

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

Notes from Norm

There is a story told about a mother who took her five-year-old son to a concert given by a famous pianist. I think that it was Paderewski (the Polish pianist), but I'm not sure. The point is, that like many parents, she hoped that the experience might encourage his own young efforts at music. He hated to practice; he really only liked to play the same few notes over and over again. "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." For this five-year-old boy, it was enough music – it entertained him, challenged him, soothed him. Mother was hoping for more.

So, to the concert they went.

She was absolutely thrilled to find that their seats were so close to the front, that the little boy would be able to see and hear clearly. While waiting for the recital to begin, she ran into an old friend and they began to talk – she became so involved in the conversation that she didn't notice her son slipping away to do some exploring. When 8 o'clock arrived, the lights dimmed, the audience hushed to a faint whisper, and the stage lights came up. It was at that moment that she realised that her son had wandered off – she realised it not so much because she didn't know where he was, but rather because she knew exactly where he was – he was up on the stage, sitting at the piano – innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Mother was not as pleased as she might have been – she gasped in disbelief. She began to gesture to him – in that way that a frantic parent will (trying to get the child's attention without attracting attention from those around you). The boy just kept playing. And then, before she could leap out of her seat to retrieve her son, Paderewski walked onto the stage.

Walking over to the piano, he whispered to the boy, "Don't stop! Keep playing!" Then leaning over the boy, the pianist

reached out his left hand and began to fill in the bass. A few seconds later, he reached around the other side of the boy, encircling him, and added a running obbligato. Together, the great maestro and the tiny five-year-old mesmerised the audience with their playing. When they finished, the audience broke into thunderous applause.

Years later, I'm sure that almost all of those present forgot the pieces that Paderewski played that night – but I'm sure that no one ever forgot "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" – particularly the mother.

We are often much like the five-year-old boy, doing what we know how to do. Sure, we are aware that there are more resources out there, but generally, we are satisfied, comforted, and even challenged by what we already know, what we can already do. But we all realise that sometimes it is not enough. Sometimes we need more. We say things like, "If only I had a greater faith..." "I wish I knew more about God..." "I wish I had more confidence that things will work out..."

In those times, it is the Holy Spirit that encircles us with love, whispers encouragement to us, and somehow transforms our limited human efforts into something beautiful. That is a great part of our faith: that we are not alone, the Holy Spirit moves around and through us. We can do the simplest thing and it has a great effect. Have you ever had someone let you make a left-hand turn in traffic? It transforms your face into a smile and your day into a pleasure. That's how the Spirit works. Sitting holding the hand of a loved one in the hospital seems like so little, and yet can mean so much to the recovery of a patient. That's how the Spirit works. Letting a small child tell you the whole story, without interruptions – it seems so easy and yet can honour and

build confidence in a child like no other gift. The Spirit works like that. It makes the ordinary, extraordinary – the everyday, holy.

We have all faced situations that we thought would be the end of us and somehow we have found the strength to go on. We have felt a presence that assured us that we are not alone. I mention this now because I've heard a lot of worry and concern in the past few months. I am worried and concerned. I speak, not from the left or from the right; not from the privileged or oppressed; neither from the frightened or angry... I speak from and to all of us. The times are challenging and the chasms that have appeared in families, in communities, between classes and cultures seems to be widening. Observing elections and politics around the world and at home has many of us upset and untrusting of those who hold differing points of view. A number of us aren't paying attention to politics because we have our own problems right here at home and in our own personal lives. And sometimes, it's all too much. We feel alone and don't know what to do. We despair.

How can we fix it? We're just simple people.

How can I talk to my child who will not speak to me?

How can I ask her to forgive what I did?

How can I live my life without the one who filled my days?

How can I carry on when things are so different?

Remember the little boy. He played what he knew.

We do what we can.

We listen to each other... really listen and not jump to conclusions.

We speak to each other in love – not anger or frustration, but in a desire to be heard and understood.

We forgive. We ask for forgiveness.

We ask for help. We do simple things for each other.

We stand up in love. We sit down and listen in humility.

We offer our gifts of presence, wisdom, skill, and compassion to others.

We write letters of concern and encouragement.

We show up where we are needed.

We love our neighbours, whoever they may be.

And the Maestro took what the little boy offered and he built upon it and it became something more than anticipated. It became something that completely mesmerised the sophisticated audience that gathered in the hall that night. Our faith tells us that the Holy Spirit takes what we have and builds upon it, empowers it, transforms it into something more; something powerful and beautiful.

And together we change the world...

Norm



Saturday, May 6, 2017
830am – 130pm



Theology on Tap

Wednesdays, March 15th, April 19th & May 17th



Rev. Seli will be sitting down at 7:30 pm at The Mill Restaurant 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.

The Mill Restaurant on Lawrence (East of Tim Horton's)
– in the Dining Area.

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

PALM SUNDAY

April 9th, 10:30 am

Words and Music celebrating the beginning of Holy Week, an intergenerational Service with Communion, a little bit of drama, and lots of wonder.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 13th, 6:00 pm

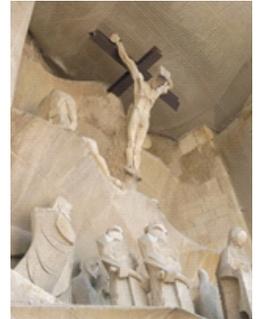
An informal celebration of the Last Supper. Storytelling and personal reflection around a meal, led by Rev. Seli.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 14th, 10:30 am

The story of the Passion. A time for personal reflection and an opportunity to engage with the cross and understand the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

We will be sharing this service with and at St. John's United Church.



EASTER "SON"RISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 16th

Out on the Labyrinth at 8:00 am – 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 16th, 10:30 am

**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!**

Easter Egg Hunt to follow the service.

(Come early and join us for breakfast at 9 am)



Holy Week Study Group

Monday – Friday, April 10 - 14, 8-8:50 am

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 2017. 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.





JUBILEE
ORDER OF GOOD CHEER

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

\$20 for the series, \$8 for individual lectures

March 1: The Supreme Court of Canada – Shaping Our Federation

March 8: Canada's Common Law and Civil Law Traditions

- Neither Ordinary nor Gentile

Presenters for these two lectures: Partners and Associates from Baker & McKenzie, LLP, including Donna Walwyn, Jeremy Hann, Claire-Marie Colantuoni, Jennifer Bernardo and Bill Watson.

March 15: “CanMus” – Then and Now

March 29: “What is Special about Piano Music?” MARK THE DATE!!

Presenter for these two lectures: Dr. John Beckwith

JUBILEE ORDER OF GOOD CHEER
Presents SALUTE TO CANADA

CONCERTS

- Tuesday, February 28 The Incredible Invictones
- Tuesday, March 28 The Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada
- Saturday, April 29 Concert for Canada (Jubilee Choir)
- Tuesday, May 9 The Toronto Choristers

Concert Admission: \$10 Youth: Free Time: 7:30 p.m

THE MAPPING OF CANADA

- Thursday, May 25 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Friday, May 26 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Saturday, May 27 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thursday, June 1 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Friday, June 2 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Saturday, June 3 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thursday, June 8 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Friday, June 9 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visit the display at any time. Guided tours at 2 p.m.
Free Admission

Cheese Please



The UCW orders cheese from Empire Cheese once a month from September until June. The cheese is delivered to Jubilee and picked up there. The order list is available on line or I can forward a copy if necessary. It is a fund-raiser for the UCW. It's not necessary to place a large order. Many people just order one kind. The next order will be sent in on March 7.

For more information, please contact Cathy at billandcathysmyth@gmail.com or 416-385-2642.

Toronto
Southeast
Presbytery
news

Website:
<https://torontoconference.ca/toronto-southeast-presbytery/>

Next Presbytery meeting is Tuesday March 21st; discussing and voting on 2 remits:

- * [Remit # 2 \(Elimination of Transfer and Settlement\)](#)
- * [Remit # 6 \(One Order of Ministry\)](#)

***Star Words* – Minister's Reflection by Rev. Anne Dionisio**

For the season of Epiphany, that season after Christmas when we celebrate the revelation of God, we introduced the simple spiritual practice of “Star Words.” Star Words are words given out to the whole congregation as a gift. We handed them out on January 8th and 15th, and they are still available in the foyer for anyone who may have missed receiving one. The words range from “travel” and “art” to “grace” and “wholeness” to “quietness” and “rejoicing”. There were 158 different words from which to randomly choose from.

The invitation was to take time over the coming weeks and months to ponder the significance that your word may have in your life and how God might be speaking to you through its message.

Do you remember what your Star Word is? Mine is “dedication”, a word that, as confessed in a previous reflection, stumped me a little as it is a word that I just do not think of on a regular basis. In my initial reflection, I wondered how it might connect to New Year's resolutions, and I wondered to what I might be called to dedicate myself to.

Yet, as I prepare for my coming maternity leave and opening another chapter in my life as a new mother, thinking of “dedication” leads me to wonder at Hannah from *1 Samuel* whose prayers for a child were answered. She prayed and wept before God, but the thing is, when her prayers were finally answered, she dedicated her little boy to God and to the temple. And by dedicate, I mean she literally brought him there as a child and left him under the care of the priest. Each year she made a new coat to bring to him, each coat a new reminder of the commitment she had made.

My own parents decided to wait to have me baptized, and instead dedicated me as an infant to the church and to God – I don't think that they knew at the time that that would end up with me being ordained! Thankfully, dedicating me did not mean leaving me at the church and only coming to see me once a year. My mother, creative as she is, is not much for sewing, so I don't think that it would have worked out quite so well.

Still, dedication, as we see it in faith life seems to include a letting go. Was Hannah able to let go of her little one because she understood that as much as Samuel was her little boy, she was God's beloved as well? I wonder if my own parents “let go” of me in their own way because they understood the same thing? I suspect that they also understood that to love me fully and provide for me fully, they needed community and they needed God. They needed to let go of the idea that they could do it all on their own.

Dedication and letting go, two parts of one idea. What might this look like in your life? ...in my life? ...in the life of the church? I wonder what are the things of which we may be called to let go of as we seek to follow God? Could it mean letting go of some of the parts of our lives that prevent us from living fully? Letting go, perhaps, of that pull to be fully in control at every moment? Letting go of attitudes of need, want, and fear that keep us from being open to each other? Letting go of those projects and plans that have become like children to us? I wonder what would happen if we dedicated these things to God instead? Trusting God and partnering with God who has been revealed to us and just might long to be revealed in new ways.

Do you remember what your Star Word is? I wonder what your reflections have been or might be? We have a bulletin board set up at the back of the church for your own reflections. If you have misplaced and forgotten your word, there are plenty more in an envelope attached to the bulletin board. Or, if it is not possible for you to make it out to church, here are a few possibilities: acceptance, building, confidence, determination, encouragement, forgiveness, guidance, hopefulness, integrity. There are a few reflections on the board now, but certainly room for more. You might consider pulling out your word again and sitting with it a while. You might reflect on it quietly to yourself, or with words you want to share. If you are the creative type, you might reflect through art or music. As you do, may these words be a gift to you and call you into new and life-giving wonderings.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council members were asked to challenge themselves and their committees in 2016 to meet the goals that we had established.

Our first goal was to ensure the financial health of Jubilee United Church in order that we can continue to offer the excellent services and programs that are important to the lives of our membership and many within the community we serve. While our major fund raising activities (such as the Garage Sale and ArtCraft) were successful and rental income was also a positive contributor to meet Jubilee's financial needs going forward, we are seeking the commitment of our Par and Envelope contributors to increase their support to the best of their abilities, given their individual circumstances.

Our goals in 2016 included support in the form of social programs for our Children's and Youth Ministries, and in seeking succession for many volunteer opportunities that exist on council teams, ushering, greeting, coffee preparation, and with respect to the leadership of many activities within the church. Some degree of success was achieved in addressing these specific goals.

The year 2016 was the year in which we received our first refugee family with the hope that additional families will receive government approval and the support of churches like Jubilee in the year ahead.

While some limited work remains, the major undertaking of the roof project took place in 2016, and thanks are owed to Daniel Gaito and Barb Secord for overseeing, successfully, this demanding and costly capital project.

In this new year of 2017, we will continue to focus on the above-mentioned goals that we set in the past year, as all are critical to the life and health of this our church home. We will be voting (on behalf of the congregation) on the "Remits" that potentially can materially change the structure of the United Church of Canada and includes such matters as how churches like Jubilee finance the larger church and how ministers will be trained, recognized, and disciplined.

A possibility exists that the closure of St. John's United Church planned for June 2017 might result in some of their members transferring their membership to Jubilee. Should that take place, we hope all members of our congregation will provide a warm welcome and embrace any former St. John's members who choose to make Jubilee their new church home.

Lastly, as members of Council, we will continue to support our talented ministerial team in the existing programs and services they offer, including the Godly Play program for our children and other new and innovative programs offered to youth, the 35ish group, and to members of all ages.

We thank all of you for your support in 2016 and look forward to working with you, and for you, this year.

C.E.S.



Wednesday, March 1st is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent.

Jubilee will be open from 8 am to 6:30 pm. The Labyrinth will be set up inside the foyer, as well as a place for prayer and a short service. The imposition of ashes will take place at the 8 am and the 12:30 pm services, as well as anytime between 4:30 and 6 pm. Rev.s Seli and Dionisio will lead the services and imposition of ashes. 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 to join us at Jubilee for a

Maundy Thursday Service to be held on Thursday, April 13th at 6:00 pm.

It will be an intimate service of worship around the table sharing food and we will be sharing it with our friends from St. John's United Church.

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 telling of The Last Supper, the Betrayal, the Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus. 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 Foyer in March... or you can phone the church office, or even email nseli@jubileeunited.ca

From the Music Director

It has been an exhilarating year for the music program at Jubilee. After a very successful Advent and Christmas concert, the choir has been busy lending its voice in worship, with a variety of new and traditional anthems, small group and solo work, and congregational hymn leading. We are always looking for new members – especially men! Our practices begin at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday and run for two hours. We have a great social committee and regularly enjoy treats and choir socials. Come one, come all!

We are doing our part to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. So, on Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m., please come out to the Order of Good Cheer's *Concert for Canada*, which will be hosted by the choir. We plan to sing a variety of great Canadian music and invite you to sing along with us in support of our great country. We are also busy preparing Lent, Holy Week, and Easter music. It's hard to believe, but Easter is just around the corner!

Thanks to everyone who makes the music program an integral part of worship and life at Jubilee. From our wonderful soloists (Marie and Janaka) to our choir president (Cheron) and committees, our guest musicians (John Clement, trombone) and our occasional rhythm section players (Judy Wells, Janaka Welihinda), let the music ring and give thanks to our Creator.

Blessings, Dr. Daniel Rubinoff

Jubilee United Church Memorial Flower Fund

Thank you for supporting the Flower Fund in 2016. This fund is used to buy flowers to decorate our church for Sundays, special occasions, and Christmas.

At Christmas and Easter we remember our shut-ins by purchasing plants to be delivered by members of the Pastoral Care Committee. Donations to the Memorial Flower Fund are tax-deductible. Please complete the form below. It can be submitted by mail, handed into the church office, or placed on the collection plate.

In order to publish the Memorial List on Easter Sunday, April 16th, the form below must be received on or before Palm Sunday, April 9th, 2017.

Thank you for your continued support in 2017.

Cathy Leeson, Flower Committee Head

Memorial Flower Fund Donation

[Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M3A 2J5]

I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ to the Memorial Flower Fund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Envelope Number: _____ [if known]

Dedication: _____



JUBILEE SPRING BRIDGE 2017



At
JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH
**BRIDGE INSTRUCTION BY
BARBARA SEAGRAM**



ONE DAY ONLY: FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

PROGRAM:

9:15 am	Get name tags and meet over coffee
10:00 - 12:00	Bridge Instruction: Defensive Strategy and Signalling
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (included in the fee)
1:00 - 3:00	More Bridge Instruction: Boot Camp for Declarer Play

COST: \$60.00 Cash or current cheques payable to Jubilee United Church*

[Information on Registration](#)

We suggest you register by contacting

Marie at 416-222-9329 or mmcroe@rogers.com

SINGLES, PAIRS, OR GROUPS OF FOUR CAN BE ACCOMMODATED
REGISTER EARLY AS THIS EVENT NORMALLY FILLS QUICKLY

*We have increased the price for this year's sessions to cover increased expenses and enhance our donation to Jubilee United Church.

Thank you for your participation and on-going support.

Outreach

Brookbanks for African Grannies is pleased to announce our next fundraiser to support the *Stephen Lewis Foundation*, which helps grannies in Africa who are caring for orphaned children. We are grateful to the Jubilee family for the wonderful support and interest in our activities. In fact, when one event ends, we often get asked, "What's next?"

On Saturday, April 22, from 1:30 to 4 pm in the Garden Room, we will hold an *Accessory Exchange!* Tickets are \$20.00 and refreshments will be served. You may bring a gently used scarf, necklace, or belt that you don't wear anymore, and exchange it for something new to you. It will be fun, interesting, and sociable as always. Tickets will be available in early April from any member of the *Brookbanks for African Grannies*.

Community Table is a time for people to come together and eat a great meal at no cost! Please join us and be a part of a growing and wonderful group of people. We welcome Ricardo Villar, who will be bringing a Filipino taste to our dishes! *Community Table* happens every 2nd Saturday at 6:30 unless there is a conflict of some sort. We will keep you informed. If you would like to help or want to know more about it, please contact Iona Williams at (416) 447-5685.

Upcoming dates are March 11, April 8 and May 13.

Outreach has many things going on and many ways that people can be involved. Any new ideas, thoughts, or comments are always welcome, or if you need information about Outreach initiatives please contact Iona Williams at (416) 447-5685.



Jubilee United Church Women

Jubilee UCW is open to all women of the congregation. Our units represent a variety of ages and interests. We enjoy our unit gatherings and the opportunity for spiritual enrichment. We support each other and are active in church events such as the spring Garage Sale, the annual Bridge Days, and the fall ArtCraft Show and Sale. We enjoy our annual Fall Gathering for the entire UCW membership, an opportunity to connect with one another after the summer. Throughout the year, we sell Empire Cheese. This fundraising endeavour, as well as unit donations, allows us to support Outreach Programs in our neighbourhood and the wider community, and to support the Jubilee United Church General Fund.

Jubilee has four active and involved units which meet, either monthly or as able, from October to June.

Night Owls: 1st Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Rachel: 1st Monday at 6:00 pm at the church for dinner

Sarah's Circle: 3rd Tuesday at 7 or 7:30 pm

Bethedsdans: As able

UCW Executive

President: Mary Kalanda Treasurer: Fran Crabe

Unit Representatives

Sandra Beech, Marianne Bride, Elizabeth Fletcher, Anne-Mari Remmel,
Barbara Rutherford, Cathy Smyth and Roma Watson

Call the church office at 416-447-6846 to get connected with a group!

Jubilee returns to those thrilling days of yesteryear....

The Radio Plays are BACK!!!

**Arsenic and Old Lace
and "The Saint"**



Full cast,
fantastic
sound effects
and live music



The Jubil-AIR

Radio Theatre Company



**Saturday,
April 22
@ 730pm**

**At Jubilee
United Church**

Admission is Free.
Donations
gladly accepted
to support
this program and the
ministries of Jubilee

40 Underhill Dr. Don Mills
(NE of DVP and Lawrence)
(416)447-6846
www.jubileeunited.ca



**Put it on your
Calendars Today!!
Jubilee Country
Fundraiser
With an exciting
new Country band:**

No Frame of Reference!

**Saturday, June 3rd
Live Music and lots of fun.
Details to follow**

Shush Free Church

Worship for kids, their families
and friends.

45 Minutes of interactive worship,
where nobody tells you to
"Be Quiet!"

**February 5
March 5
April 2
May 7
@430pm**



Believe
(be.lieve) verb;
1. Accept (something) as true;
feel sure of the truth
2. To have faith, confidence
and trust

What do you believe?

A 4 Session exploration of the modern
Christian Faith, from tradition to
contemporary experience.

Some reading; a little bit of homework, some
videos, and lots of discussion. Almost like an
Adult Confirmation Class.

**Saturdays @Jubilee from 930 – 11 am
March 25; April 1, 8 and 15**

Led by Rev. Seli (Questions? Ask him)

On Sunday, January 22nd, St. John's United Church decided by vote to begin the process of merging with Jubilee United Church. The expected date of this merger will be July 1, 2017. Over the next few months, there will be information and opportunities for you and all the folks of Jubilee to get to know our newest friends. At the risk of saying too little, or too much, allow me to offer some answers to the questions that I am being asked already.



1. What is a merger? A merger is NOT an amalgamation. An Amalgamation occurs when two or more congregations decide to create a new congregation with a new name, new staff, new Trustees, and often a new property. A merger is when a congregation decides to join an existing congregation. On a specified date, all of the members of St. John's United Church will become members of Jubilee United Church; assets of St. John's will become Jubilee's assets. Technically, St. John's United Church will no longer exist as a church and their staff will no longer be employed at St. John's or Jubilee. The staff, Council, trustees, and name of Jubilee United Church will not change. Details about the transfer of assets are worked out with Presbytery and Conference; details about how new members from St. John's fit in, engage, and enrich Jubilee are worked out by our churches together.

- 2. Why didn't we hear about it earlier?** St. John's United Church has been considering their future for the past few years; they have prayerfully and carefully imagined ways in which their ministry and impact on the community can be maintained and enhanced. They have considered a variety of options, but finally decided upon “merger” as their best way forward. There were two churches that they considered their best options and decided to take the time in January to visit those churches and make a decision. During this time, the process was one of discernment, not contest. We wanted to avoid any kind of cynical “wooing” of St. John's; it was hoped that the two churches involved would simply be themselves and not dress up too much and risk giving a false impression. In short, we didn't want to talk about it too much and put pressure on anyone to do anything but discern the movement of the Holy Spirit. All three churches involved conducted themselves admirably.
- 3. Will there be a lot of new people from St. John's coming to Jubilee?** It's hard to say for sure. The vote was close and it is quite likely that several people who voted for the other church will transfer there. There are also a number of people who travel a great distance to go to their “home” church of St. John's; it is not likely that they will all come to Jubilee. It is reasonable to expect that between 20 and 30 new folks will be appearing in our pews on Sundays and we hope becoming active in the life of Jubilee.
- 4. Is this being done for financial reasons?** St. John's United Church has the ability to keep the lights on and the doors open for many more years. Jubilee United Church comes within a couple of thousand dollars of meeting our operation budgets every year. Neither St. John's nor Jubilee is in a desperate financial situation. However, bringing our assets and people together give us more resources by which we can have a thriving and dynamic ministry within the community; together we can inspire and energize each other and the community all around us. Simply put: we can do much more together than we could do apart.
- 5. What are we supposed to do?** There are Transition Teams from St. John's and Jubilee working together to handle the details and to create opportunities for Jubilee and St. John's folks to get together and get to know each other. We will be sharing Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services together and it would be great if you could attend one or both services; there will be some shared social events as well as some facilitated events designed to help us get to know each other, name our concerns, expectations, and hopes – you could come to them. Mostly, you can continue to be open-minded, compassionate, and welcoming, just as you have been in the past and rejoice with us as our family grows.



If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know and I will do my best to answer your questions or direct you to someone who can. This is a very exciting time for us all.

Norm



The Benevolent Fund

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, a number of people were kept warm, fed, in housing, and hopeful. Some school books were purchased and a couple of “Final Notices” were addressed. A little girl got glasses and a mom is going to school. Many who have benefitted 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

WHY JUBILEE COLLECTS CORKS AND WHAT IS DONE WITH THEM?

Originally cork stoppers were supplied to breweries of the world when beer bottles were still sealed with natural corks. Distilleries and wineries quickly learned the advantages of using natural cork in sealing their own bottles, as did the cosmetic, spice, and food markets.



Jelinek Corporation Group (JCG) is on the cutting edge of cork technology. Over the years, they have introduced new and exciting products to vastly different market areas, including the automotive industry and engine parts (gaskets, carburetor, and level gauge floats), specialty components (for musical instruments, batteries, sporting goods, and shoe trades), industrial goods and building products (decorative floor and wall coverings, acoustical, anti-static and insulating materials) as well as numerous products for the stationery and home improvement markets.

Over the years, JCG has participated in a number of conservation initiatives related to the cork industry. These initiatives always have the same objective ... no pollution, no wastage of raw materials, and recycling whenever possible. For example, JCG is a primary participant in an innovative environmental program called Bag-a-Cork which involves the collection and recycling of used cork bottle stoppers. This is where Jubilee's participation comes in. For each garbage bag of corks delivered to them, we get \$15.

Please continue collecting corks and bringing them to Jubilee. Thanks.



Life Events

Marriages:	Maximillian Wolf and Kimla Gharib	December 29
Celebrations of Life:	Gillian Fowler	December 20
	Agnes Couse	December 21
	Rev. John Cousens	December 26
	Gary Barker	February 2
New Members:	Marie Criscione	
	Colleen Ribble	
	Claudette Johnson	

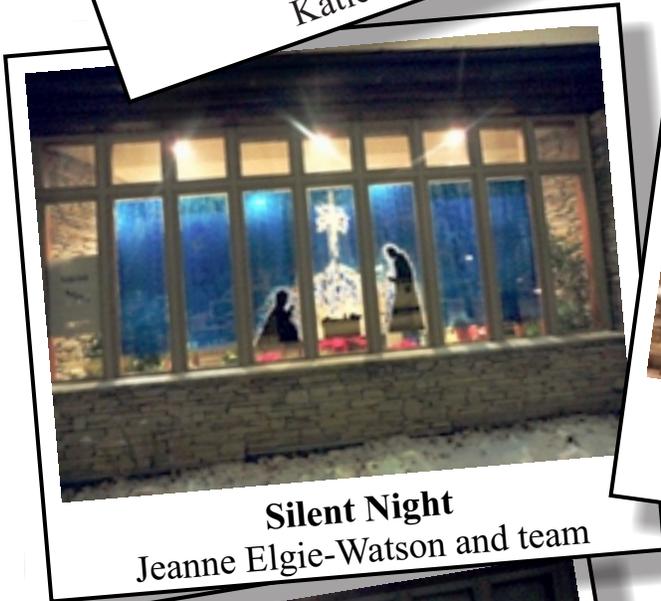
Just in case you missed the Jubilee Christmas Windows, have a look at what they looked like from outside:



Joy to the World
Katie Richardson



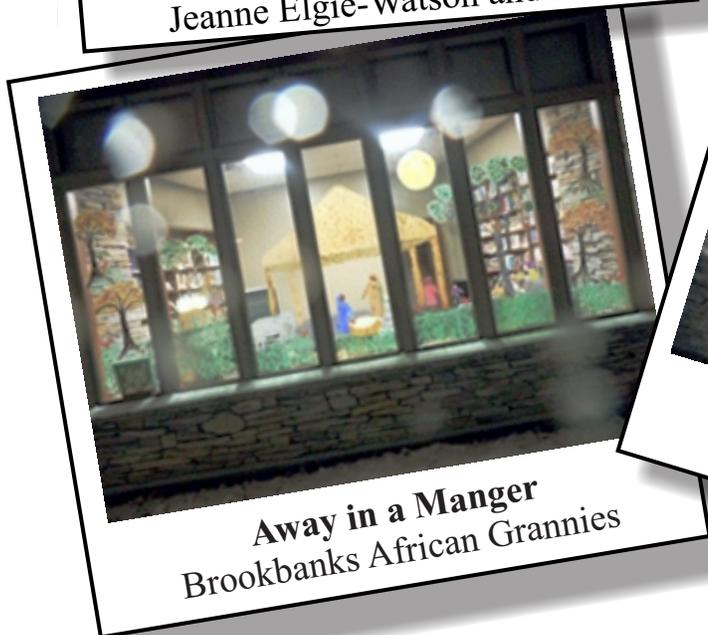
Angels We Have Heard on High
Iona Williams



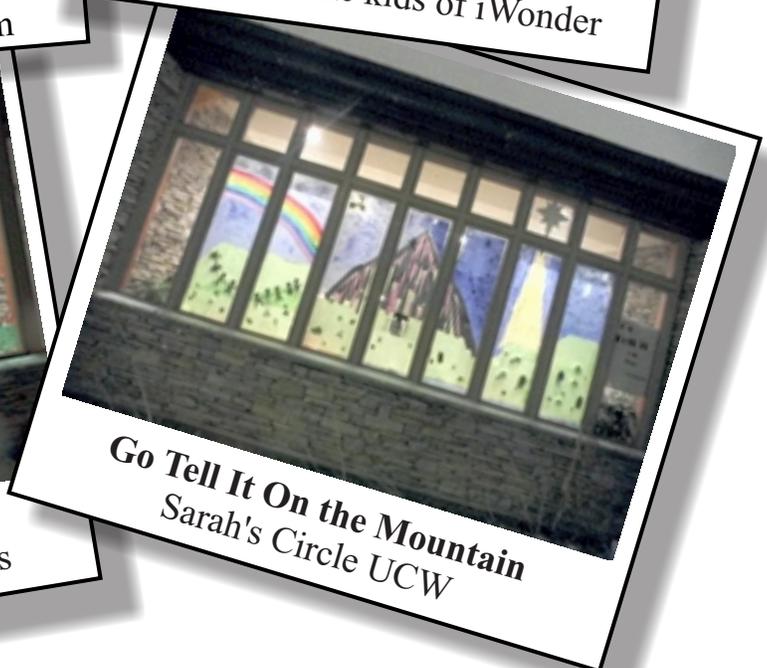
Silent Night
Jeanne Elgie-Watson and team



O Little Town of Bethlehem
Rev. Anne and the kids of iWonder



Away in a Manger
Brookbanks African Grannies



Go Tell It On the Mountain
Sarah's Circle UCW