

SPRING 2008

JUBILATION!

Jubilation! is the Newsletter of Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive ■ Phone: (416) 447-6846 ■ www.jubileeunited.ca

NOTES from Norm

When I'm tired, I will often veg in front of the TV. Every now and then, what I am watching will inspire me. Can you believe that this little handy kitchen tool will revolutionize the way you cook. It will put an end to kitchen drudgery. It will make meal times, happy times – it will make spouse arrive on time for dinner and cause your children to call just to say "Hi!". It will turn old meatloaf into a Crown Roast.

So, how much would you pay? \$200? \$150?

Many would be happy to pay more than \$200.

-but wait, there's more...

Not only will we send you the handy-dandy incredible, no-home should be without it product, but we will also include a set of measuring spoons. Satisfied now?

But wait, there's more....

How about a gift bag! Surely, there could be no better deal –

But wait, there's more....a book and video to tell you how to use your recently purchased, convenient, super, new and improved, stacking and reclining tool of the century.

There's always more.

Could there be an Easter Message in this?

Consider the story of our faith: Introduced to all of humanity, for the very first time - God. So great, so awesome, so much, that no name can describe God - more than male or female - more than all other gods - the God who can do it all. Want it?

But wait, there's more....God who loves us so much, that God doesn't demand empty sacrifice, but wants us to live better lives - a God who gives us a code and a law that makes our life better.

Ready, now? But wait, there's more..

How about a God who is active in our lives and speaks to us through prophets, teachers and even miracles? Sound too good to be true? It

isn't! It's real! It's available for you right now! Surely, now, you're ready to buy.

But wait, there's still more. How about a God, who loves us, is involved with us, teaches us, cares about us and is willing to be one with us - to become human and be part of our lives - to dance with us and celebrate with us, to laugh with us and heal us and be called Jesus. Surely, it doesn't get better than that! Go to your phones right now - rush to your churches, your synagogues, your gatherings - hurry, don't delay.

There's always more...

Mary had met a man who loved her. A man who loved her like she had never been loved before. In his kindness, in his respect, she found everything that she ever wanted in a man and was never able to find. She didn't need to hear, "but wait, there's more..." Jesus was enough.

For some of us it was like that. Love at first sight. The perfect house as soon as we saw it. The ideal husband or wife, without any extra work needed to smooth the edges. The right church, because we came as children, or just happened in one day because it was close. We don't need to hear the sales pitch, the "But wait, there's more..." Enough already. We like the Christmas tree and most of the hymns, the celebrations and the good feelings.

Suddenly, for Mary it was all gone. Jesus was dead. Her dreams were shattered - her hopes destroyed. They were all torn up and locked up in that cave with the lifeless body of the man who truly loved her. Maybe Jesus had mentioned about dying and resurrection - but she hadn't heard, she'd bought in before the, "But wait, there's more..."

Jesus came up to her, the Gospel tells us, but she thought he was the gardener. I always imagine her speaking those words, not in grief but in anger. "Look, if you've taken

him away, tell me! Where is he? I want whatever's left. Tell me where you put the body!!" Frantic to hang on to fragments of her dream, she wanted to tend to the body that had once met so much, that had been wounded and humiliated.

But there he was! Why didn't she recognise him? It was Jesus - right there in front of her. The man who truly loved her. God in human flesh. Why couldn't she see him?

For the same reason that you and I turn off the info-commercial after the 14th "But wait...." She'd had enough. She was full. There was no more room. She was full of grief. She was full of sadness. Of anger. Of fear. Of pain. Of longing. And there simply was no more room!

We know what that's like... full of anger, hurt, disappointment, disillusionment...

But Jesus says, "But wait, there's more...."

Jesus looks at Mary and says her name. "Mary" And it all changes - suddenly she recognises Jesus and she has room. Her tears of sadness, become tears of joy, she rushes up to hold him, she is filled with joy and celebration. Suddenly, she has room for more.

Not because everything is put back the way it was. It isn't.

Not because the anger and the hurt aren't real. They are.

But in that moment, Mary decided to believe in more. More than hurt; more than betrayal, more than loss; more than death. And surely that's what we are invited to do at Easter. Believe in more.

More than the promise of television ads. More than ever creeping age.

More than hurt. More than another fad diet.

More than loss. More than RRSPs.

More than worry. More than another night in front of the TV.

More than injustice More than death.

On Easter - the stone of the tomb is rolled away and God says through Jesus, "But wait, there's more...." There is pain and sorrow, but there is also joy and celebration. Laughter and warmth. Smiles and Jokes. Contentment and Satisfaction.

I remember one Good Friday, I was out walking and I saw the magnificent hawk. It was giant. As I watched it, I couldn't help but see that there was a large piece missing from one of its wings. It was as if about a third of one wing had been gouged out. I tried to imagine what had happened. Had the hawk been shot at? Likely the hawk had been in a terrible fight with another hawk or some such bird, perhaps over territory or maybe guarding a nest...then I realised that it wasn't important what had happened to the wing, what was important was that the hawk was flying. Soaring through the sky, feeling the warmth of the sun, the thrill of flight.

That's the Easter Message. Yes there is pain. Humiliation. Defeat. Crucifixion. But there is more. We are meant to soar. We can't pretend that we've never been hurt or afraid or confused, but Easter says "But wait, there's more....Go ahead, Soar. On broken wings if that's what you have, but fly. Laugh. Be alive.

That's Easter. Life. The Message is Life. God knows that we sometimes feel dead. In our work. In our relationships. In our pain. But God says that we were meant to soar - to be alive. Like Mary, all we have to do is accept and believe in this God who loves us, who knows about death but celebrates life and we will have room for life. We will laugh. We will soar.

That's the Easter Message. Christ is alive! But wait, there's more...We are alive, too!

Norm
(aka the Revered Norm Seli)

HOLY WEEK

Why Did They Crucify Jesus?

Holy Week

Reflection and Bible Study

Monday – Friday

March 17-21, 8 – 8:40 am

Join us as we look at some of the more controversial stories and teachings of Jesus. 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.

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, March 20 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 appro-

priate amount of food for all. The sign up sheet should be easy to find in the front foyer.

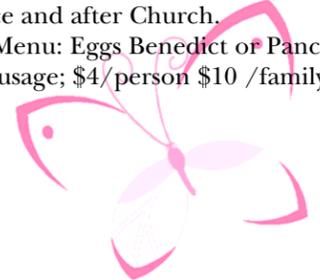
EASTER BREAKFAST

SUNDAY MARCH 23rd - 9AM

Some of us have been looking forward to this since LAST year!

Tickets are on sale through the Office and after Church.

Menu: Eggs Benedict or Pancakes & Sausage; \$4/person \$10 /family.



Getting to Know You

Charlie and Barbara Scott

On February 20, 2008, Charlie and Barbara Scott celebrated 48 years of a happy and successful marriage. Their commitment and dedication to each other are character traits that are also apparent in every other aspect of their lives.

Charlie's family moved to Leaside from Montreal when he was very young. He first demonstrated dedication by working hard to help finance his education in order to complete his engineering degree at UofT and later, his M.B.A. Barbara is a native east end Torontonion who studied at Toronto East General and graduated as a Registered Nurse. They met at an annual Drill Hall dance for 1st year students, although it was Charlie's third year attending!

Together, they have raised 4 strong and happy children, 2 girls and 2 boys and are the proud grandparents of 9 grandchildren. It is the proverbial millionaire's family and

family is something for which they are truly grateful. In fact, to them the true value of their modest Kawartha cottage is not the bricks and mortar, but the opportunity it has always and continues to provide for the family to gather and enjoy summer at the lake, including watching their children, and now reliving with their grandchildren, as they learn to swim, sail and water ski.

Volunteerism is a big part of their lives. It keeps them just as busy now as when Barbara kept things running smoothly at home while their kids were young and Charlie built an industrious career in the food industry. He was fortunate to have opportunities early on to learn all aspects of the business, a beneficial beginning for one who was to become an executive and ultimately a CEO three times over. Barbara volunteered administrative help for Covenant House, a refuge for street kids. She then joined the Health Care Team at Covenant House, in the capacity of a nurse.

Quite a retirement! Upon his retirement, Charlie began volunteering his food industry expertise through Canadian Executive Services Organization, CESO. He and Barbara have gone overseas to allow him to advise food company officials in foreign countries. CESO pays the expenses only, the expertise is volunteered. Charlie and Barbara have spent months at a time doing this in places like Slovakia, Poland, Ukraine, Serbia, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka. Charlie has also volunteered to share these experiences and has made presentations on their trip to Sri Lanka to various groups.

Jubilee is one of Charlie's passions and Barbara enjoys many aspects as well, including the bible reading sessions. Charlie likes the spiritual leadership, the variety of contemporary worship styles available and the wonderful fellowship of all the people who make Jubilee their church home. He is certainly one of our church's senior 'statespeople' and is a model of



dedication and commitment. He's served on many committees including Council, M&P and Membership and his guidance and tireless efforts have contributed much to Jubilee's success as a growing church. His vision, as he and Barbara have modelled all their lives, is for all of us to communicate the blessings we enjoy at Jubilee and to welcome others from the community to share our experience. Happy 48th to you both and thank you!

By Linda Griffiths

From Lee-Ann's desks (yes, I mean plural)

What is a Study Leave? Well, it's a chance to read stuff you normally don't have the time to read and digest. In my case it has been the opportunity to really soak up some literature in preparation for the final two papers of my Master of Religious Education degree. Uninterrupted, quiet, reflective reading time on a topic of your choice . . . oh joy and almost oh bliss . . . the papers still have to be written. But the good news is I shall be finished soon, the slower pace was helpful and . . . it's good to be back.

I've experienced many dramatic changes over the past year and change can take its toll on you. It's been a time of discovery. Hard times show you who your friends are and what you're made of. I've lost some and I've gained some. I've learned

things about myself that I don't like all that much and things that amaze me about me. And I wouldn't change any of it even though it's been a hard road. I found a great quote the other day that affirms where I'm at on the journey. Maybe some of you will appreciate it too.

"The thing that is really hard, and really amazing, is giving up on being perfect and beginning the work of becoming yourself."

Anna Quindlen

There's not enough time or space to share the whole story . . . maybe one day I'll write a book. Part 2 of Lee-Ann Bigglesworth. What I do wish to share is my gratitude for all the support that has been offered

to me by the members and staff at Jubilee. Thank you!

I guess I also want to share this with you in case you might be struggling too. While being in community is a tremendous blessing it can also be a double edged sword. When you live in community you have a place to belong and share your story, a place to rest your heart and feed your soul. But when you live in community you also risk being known, the possibility that people will discover who you really are under your Sunday best, your other side, your not for public display side. You risk being weighed, measured and found wanting. Community can be a soft place to fall or a court room filled with self righteous jurors. I'm happy to say that Jubilee has been a soft place to fall, a place of compassion and under-

standing. And I know this to be true beyond my own experience because I hear such testimony from others and together we celebrate the blessing that is Jubilee. It takes remarkable and exceptional effort to maintain genuine compassion, understanding and acceptance. I believe the strength lies in the unconditional love that lives among us, the Spirit of Christ that draws us together into grace filled community and a radical courage to be a living revelation of that love. Christ IS risen, God IS with us.

May this Easter be a chance to celebrate and nurture the loving Spirit that binds us together, grants us wisdom, offers us grace and invites us into new life.

Love and blessings,
Lee-Ann

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- March 16 (Sun) 10:30am Palm Sunday & NEWSLETTERS
- Mar 17-21 (Mon- Fri) 8-8:45am Daily Reflection = Holy Week
- Mar 17 (Mon) 8:35pm Ulterior Worship - Sanctuary
- Mar 18 (Tues) 1pm Living the Questions
- March 20 (Thurs) 6pm Maundy Thursday Service
- March 21 (Fri) 10:30am Good Friday Service
- March 23 (Sun) 8am 'Son' Rise Service
- March 23 (Sun) 9am Easter Breakfast
- March 23 (Sun) 10:30am Easter Sunday
- Mar 29 (Sat) 8:30am Men's Breakfast Mtg & Speaker
- Mar 29 (Sat) 6 -9pm EARTH HOUR Celebration

APRIL

- Apr 1,15,29 (Tues) 1pm Living the Questions
- Apr 4 (Fri) 8pm Friday Nighters to "Brigadoon"
- April 5 (Sat) 7:30pm JARRETT Concert
- Apr 7,21 (Mon) Ulterior Worship - Sanctuary
- April 15 (Tues) 7pm UCW Card Party
- April 19 (Sat) 3:30 - 6:30pm SPRING FLING

MAY

- May 3 (Sat) JUBILEE GIANT GARAGE SALE
- May 6,20 (Tues) 1pm Living the Questions
- May 7 (Wed) 7pm Order of Good Cheer 100 Choristers
- May 10 (Sat) 9am - 4pm WOMAN'S DAY 2008
- May 23 (Fri) 7:30pm Jubilee Choir presents: Broadway Melodies

Youth Ministry News

Common Ground Youth Ministry



Season of Cancellations has been the status for the majority of Common Ground events this year so far. We did manage to dance the night away at Newtonbrook United, with air band competitions and of course . . . YMCA.



Upcoming Events: Mar. 28 at Newtonbrook, Apr. 11 at Jubilee, Apr. 25 at Timothy Eaton, May 9 at Forest Grove, May 23 at Leaside and June 6 at Newtonbrook

COMMUNITY & COMMITTEES



MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all people on the committee who worked so diligently to make the Jubilee programs available to the whole community. I am humbled by the confidence you placed in me as your leader during the past two years. My reward was personal growth. Our reward was the deep bonds of friendship we formed during our times together. The next year will open new adventures when Jeanne Elgie-Watson is the chairperson.

The Lecture Series has formed a separate group. Ed Rutherford has volunteered to be responsible for looking after the speakers during the Fall of 2008 and Spring of 2009 season.

We are currently searching for a second volunteer who will be the convener for the upcoming series. This will be an enjoyable role for someone who has public speaking training and is comfortable in front of group because they will be the most visible member of the team. That person will welcome the group, make the announcements and highlight what is currently happening at Jubilee. Other responsibilities will include seeing the speakers are introduced and thanked. At least one more volunteer is needed who enjoys organizing events. This will include arranging for the advertising, posters and brochures and organizing the volunteers who keep the program running smoothly.

Speak to Ed Rutherford if you are willing to offer your talents to become a convener or an organizer. While these positions will increase your personal confidence and leadership skills, your contributions will be a gift to the Jubilee community.

By Gail Dykstra

ARE YOU THE ONE?

Do you want to be part of something special, be entertained and help share Jubilee with the community, all at the same time? If the answer is yes, why not consider helping to coordinate our Choir's next three concerts, Broadway Melodies - May 3, the Greenwood Memorial Concert - Nov. 2, and the Carols by Candlelight Concert - December 12 and 13. Good support people are already in place to advise and share their expertise. A list of things that need to be done has been drawn up and now we need a person or couple to coordinate and see that all the tasks are completed. Many hands make light work, so if you would just like to assist, we would love to have you volunteer. We sincerely hope that some individual(s) will rise to the challenge to be a Champion(s) for our Choir's Celebrations of Music for Jubilee and our Community.

Please let Joan Neylan, Charlie Scott, Ed Rutherford, or Barbara Greenwood know if you are able to assist us as a helper or a coordinator.

WELCOME MILADIN

We would like to welcome Miladin Danailov, our new Bass Lead, to Jubilee. Here is a little background on him.



"I was born in Bulgaria and came to Canada when I was 9. I have been singing ever since I was little and gave my first concert in front of a large 600 person audience when I was 6 in my home city of Karlovo.

When I came here I was part of the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus for a few years, then going into high school I was accepted into the Claude Watson Arts Program at Earl Haig S.S. I was a vocal major and studied a lot of music and theory. After that, I was accepted through vocal audition into the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, where I have been a voice performance major for the past 3 years."

ANNUAL GIANT GARAGE SALE!

Saturday, May 3rd, 2008 is our annual Giant Garage Sale at Jubilee. We will be accepting items from our congregation and community to sell at the Garage Sale from Wednesday, April 31st. If anyone would like to volunteer to sort items prior to the sale or work at the sale, please contact Paul Slovenski 416-444-7312 or Andrea Mozas 416-483-8575, andreamozas@gmail.com. We will also have a sign up sheet at the church.

Thank you!
Andrea Mozas & Paul Slovenski

Youth Camping Trips

Season of Campfires is celebrated on the weekend of May 30 - June 1, 2008. Youth grade 6+ are invited to come along (parents optional). If you're interested in joining us for a weekend of play, campfire singing, marshmallow roasts and exploring the wonders of nature, please contact Lee-Ann at the church office.



UCW HAPPENINGS

The UCW Service is on April 6th. Elizabeth Cuthbertson will be the speaker. Everyone is welcome.

The UCW is having a card party on Tuesday, April 15th at 7 p.m. at the church. Tickets are on sale now for \$12.50 per person. Dessert will be served at 7 p.m.

Men and women are welcome. Bring your own cards. Tickets are available from Teresa Kayahara or any UCW member.

Roma Watson

TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Hope you all have been saving your tabs from your pop and beer cans during the holiday season. We need them for the TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS program, started 18 years ago by the Legionnaires in Elora, Ontario, Jack Baumer and Roy Pearse. Although Roy has retired, Jack is still running the program.

By the end of 2007, enough tabs have been collected and sold to buy 880 wheelchairs for deserving recipients.

Jack and Roy are to be commended for their efforts and achievements! Under the continuing program, enough tabs are collected and sold to enable purchase of about 85 wheelchairs per year.

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Ted Gieruszczak

SPRING FLING 2008

Mark your calendars for FUN! Saturday April 19th 3:30 - 6:30pm - join us for video games, Nintendo Wii, Arts & Crafts, Bingo & FOOD!

A \$2 Admission will cover you for the games, and dinner costs will be by Donation. Watch for more info & flyers to hand out to friends.

Sponsored by the Jubilee Membership Committee.

Jeanne Elgie-Watson,
Chairperson

EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia in 2007, when the city turned out its lights for an hour. An hour to see the sky in all of its dazzling wonder; an hour to live without electrical power; and hour to reflect on how we can live together on the planet earth for a long, long time...

In 2008, Earth Hour grows as cities all over the world are ready to take part - including Toronto!!

March 29th, 2008

8:00 - 9:00pm we will be celebrating Earth Hour at Jubilee
In fact - we're starting early... 6pm!

We will barbeque out by the Labyrinth; we will play games and sings songs inside the church... all without the aid of electricity!

No batteries, no plugs... we will simply our evening and learn about ways that we can make smaller carbon footprints (Don't know what that means? - you should come out and find out).

At 8:00 - the lights go out... and we will have a short informal time of worship as we recognize God's call to live with Respect in Creation and commit ourselves to a sustainable planet; at 9:00 pm when the lights come back up... well, let's see if we can continue to make a difference!

If you are interested in helping to plan or facilitate this event, please speak with Rev. Norm (or email nseli@jubileeunited.ca). If you're not able to help plan - make sure that you plan to attend and you'll be able to answer the question "Where were you, when the lights went out?"



Woman's Day

May 10, 2008

9am - 4:30pm

A Day to

RENEW

-Your Body & Spirit

RECHARGE

-Your Inner Child

Reflect .. Explore

Sing... Create

In a day filled

with workshops & laughter!

Lunch included.

Registration forms

- available soon !



New Members

(New Member Sunday - Nov. 4, 2007) - Submitted by the Membership Committee

Robert Norris & Jenny Ritza

Robert Norris grew up in Victoria Village with his brother Gary and his sister Sharron. He finished high school and started college but soon realized he had made a wrong choice. One day he saw an advertisement for police recruits, applied for training and was accepted. That was the right choice and for 32 years, Robert has worked for the Toronto Police Traffic Services as a collision investigator. Police work has taught him how to maintain an even temperament, read people, and treat everyone with respect.



Curling and hockey are Robert's passions. He has played hockey since he was a boy and today, he thoroughly enjoys coaching a team of young hockey players.

Robert's 21 year old daughter, Jacqueline, tried college but didn't like it. She is currently working in sales and taking time to discover her personal goals in the scheme of things. Christopher James, at 19, is attending Midland Georgian College where he is studying small engines and marine small engine repair. He is happy with his choice for two reasons; he loves living in the north and he has found courses that excite him.

Robert visited Jubilee the day Charlie Norris celebrated his 90th birthday and he continues to attend church services. Norm's messages inspire him and he enjoys talking to the people. Robert sees Jubilee as a place where there is no prejudice and that is comforting because he is dealing with a divorce.

Jenny was born and raised in Peterborough. She grew up as an only child with her maternal grandparents, Donald and Jane Moore, and mother, Sarah Hunt; however, her mother became ill and her parents divorced when Jenny was 7 years old. Her father, Michael Hunt, has been part of Jenny's life and he lives in Nanaimo with his wife Lana and grown children (Jenny's half brother Matthew and half sister Laura).

Jenny started her career as a registered nursing assistant – but always dreamed of becoming a police officer and in 1995, she joined the Toronto Police as a special constable in the courts and later, changed to parking enforcement. During her time there, she met Robert and they have maintained their friendship over the years.

Unfortunately, Jenny lost her mother suddenly to heart disease in 1996 and shortly after that, her grandmother became ill with breast cancer and passed away in late 1997. After

Jenny lost her grandpa in 2002, she decided a career change might help her recover from her losses. In 2003 she began training to get her RN degree and graduated in June 2007. She now works in critical care and emergency units and finds her career much more rewarding.

Jenny has strong Christian faith and since the tragedy of 9/11, she has been searching for a church family. This past summer she attended a service with Robert and has been attending Jubilee on a regular basis. Jenny enjoys Norm and Lee-Ann very much.

Nanette Ilse Snel



Nanette was born in Venezuela while her father was employed there to help build a refinery for Royal Dutch Shell. When she reached school age, the family moved back to Holland and Nanette grew up in a village south of Rotterdam.

Since her brother's death from a brain tumor three years ago, Nanette has volunteered as a hospice palliative care worker for Alliance Hospice because she is grateful for the excellent care Ron received. Her Mom passed away this January and Nanette is hoping her 87 year old Dad will soon be able to come to Toronto.

Nanette traveled to Canada in 1976 and later met Harry, who is also Dutch, on a blind date. Harry is a land surveyor and loves to play golf. Their 22 year old daughter, Monique, is studying in Australia to be a teacher. Penny, part beagle, has a special place within the family household.

Jubilee is Nanette's family away from home. She enjoys the feeling of peace within the church, the worship, the music and when listening to Norm. She looks forward to the days when she works on the coffee team and she often spends time walking the labyrinth.

Nanette will visit Monique in Australia this Easter. She enjoys reading, walking, painting in acrylics, meeting friends and going to her cottage.

Nanette's life revolves around interior decorating and she believes good design can enrich the art of everyday life. She is a graduate of Seneca College's Interior Decorating program and is a member of CDECA (Canadian Decorators' Association). She formed her company "Nanique Interiors" in 1991.

Nanette works in a variety of styles for residential and commercial projects. She incorporates her clients' ideas with her functional design advice from choosing small blinds to planning whole house renovations.

Decorating is Nanette's passion and she feels blessed to have work that she loves.

In 2003, The Canadian Decorators' Association presented Nanette with a top Design Award in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 category. In 2004, Nanette was selected by Benjamin Moore to become one of their esteemed Colour Consultants. If you want to learn more about this amazing woman's work, Nanique Interiors is featured on www.homes-tars.com.

Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

I've been in paid accountable ministry with the United Church of Canada since 1997 when I started out as a staff associate for The Donway Covenant United Church. I spent four years at Rosedale United Church and then God called me to Jubilee . . . or was it Valerie Winters? Over the past 10 years I have been involved with Toronto Conference, supporting the Christian Formation and Congregational Development Committee as member, chair and then co-leader for the Toronto Conference Annual General Meeting programs for youth and children. I love anything that involves generating ideas and being creative in team. The biggest rush comes when I am part of something that enables others to discover their gifts and their potential, to help empower them to stretch and grow in ways that they never imagined.



Outside of work and in my not so spare time I love to hang out with my children, Kyle (19) and Melissa (15), curl with my gal pals, play tennis, golf, paint with oils, acrylics and watercolors, create odd 3D art and play at interior design. I generally have at least three books on the go and you could say I'm a compulsive student. After my Master of Religious Education is completed don't be surprised to find me taking some other courses . . . one day a Ph.D perhaps??? Somewhere in the mix I love to travel and going back home to visit my family in Alberta will always be one of the destinations.

It is such a pleasure to finally be an official member of Jubilee United Church. The community has become a second home ever since I came into team ministry with Norm back in . . . when was it now? . . . July 2005 . . . gee time flies when you're having fun! So far this leg on the journey of faith has been tremendously transformational and inspiring. I have been blessed with a fantastic staff team to work with and awed by the passion

and dedication of so many members who not only see the value in building an enriched Christian community but are also being transformed in the process. It is a wonderful place to be and I'm delighted to be able to be part of such an open and life giving congregation, one that is willing to explore and be relevant, is generous in so many ways, and lives out a genuine sense of hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thanks for making me feel so welcome!!

Jason Amell



Jason was born and raised in Wahnapiatae (pronounced wah-na-pit-ah), a small town outside of Sudbury. He moved to

Toronto in 1994 and met his partner, Robert D'Aguiar, in 1995. After Jason completed a number successful years in retail management, he and Robert started their own company Office Care. Since that company is well established, they also promote their Graphic Design and Screen Printed and Embroidered Clothing services.

In 2006, they met with Barb Secord, after she found their business card in a drawer, and inquired about their cleaning services for the church. Barb hired them and has an excellent working relationship with them.

Jason was so welcomed by the ministers, staff and congregation he felt the lure to renew his faith and in November of 2007, he became a full member. He is already known to the congregation for two reasons: he keeps the building looking spotless and his 35 apple pies were a delicious treat during Jubilee's Christmas Dinner. The pies were made from one of his grandmother's recipes.

Jason's interests are camping, music, movies, entertaining, baking and volunteering for special personal causes. He recently joined the Membership Committee and has contributed new ideas for the spring party.

Whereas Jason wishes to thank everyone for their support and welcome we, in turn, look forward to hearing more new ideas and tasting his next batch of baking.

Look out for further new member bios in the next edition of the newsletter.



LIFE EVENTS

We invite everyone to share family celebrations in future issues of Jubilation! so we can get to know each other better.

IN HOSPITAL & IN OUR PRAYERS

North York General - **Derek Conquer**

Toronto Rehab - **Irene Secord**

Providence Villa - **Irene Thompson**

Home - **Helen Vitale, Pat Robson, Syd Hale, Dorothy Young**

SYMPATHY

February 14, 2008 — **Betty Chisholm**

March 8, 2008 — **Dorothy Young**

March 11, 2008 — **Jim Ruse**

Feb 16, 2006 — **Olive Hicks**



THE PSALMS – A 6-WEEK SMALL GROUP STUDY

The Psalms reflect many human emotions and experiences in a relationship with God. Fittingly since the Psalms were typically sung in the past, our Music Director Art Wenk is offering a 6-session on The Sacred Word: The Psalms starting in mid-April. This will be an enjoyable, interactive study using Robert Alter's book "The Book of Psalms". Please contact the office to sign up and indicate if you prefer meeting Sundays at noon or Thursdays at 6pm.

BETHESDANS UCW UNIT – New Members Welcome

The Bethesdans Unit meets monthly at the church with a different program each month. There is lots of laughter and always refreshments! We are meeting Tuesday March 18th at 7pm in the Garden Room and this month, Henry Poutiainen is sharing some of his faith story with the group. Potential new members – we would LOVE to have you join us – so RSVP to Sandra Beech at 416-443-0903, and see you there!