



Jubilation!

Winter 2012

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

Notes from Norm

Steve was getting ready for the Family Christmas... like always. All of the cousins would be there: aunts and uncles; brother and sisters... Mother and Father, Grandmother and Grandfather... husbands and wives of cousins, a former sister-in-law who was divorced from his brother, but was still part of the family on Holiday Occasions (that wasn't awkward... except maybe for the new wife, the year that both John's ex-wife and new wife made rum balls and everybody had to pretend the that new wife's weren't better). Oh, and naturally there would be two parrots, four parakeets, three cats, two dogs, little Tina's guinea pig (she takes it everywhere) and who knows? Maybe three French hens, two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree! If he had his choice he would be one of the Lords a-leapin'... leapin' out of there!

It wasn't that he didn't love his family or enjoy Christmas... he did love his family: his sisters, his really successful and popular brother; his brother's ex-wife and wife; his brothers-in-law; his mother and father... nearly ALL of the cousins (especially little Tina with the guinea pig). But, it was a long drive to Ottawa, the weather was always a problem this time of year, the highway around Kingston was murder... and... and...

Well, he wasn't... he didn't... well, measure up well.

He didn't have a good job.

He didn't have kids... he didn't even have a partner.

He didn't know how to act. The gathering used to be at his grandparents place, they had this big old house in Ottawa. And everybody would dress up... but Steve didn't have a suit and only one tie... brown shoes.

Brother John, he wore a tux... and danced with the aunts... They would gather in the living room around the grand piano and sing carols... and if you didn't want to sing you were expected to go to the kitchen or somewhere else to converse. Steve knew the first verse to most carols; John was able to sing O Come All Ye Faithful in Latin: Adeste Fideles (all the verses). Most years, Steve was asked to leave because he clearly was more interested in talking than singing. A song sheet might have helped!!! And what's so wrong about wanting to sing Frosty the Snowman?

Eventually the gathering moved to Steve's parents place. Brother John, who lived in town and worked for the government, did a lot to help getting everything ready; Steve's sisters had made special food... Steve was coming from far away, so there wasn't much he could do. He offered to help pay the caterer but Mom and Dad just laughed... nicely... (but it was still laughter). That year, Steve took his meagre savings and invested it wisely: He rented a tux. And he got one of the girls at work to teach him to dance (a little). This year: new locale and a new Steve – he'd be suave like his brother and he'd make his old Aunts swoon when he invited them out onto the dance floor.

He showed up ready for a great evening... he could smell the mulling spices wafting down to the street as he walked from his car to the house... careful not to slip and spoil his beautiful tuxedo... he imagined the surprised look on everybody's faces as he entered the house... "Steve!" as they took in the tux (and the haircut).

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“Yes, Steve... Steve Bond.”

If only someone had told him that the change in venue also meant that everybody was invited to come in jeans or casual clothes... so that those less resourceful wouldn't feel peculiar....

But now, this year... this year would be different.

Steve could never measure up gift-wise. His sisters would buy him clothes, with labels that Steve couldn't read (which is how they often ended up in the wash with his jeans... never to be worn again). Last year, his brother bought him a Flat Screen TV, apologizing that it was only 37 inches (11 inches bigger than his old one). Steve got his sisters bath salts and a Simon and Garfunkel DVD for his brother. The Concert in Central Park may have been 30 years ago, but it was still good. And affordable.

Everybody loved their gifts... but Steve knew that they didn't compare... he was tired of being a Shepherd when everybody else was a Magi.

This year... Steve got a bonus at work: \$3,000. Maybe not a lot to his brother... but a lot to him.

He thought about saving it...

He thought about paying off his student loans a little faster...

He thought about taking a little vacation...

He considered buying 1500 Lotto 649 Tickets...

But then he decided to buy presents for his family.

Presents like they bought him every year...

He went to the Shops at Don Mills and spent \$300 on designer Vinegar for his sister, the wanna-be chef...

He bought a coat for his fashionista sister... at some Archaeology place that he'd never heard of... so it must be good. He bought for his Mom and Dad... not sure what to get them, because up to now the only way

he knew how to shop was to look for something in his price range, not something that might knock their socks off... he wondered “WWJD”: What would John do?... and as if channelling his brother, he bought his parents, his and her silk Pyjamas and Velvet Robes.

And for John... his inspiration and his hero (his downfall and his nemesis)... his brother... an \$800 bottle of wine! (You knew that John would be a wine connoisseur). Steve also managed to buy a few things for the cousins – a first for him – and spent a whole evening wrapping everything up perfectly. Pink bows

for the girls, Blue knots for the boys... and bubble wrap for the bottle...

The next morning he packed everything carefully and lovingly into his 2001 Corolla and started the drive to Ottawa... the smell of a Tim Horton's Double Double filling the car... the sound of Christmas Carols filling his ears...and what surely must be “joy” filling his heart. He would get to his parents about dinner time on Christmas Eve... time for a meal and then a Christmas Eve service with Mom and Dad... and the party on Christmas Day.

The party when he would finally fit in... he had the right clothes and nobody would look outside to see his car. He knew the words to all the Christmas Carols (he had been practising). He would not be asking his aunts to dance, but he had gifts for them... gifts for the whole family... finally they would know how much he loved them... he would measure up... he would really be part of Christmas...

Driving along the 401, Steve saw a big pet shop in one of the malls... and was inspired. He'd do something extra special that no one had ever thought to do before... he'd get something for little Tina's guinea pig... that's love! Remembering somebody's pet... brilliant. He got off the highway, parked the car and all but skipped into PetSmart... checking the aisles until he found a tiny set of reindeer antlers, sized for a guinea pig.

Nothing says Christmas like a pet in plush antlers.

\$11.95 and he was on his way...

Singing as he went out to his car...

Over by the lamp post..

Other lamp post..

Near the front of the store? That can't be right...

At the end of the row??

Steve looked for his car... the one with an empty Tim Horton's cup in the cup holder... the one with the Christmas Carols playing on the radio... the one with \$3,268 in gifts for everybody... the one with his salvation packed neatly in the trunk and back seat.

It was gone.

The police were too busy to come to the scene.

Mall security drove him to the Police Station.

Paper work was filled out...

Sad pathetic looks were exchanged... Sad tidings were in store...

continued on pg 3

There was no comfort... No joy...
Steve caught a bus into Ottawa.
Got in around 2:00 in the morning.
Slipped into his parents' house and dissolved into the guest room.

In the morning, he couldn't bear to face his parents... or watch the hordes descend upon the house for Christmas breakfast... Christmas lunch.... finally, Christmas Party and dinner... so he slipped out and went to church (it was affordable).

God hated him.

He's blown it.

He would never understand Christmas.

He would never be able to express his love in a way that his family would understand.

He would never fit in... he should have taken the bus back to Toronto instead of Ottawa.

Then he heard the Christmas Story... the one that we hear every year about a pregnant unmarried teenage girl, some confused shepherds, unbelievable angels and foreign visitors called Magi... he heard about people who didn't fit in... he heard about a journey that was dark and bumpy... he heard about things going wrong... he heard about gifts... he heard about God revealed in a small, vulnerable child...

He spent most of the day at church... not because he didn't want to go home, but because he wanted to hear the story again (he seemed unaware that there is a take

home version of the story as well)... but he did make it to the party. And at the party, Steve didn't take his cue from the Magi... and he didn't take his cue from the Shepherds... he knew that he didn't have the wardrobe to be an angel... he, instead took his cue from the child, the baby... Jesus. Steve dared to be naked and vulnerable... He told everybody his story... He laughed and cried as he told it... so did they... and then, he went around and embraced his family... each one, even Tina once she put down her guinea pig with the reindeer antlers (the one gift that was not lost) ... One at a time and he would whisper to each member of his family, what made each of them so special to him... and then he told them, "I love you".

He would probably have years when he was a Shepherd at Christmas again... he might even get to be a Magi one of these years – but nothing would ever compare to the Christmas that Steve dared to take the story seriously and become Christ-like himself... naked and vulnerable. For the first time – Steve finally “got” Christmas.

Whoever you may be this Christmas – I wish you Christ-Child moments... and a very fulfilling, eye-opening, heart-warming season.

Merry Christmas

Norm



Pen Pal Project 2013

wanna be
Pen Pals?

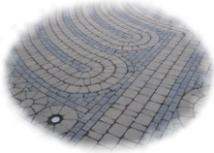
Getting a letter or writing a letter these days is 'old school' and potentially a lost art. If you sign up to be a pen-pal, you'll not only have the privilege of keeping an old tradition alive, but you'll also get the chance to make a new friend in the congregation. Pen-Pals aged 25+ will be matched with pen-pals under 25 so that younger members of the congregation can get to know older members of the congregation a little better. To make it more fun, pen-pals will identify a pseudonym so that their identity will be a mystery until spring 2013 when we all meet over lunch. In your letters, you can write things about yourself without giving away who you are, sharing adventures and stories that are special to you, including pictures of places, poetry, or other treasures. Lorraine Wilson and Julie Ashdown will be our postmasters, making sure that pen-pals are matched and mail is made easily accessible at the church during the week. If you're interested in becoming a pen-pal, you are committing to write letters back and forth for a 3 month period and are responsible for picking up and dropping off letters regularly to keep the momentum going. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact Lee-Ann.

Jubilee Christmas List (be sure to check it twice!)



WHOLENESS IS . . . STORYTELLING
Saturday, December 1st @ 7:30 pm

JOSEPH Concert
Sunday, December 2nd @ 7:30 pm



ADVENT LABYRINTH WALK
Sunday, December 2nd @ 6:30pm to 7:30 pm

ULTERIOR WORSHIP
Mondays, December 3rd and 17th @ 8:35 pm

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.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
Sunday, December 9th @ 7:30 pm

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).

TORONTO CHORISTERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Tuesday, December 11th @ 7:30 pm

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)



MUSIC AT MIDDAY - German Baroque
Thursday, December 13th @ 12 noon to 12:30 pm

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 16th @ 10:30 am

For the Whole Family!
Shaped by the Jubilee Youth, presented by Young and Old, Music by the Jubilants



DEFINITELY NOT CHURCH
Sunday, December 16th @ 7:30 pm

Join the Howling Heretics to hear a story that is NOT the story of Christmas, with soundtrack of pop songs from the past 6 decades...
This is one Christmas Special guaranteed NOT to be warm and cuddly.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING on the LABYRINTH
Tuesday, December 18th @ 7:00 pm

Stand Outside on the Labyrinth (or inside in the Garden Room if you're not sure that the spirit will keep you warm) and sing classic Christmas Carols and Songs with your neighbours and a trumpet or two...
Sing the songs that help to make this time of year so much fun... laugh with friends, make new ones; share hot chocolate and fun.



WINTER SOLSTICE LABYRINTH WALK
Thursday, December 20th @ 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

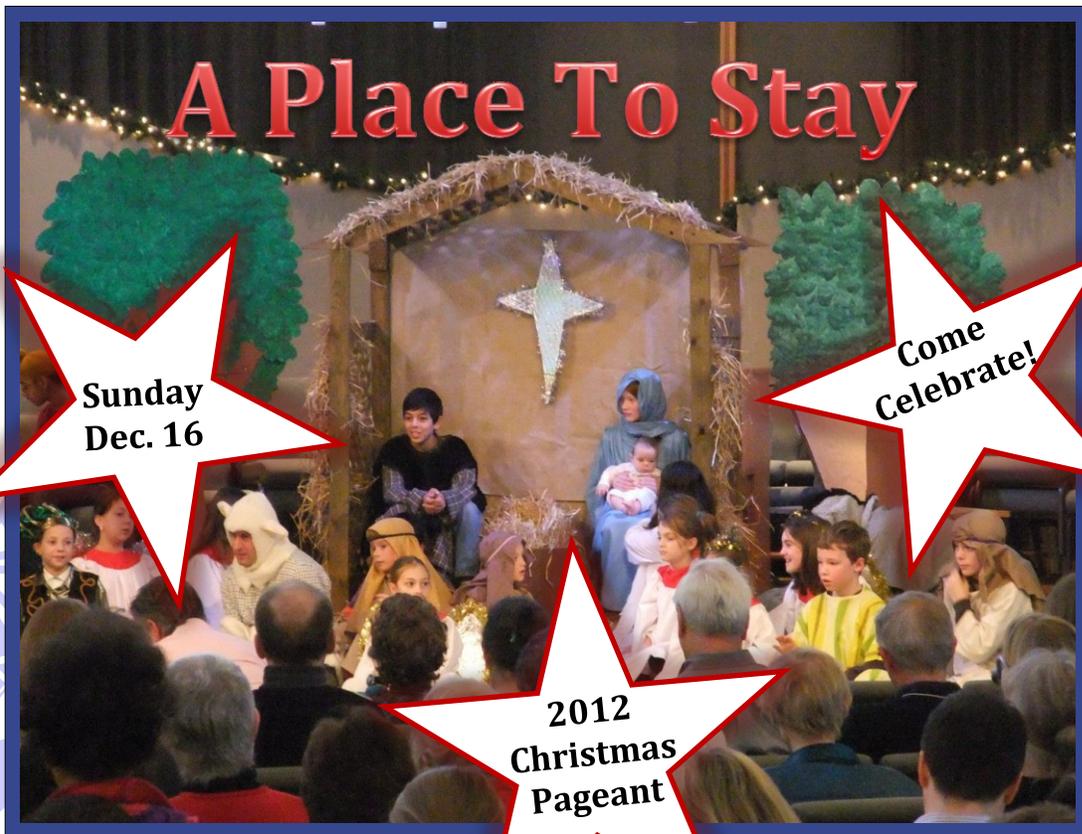
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Monday, December 24th
Family Service @ 7:30 pm
Communion Service @ 11:00 pm



Halloween Party Fun!

No Haunted House? Really? In this case you can definitely blame Lee-Ann! We all just needed a break from the same ol' same ol' . . . and who says you need a haunted house to have a good time? Not when you have Zombie Hand Bowling, Halloween Roulette, Witch Hat Ring Toss, Hangman Donut Munching, Fishing for Ghosts, Ghoulie Pong Cup and lots of Loot in your Loot Bags? Costumes were fabulous and fun was had by all. Thanks to everyone who helped make it that way!





Sunday
Dec. 16

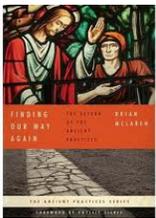
Come
Celebrate!

2012
Christmas
Pageant

Book Club – Read and Question . . . Share and Discover

Join Lee-Ann and others as we make our way through some contemporary thought and ancient tradition. Discussion times are Sundays after the regular worship time.

Dec. 2 – Finding Our Way Again
By Brian McLaren



In a sense, every day of our lives is labour. It is questionable if you can ever be exactly the same person waking up on two consecutive days. How are spiritual sojourners to cope with the constant change? Many are beginning to explore the ancient Christian spiritual practices that have been in use for centuries, everything from fixed-hour prayer to fasting to sincere observance of the Sabbath. What is causing this hunger for deeper spirituality?

Jan. 13 – Shadow Dance
By David Richo



Our "shadow" is the collection of negative or undesirable traits we keep hidden—the things we don't like about ourselves or are afraid to admit: egotist, non-"PC" proclivities, forbidden sexual desires. But it also includes our positive, untapped potential—qualities we may admire in others but disavow in ourselves. Befriending the shadow makes fear an ally and enables us to live more authentically. It also automatically improves our interpersonal relationships, because we are freed from the need to project our own negativity onto others, and we become more acutely aware when theirs is projected onto us. David Richo looks for where the shadow manifests in personal life, family interaction, religion, relationship, and the world around is. He

shows how to use the gentle practice of mindfulness to work with our shadow side, and he provides numerous exercises for going deeper. He is remarkably skillful at making the shadow concept not only easy to understand, but supremely practical for enhancing the quality of our lives.

From Outreach

Val and Drew Winters are well known in the Jubilee family, but perhaps people aren't aware of a special cause in which they have been involved for thirty-five years. When Val spoke with us, she mentioned that while they were in their early twenties, before they were even married, they became interested in what was then called *Foster Parents Plan*. This not-for-profit global agency was started in 1937 to mobilize people around the world to support social justice by improving the lives of children in developing countries. People in the west are invited to sponsor children in the developing countries and receive letters from the children, and learn about their lives and the lives of the communities to which they belong.

Val and Drew were interested in sponsoring girls in particular, because they realized that girls were at a disadvantage, mainly because of cultural ideas that girls were expected to get married and have children, so did not receive an education. Because schools generally were expensive, boys were educated first and girls stayed home. Girls often were married and had children before age 18. Val and Drew understood that educating girls is pivotal in increasing the standard of living in developing countries. Their foster children have been girls, seven in all, from Sierra Leone, in a community called Burkina Faso.

PlanCanada.ca is the website which described this agency in detail. Much of the information here is quoted from this website. The original name in the 1930's was *Foster Parents Plan for Children in Spain*, because of the orphaned children in the Spanish Civil War. The agency works in 68 countries around the globe, including 50 developing countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas to give children, families and communities the tools they need to break the cycle of poverty and build sustainable solutions for improving their own lives.

Each year, *Plan Canada's* work impacts the lives of children and families in 58,000 communities. This is done through a process of collaboration that unites people across cultures, adding meaning and value to their lives by: enabling children, their families and communities to meet their basic needs and to increase their ability to participate in and benefit from their societies; building relationships to increase understanding and unity among peoples of different cultures and countries; and advocating and promoting the rights and interests of the world's children, with a special focus on girls' rights to overcome issues of gender discrimination.

A recent initiative, "Because I am a Girl", aims to support girls in developing countries. As Val and Drew understood many years ago, 70% of the people living in extreme poverty are women and girls. Girls are three times more likely to be malnourished than boys, and in the poorest countries of the world, 50% of girls do not attend secondary school. Females are the most vulnerable members of society.

Plan Canada issues a catalogue of practical gifts in the holiday season, called "A Gift of Hope." You may have received a catalogue in the mail. One can donate such things as a baby check-up, a goat, equipment to a school or a class, or to a community in the developing world.

Val and her family use this catalogue at their annual family Christmas party. We thought the idea was so good; others may like to incorporate this as well. At the family party children are asked to choose an item to donate. The children are therefore offered an opportunity to effect change in the world. This perhaps is more meaningful than some other Christmas celebrations.

Outreach Christmas Appeal

At this Christmas season, we remember those who use food banks. We are told that food bank use in Canada is at its highest level. We appreciate donations of non-perishable food or cash donations.

We would like to remind you that Jubilee also sends cheques to the following in Toronto: The Out of the Cold Program at Eastminster United Church, Eva's Initiatives, Anishnawabe Health Centre, and The Red Door family shelter. The staff and volunteers at these agencies welcome any donations.



Scarborough Choral presents - SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS - Dec 8th and 9th

With new music, new sounds, new ideas. Featuring "Ovation", a talented troupe of young singers, dancers and of course our choir and orchestra.

Tickets are available by contacting the Flato Markham Theatre at 905-305-7469 OR visit us at www.onstageproductions.org.

Prices are: Adults \$26, Students \$20 and Seniors \$24 on Sat, Dec. 8 only.

To help ensure that we can continue to provide quality community theatre productions for you, please consider becoming a **Patron of Onstage Productions** by including a donation with your ticket order. All gifts over \$25, received before December 1, 2012, will be acknowledged in the programme.

Donors of \$100 or more will receive two free tickets to the Saturday evening performance of Sounds of Christmas 2012. Cheques may be made out to **Scarborough Choral Society** and mailed to **SCS, c/o K. Andrews, Treasurer, 107 Eastman Cr., Newmarket, ON, L3Y 5S3.**

Thank you for your continued support. Enjoy the Show!

P. Tonkin, J. Barbeau,
Producers, Sounds of Christmas 2012



Men's Breakfast

What's this all about? Well, I'll tell you. A group of men meet monthly on the last Saturday of each month (October thru March, except December) for breakfast, fellowship and knowledge.

We have relevant and interesting speakers on various topics. This month, November 24, our speaker was Doug Drysdale, formerly a Donminster member, who will be talking about the sad state of Canada's forests. Doug is an expert on trees and worked 33 years for the Ontario government in various jobs related to our forests. Come and join us and bring a friend. Attendance is not restricted to Jubilee members. Coffee, tea and fellowship start at 8:30, with breakfast at 9 (Hector and his crew do a great job). Speakers usually run from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. You'll be back home by 10:30a.m.

To confirm your attendance or for further information, contact Bob Nicholls at: 416-445-2642. Hope to see you in November, or if not in the new year.



Join the Howling Heretics to hear a story that is NOT the story of Christmas, with soundtrack of pop songs from the past 6 decades... This is one Christmas Special guaranteed NOT to be warm and cuddly.

www.jubileeunited.ca



Claxton Fruit Cakes

Once again those famous Claxton cakes will be available, just in time for Christmas. Prices are the same as last year:

- 1 lb bar @ \$6.50
- 3 lb box @ \$18.00

All net proceeds go to Outreach activities.

You can pick them up in Church in December or call Bob Nicholls @416-445-2642 if needed sooner.





The Jubilee Order of Good Cheer
Presents: **FIVE CONCERT PROGRAMS**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
"THE FABULOUS INVICTONES"

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
"AN EVENING AT THE BARBERSHOP"

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
"AN EVENING OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN"

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
"THE TORONTO CHORISTERS"

We appreciate your support of these programs and we look forward to seeing you on concert nights.
A reception and free refreshments follow each program.

For the remaining four concerts; admission at the door – Adults: \$10.00 and Youth: Free
For more details, check your bulletin or the website - www.jubileeunited.ca



SPRING LECTURE SERIES



"FOUR GREAT ARTISTS WHO SHAPED MODERN ART"

Five Wednesday afternoons 1:00-2:30

Presenter: Osnat Lippa

An exciting series looking into the life and works of four major artists: Da Vinci, Vermeer, Manet, and Picasso. Each of these great artists represents a different century and approach to their art, and each left an indelible, long-lasting legacy with their innovation and talent that transformed western art forever.

FEBRUARY 27: LEONARDO DA VINCI

A True Renaissance Man

MARCH 6: JOHANNES VERMEER

Man of Mystery from Delft

MARCH 13: EDOUARD MANET

The Man Who Invented Modern Art

MARCH 20: PICASSO – THE EARLY YEARS

The Man Who Embodied Modern Art

MARCH 27: PICASSO – THE LATER YEARS

The Jubilee Living and Learning Lecture Series Committee appreciates the help given in arranging these lectures by
Program for 50+, The Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University.

Cost of Series \$25

Individual Lectures \$8

Registration

Jubilee United Church Office
40 Underhill Drive, Don Mills M3A 2J5
416-447-6846 Fax: 416-447-4229

Email: admin@jubileeunited.ca/Website: www.jubileeunited.ca
(Cheques payable to Jubilee United Church)

Christmas is a time of gift giving.

Sharing gifts is a way that we say to people,

“I'm thinking about you”

“I care about you”

“I love you.”

God so loves the world that we are given the gift of Jesus... love revealed in vulnerability; love revealed in an openness to others, be they shepherds, Magi, Angels in light or those who live in shadow. It is our hope, this year at Jubilee, that we might extend the gift giving tradition and reach out beyond our doors.

In the past we have collected diapers for the Massey Centre – we will do that again. Through December, we will collect diapers for babies and young mothers who have little support as they begin the incredible journey of life and parenthood. Just as God's love is revealed to us in a Mother and Child in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, we can see that love shining through a Mother and Child at the Massey Centre... how could we not respond? **We will receive all diapers donated, but the greatest need is for new born-sized diapers.**



This year, we want to reach out even further... so we will also be collecting for our friends at Eva's Centre and the Toronto Urban Native Ministries. Just as the



Shepherds, Angels and Magi were included in the Christmas story we will strive to include these Strangers, Workers, and Youth in our Christmas Story. Through December we will gladly receive:

Shampoo and Conditioner
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Liquid soap
Razors
Body lotion
Deodorant
Socks
Underwear
Winter wear

We will also be glad to receive donations of money that we can convert to food vouchers and TTC tokens.

On Saturday, January 12, we will have a big gathering at Jubilee to pack boxes and get them to our friends, so that they will know that:

We are thinking of them,
We care about them,
and God loves them.

PROPERTY

It has been a very busy time at Jubilee with many activities and functions, miscellaneous small and large projects. Our special thanks to Barb Secord and the many volunteers who assisted in managing our church as needed for those events and for quickly acting and resolving problems as they arise.

Three key projects completed over the summer were:

1. Carpets and rugs were cleaned as needed throughout the church.
2. The Garden Room floor was specially cleaned and a sealant applied.
3. Three additional fire bells were installed so they can be heard in every part of the church.

On Sept. 14th, we had a work day with eight people coming out to help prune, cut back bushes, weed and rake. They then moved inside to do some minor repairs and replace light bulbs. A job well done by Julie Ashdown, Fayeann Gilland, Gary Hoy, Gary Norris, Charlie Scott, Mel Williamson, Bill Elger and Ed Forsyth.

As of July 1st, the church is being charged for garbage pickup. The cost of one garbage bin is \$400 per year. As a result, greater care by all Jubilee groups is needed to sort garbage, recyclables and compost. This is much appreciated to help us control costs, and is much healthier for the environment too!

The property committee is very grateful to the UCW for their very generous donation and support in assisting with some property maintenance and projects. It goes a long way to presenting a welcoming, well-maintained image to the community.

The Co-chair of Property, Brian Kalanda, has decided to step down at this time. We want to thank Brian for his time, expertise and hard work and wish him all the best. We will keep him on the "special project" list!

If there are any property problems that you notice, let Barb know, or fill in a form outside her office or contact Liz Williamson.

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