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▶ At our Annual Meeting something remarkable happened. .... 2

▶ A variety of musical offerings in two locations, so you can enjoy all-music all-the-time! .... 3

# Jubilation!

## Spring

JUBILATION! IS THE NEWSLETTER OF JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH  
40 UNDERHILL DRIVE - WWW.JUBILEEUNITED.CA

## Notes from Norm

Five Years.

It's been that long.

We began to share a Ministry at Jubilee in 2005. I arrived fresh faced from the country, full of excitement; completely unaware of what I was getting myself into. Who knew that time could go by so fast? Recognizing that five years is always a good time to look back and reflect, I thought that I would do that here. To make it less like the ramblings of a minister, I thought that I would perhaps interview myself (sure, that will make it seem less self-indulgent and rambling!)... and so I begin:

**Interviewer: We are sitting in Rev. Seli's office – it's a nice comfortable setting festooned with peculiar *objects d'art*, a great number of books (he must be a voracious reader), and musical**

**instruments (he should probably take lessons). "Rev. Seli, may I call you 'Norm'?"**

Please, do.

**It's been 5 years since you arrived at Jubilee – in all that time, what would you say was your favourite moment?**

I don't know how to answer that. I really wish that you had cleared these questions with me before the interview. I don't know how to isolate a single moment, there have been a succession of moments. Celebrating Baptism, holding up the events of a life in the celebration of funeral, watching the action as teams of people set up and run the Garage Sale, the pre-event run through for the Sparkling Evening, the curling sheet on the Labyrinth, hearing people share as they light the Christ

Candle, gathering food and clothing for the hungry and cold, the lectures on Wednesdays, dinners and picnics, hearing Art play Chopin, listening to our choir sing almost anything, watching Lee-Ann listen to children, laughing so hard that I cry at Staff Meetings, Ed's announcements, Paul's antics, Charlie's questions... the incredible trust and joy that I find in Bible Study, the gentle opening of the spirit in Ulterior Worship, the power of participation in Something Like Church, playing with Drew in Definitely NOT Church... and sometimes, late at night when nobody else is around, just sitting in the sanctuary and thinking "Wow, God... I can't believe you called me into this... thanks"

**But surely not everything has gone perfectly... some things have not gone as planned or simply failed. Is everything really Lee-Ann's fault? In short, "Yes".**

**Ouch! That seems a little harsh...**

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## Dates to Remember

### MARCH

March 28 (Sun) Palm Sunday  
March 28 (Sun) 7:30 p.m. Mozart Festival  
March 29 (Mon) 8:35 p.m. Ulterior Worship

### APRIL

April 1 (Thurs) 6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship  
April 2 (Fri) 10:30 a.m. Good Friday Service  
April 4 (Sun) 8:00 a.m. Easter "Son" Rise Service  
April 4 (Sun) 10:30 a.m. Easter Service  
April 11 (Sun) 7:00 p.m. Something Like Church

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In truth there is no fault for anybody. My experience at Jubilee is that the congregation and the staff – but especially the staff (Pat, Anne-Mari, Barb, Lee-Ann and Art) give above and beyond...

we really put ourselves into things and when things don't go as planned, there is always another set of hands to help clean up, or another set of eyes to see the success that otherwise might be overlooked. Success isn't always about huge numbers or great profits, success at Jubilee is about following the Spirit and engaging as God invites us to engage. Sometimes a "failure" is better than a success....it might mean that one person came to an event that was planned for 60, but that one person got the personal contact that they needed, a connection that would not have been made in a crowd... Or a program like Definitely NOT Church that changed dramatically when the scheduled band did not show up and Drew volunteered to play with me on about 15 minute's notice... I had only decided to play a few hours before that... and 3 years and 400 songs later, Definitely NOT Church is completely different than it was planned. From the early failure has come a different kind of success. In truth, I believe that when we

are open to God's guidance, ready to adapt and learn, there are no true "failures" and so nobody is at fault when things don't go as planned. But if I am wrong... it is Lee-Ann's fault.

**That was a great answer. I'm amazed that you have such clear insight, even as you are presently juggling five bowling pins, playing the piano and translating this conversation into ASL. But I digress... what do the next five years have in store for Jubilee?**

I think it would be better to ask what we have in store for the next 5 years.

**I stand corrected.**

Jubilee is not the kind of community that will simply let time dictate the future. We are hungry to be God's hands in the world; we don't want to stop being welcoming and comforting to the people who come to and through our doors... but I think that we are ready for more. In the next few years, I can see leadership growing within Jubilee... more programs and projects led by individuals and teams of Jubilee folk; I can imagine us being involved in Refugee Sponsorship, Habitat for Humanity, working with the struggling within our community and

perhaps even abroad. I can see the seeds planted for more diverse worship events at Jubilee even as we work to make our Sunday morning services inviting and inclusive of our whole community – including those who like to sing the "Old" hymns. I can imagine more opportunities for children and youth and things about which we have yet to dream... and of course, there will be bridge.

**So, are you going to be around for that?**

I sure hope so.

**I guess what I'm asking is "Are you ever going to leave Jubilee?"**

Why? What have you heard?? At this point in my life, I can't imagine a place where I would rather be than Jubilee. The people are supportive, loving, willing, daring, hopeful and imaginative... the building is great, the community is alive and the staff at Jubilee is the best of any church in this country. Where could I possibly go that could offer even a fraction of what I get every day at Jubilee? But I am aware, that God calls us for a variety of reasons... and there may come a time

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## What Happened at the Annual Meeting?

At our Annual Meeting something remarkable happened. As a keen observer of churches I am very aware of at least two cultures that exist in churches: Those who say we must be prudent and live within our means; and those who say that we must dare to dream and risk reaching beyond our grasp. The dreamers imagined that we could make an amalgamation of three churches work – the prudent took that dream and with careful work made it a reality. They set the budgets, raised the money, created a plan that followed the dream and so on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jubilee United Church, we have come to the end of that plan... we are here, we are active and we balanced our budget.

As we discussed the plans for 2010 we presented a budget with a \$15,000 short fall. We worked hard at responsible visioning and budgeting, we tried to put

money aside for the increase in prices and unforeseen repairs... we did our best to keep what works and to expand our ministry. In doing all of this in a careful, prayerful and prudent manner, we honestly showed that we would be \$15,000 short of paying for all that we hope to accomplish. AND then the dreamers spoke... "How can we present a deficit budget, isn't that admitting defeat before we've even started?" "Isn't that accepting that we will not move forward but simply maintain?" "Can't we trust in the people and in God to show us a way to live our dream?" The prudent listened... they didn't all agree... the dreamers listened, they know who built this church and how much it means to everybody that we go forward faithfully and wisely. In the end... by an overwhelming vote, the dreamers declared a balanced budget for 2010 – they put forward a dream that we



cannot guarantee, but we are trusting in God and the people of Jubilee to make it so. And with the guidance of the prudent and the support of the people...this new dream will become a reality.

In the next couple of weeks you will receive a letter telling you more about the dream, about the challenge and about how Jubilee is growing into 2010 and beyond... but for now, just know that dreamers are in our midst!

# TECHNO-FAST

Some people are doing food fasts . . . but we like to be different and spend 30 hours without technology. We like to be different . . .

- No ipods**
- No cell phones**
- No computers**
- No t.v.'s**
- No techno gadgets of any kind**
- No electricity (where we have control over it)**

Now . . . not eating for 30 hours is much easier than going without technology . . . trust me : )

So . . . we're taking the opportunity to recruit sponsors, people who will give us money to take this difficult challenge. And all proceeds will go to the **Mission and Service Fund** of the United Church of Canada. The M&S Fund provides support to organizations like Toronto's Massey Center which offers residence and programs for young mothers. It also offers support to international outreach projects such as Haiti relief, well projects in Africa and educational programming in Central America. The M&S Fund allows the United Church a visible presence in many parts of the world.

**Where?** Jubilee United Church

## **When?**

Begins: Friday March 26th at 4:00 p.m. but we don't begin our program at the church until 6 p.m. so you're on your own for 2 hours : ) We will sleep over night at the church.

Ends: Saturday March 27th at 10:00 p.m. after the community Earth Hour event.

## **Who?**

Anyone *12 and over* is invited to participate in the Fast. (Jubilee youth are encouraged to invite their friends.)

*Older youth* are welcome to take on leadership roles and lead or assist with activities that are scheduled for the 30 hours, such as group games, skits, creative play, volleyball, floor hockey . . . etc. You can get credit for community service hours if you commit to leading or assisting.

*Parents* are also welcome to help out with chaperoning and activities.

Permission forms must be filled out and there is a small fee of \$20.00/participant to help cover food expenses.

Hope you'll join the challenge!!!

Lee-Ann  
[leeann.ac@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:leeann.ac@jubileeunited.ca)  
416-447-6846 ext.104



*Join us for:*

**JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY  
WEEKEND  
April 16-17-18, 2010**

**Friday Night - 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
“A Home-Grown Musical  
Celebration”**

A variety of musical offerings in two locations, so you can enjoy all-music all-the-time! Norm is coordinating the acts, so if you want to be part of the entertainment – contact him. ([nseli@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:nseli@jubileeunited.ca)) Refreshments will be available at a nominal cost, and freewill offerings for this lively evening will be gladly received! (Rumour has it there may be some imported talent as well as our home-grown!)

**Saturday Night  
6:00 – 9:30 p.m.  
“Family Pot Luck Dinner”**

An old-fashioned Pot Luck Supper (only slightly-directed). We will have you sign up for a category of food (main / salad / dessert) but after that, the choice is up to you !

Dinner will be followed by a few speeches and some entertainment. Kids, don't despair – there will be something for you too ! (How does Wii sound?!)

**Sunday “Intergenerational  
Worship Service” – 10:30 am**

We look forward to a very special Anniversary Worship service, in which we plan to have greetings from other courts of the church, as well as the dedication of plaques for the founding congregations, a Jubilee cornerstone and a time capsule.

**Please Join Us as we Celebrate the  
First Ten Years and Anticipate the  
NEXT Ten !**

**Wendy Miller  
For the Anniversary Team**

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when God invites me to go elsewhere, I don't imagine that it will happen anytime soon and if and when it does, I will probably do my best to ignore it... until I can't.

**You know this is supposed to be an Easter edition of Jubilation – what does any of what you have been saying have to do with Easter?**

At Easter, we focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus – did it happen? Didn't it happen? How did it happen? But we can sometimes miss a great deal of the power of Easter. Remember Mary of Magdala... a woman who had believed that life had nothing more to offer her, a woman who had given up dreaming and settled for surviving. And then she met a man... a man who showed her how much

life had to offer and how much she had to offer life; a man who inspired her to dream and to dream big; a man who would not let her settle for surviving, but dared her to live. AND she did live. She lived fully aware of the presence of God, she lived with and because of this man and the God that he revealed. But then Good Friday happened... the man was gone... God was taken from her... She greeted Easter morning with tears... fearing that her hope had all been in vain, that her dreams have been foolish and that she really had nothing to offer the world... She felt all these things as keenly as a person can feel, until she met the risen Christ – out of the tomb, alive and not dead... and she realized that nothing can kill dreams; nothing can take away your value and what you have to offer the world, nothing can defeat hope and possibility... nothing can end the life

of Christ or the love of God. That's Easter for me and I have experienced all of those things in my 5 years at Jubilee: Life, Death, Sadness, Joy... but mostly: Value, hope, possibility and the love of God. Sincerely, every day, Jubilee is that kind of Easter story for me.

**Thank you for this, Norm... I must say that this was a lot easier than I thought it would be, you were not nearly as difficult as I had been warned... and by the way, have you lost weight?**

You are too kind... it has been fun, almost as easy as talking to myself. Happy Easter and thank you for all of your love and support these past 5 years... I can hardly wait to see what comes next.

*Norm*



## OUTSIDE THE LINES

### Woman's Day Event 2010

Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>  
from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>  
from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Original Celtic, Folk, Country Rock, Roots Music. Poor Tom is Wanda's Newfoundland Roots meeting Susan's Virginia roots in some happy place. Poor Tom will be performing on Friday evening so come and enjoy! Tickets for Friday evening are \$15.00 and include a complementary wine ticket.*

*Saturday morning will be a playful exploration of the old and limiting beliefs that prevent us from living in life giving and joy filled ways. And Saturday afternoon will include our traditional worship feast and spiritual reflection time. Lunch is provided. More details about our activities for the day are coming soon and registration forms will be available online or through the office. Registration for Saturday is \$25.00 for the morning and \$20.00 for the afternoon.*

### ORDER OF GOOD CHEER

The Jubilee Order of Good Cheer will present the final program of the 2009 - 2010 concert season on :

TUESDAY, MAY 11 at 7:30 pm

The One Hundred Voice "TORONTO CHORISTERS"

This choir will be presenting an entirely new program of songs from many different musical genres. As with previous concerts presented by this choir, this will be a most enjoyable and rewarding evening

Admission at the door: Adults:  
\$10.00 Youth: \$5:00

### CARD PARTY



Tuesday, April 20, 2010  
Bring your own cards  
Lots of Prizes!

Refreshments at 7:00 pm  
Cards at 7:30

Tickets \$12.50  
– Available from the Office

Everyone Welcome!  
Sponsored by Jubilee UCW

### A MOZART FESTIVAL

#### Coronation Mass (K.317) and shorter pieces

with  
**Massed Choir and Orchestra**

Soloists  
Marie Criscione, soprano  
Martha Spence, alto  
Huw Morgan, tenor  
Miladin Danailov, baritone  
*conducted by Arthur Wenk*

#### PLUS **Piano Concerto in C Major (K.467)**

*with pianist Arthur Wenk*

Sunday, March 28 7:30 pm  
Tickets \$15  
(available from the office and after church on Sundays)

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010 August 16th – 20th

Stay tuned for more info. We are recruiting volunteers to lead games, drama, crafts and snacks so let us know if you would like to be part of the fun this year.

Contact Lee-Ann for more information:  
[leeann.ac@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:leeann.ac@jubileeunited.ca) or 416-447-6846 ext. 104