month.

Don, who is a Chartered Accountant, has used his skills and experience in different organizations from the Church to the national association of Clan Hunter. As a child, Don collected Stamps, a hobby he still maintains. He enjoys photography and along with Marion, Genealogy, as well as going to music concerts, often the Toronto Symphony or Markham Theatre.

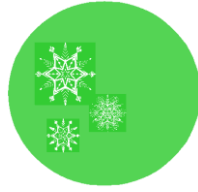
Marion, a Primary teacher who for 18 years taught Multiple Handicapped Children, enjoys crafts, needlework, teaching Sunday school, and has been a pianist with the Junior Choir, as well as an active UCW member. Her work on the Pastoral Care team at Jubilee is highly valued. Her time with the Girl Guides has been honoured nationally for her 56 years at the local, provincial and national level. She is proud that a daughter and granddaughter have also received the Canada Cord in Guiding.

It is in another role that Marion and Don are serving the community now. In 2001 Marion was diagnosed with Myeloma, a virulent and incurable form of Cancer. As Marion was receiving treatment, including two Bone Marrow transplants, it was the Hunter's turn to receive help. And the help was abundant! Don and Marion have read and researched Multiple Myeloma and are advocates for those with the disease. Don spoke to us at Jubilee about the high cost of an expensive drug that can help the lives of Myeloma patients, and along with many others, our petition helped convince the government to make this drug more easily available. Through their association with the 450 members of the Toronto and District Multiple Myeloma Association, Marion and Don are often called upon to share their knowledge with patients and caregivers. This past April in a Brampton United Church, they were involved with "An Evening of Hope", a meaningful church service for those in the Cancer Community.

These days Marion and Don can often be found in the Solarium...their "cottage", which overlooks their beautiful garden and backyard. The Hunters might be thinking about the next trip they could take. They enjoy traveling so much, especially cruising.

Whatever it is, Marion says that they will live each day to the fullest! And we will say, "Thank you for the way you are living your lives!"

Mary Anna Higgins



Thanks Giving at Jubilee

Starting on Sunday, the congregation of Jubilee showed that they a lot to be thankful for and to share with one another and others. Those who attended service on that Sunday brought food to share. A twist on our service was that everyone took home something that someone else brought – thus learning not only how to give, but how to receive.

Then on Monday evening, about 50 people came together at Jubilee to give thanks and share a wonderful meal on Thanksgiving Day. What a happy gathering! And what a wonderful bounty – both of people and food! A pot-luck dinner, we were treated to many tasty foods! There was plenty of food leftover to take home (and who doesn't just love turkey sandwiches the next day!)

A big thank-you to Lee-Ann and her helpers (especially Melissa, Kyle and Sandy) for organizing this get-together and providing Grandma and Grandpa Turkey and Uncle Jeb (who was a big ham). A big thank-you too to all those who participated to make it a wonderful thanks-giving meal.



Youth In Action

YOUTH BOWLING – 27 people participated in our bowling event in September.

YOUTH TECH TEAM – We currently have a great team of youth who are volunteering to run our sound system, lights and audio-visual equipment. If you are interested in joining the team, just let Lee-Ann know. Thanks to Grayson, Taylor, Alister, Adam and Simar for taking on the task so far. You guys are brilliant!

CANNED FOOD DRIVE – Grayson, Taylor, Simar, Adam, Jack and Lee- Ann canvassed the neighborhood collecting donations. Then we challenged others to collect and create can food structures. Congratulations to the Property Team for designing the most creative structure, a rendition of City Hall. Kudos to the Youth Team for collecting the most cans and to Extreme Jubilee for the best teamwork. Altogether we gathered over 300 non-perishable food items for our local food bank to support our community.

SPARKLING EVENING EVENT – many thanks to Grayson, Taylor, Lauren, Ryan, Alistair, Adam, Andrew, Nick and Jennifer for doing an exemplary job of hosting our guests. And thanks to Sandy for coordinating setting up such an awesome „staff“ space to play Wii and have a break in between.

MOVIE NIGHT-Simar and Adam hosted the movie night on October the 30th with Charlie Scott. They showed “The Wizard of Oz” and “Charlie Brown”.

HAUNTED HOUSE – Colin, Simar, Adam, Jennifer, and Jack helped build a scary haunted house to freak out the neighbourhood. There were approximately 40 trick or treaters that came through the haunted house. We need to say thank you to those who donated candies and to Jim, Janis and Lee-Ann for all their help.

STAY TUNED FOR THE 2010 JUBILEE MINI OLYMPICS COMING IN FEBRUARY!

Submitted by Simar Kokhar, Colin Munroe and Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

A Sparkling Evening



Over the past several years Jubilee has invested in its Ministry by employing capital to cover a portion of its annual budget. During this time – since 2004 – we have had in place a financial plan with a target to achieve a balanced budget in 2009. When we prepared our budget for this year we believed that we were almost there, with a shortfall of \$6,600. The proceeds from 'A Sparkling Evening' will significantly enhance our chances of achieving this target. These proceeds plus our regular and special seasonal offerings during the balance of the year should provide us with a real possibility of achieving our financial goals for 2009.

'A Sparkling Evening' featured: wine tasting; delectable desserts; song and dance; plenty of fun and a whole lot of generosity. Nearly sixty volunteers gave their time and talents to help organize and deliver the event. Sponsors' financial donations more than offset the costs of the evening. Individual and Corporate donors provided a staggering array of auction items that ticket holders were able to bid for - and bid they did. The evening surpassed all expectations and produced a total of \$31,618 in net receipts for Jubilee.

Jubilee United is grateful to all who contributed to making 'A Sparkling Evening' a singular success.



SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

AT A BRAND NEW TIME!!

Jubilee
UNITED CHURCH

SOMETHING LIKE CHURCH

Be INVOLVED in YOUR WORSHIP

Sunday, December 6th @ 7PM

LET THE STORY, THE MUSIC AND THE GREAT BAND
SURPRISE YOUR EARS, YOUR EYES
AND YOUR HEART!

JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH DARES YOU

**DEFINITELY NOT CHURCH
WITH THE HOWLING HERETICS**

Howling Christmas Special

DREW AND NORM PICK THEIR FAVORITES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH @ 7:30PM

SONGS FROM THE PAST 5 DECADES... STORIES FROM THE PAST 3 MILLENIA... SMILES FROM THE HEART
THE WAY THESE GUYS SING AND TELL A STORY, INSPIRATIONAL? MAYBE... BUT MOSTLY IRREVERENT...
THEY WOULD BE KICKED OUT OF MOST CHURCHES - THAT'S WHY I KEEP COMING BACK!



JUBILEE ORDER OF GOOD CHEER

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, JAN. 26, 2010 – 7:30 pm
“THE RED PEPPERS DIXIELAND BAND”

This band has been wowing jazz fans since 2001 with swinging Dixieland music, and they have been the featured performers at many of the leading jazz festivals in Canada.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010 – 7:30 pm
“THE QUEENSMEN MALE CHORUS”

This group of twenty-five male choristers has traveled widely and has earned an international reputation. A perfect way to spend a cold winter evening.

JUBILEE 10TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

TIME CAPSULE

Jubilee is planning to hold a 10th anniversary weekend on April 16 – 18, 2010. As part of the celebrations we would like to dedicate the cornerstone for our new building and have it installed. (You may have noticed the space near the east front doors that has been reserved for it.)

Of course no cornerstone would be complete without a time capsule to go behind it. A small group has met to consider what should be included in a capsule and has settled on the idea of a pictorial record of life at Jubilee in the early 21st century. It would contain a short story of the coming together of three congregations to form Jubilee, congregational and church life as it is and has been in the period 2004 to 2010 and dreams for the future of our church and our community from the Jubilee youth.

Please let us know if you have thoughts or suggestions for items that could be included in the record and / or if you would like to assist in its design and preparation. You could contact me or Wendy Miller. Our co-ordinates are 416-449-4731 / dickpatrick@rogers.com and wendy.miller@rogers.com respectively.

Dick Patrick

Bridge with Audrey Grant

Under the auspices of the Fellowship Committee, “Bridge at Jubilee United Church” has been thriving this fall. Feedback from the participants, 2/3 of whom are not Jubilee United Church members, has been very positive. Approximately 55 people attend Bridge lessons on Tuesday Mornings, and 132 took part in an all-day learning session on October 16th. The event was coordinated by Elaine and Warren Brown, with Audrey Grant, an internationally-known bridge teacher/author, leading the learning session. Audrey was assisted by her 92-year-old mother. (Who says playing Bridge and being active mentally doesn’t help your general wellbeing?).

Audrey Grant has agreed to return on March 6th, 2010, but we need an individual or group to coordinate the event. There are good records of how this event has been run six times in the last three years. Roma Watson, Bev and Lyle Miller have been coordinators in the past and will be available to help. The community will be disappointed if the date has to be cancelled (and so will our Treasurer). Registration of participants is tentatively set for mid-January.

CLAXTON FRUIT CAKES

The cakes have now arrived and are available.

You can buy 1 lb bars @ \$6.50, or a box of 3 1 lb bars @ \$17.00, either light or dark.

Please contact Bob Nicholls at 416-445-2642 if interested.

Net proceeds will again go to Outreach activities.



FROM OUTREACH

The Outreach committee would like to remind everyone at Jubilee that we will be asking the congregation for money at Christmas time for the following centres:

- ★ The Anishnawabe Health centre in downtown Toronto provides medical care, social support and help for the homeless First Nations people in Toronto. Since 1989 AHT has and continues to grow to meet the needs of the community it serves. As a fully accredited community health centre, AHT offers access to health care practitioners from many disciplines including Traditional Healers, Elders and Medicine People. Ancient ceremonies and traditions, intrinsic to our health care model are available. Our work with the homeless has evolved from early directions of crisis intervention to our current efforts of working with those who seek to escape homelessness. Training programs offer community members the opportunity to learn and grow in a culture based setting.
- ★ The Out of the Cold programme provides refuge and emergency shelter and meals to the homeless. In 1987 Sr. Susan of St Michael's School began connecting with various faith groups across the City of Toronto to discuss the opportunity of having the faith groups organize groups of volunteers at each Church and Synagogue to provide a safe refuge for the homeless members of our society as a temporary solution to the issue of homelessness. The plan was simply that the faith group volunteers would open their doors one day a week for a period of approximately 23 weeks as well as provide food and hospitality to the homeless who are considered Guests of the program. Although the program opened initially with one faith group, the idea quickly caught on and to date there are now 19 various faith groups in the City of Toronto that provide this much-needed service.
- ★ The Red Door Family Shelter supplies family shelter for the homeless and a refuge from domestic violence. The Welcome Mat is always out at the Red Door Family Shelter! Since 1982, homeless families in Toronto have had a temporary home at the Red Door while they got back on their feet and were able to move into their own home once again. Women and children fleeing violence, refugees and other families needing safe, supportive housing in an emergency have found it there.

In addition Toronto food banks are especially in need of support at this time of year. Financial donations allow the food bank to purchase the needed food in quantity which means more food. Of course food donations are always welcome, and Jubilee has been generous in the past with donations.

If your family wishes to buy you a Christmas gift, and your cup is already running over, please consider asking for a donation to a charity, food bank, or to one of several excellent Unicef Gifts of Magic to help children in developing countries. You can contact Unicef online or call toll free 1-877-777-0380.

All of the above charities have websites or telephone numbers for contact.

Happy Christmas



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Looking for ways to let the Spirit in this Advent and Christmas??

LABYRINTH SERVICE

Friday, November 27th

Using the indoor and/or outdoor Labyrinths, a quiet time for personal reflection and "Preparing the Way"

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Saturday, November 28th

(Tickets available from Church Office)

DEFINITELY NOT CHURCH

Sunday, November 29th @ 7:30 p.m.

Drew and Norm, the Howling Heretics, pick their favourites from the past year and offer them to you as a "Christmas Special" Stories from the Bible, songs from the past 5 decades of popular music and smiles that are immediate and lasting!

SOMETHING LIKE CHURCH

Sunday, December 6th @ 7 p.m.

Vibrant, energetic, interactive worship for any age. Lead by Norm with story telling and the "Jubilants" with great music – a chance to let your hair down and find the Spirit in Something Like Church.

ULTERIOR WORSHIP

Mondays, December 7th and 21st @ 8:35 p.m.

Quiet, intimate worship with Word, Prayer and music lead by Mary Anna Higgins on the piano. A chance to relax, breathe and let Christmas arrive gently.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 13th @ 10:30 a.m.

As our children and a few adults share in an original Christmas Pageant taken from the story of the Huron Carol – part of our Sunday Morning Worship.

TORONTO CHORISTERS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday, December 15th @ 7:30 p.m.

No Admission Fee, but lots of familiar Christmas songs and yuletide joy, presented by the 100 voice Toronto Choristers

There will be ample opportunity to sing along!

(Donations will be gladly received)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, December 20th, 7:30 p.m.

Hear the full Choir with Piano and Organ present familiar, precious, new and special carols in the context of the Christmas Story, all in the intimacy of candlelight.

Admission is free

(Donations will be gladly received)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Thursday, December 24th

Family Service at 7:30 p.m.

Communion Service at 11:00 p.m.

*Please check the website for information on
Tuesday Morning Bible Studies
and Living the Questions Discussion Group.*