

Jubilation!

Winter/Spring 2016

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

Notes from Norm

It was in October that we decided that we should have a Christmas Eve service for kids at 4:30 p.m.: music, story, pace, and style all geared around kids. Some people wondered... "Will we have enough volunteers?" "Isn't that too many services for Christmas Eve?" "It will probably just take away from the 7:30 p.m. service, so we won't actually get any MORE people we'll just do more work." Others noted that the 7:30 p.m. service means that many children are up past their normal bedtimes; dinners are disrupted, parents are harried... and still others responded, "It's Christmas, they can make the sacrifice once a year..."

The spoken wisdom seemed to be that it was a good idea, but not this year... the timing isn't right – church attendance numbers are dropping all over Toronto and it would be better to have a "full" service at 7:30 p.m. instead of partially full services at 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 11:00 p.m.

You may recall a story in the Bible (Second Chapter of John, if you want to look it up) about Jesus going to a wedding. It's a great story, and even if the details aren't complete, you can easily imagine the gathering: full of laughter and music; a cousin who lets her kids run amok; an uncle who gives a toast that never seems to end; drama in the wedding party; an ex-boyfriend of the bride whom nobody thinks should have been invited; a future in-law who wants all of the attention; and everybody eventually doing the chicken dance. You may also recall that they ran out of wine.

It's a pretty big deal to run out of wine. It shows a lack of planning, hospitality, or resources... very embarrassing for the groom and his family. When word gets around to Jesus' mother, Mary, she



decides to remedy the situation. She knows that her son can address the problem... she's probably the only one who knows as even Jesus is reluctant to help and admonishes her: ³ **When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."** ⁴ **And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."**

I'm hardly in a position to criticize Jesus, but if I could give him one bit of advice it would be, "Never call your mother 'Women' or even remotely condescend to her... even if you are the son of God." You will be reminded that she carried you for 9 months in her body and put up with all manner of scorn and danger; she's been chased by soldiers, frightened by angels, made sure that you haven't missed a meal in 30 years, and you don't feel like doing what she asks of you... ??? (That's just between me and Jesus).

Mary takes her own path forward... she actually pretends she didn't hear Jesus and carries on as if he's going to do what she told him to do. She doesn't argue; she just carries on – as it says in the Bible: ⁵ **His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."**

And Jesus goes on to turn water into wine and save the wedding and reputation of the groom. Just like his mother told him to...

But I love that Jesus was reluctant, because I am often reluctant, too. And I love that Mary very directly teaches her son that it's not all about him and his schedule. This is about a need – a bridegroom and host who is going to be humiliated when the wine runs out... It's about guests who have come to celebrate a wedding and a very real hope for the future... a couple who don't want to have their dream shattered when there isn't enough to go around. A wedding feast may not seem like such a big deal in the face of poverty and violence, injustice and cruelty... but a very

real man is going to be humiliated. And in this moment, Jesus' ministry has begun... he is no longer about himself, he is reaching out to another... he is changing the world. Even though he said... "It's not my time."

How many times have we held back because it's not the right time? Not the right time to get involved – let them sort it out a little first; wait until we have a little more money saved; wait until things get a little better... as if it's always about us. It's not our time.... No, but that doesn't mean that it isn't time. My grandparents were born during the depression; my parents into the war – thank goodness that my ancestors weren't waiting for the right time!

I think that it might be helpful for us to remember that a wedding back in the time of Jesus was a celebration that involved the whole village; it lasted for a week and the feast lasted for a day. Everybody got involved preparing food, making clothes, opening their homes to guests from far away. And it's important to remember that these folks are not wealthy; they work hard to survive, they don't have extra rooms in their homes; they don't have luxury vehicles... they don't 'Skype' to relatives far away – they wait to see them on these kinds of occasions.

Imagine taking all your meager savings, in a time and place where everything could fail tomorrow, and spending it on a wedding: a party for all of your relatives



and neighbours. Money you might put aside in case your livestock dies, or your son gets taken for the army and you have to hire help... money you might need if you had to move because of drought or invasion... money you might need if the taxes go up next year. To pay for a wedding you actually spend your security against misfortune.

What we should recognize is this wedding is a remarkable expression of hope in the future. Things are going to be good – so we will spend our money: eat, drink, and be merry! This is an act of faith!!

And Jesus... God's presence... is right there in the midst of it eating, drinking... probably doing the chicken dance and participating in hope.

I think of this story when I wonder if it's the right time for us to welcome refugees; if this is the right time to try something new; if this is the right time to forgive somebody who has hurt me; if this is the right time to invite a stranger into my life; if this is the right time to get involved... There's Jesus sitting in the midst of celebration of hope.... discovering that it is time, even when he feels reluctant.

We had the 4:30 p.m. Kids Christmas Eve Service. We had hoped for 20 or 30 to come. We had over 80 people of all ages. And it was fun... and holy. We had Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus alive and present – not just because of the bravery and kindness of one special family who volunteered to play the roles, but also because we could feel that the whole service was Holy... special... joyful and hopeful... sharing our faith and inviting others into the joy. Jesus was definitely there, born in our midst. Ask anyone who was there. A small miracle happened because we tried something new, even though it wasn't our time.



And at 7:30 p.m. our Christmas Eve Service was full... very full; and the 11:00 p.m. service had more folk than the year before. We dared to live hopefully and we found abundance... more people than we imagined, just like the wine at Cana.

My advice and hope for you in 2016 is not that you live recklessly or even that we live recklessly together – but that you live and act hopefully; that we live hopefully together, willing to risk and trust in God's presence, and in that, discover that the wine never runs out...

Norm

**Jubilee United Church
Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday Feb 28, 2016
Immediately following morning service
Bring your lunch!**



...Because Jubilee matters to you.



SPRING LECTURE SERIES

WHAT EVOLUTION IS AND HOW HUMANS EVOLVED



Presenter: Professor Becky Sigmon

March 2: Evolution is an Explanation

Atoms had to evolve; earth is still evolving, and so are humans. What is and what *is not* evolution. Organic evolution and the origins of life. Defining life. A sameness in all life forms known, and features that all living forms share in common. Is there a 'purpose' (or role for life in the Universe)?

March 9: How Evolution Works

The 'theory' of evolution. What is a species? What role does the species play in the diversity of living systems on earth? Asexual and sexual speciation. What is time and how is it essential in evolution? The random and non-random in evolution. Natural selection and differential reproduction. Is cooperation a feature of evolution? – Of humans?

March 16: Earliest Fossil Evidence of our Human Evolutionary Lineage

Our earliest primate antecedents co-existed with dinosaurs 60 million years ago in North America. A brief look at the fossil record of our evolutionary lineage of Primates from lemurs to monkeys and apes. Why we are not apes. Our African beginnings at 5 million years ago, as 'australopithecines'. Becoming an upright biped and the next 3 million years to the beginnings of *Homo erectus*.

March 23: Becoming Human and the Human Phenomenon

From *Homo erectus* to *Homo sapiens* and the fossil evidence revealing physical changes. Features that define anatomically modern humans by 200,000 years ago. Defining human. How humans find out things: the scientific / analytical and the experiential / self-revelatory. A decoder of universal laws of physics and life, maker and user of symbols and societal rules, maker and transformer of order – and some implications of this unique species regarding our place in the Universe.



Presents:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. "THE METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND"

Four years ago, this 30-member band presented a concert here at Jubilee United Church, and they are back for this concert season by popular demand. Their repertoire includes classics, marches, sacred, and popular music, as well as contemporary works written and arranged for silver bands. We look forward to an enjoyable evening of beautiful and exciting band music.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. "LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS"

Our Jubilee Choir presents an evening of music and fun, celebrating the traditions of the great British 'Prom' concerts and the musical heritage of Canada. During this program of music, song, and story, expect to sing along to "Land of Hope and Glory" and "The Maple Leaf Forever". Be ready to tap your feet, wave a flag, and enjoy a wonderful evening.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. "THE TORONTO CHORISTERS"

This choir has become a greatly looked-forward-to event each May here at Jubilee United Church. The one hundred plus voices of this choir each year present an entirely new selection of great choral numbers from classical, folk, sacred, popular, and Broadway repertoire. A great way of concluding our "By Request" concert season of 2015–2016.



Wednesday, February 10th is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent.

On that day, Jubilee will be open from **8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.** The Labyrinth will be set up inside and there will be a space for meditation, prayer, and the personal imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary. **Rev. Seli and Anne Dionisio will hold 15-minute Ash Wednesday Services at 8 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.** You are invited.



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 24th 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, and 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



REPORT FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Dear Jubilee,

Thank you to those who commented so favourably on our wonderful Christmas offering. The worship and the music were uplifting; both were filled with a great variety of spirit. I feel blessed to work with Rev. Norm, Anne, Jeanine, Pat, Barb, and everyone else who makes Jubilee shine with such a vibrant religious and creative energy.

The New Year brings the beginning of the Rimbala classes for seniors. I have a passion for my new program that protects seniors from the devastating effects of falls, and improves their cognitive, neurophysical, and social domains. Please come to our Thursday classes, and experience this scientifically-proven activity and experience. We meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m., or you can attend the 3:30 p.m. class. Your Music Director transforms into a musical healer who uses the power of music to refine, gently stretch, and invite joy into your life.

The choir is very busy as we negotiate a fast-approaching Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. In contrast to last year, we are offering a celebration of larger works for the Easter season. We will be singing from Schubert's glorious Mass in G for Lent and Holy Week. Schubert is best-known as a composer of romantic love songs, but as he aged, he became more and more religious. Food for thought and parallels for many of us. He used the text of the mass that most suited him: images of peace and mercy, and I feel that these deliberate choices speak to us today.

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Music Director
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I have been asked to conduct a performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria" for the Canadian Amateur Musicians of Canada, so I thought it would be wonderful for our great choir to sing "Gloria" in celebration at Easter. The choir is quickly learning this material, but we would LOVE to have extra choristers for these uplifting performances. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Come one, come all. No experience necessary! Enjoy lessons in vocal technique and lots of great singing with folks who have fun and add so much to the Jubilee services.

Please mark Saturday, April 16th on your calendars. Under the auspices of the Order of Good Cheer, the choir will present a "Last Night of the Proms" show, featuring our wonderful guest organist, Chris Dawes. Come and sing your hearts out to "Jerusalem," "Rule Briannia," and other British favourites. The choir will sing a beautiful suite of English Folksongs, arranged by none other than Ralph Vaughan Williams, our beloved composer of "Fantasia on Christmas Carols," that we featured at Christmas.

Happy New Year Jubilee and thank you for your continued support,

Daniel (Rubinoff)
Music Director

Because God...

**A monthly Christian
Worship Service
for individuals on the
Autism Spectrum**

and their Friends

**Saturdays, March 19; April 9, May 14,
and June 11 at 1030 am**

@Jubilee United Church

There will be space

There will be patience

There will be music

**There will be sharing and wondering
in a safe place.**

**The service will last for no more than 1 hour
with many breaks and a snack after the service.**

We are always learning together who this community will be,
so we are open to suggestions as we shape our service.
We imagine a program for mid-spectrum young people and others,
but we're not going to define ourselves too quickly or strictly.

Come and find out.... Let's do this together.

**Monthly Services will continue usually on the
second Saturday of each month at
Jubilee United Church in Don Mills.**

For more information call Rev. Norm Seli (416)447 6846 x103
To be added to email list of notifications and reminders, email nseli@jubileeunited.ca
For directions, www.jubileeunited.ca

Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Dr. Don Mills.
(North from Lawrence, one block East of the DVP)



The Benevolent Fund

It is amazing to me that in 2015, we managed to cover a budget gap and balance Jubilee's books, raise over \$100,000 for refugees (over \$40,000 coming directly from our congregation) and STILL support the Benevolent Fund for those who might fall into the cracks or get lost in the shuffle. The Benevolent Fund is a discreet fund that I use to help folks in great 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, some people were kept warm, supported in the search for employment, able to afford schooling, and simply make ends meet. 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

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, a little bit of drama, and lots of wonder. **March 20th, 10:30 a.m.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

An informal celebration of the Last Supper. Storytelling and personal reflection around a meal, led by Rev. Seli. **Thursday, March 24th, 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. Featuring music from the American Folk Canon.

Friday, March 25th, 10:30 a.m.



EASTER "SON"RISE SERVICE **Sunday, March 27th**

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

March 27th, 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 will be something here for you!

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



Holy Week Study Group

Monday – Friday, March 21-25, 8-8:50 a.m.

Join us in the Garden Room every morning for some reflection and discussion about the meaning of Easter. Sure, we can talk about the history and historical place of Easter, but we will also talk about what Easter means to you and to the world in 2016. Using short engaging video clips, Rev. Seli will lead the discussion. The Coffee will be hot, the welcome warm, and the discussion worth your time and effort.



Theology on Tap

**Wednesdays,
February 17th,
March 16th,
&
April 20th.**

Rev. Seli will be sitting down at 7:30 p.m. at the Triple Crown for a pint and a chat about things theologic. 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.

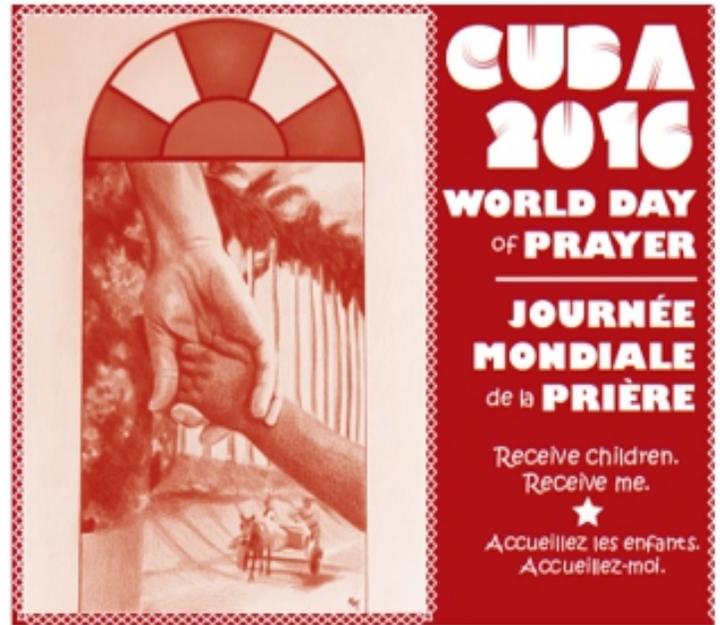
Buy your own food and drink; bring your own opinions... But sit with Norm and he'll keep the conversation going.

**Triple Crown Pub on Lawrence
(East of Tim Horton's)
– in the Dining Area.**

A Family Story

For many years, the Hunter family have been interested in genealogy and searching the records and tombstones for information on their ancestors, many of whom arrived from Scotland and Ireland in the 17th and 18th centuries. This year, Marion had a breakthrough in information as son Gordon, during his research, realized that two of Marion's ancestors, on her father's side, had been United Empire Loyalists. After they were able to prove the information, Marion made application to join the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada and be able to use the letters 'UE' after her name. At the November meeting of the Gov. Simcoe Branch, Marion was presented with a UEL Descendent certificate and a pretty gold pin. It was a real thrill at the time and she hopes others will follow suit.

Don Hunter



Friday March 11, 2016 at 1:30 pm

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

1 Greenland Rd. at the Donway E.

JUBILEE MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

The Spring 2016 Season Meetings

The Jubilee Men's Breakfast Club will present a speaker of interest on Saturday, February 27th and March 26th.

Plan to join us for a simple and enjoyable breakfast.

Coffee at 8:30 – Breakfast at 9:00

Speaker from 9:30 – 10:30

Cost is nominal at \$5.00. Come out and become informed on interesting topics.

Specific details about each speaker will be posted in the Sunday bulletin two weeks in advance of the date, but don't wait till then: reserve the dates in your calendar now to attend the Breakfast Club meetings.

Life Events

Marriages:

Michael Hooper and Donna Morris
January 2

Memorial Services:

Ted Gieruszczak	November 21
Doug Rowe	November 28
Dr. Philip Walsh	November 28
Robert Hearst	December 23
Peter Bynoe	January 2
Evelyn Locksley	January 9

35 ISH

**You know that
you're out there...
and so do we!**

This is a shout out to people who are 35ish
(somewhere between 25 and 45 - we're not checking i.d.).
You're here...
but you think differently than many of the people at Jubilee...
you have different interests and different needs...
you fit in, but it would be nice to be with a group where you didn't have
to work at fitting in:

**You're single; Married; In relationship; It's complicated...
have children, have NO children...
love cats; love dog, had a gerbil once....
are totally Religious; so NOT Religious....
come to church every Sunday; drop by once in a while.**

So, put it in your calendar:

**Wine and Cheese Gathering
at Jubilee on the First Tuesday of the Month
And other events as they happen.**

Social Events; Learning Events... We are putting together an email and
phone list to let you know when something "ISH" is happening. Maybe
a bunch of us are going to a movie, or getting together to play analog
games - we'll let you know and if it fits your already crazy schedule,
you can join the group. Once a month for sure and other opportunities
as they arise - how much more organized could we be??

**For Info or to get on the list: Rev. Norm Seli nseli@jubileeunited.ca;
(416)447-6846 x103**

JUBILEE SPRING BRIDGE 2016

At

JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH
40 Underhill Dr.

BRIDGE INSTRUCTION BY BARBARA SEAGRAM

ONE DAY ONLY: FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016

PROGRAM:

- 9:15 am Get name tags and meet over coffee
10:00 - 12:00 Bridge Instruction: Taking Tricks with Tiny Cards
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (included in the fee)
1:00 - 3:00 More Bridge Instruction: Stripping Can Be Fun

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

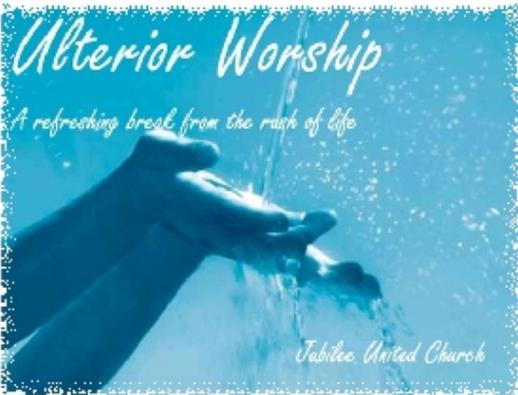
Information on Registration

We suggest you pre-register by contacting
Marie at 416-222-9329 or mmcroe@rogers.com

If this is not convenient there will be a Registration Day at
Jubilee on Friday, January 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

SINGLES, PAIRS OR GROUPS OF FOUR CAN BE
ACCOMMODATED

REGISTER EARLY AS THIS EVENT NORMALLY FILLS
QUICKLY



**The First Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
The Third Monday of each month at 8:35 p.m.**

Music by Benjamin Gabbay; thoughts, prayers and ideas by
Rev. Norm Seli.

*After almost a decade, Mary-Anna Higgins retired from Ulterior
Worship, and we welcome Benjamin and his gifts. We also thought that
we could do a little "old" and "new" by having both Monday and
Wednesday Services. If you would like to sign for email reminders of
each service, contact Rev. Seli - nseli@jubileeunited.ca*

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

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

March 2 (Wed), 21 (Mon); April 6, 18; May 4, 16