



NOTES from Norm

So, here it is, a Thursday in late November and I am stuck at home.

I have no choice.

The “great” storm that was promised, is not so much great as inconvenient, but it is enough that the part that my mechanic requires to fix my car did not arrive at 8am, and will not likely arrive until late this afternoon.

I have no car; I cannot go to work.

Coincidentally, the email system on my computer has crashed. I cannot send files back and forth to the office. I have heard of this email type of system that uses analog speech – actual voices – over an electronic medium in real time. I believe that it is called the “telephone”, but I do not trust such newfangled technology, so in essence, I am cut off from the world. I cannot travel, I cannot communicate.

(What is that strange ringing sound coming from my kitchen and this thing in my den? It can't be a cell phone, it doesn't take pictures and it's attached to the wall by a cord... Again, cutting edge technology only confuses me, so I do my best to leave it alone).

At odds with my desire to be at work, and the reality of my being cut off from the world... I begin to panic. I panic myself all the way to the kettle and make a cup of tea...

I worry myself all the way to the fire place and strike a match....

I fret all the way to my library and rescue Richard Holloway's “Doubts and Loves” from a pile of books ready to make the Tower of Babel fall in comparison.

In sheer desperation, I fling my feet forward and up.... Upon the ottoman.

Oh, woe is me... I have no choice but to leave my feet up in front of a roaring fire, sip raspberry green tea and let Mr. Holloway re-

mind me why I have such great hope for the church.

But I am only a simple man and cannot manage to do this for any more than three hours or so before my mind begins to wander. At this time of year, my mind naturally wanders toward Christmas and the season of preparation and celebration. I don't know about you, but I find that at this time of year I am so very busy shopping for gifts, buying gifts, wrapping gifts... realizing that I've bought the wrong gifts.... And so, unwrapping, returning, re-shopping, re-wrapping and then, resisting doing it again... that I rarely have time to think about the season.

I become so preoccupied with whom I can fit into my holiday schedule; which gatherings I can attend, how to politely bow out of the ones that I simply can't manage (or really don't want to manage); which family members do I dare seat next to my father and how do I manage to show the same joy at seeing distant relatives, son's girlfriends, and old neighbours, when honestly, there's only a couple that I'm actually thrilled to see and several that I had hoped to put off until the Second Coming.... that I just don't take a lot of time to think about Christmas itself.

But today.... With feet up, fire now purring, cup of tea refilled and book finished, I have time to think.

I think, first, of the Absurdity of it all.

The clearest and most complete revelation of God comes to us in the child of transient refugee parents. They have no security, no place, no power.... And yet, in the example, teachings and very being of their son, I have found better than security: Hope; greater than place: Home; and more lasting and persuasive than power: Love.

How absurd that a single first century Jewish boy, a world and many lifetimes away from my experience, should be able to speak to me, challenge me, comfort me and invite me to recognize the Divine in my life. It makes no sense that his life should impact me so, or that his sacrifice should move me to give more of myself and increase my trust in a God that I cannot see with my own eyes.

But there it is... one of the presents under the tree that I sometimes forget to unwrap.

If I am ready to accept that this little boy, become a man, should truly be called the “son” of God, then just maybe there are some other absurdities to which I can be open. I just might be able to enjoy the company of those people that I had hoped to put off until the Second Coming; I just might be able to find some Divine Delight and Spiritual Succor in this Commercial Craze.... And I just might be able to forgive, reach out and even love a little more than I thought I could.

(you have no idea how pleased I am to have used the word “succor”)

I think, second, of the Reality of it all.

At Christmas we celebrate God's revelation in our midst, as a child.

An infant.

Vulnerable and inarticulate.

Think about that for a while.

This great gift from God, this outpouring of Divine Love... could not; cannot survive without our attention and nurture. It was, and is up to us to recognize the Presence of God in a manger; it was, and is up to us to nurture and love this gift, or else it will surely perish. God appears in our midst, not to take over, but to invite our partici-

pation. We have to be the words, for the child who cannot speak; we have to offer our warmth or the child will freeze; we have to offer nurture or the child will grow weak. At Christmas in 2007, where are we being invited to give voice to those who cannot speak; where are we invited to share our warmth; where is our nurture required... where are we being challenged to recognize God's Presence?

Surely the story of Christmas is inviting us to do more than read an old tale, but rather re-live it again in a new time and place. In other words, we are invited to make this story real.

I think, finally, of the Joy of it all.

To be invited into the act of creation with God. For surely that is the invitation – as we make the story of Christmas real, we are creating. As we speak for those the world ignores, we create awareness and justice. As we share warmth with others, we create hospitality and community. As we share our nurture, we create life... Real life with hopes and potential, opportunity and value. And as we do all of these things... none of which require shopping, wrapping or the sending out of invitations.... We recognize God's Presence... in others and even in ourselves. What could be more joyful than that?

So, my fondest Christmas Wish for you this season is that your email crashes and your car breaks down... and perhaps like me, you will find a little time to stop rushing and ponder the absurdity and reality of this glorious season.

Merry Christmas

Norm
(aka the Reverend Norm Seli)

LIFE EVENTS

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

NEW MEMBERS

(New Member Sunday — 2007)

Lee-Ann Ahlstrom
Jason Amell
Beth Frise
Rick Frise
Brian McClelland
Nancy McClelland

John Mozas
Robert Norris
Jenny Ritza
John Reynolds
Margaret Reynolds
Nanette Snel

SYMPATHY

Margaret Breeze — Sept 17, 2007
George Rogers — October 8, 2007
Barbara Nelson — October 26, 2007
Norm Regnier — October 28, 2007
Bob Greenwood — November 10, 2007
Helen Toye — November 22, 2007

Thank You!

We wish to thank our friends at Jubilee for all the good wishes, phone calls, cards and goodies we received these past few months. Marion's Stem Cell Transplant took place in July at Princess Margaret Hospital and it has taken her a few months to regain her strength. It is comforting to know we have such a strong support group. Many thanks to everyone!

Don and Marion Hunter

Getting to Know You



Bill and Jeanne Elgie Watson

Bill was born in Mount Forest where he received his early education. His father is deceased; his mother is living in Mount Forest. He has no siblings. He obtained an honors BA from the University of Waterloo and an LLB at Osgoode Hall Law School. He also attended the Kellogg Business School executive program for Partners of Baker & McKenzie LLP.

He has been employed by Baker

& McKenzie LLP since 1981 and became an international partner in the firm in 1987. He has served as Baker & McKenzie's Managing Partner for Canada and served for six years on the Canadian management committee and on the Global Policy Committee. He specialises in labour and employment law and in large issue negotiations, including collective bargaining, as well as coroner's inquests, occupational health and safety prosecution defence.

Other Highlights: He has served as the Multi-Provincial/Territorial Negotiator in negotiating the first Canadian compensation package for recipients of HIV tainted blood and blood products. He also served as the Canadian employer delegate to the International Labour Conference at Geneva Switzerland and served on the Canadian delegation for five years, developing international labour and employment standards. In 2007 he was a recipient of the 50th anniversary alumni award from the University of Waterloo.

At Jubilee he is a member of the Worship Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Other Interests and Achievements:

Bill chaired Baker & McKenzie's award winning United Way Campaign for three years. He is the upcoming President of the University of Waterloo Alumni Council for 2008-09. He has been a member of the Alumni Council since 2005.

Bill is a member of the Governor's Council of the Shaw Festival.

He plays baseball, golf, touch football and squash.

Bill and Jeanne are avid fans and season ticket holders for the Raptors and the Argos.

Jeanne was born in Fergus Ontario. She lived on a farm just outside of town. Her Mother is deceased; her father is still living in Fergus. She is the third of four children in the family. She has two older sisters and one younger brother.

She attended the University of Toronto where she obtained an under-graduate degree in geography and political science. She worked at Simpsons for four years, then attended Ryerson University where she obtained a diploma in

nursing. She worked at Doctors Hospital for seven and one half years in the acute and critical care unit. In 1992 she started work at the Toronto General Hospital on the staff of the cardiovascular intensive care unit for eight years. In 2000 she accepted a teaching position at Toronto General Hospital in the cardiovascular surgery program. In 2003 she obtained a Masters of Arts (adult education focus) from Central Michigan University.

Jeanne's hobbies include sewing, knitting, cooking and gardening. She is going to help Lee-Ann prepare for the Christmas pageant. She is a member of the Membership Committee.

Bill refers to Jeanne as "One of the finest and most tolerant women on the planet Earth". Bill and Jeanne have known each other for many years, but have been married for 20 years. They have no children, but have two dogs: Nikita and Lucy. They are both active and do a lot of volunteer activities together, including fund raising events for charity and supporting federal and provincial political candidates.

Ruth Boyd



Roma and Wynne Watson

It would be easy to fill many pages with the adventures of Roma and Wynne Watson. They have led very fun-filled, interesting lives. Roma and Wynne have been members of Victoria Village and now Jubilee United Church since the late 1960's, so you may know them already. If not, seek them out! They are wonderful people to talk with.

It made sense that Roma and Wynne Watson would eventually get

to know each other. Their paths crossed many times in their youth. They grew up in East York, were both members at The Church of the Nativity as children and sang in the junior choir, they attended the same high school for one year, were both exceptional athletes, and chose teaching as professions in the Scarborough Board.

It was when Roma and Wynne were hired at Buchanan Public School in their first teaching positions that they fell in love and married.

Roma grew up an only child and at the age of 14 her parents introduced her to the game of golf. This kept Roma on the course and out of boredom at home. She was soon playing 18-36 holes every day in the summer, and sometimes even fit in 40 before the sun went down. Then at the persistence of friend, Marlene Streit, Roma attended University in Florida to keep up her

game. All this practice paid off. Roma was chosen in 1959 to play on the Canadian team in the Commonwealth Games in Scotland and toured all across the British Isles.

Today, Roma continues to play golf and is a lifetime Member at Ladies Golf Club of Toronto, having been there 53 years. She feels very fortunate to have the game of golf in her life!

As mentioned, Wynne was also an accomplished athlete. At Riverdale Collegiate he was chosen as an "All Star" football player, the best halfback in Toronto schools. Besides playing high school football, he played on championship teams in hockey and baseball. Any team he tried out for he made. Sports were where he spent some of his most memorable times and made wonderful, lasting friendships.

Church has always been an important part of Roma and Wynne's lives. Wynne was required to go to church every Sunday growing up-to

both the morning and evening services. "The evening service didn't have a sermon, so it was shorter. Thank goodness!" Wynne kidded. Roma went to church regularly as a youth too. Some Sundays Roma went to church on her own. "It was a short walk and I didn't want to miss choir so I got myself there". When asked what they like about Jubilee, both love the sermons, music, and the people. Wynne added that the comfortable seats are welcoming too!

Roma and Wynne are fantastic babysitters and help out with their 5 grandkids often. Their daughters, Shelby Hayter and Andrea Mozas appreciate this and love the relationship they have with their kids.

Hopefully this adds to what you already know about Roma and Wynne! They are often around the church, so if you want more details, they won't be hard to find.

Andrea Mozas

JUBILEE U.C.W. REPORT

On Tuesday September 18, we had our Fall Gathering Pot Luck Supper. As usual the food was plentiful and delicious. Linda Leatherdale, Finance editor of the Toronto Sun, was our speaker. She was very informative and entertaining. We collected a free-will offering for the "Reach for the Skye Foundation" at Sick Kids Hospital in honour of her daughter Skye who is a cancer survivor.

We sold 100 bags of Muskoka cranberries. Thanks to Roma Watson who took the orders and picked up the cranberries.

Art/Craft 2007 is over for this

year. After a lot of hard work by many dedicated people the show was once again a success. We had 29 vendors which filled the church. The Auditorium housed the very profitable Lunch Room, Bake Table, Jams and Jellies and Silent Auction. Many thanks to the Art/Craft Committee headed by Elaine Day and to all our U.C.W. Units who work so hard on this event.

Our Advent Service, Carols and Candles, was a joint venture with the Pastoral Care Committee. It was on Tuesday December 4 at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Seli perform the Service

and Communion and Harvey Bride and Leroy Fowler provided the music. Wrapped gifts of new socks, hats, mitts and scarves will be donated to the Scott Mission.

The Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday January 15/08. Our new Executive will be installed and the new budget passed. Marion Magee is going to present a travelogue and we will also have a sing-along, lead by Diane Sankey and Harvey Bride. It will be a most enjoyable evening so please come out. There are positions still available on the Executive.

As this is my last year as

President of the U.C.W., I would like to thank each and every member of the U.C.W. for their support, expertise and friendship. The past three years have been a learning and rewarding time. Thank you so much.

Mary Lynne Graham
U.C.W. President



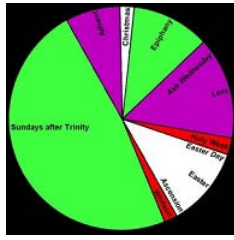
DISCOVERY ZONES

Registration Forms

Thank you to all who filled out registration forms. There are still more available outside the youth room if needed for those who still haven't had a chance to complete them.

Fall Highlights:

In September the children learned all about the various seasons of the church year, the traditional colors and symbols associated with the Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.



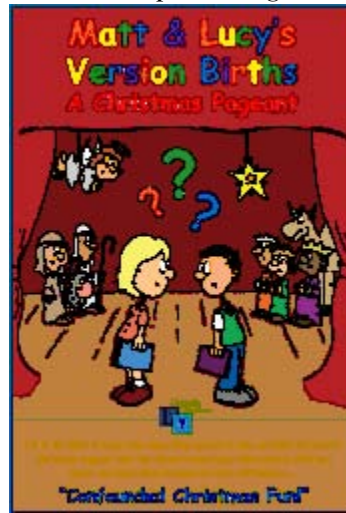
They colored a calendar to take home and share with their families and a home activity booklet.



In October the children learned about the symbols and prayer practices of other religions. Their study included Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Christianity.



In November the children learned about the story of Jesus restoring sight to blind Bartimaeus. The children were visited by a guide dog trainer and her student "Watson" and they generously donated last year's collection to the Lion's Club sponsoring "Guide Dogs of Canada". Lastly, they heard first hand from Dr. Larry Beech about losing one's sight and how life changes as a result. Dr. Beech showed the children how to be helpful guides.



Coming this December:

This December the children will celebrate the season of Advent with crafts, story and music. Children of all ages are participating in the preparation of our Christmas pageant. This year's script is titled **Matt and Lucy's Version Births**.

It's never too late to join the fun . . . children between the ages of 4 and 100 are welcome. If you and your children or



Youth Ministry News

Common Ground Youth Ministry Growing and Changing Our Ministry

This fall the Common Ground Youth Ministry has seen some changes. Leaside United has joined us with Rev. David Bruce offering leadership from there. The youth ministry at The Donway Covenant is now under new leadership, a position that will work ecumenically with the Donway Baptist church and Church of Ascension (Anglican) in the Donway community. Timothy Eaton United Church has joined us and we're hoping to make more connections in the New Year. Jubilee started off the season with baseball at Wishing Well Park and we hosted again in November with an evening of "Improv" in the sanctuary. By the end of the evening the youth had presented four different renditions of **Jesus and the children**.



Confirmation Classes

Youth (13+) interested in being part of our monthly sessions are invited to our next gathering which will be **Sunday, January 6, 2008** from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm.

Sunday Mornings

October's session was hosted by Ed Rutherford who guided the youth through a drama series. There is performer in all of us and Ed is a master at drawing the 'ham' out in everyone he works with. Henry Poutiainen led the discussions in November and will continue into December with Dreams, Bones, Stories and Halo 3.

Looking ahead . . . December 16th will be a special meeting and devotional time with Lee-Ann. Our discussion will include planning for the New Year.

WALKING THE LABYRINTH

Join us on **Sunday December 16th** at 7:30 pm for an Advent labyrinth walk (indoors) as we take some time for quiet reflection in this hectic season.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 6,13 (Thurs) 6 - 7:30 pm

Dec 9 (Sun) 6:45 pm


Dec 14,15 (Fri, Sat) 7:30 pm

Dec 16 (Sun) 7:30 pm

Dec 18 (Tues) 7:30 pm

Dec. 23 (Sun) 10:30 pm

Dec 24 (Mon) 7:30 pm; 11:30 pm

 Dec 27 (Thurs) 10 - 2 pm

Healing & Growth Small Grp

World Wide Candle Lighting Service

Carols by Candlelight

Advent Labyrinth Service / Walk

Toronto Choristers Carol Evening

Worship & Christmas Pageant

Christmas Services

JUBILEE OPEN HOUSE ! 10am - 2pm

Drop in ! Bring in all the things you've been meaning to - year end offerings, pop tabs, stamps, eye glasses,

Food Store tapes, corks, greeting card fronts.

Join us for music and munchies and have a Christmas visit with other Jubilee Friends & Staff.

Office Closed

Friday December 29th

Community and Committees

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee had a busy and rewarding fall season. We were able to obtain excellent speakers for our lectures and our Wednesday afternoon series was well attended. This was our first attempt to work independently—without the help of a professional organization. Our 2007 lecture donations to the church are \$2456.42.

The Halloween party was successful because the younger members of our group planned excellent entertainment. The highlight was the haunted house. Since we anticipated a large crowd, we were prepared for at least 140 guests who joined us for a potluck dinner.

The Jubilee Christmas Dinner party on November 24th was an amazing success. Since John Frame knows how to organize large events, everything was perfectly timed and ran smoothly. Sue Hawton and Valerie Winters were John's coordinators. The youth group turned out in full force to work in the kitchen. Jason Amell baked 25 delicious pies. Andrea Mozas and her helpers kept the children entertained.

Gail Dykstra

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. It 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.

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

Suggestions from Outreach for Christmas Giving

How many people on your Christmas list have everything? How much time do you spend wracking your brain for a new idea of what to buy? Give yourself a break! Here is a list of suggestions.

1. A donation to the charity of your choice in the name of the person on your list.
2. Stocking stuffers from UNICEF.

E.g. a bed net is available for \$10 or for \$13 plumpy nut therapeutic spread.

3. A donation in the name of the person on your list to M&S. Outreach will have envelopes at the back of the church to facilitate this.
4. A donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, with the notation on the memo line "Grandmothers Project."
5. A family project to collect the items for a relief kit for a family in a war torn area of the world. The Mennonite Central Committee works year round in these areas and sends kits by container ship. Kits have gone to Iraq, Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Honduras, & Venezuela. The kit contains ordinary household items that we take for granted. They are packaged in tubs that can be used as water containers or seats.

Family Kit

- 4 towels (new, dark colour, medium weight)
- 4 toothbrushes, adult size, leave in wrapper
- 4 bars bath soap, 4-5 oz, in wrapper
- 1 plastic bottle shampoo (380-710mls)
- 10 cups powdered laundry detergent (double bag in 4 litre resealable plastic bags)
- 1 squeeze tube toothpaste (130mls)
- 1 hair brush
- 1 comb 8", 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 box adhesive bandages (40minimum assorted)
- 1 pkg. sanitary pads (18-24 thin maxi or ultra thin)

Place in a box or bag & deliver to: Global Closet, 747 Don Mills Rd...416-429-2861 or

MCC Toronto, 1038 Woodbine Ave., Toronto, 416-423-9229

For more suggestions see web site www.mcc.org

Outreach Committee

CLAXTON CAKES

It's time again to start thinking about those delicious Claxton fruit cakes.

Prices are the same as last year - 11lb bar @ \$6.00, 2-11lb bars @ \$11.00, box of 3-11lb bars @ \$15.00

They are again available in dark or light.

To place an order, or for further information, call Bob Nicholls at 416-445-2642.

All proceeds go to Outreach Activities.

Bob Nicholls

FINANCE

The Fall Appeal has been a very heartening success. Until the last week of November, we have received 96 responses totaling over \$13,000. Our warmest thanks go out to all those who responded so generously to the Appeal. This will go a long way toward letting us meet our financial goals for 2007.

The Stewardship Campaign is now under way. The pledge cards for 2008 along with a record of your givings until the end of October were mailed recently. We would ap-

preciate as early a response as possible. This will help us plan for next year.

We have now 55 Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) contributors. In the early results from the Stewardship campaign there has been further interest shown in this method of giving. The benefits to this approach are at least twofold :

- 1) It gives Jubilee a solid base on which to plan
- 2) It relieves the donor of monthly cheques and having to remember them.

If you would like further information on PAR donations, please contact the Treasurer, Robert Boyd at (416) 444-4621.

And finally, we wish all of you the very best of joy and warmth in the Holiday Season. If it is your wish, please consider adding Jubilee to your Christmas Gift List

Robert Boyd

You probably already know this, but...

Definitely Not Church is growing. More and more people are coming out to hear Drew Winters and Norm Seli provide a soundtrack to a Bible Story. The story telling is a little different and the music is... well, it's Definitely Not Church. With Drew on the piano, Norm on guitar and both sharing their voices, the story of Jezebel is told with the music of the Zombies (Spooky and She's Not There); Adam and Eve are remembered with the Beatles and Lulu (Do You Want to Know a Secret; To Sir with Love); Christmas has been celebrated with Fats Waller and Bobby Vee (Ain't Misbehavin' and Take Good Care of My Baby). As promised, No Preaching, No Piety, No Prayers and not much Propriety... but free coffee, a good story and (usually) a good time. If you haven't been, you might want to drop by in 2007

– and if you have, why not bring a friend next time.

The First Sunday of the Month @ 7:30pm

You might NOT know this...

Something Like Church is also growing. Like Definitely Not Church, Something Like Church is held the first Sunday of each month, but we meet in the morning at 9:00am. The atmosphere is a little more casual and the music also a little less formal. Most of the music comes from a modern resource: More Voices. The music is lead by The Jubilants, an age and gender mixed groups that includes Voice, Piano, Bass and Drums. Services are always over before 10:00 am and we welcome families and individuals of all ages.

If your calendar is nearby, you might want to take note: Definitely Not Church and Something Like Church will be held on January 6 - February 3 - March 2 - April 6 - May 4 - June 1.

1st Lawrence Valley Scouting

We have had a great start to our 2007-2008 season.

All sections were active during

Apple Day the week end after Thanksgiving. I'm sure you saw our youth and Leaders in your neighbourhood at the local mall.

1st Lawrence Valley was also honoured to actively participate at the Remembrance Day Service as greeters, readers, flag bearers, and helping with the offering.

We have great Leaders who are very dedicated to bringing a strong program to the boys and girls in Beavers (ages 5-7), Cubs (ages 8-10), Scouts (ages 11-13), and new this year Venturers (14-17)

We are always looking for additional help within our adult ranks (Leaders/Group Committee). The need is particularly high within our Scout Troop.

If anyone is interested in joining our group, as one of the leaders, please give me a call at 416 391-3685.

Yours in Scouting
Michael Taylor
Group Commissioner

YOGA AND MEDITATION CLASSES HERE AT JUBILEE!

Melt away stress, release stiff muscles and calm the mind.

- Monday Night Simple Yoga 7:30-8:30 (drop in)
- Thursday Night Meditation Group 6-7pm (pre register)
- Thursday Night Yoga/Pilates 7:30-8:30 (drop in)
- NEW YEARS EVE YOGA! 8 pm-9:30 pm (pre register)
- Feb 16th-17th 2008 a beautiful all inclusive getaway! Winter Yoga and Meditation Retreat at Eaton Hall

For more info call Certified Instructor Cathy Mines at 416-803-9907, www.reachyoga.ca.

Christmas Food Bank Appeal from Outreach

There were reports in the newspapers of the Thanksgiving Food Drive falling short by many thousands of pounds. In view of this let us not risk people being hungry this winter. Food bank use in Ontario has declined but continues to increase in Toronto because of the high cost of housing.

The response from Jubilee has always been generous both in donations and in non perishable food. Please make this part of your holiday tradition.

Donations of money can be multiplied many times because the staff can buy in bulk and fill in the gaps. Cheques may be made out to Jubilee United Church with food bank on the memo. There will be envelopes in the chair pockets for those who wish to give a Christmas gift.

Examples of foods that we collect in the box at the front door include; peanut butter, tinned meats, tuna, salmon, canned vegetables, soup, pasta, rice, lentils, cooking oil, cereal and sugar. These donations go to our local Food Bank at Church of the Ascension, on Overland Drive.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.