

## *Notes from Norm*

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015. It was the first Sunday of a New Year. I was still recovering from my Man-Flu (formerly Man-Cold) as well as the joy and efforts of Christmas at Jubilee and in the Seli family, which involved several extra services, events and a Christmas Dinner that would be the first meal cooked in my son's new house and would gather my children, parents, sister, niece and nephew, father-in-law, and two brothers-in-law... as well as my son's girlfriend who arrived from India three days before. Did I mention that this was our first time meeting her? Did I mention the Man-Flu? I mention all of these details perhaps as an excuse... either for what had already happened or what was about to happen.

I arrived at Jubilee, eager, if not rested, to begin a New Year. Our first New Year with Music Director, Daniel; Drama Wonder, Jennine; and our ever exuberant intern Étienne. I was looking forward to singing more Christmas Carols (after all the season extends beyond the day) and celebrating Communion. There is something special about Communion on the first Sunday of a New Year. For me, it is a balm to my soul and nerves that have been stretched over Christmas; it is a quiet moment when I sit at table with God and all of Creation and see the holy in the simple and mundane. It is a moment for recognizing and embracing God's presence and committing to carrying it with me through the year as it unfolds.

Well... I would love to show you a picture of the beautiful Communion set up that greeted me at 10:15 as I darted into the sanctuary to check something with Daniel before the service.

Somehow, in the joy and stress of Christmas time, I had not communicated my dedication to New Year's Communion... I had not passed on my passion for the

Sacrament... I had not requested or checked that Communion be set up for Sunday.



### **There was nothing there.**

I ran to the kitchen... nothing was being prepared. I checked the Craft Room where Communion Supplies are stored... nothing was happening. I checked again and discovered that we had NO bread... NO Grape Juice... and NO body to fix it.

I hung my head, decided to blame my Man-Flu and went back to my office. I gathered Jennine and Étienne, told them the news and decreed that we would have Communion next week and simply skip over the Communion Prayers in the Order of Service.

It was Jennine who blurted, "Aw c'mon, we can do it!"

"We don't have any bread," I explained.

"I have some Christmas Cake," said Jennine as she proffered a lovely Christstollen that Pat had given her for Christmas. I looked at it... it was bread. And dried fruit, marzipan and powdered sugar... but I don't know what kind of bread Jesus had at the Last Supper, do you??"

Étienne's enthusiasm was instant (no shock) and Jennine set about to cut up the Christstollen while I found some Fruit Drink, broken cookies (in case we ran out of Christstollen)... prepared one tray of Fruit Drink in tiny cups, and unceremoniously put the proceeds of our efforts on the Communion Table along with our usual Cup and Plate.

As the service proceeded, I adapted the prayers and changed the focus of the service so that we might recognize the order that God brings out of chaos; the hope when everything seems to be falling apart; the promise that God continues to act in the world and in our less than perfect lives. It seemed to connect.

Of course, I would never want my Seminary, or the folks that ordained me to see what transpired that cold January morning. There was no elegance to the table, we did not have the "proper" elements for celebrating Communion – recalling that Jesus broke the bread and declared, "This is my body broken for you" I snapped a chocolate chip cookie in twain and hoped that no one would laugh. As people received the "body" of Christ, Étienne reminded them that "Jesus is sweet". The Fruit Drink was ridiculously sweet and very, very bright. As we had no extra servers, Jennine, Étienne, and I served everybody as they came, in one line, down the centre aisle, necessitating a fair bit of weaving, cutting around behind and in front, and with much less efficiency than our usual practice. And some kids tried for seconds (some succeeded).

**Not dignified.**

**Not orderly.**

**Probably not really official.**

And yet... having only one tray of small cups, I watched many people choose to dip in the large cup, even if they would normally have taken a small cup, because they wanted to make sure that there would be enough for everybody (we had one small cup left after everybody had been served) – simple kindness. I saw people being patient with each other as soft collisions necessarily took place. I got engaged in discussion during coffee about whether what we had just done was Orthodox, Heterodox or Heresy... and I heard many people talking about the experience. How often do we stop to talk about Communion??

But more than that, I felt the presence of God in our sanctuary that morning. As badly as we did it; as heretical as our practice may have been... it was holy.

As we did our best; made do with what we had available, God was present to make up the difference. What a great way to start the New Year!

It has struck me since that this is something that happens at Jubilee quite often: We take what we have; we put it out in our imperfect way to the community.

**And God is present.**

At Community Table.

At Ulterior Worship.

At Labyrinth Walks.

At Bible Study.

At Living the Questions Discussions.

At Youth and Children's programs.

At Baptism and Communion.

As we collect food and clothing for our brothers and sisters in need.

As we try to support our friends at Eva's Place and the Massey Centre

As we try to welcome the stranger who comes through our doors for the first time.

In all that we do... God is present.

I would invite you to be similarly inspired and recognize that even though you don't know what to do from time to time; even though you may not be perfect... you have the promise that **God is present and will make up the difference.**

Don't know what to say to a friend who has lost a loved one? You don't have to be an expert, offer what you have with sincerity... say the wrong thing if you must... but know that it doesn't rest on you alone, like our January Communion, God will make up the difference.

Have a thought about God or a question about Jesus but don't know how to phrase it? Don't want to sound foolish or be wrong? Remember the January Communion, say what you're thinking and feeling, you don't have to be a graduate theologian (nobody likes them anyway) - dare to speak and let God make up the difference.

Afraid to take on a project or a task in the community, at work, at Jubilee? You don't have to be an Engineer or an experienced planner... offer your imperfect Christstollen and remember our January Communion and expect people to collide gently, respond politely and engage in the imperfection with love... and trust God to make up the difference.

What started out as a disaster and then became a great risk, proved to be a highlight of a New Year and a wonderful reminder of what happens when we do the best with what we have and trust in God to make up the difference... Not just at Jubilee, but in life, as well.



**Norm.**

*No doubt, there will be typos and errors of grammar in this - but I am trusting in you to overlook them... and God to make up the difference.*

# Just to keep you up to date for Holy Week and Easter

## PALM SUNDAY

Words and Music celebrating the beginning of Holy Week, an intergenerational Service with Communion, fashioned, interpreted and lead by the Youth of Jubilee, **March 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.**

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

An informal celebration of the Last Supper. Story-telling and personal reflection around a meal, led by Rev. Seli and the Confirmation Class of 2014. **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**



## GOOD FRIDAY

The story of the Passion. A time for personal reflection and perhaps a new progressive way to see the cross and understand the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 a.m.**

## EASTER "SON"RISE SERVICE

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Out on the Labyrinth at 8:00 a.m. Inside/Outside (depending on the weather) – guitar and voice provide an informal celebration of Jesus' resurrection and the joy of new life!



Afterwards, stay for breakfast!



## EASTER SUNDAY April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.

**The Big One!!**

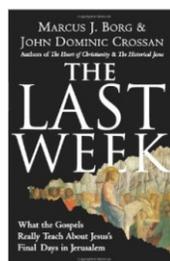
**Words and Music; Celebration for the Whole Family.**

**Even if you've never been to church before, there is something here for you!**

***(Come early and join us for breakfast at 9 a.m.)***

## Holy Week Study Group

**Monday – Friday, March 30 – April 3,  
8-850am**



Progressive Christian Scholars Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus' final week of life. Using the Gospel of Mark as their guide, they begin their story on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem and continue along with Jesus to his Crucifixion. This

book is informative and challenging and just might inspire us to discover new meaning in Easter and Jesus. A great hit several years ago when a group at Jubilee read it for Holy Week, it promises to be a worthwhile study. If you would like Rev. Seli to order a copy for you, please let him know by March 16<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$15 for the paperback.

## The Benevolent Fund

The Benevolent Fund is a 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, at Christmas and Easter, I invite you to contribute to this fund as you see fit. I do my best to leave only a small amount in the fund, and thanks to your generosity over Christmas, warm clothes found their way to cold people, food, books, and educational opportunities were made possible with your help. A few bills were paid, the lights stayed on, and the Landlord was satisfied as we helped some people make up the difference of a reduced or missing pay cheque. We help desperate people; we also help those not yet desperate and hopefully keep them in a place of hope and real possibility. Many who have benefited from the Benevolent Fund have gone on to be contributors to the same fund... a sign to me that it works. You will not hear about these efforts during the year as privacy is essential. There are stories that I'd like to tell - but please know that your contributions are valued and make a difference in people's lives.

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.

I thank you for your on-going support of the Benevolent Fund.

*Norm*



**JUBILEE**  
**ORDER OF GOOD CHEER**

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season  
**CONCERT PROGRAMS**

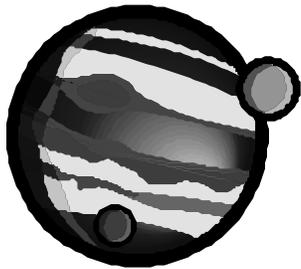
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.  
"LADIES IN HARMONY"

The Scarborough Chorus of Sweet Adelines International sings four-part unaccompanied harmony in the barbershop style. While the term 'barbershop' may bring to mind an old-fashioned image, in reality, the style lends itself nicely to a wide range of music. This chorus sings a mix of romantic ballads, stirring anthems, Broadway hits, jazz, pop, swing, contemporary, folk, and more. Be prepared for some audience participation, and you'll be amazed to discover your own inner harmony!

Music Director: Dianne Clare

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.  
"THE NORTHDAL CONCERT BAND"

This band, formed in 1967, has played hundreds of concerts over the years here in Ontario and as far away as Vancouver, where they played twenty-one concerts at the Canadian Pavilion at Expo '86. Joseph Resendes has just been appointed their new Musical Director, and he will be conducting the band at our concert here in March, 2015.



**AND**

**Spring Lecture Series:**  
**"THE UNIVERSE:**  
**YOURS TO DISCOVER"**

Four Wednesday afternoons 1:00-2:30

Mar. 4 / 11 / 18 / 25

Presenter: Dr. John Percy

This series will begin with an overview of modern astronomy, and then explore three topics of special interest: our own city's astronomical heritage; the lives and deaths of stars (our speaker's special interest); and the question of whether life exists elsewhere in the universe. The lectures are profusely illustrated, and do not assume any background in astronomy, science, or math. There will be lots of time for questions and discussion.

**March 4: Introducing the Amazing Universe**

The universe, as revealed by modern astronomy, is just as exciting as the universe of science fiction books and movies – and it's real! This introductory lecture provides an overview of the tools of astronomy, and what astronomers have learned with them: the worlds in our solar system, planets around other stars, the life and death of stars, the birth and evolution of the universe, and the strange "dark matter" and "dark energy".

**March 11: Toronto's Astronomical Heritage**

After a brief overview of the history of astronomy to 1800, we will explore how Toronto grew to become a world centre for astronomy, astronomy education and outreach, and how that growth paralleled the development of our city and country. We will meet the organizations, institutions, and people who made this all possible.

**March 18: The Birth, Life, and Bizarre Death of Stars**

Stars are distant suns. Like our sun, they are born in interstellar clouds of gas and dust, and live long and relatively uneventful lives. In death, sun-like stars swell up into "red giants", and cast off their outer layers into space, revealing a "white dwarf" core, a million times denser than water. Rare, massive stars die even more spectacularly, exploding as super-novas, and leaving "neutron stars" or "black holes" behind. We owe our existence to star life and star death!

**March 25: Life in the Universe (?)**

What is life? How and when did it originate here on Earth? How did it evolve to become intelligent? Are we alone in the universe? If not, are our "cosmic cousins" primitive, or like us, or more advanced? How could we make contact with "them"? And how can we find the answers to these fundamental questions?

**Cost of Each Series \$20**  
**Individual Lectures \$8**

## Reaching out at Jubilee

**Question: How many garbage bags fit in a Honda Civic?**  
If you want a good answer, ask Liz Williamson.

I was struck recently by how quickly Liz could answer that question as we pondered how to ensure that the many donations of warm clothes, toiletries, and kitchen supplies for the Christian Resource Centre get there safely and quickly. Liz is one of the many outreach volunteers who work tirelessly to make a difference in our community. For a number of years now, Liz has quietly sorted and bagged donations of clothing that Jubilee receives. She has a roster of agencies that focus their efforts on particular needs. Some need coats; some business dress; some children's wear. It takes desire and consistency to be able to manage requests that we hear about and people like Liz have both. In doing this, Liz has learned exactly how many garbage bags fit in the trunk, in the backseat, and on the floor.

While we move into a new year, the needs expressed in Toronto's communities for clothing, food, and other support are not new. We are hoping to continue to focus our efforts at the Christian Resource Centre in addition to other worthwhile agencies. Please look through your closets and cupboards and think: Do I really need this? Is there someone who might make better use of it?

### **Are coats and other clothes taking up space in your closet?**

The Christian Resource Centre can give that coat, vest, fleece, or clothing item to a person whose closet is empty. They accept gently used adult men's and women's basic clothing in all sizes. The hardest items for them to find are: **Men's jeans, running shoes, hiking boots. Women's plus size clothing, pants with elastic waists, casual shoes.**

### **Also, do you have extra or unused toiletries in your cupboards?**

Essentials like towels, razors, shaving cream, soap, deodorant, and shampoo & conditioner are greatly appreciated at the Christian Resource Centre. The hardest items for them to find are: **Feminine products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant.**

### **Further they need basic household items too!**

Basic kitchen utensils and small appliances, as well as sheets, blankets, duvets and towels, small lamps, and artwork. The hardest items for them to find are: **Adult knapsacks and bundle buggies.**

Please consider bringing items like this to the church for redistribution. When we share our bounty, we build community and when we build community we travel a new and different road together.

Greg Daly, Chair, Outreach

## Annual Gigantic Garage Sale

Plant Sale, BBQ & Bake Sale



*Good for the environment, easy on your wallet!*

Will you be doing a spring cleaning this year?  
Are you planning to downsize this year?  
Are you just going to do some de-cluttering this year?  
Why not get started early and donate all those good items to the

Jubilee Annual Garage Sale.

Saturday May 2, 2015.

If you do not have items to donate, come and buy some new items for your home or cottage and support your church and its community programs.

Want to help collect, sort and sell items contact?

Gary Norris - 416-431-0198 or email

[norris.gc721@primus.ca](mailto:norris.gc721@primus.ca)

## Men's Breakfast Club



### Coffee at 8:30am Breakfast at 9am

#### Saturday January 31st

Speaker Derek Hume from Dignity Memorial

How to take some stress out of funerals.

Something we all need to talk about.

#### Saturday February 28th

Speaker Hopefully someone from the Toronto Fire Dept.  
Home, Retirement Home & Nursing Home Safety

#### Saturday March 28th

Speaker still to be determined.



## We have something special at Jubilee.

We're not unique, but we are peculiar – in a good way.

There is a welcome that people feel, a sense of openness to ideas and

differences; we provide opportunities for people to **explore their faith, express their faith, question their faith, and find their faith.** We welcome ideas and efforts without demanding perfection and we try to be open to the Holy Spirit as we reach out to our neighbours, looking for justice and offering love.

At our best, we are a community hub, with all manner of gatherings occurring on Sundays and throughout the week. Some may wonder what Bridge Groups, Soup Tuesdays, Community Table, Live Bands, and Concerts have to do with the church, but they should realize that as we make space for such events, even without offering “religious” content, we create an opportunity for people to talk about God as they eat... play bridge... dance... and just have coffee with friends. So often in our modern world, it seems awkward to have lunch at Tim Hortons and talk about the meaning of prayer... play bridge with 40 people and ask your partner what she thought about yesterday's sermon or the evening news about Islamaphobia. Each event that we host at Jubilee takes us one step closer to ending the separation of **Faith and the Real World; Spiritual and Secular Society; God and Groceries.** As we help our neighbours become better neighbours without demanding that they become “like” us and as we become better Christians because of our neighbours, the world is transformed. **I have heard from more than a few people that communities like Jubilee are what give them hope in the future.**

Of course, some of us look around and see familiar faces disappearing, we hear about the “church” in decline, and we wonder, **what's the point – the young people aren't coming anyway??** But if you look closely, you just might recognize that there are young faces popping up all the time, often on Sundays but also other days of the week. They come to Wednesday Night Youth Dinners with me; they show up at Christmas and Easter; they come out to work with Jennine and the other kids on a play; they volunteer and participate in our summer program... and they talk to me. **I talk to a great many people between the ages of 20 and 50 who just don't think that they have time for church - it's not quite as important as the rest of the things that they are doing.** But you and I know that one of these days... one of these days, they will begin to have questions that can't be answered by Google and they will have needs that

they never imagined having while they were running from work to soccer practice, to the gym, then over to the school and finally, home, before heading off to the symphony. **And coming along right behind them is a generation who are and will continue to be looking for a place that honours their questions, provides a community, embraces science and mystery, offers real hope, and the opportunity to make differences in the world.**

Our challenge is to make sure that we're here and ready for them when they come looking... it might be in 5 years, or 25 years, but it will be.

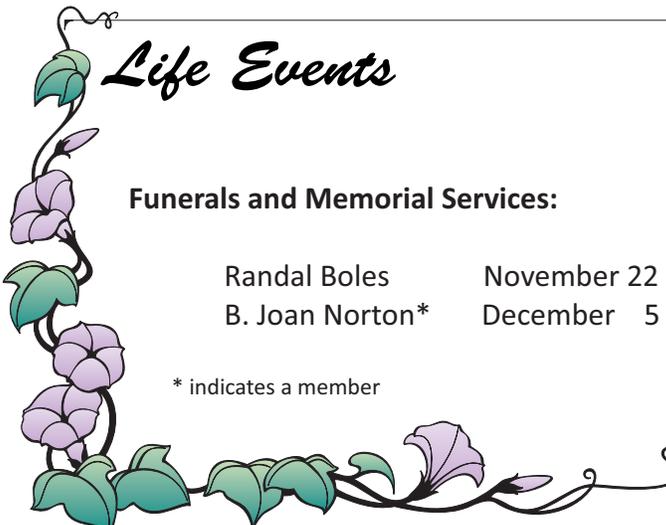
### So, how do we do that?

Some people have decided to include Jubilee in their Wills or even taken out Life Insurance policies that name Jubilee as beneficiary. These are “Legacy” gifts, that help assure that the kind of community we enjoy at Jubilee will be there when their grandchildren come looking.

Some people get involved now and do their best to make sure that our committees and programs are viable and operating, from running Bridge Groups, taking part in Youth and Children's programs, co-ordinating events, serving on the Church Council, or giving money to the church for operating expenses. Others help to secure a future for Jubilee and the kind of ministry that we represent by telling others about what goes on at Jubilee and inviting people to come and see; and by welcoming Interns and Field Education students from Emmanuel College.

All of these things are important and help to assure that Jubilee will continue to share Christ's Ministry in the world for a very long time to come. **Thank you for all that you have done, all that you are doing, and all that you may decide to do tomorrow... there is something very special at Jubilee and you are part of it.**

*Rev. Norm Seli*



## Life Events

**Funerals and Memorial Services:**

Randal Boles	November 22
B. Joan Norton*	December 5

\* indicates a member



**Theology on Tap**  
Wednesdays, February 18<sup>th</sup>, March 18<sup>th</sup> & April 15<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Seli will be sitting down at 7:30 p.m. at the Triple Crown for a pint and a chat about things theological.

*(Yes, he realizes that February 18<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday!)*

We'll talk about the real world and what God and Faith have to do with it all... We might be clever, we might get deep... we might just enjoy some chicken wings. The Jubilee FaceBook page and The Church Bulletin will offer upcoming topics as the day approaches. Buy your own food and drink; bring your own opinions...

But sit with Norm and he'll keep the conversation going.

Triple Crown Pub on Lawrence (East of Tim Horton's)

– in the Dining Area.



**Monday nights at 8:35 p.m.**

With music by MaryAnna Higgins. Thoughts, prayers, and ideas by Rev. Norm Seli.

*Usually the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, but a little different as we navigate the holidays in April and May*

A quiet safe place to re-charge and engage the Divine:

**It's better when you're here...**

**March 2, 16;**

**April 20; May 4**

## JUBILEE BRIDGE 2015

At  
JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH  
40 Underhill Dr.

**BRIDGE INSTRUCTION BY  
BARBARA SEAGRAM**

**ONE DAY ONLY: APRIL 17, 2015**

### PROGRAM:

- 9:15 am Get name tags and meet people over coffee
- 10:00 – 12:00 Bridge Instruction: Discards & Signalling
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (included in the fee)
- 1:00 – 3:00 Bridge Instruction:  
Locating Your Opponents Honours

**COST:** \$50.00 Cash or current cheques payable to Jubilee United Church

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER  
Marie 416-222-9329  
mmcorrie@rogers.com

SINGLES, PAIRS, OR GROUPS OF FOUR CAN  
BE ACCOMMODATED

REGISTER EARLY AS THIS EVENT NORMALLY  
FILLS QUICKLY



## Dinner for Every and Any One or Many.

Once a Month we gather at Jubilee to eat, connect, and share.

Sometimes we have a speaker; often we offer recipes and even supplies.

– EVERY TIME we offer friendship and good food.

**Please Join us (and bring a friend!)**

**Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.**

**February 14, March 14, April 18.**

*If you are interested in being part of the great people who make this meal happen, please speak with Greg Daly or Rev. Seli.*



## 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

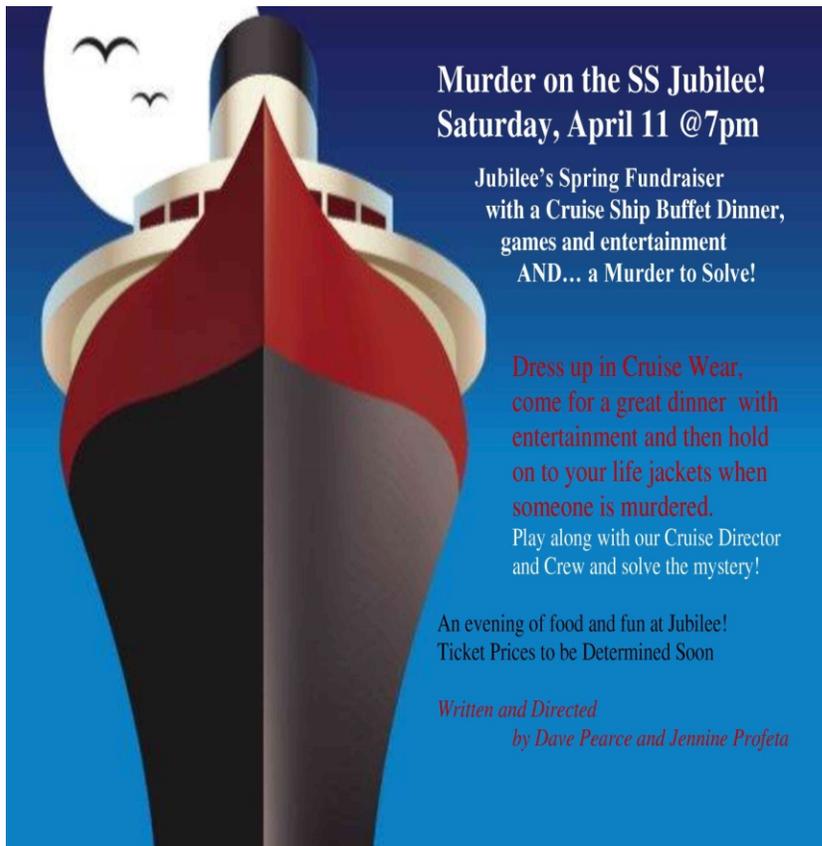
### **Maundy Thursday Service to be held on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

It will be an intimate service of worship around the table, sharing food. The planning and presentation of this evening will be aided by our current Confirmation Class.

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 appropriate amount of food for all. The sign-up sheet should be easy to find in the front foyer in March... or you can phone the church office, or even email, [nseli@jubileeunited.ca](mailto:nseli@jubileeunited.ca)

**Murder on the SS Jubilee!**  
**Saturday, April 11 @7pm**

Jubilee's Spring Fundraiser  
with a Cruise Ship Buffet Dinner,  
games and entertainment  
**AND... a Murder to Solve!**

**Dress up in Cruise Wear,**  
come for a great dinner with  
entertainment and then hold  
on to your life jackets when  
someone is murdered.

Play along with our Cruise Director  
and Crew and solve the mystery!

An evening of food and fun at Jubilee!  
Ticket Prices to be Determined Soon

*Written and Directed  
by Dave Pearce and Jemine Profeta*

## **ARTMUSE**

*The hearing eye and the seeing ear*

### **The Jubilee Choir and Soloists**

Celebrate

### **The World of Nature Through Colour and Sound**

*Conductor*

Daniel Rubinoff

*Come, hear the music,  
then listen to the artists talk about the inspiration  
behind their paintings.*

**7:00-8:00 p.m.**

Choir plus artist presentations

**8:00-9:00 p.m.**

Reception and exhibition of paintings

Free Will Offering

**Sunday April 26, 2015**

Jubilee United Church  
40 Underhill Dr. Toronto  
(Lawrence Ave. E/DVP)

For more information, please call: 416-447-6846

Editor: Deborah Johnston