

Jubilation!

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

Christmas 2019

CHRISTMAS NOTES from NORM

“I don't believe in Christmas”.... Oh, oh, look out.

“I mean, who does?”... that's how the conversation began. A friend from high school days was talking. We'd connected through Facebook and caught up with each other's lives. He agreed that what I do for a living is good, because it helps people, but we were not going to talk about the “religious” part. We spent our time talking about our kids, our travels and his business making niche market condiments (I now know a lot about pomegranate hummus). As the Christmas Season was almost upon us, out of nowhere, he blurted... **“I don't believe in Christmas...”**

Our food hadn't arrived, and it might be nice to manage a “long lunch”, so I decided to get into it. If it made things awkward, he could always un-follow me on Facebook, and I don't have much time for lunch these days anyway. Our salads and drinks arrived.



“So, what it is that's the problem?” I asked, spearing a carrot and feeling virtuous for eating so healthy. “Does your problem lie in the historical accuracy of a birth during a census that nobody seems to have recorded, the peculiar dual identity of Jesus of Nazareth being born in a town that is NOT Nazareth... or is it the probability of Mary allowing shepherds that close to her newborn baby, or the Magi being many months travel away, but still arriving in time to pose for the Christmas Card Selfie?”

My friend looked surprised... and was not eating his salad (clearly, he lacks my virtue).

“I'm not going to try to talk you into believing that... why would I bother? It would be like trying to convince you that Alexander the Great sported a mullet. What does it matter?” I crunched in to some cucumber.

“But isn't that what you believe... isn't that what your job depends on? That Jesus was born in Bethlehem to the Virgin Mary, made Herod nervous, and fled to Egypt before coming back and winning the cup?”

I looked at him. I let his question hang for a moment; gave him a chance to try his salad. He just stared. “Nope.” I offered, as I finished up my salad (good for me).

“But... but...” He really didn't quite know what to say.

“I believe that what the story of Jesus, fiction or nonfiction, reveals to me about the world and my life, about God and my very being, is what's important, not who should or shouldn't be in the Christmas Pageant.”

Our mains arrived. I think that the server was impressed with my clean salad plate and nonplussed by my friend's eschewing of greenery... or they didn't even notice.

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With burgers now firmly in front of us (where's your virtue now, Norm?), I continued, "You see, it's not that my believing in Jesus and the Christmas story makes God real. It's that reality makes me believe the Christmas Story." I could tell that he was baffled. I let him think about it for a minute, while I indulged in my burger.

"I don't understand," he said just before he took his first bite.

"Well, what my faith and the stories of my faith show me isn't some kind of secret, and it isn't exclusive. What Jesus shows me about God and about the world is true for all people. I believe that Jesus was born 2000 years ago because I see Christmas happening all the time."

"Mmmm..." he mumbled, chewing... He took a French fry and continued, "Like the way that the malls are all decorated even before Remembrance Day?"

"Not exactly..." I responded as I eyed his fries and wished that I was a little less virtuous, and had also ordered some fries. "The story of Christmas tells us that God breaks into our lives in unexpected ways and places. Nobody expects a great leader to be born in a barn; nobody imagines that God could be revealed in the midst of poverty or a government-ordered return home to be counted for tax. We expect Royal Weddings, staged photo ops, and well managed events... but Christmas is when a miracle happens in the shadows: a child is born in a manger, and almost nobody notices."

My friend was enjoying his fries, so I went on.

"Every Wednesday since early October, my ministry partner Anne and I have prayed and spoken the names of the 2600 indigenous children who died in residential schools. Each week, we pray and read about 300 names. We cry. We grieve. We ask God for help. It's not a happy place. After a couple of weeks, another person began to join us; a week or two later, another person joined us. We were not alone. There were more ears to hear the names, other people to share the responsibility... and it became holy. Because I could see the presence of God in the shadows of grief and in the faces and bodies of regular people just showing up – I know that Christmas is real. I believe that it happened back then because I see it happening now!"



"Wow, that's something. How do you know that you're feeling something for real, that's it's not just a put on?" My friend asked, as he selfishly finished up the fries.

"You stop trying to feel anything specific, and you just trust... you let go... and the holy happens". My burger was finished, but not my story. "Think about Mary and Joseph in the story... they have no control. Joseph doesn't know where he's going; Mary can't stop the contractions... they can't turn around because there is nowhere else to go, and so in a series of moments of letting go of expectation and control, a baby is born: God is revealed. That's why I believe in Christmas, because that's what really happens!"

My friend seemed interested. He ordered more fries. I asked for more water. Virtue is its own reward (probably).

"Some new friends arrived from Uganda: refugees coming from struggles that I can barely imagine. They had been in a refugee camp and just travelled for 24 hours to arrive in Toronto in the midst of a snowy cold snap. It was a joy to have them here, but they were exhausted, and our greeting team was focussed on getting them safely to their temporary housing. One of the team stopped to tell Ivan and Sherry, who had never experienced snow of a Canadian Winter, "When you step outside... you will be able to see your breath". The delight that our friends experienced in seeing the puff of steam coming from their mouth, the laughter and the joy that was soon shared by everyone: there is Christmas. In midst of weary fatigue, fear, and trepidation, worry and concern, there is a place for laughter, and yet it comes and changes everything. In the midst of our busy lives, in the hustle and bustle of keeping up, the science and discernment of knowing what is real and what is not, there is not time for a God that I cannot adequately describe and understand. There is not time for stories that may or may not have happened... and yet, they come. And everything is changed."

His fries arrived. "So, you believe in the birth of Jesus because you know that Christmas is real, not the other way around."

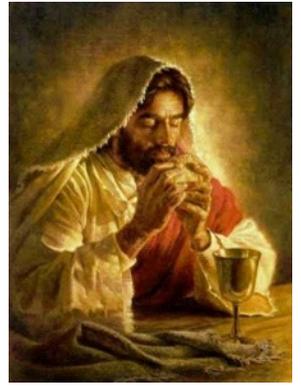
"Yes, that's it exactly. I believe profoundly that God is breaking into our lives all the time, turning things upside down in unexpected ways, so I have no problem believing in Christmas".

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“That's interesting,” he said, as he offered me some of his fries. It was hard, but I let the fries go untouched.

“It's not only interesting; it's life-changing. Imagine what it's like believing that we are not alone; that the darkness can reveal light, that the holy is not just for folks in robes and collars. Imagine that Christmas is real whether you believe it or not...” He was smiling.

“I suppose,” I said, “that the underlying message of Christmas is that 'We're in this together'- you and me, us and God...” And it was in that spirit that I helped myself to some of his fries... and felt quite virtuous doing so; after all, it seemed like we'd just experienced our own Christmas.



Merry Christmas to you and may you have many such conversations and Christmases throughout the season.

Norm

**WE DID IT!!
And it was a lot of fun.
Together we collectively walked and ran
over 150 kms
and raised over \$8,000 as part of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon.**

Hats and Shoes off to

Elizabeth Clark, Cynthia Clinton, Kevin Collins,
Rev. Anne, Ru Dionisio, Maureen Daly, Jacqueline Edwards, Dayna Elliott, Heather Fraser, Billy McKendry,
Jessica McKendry, Joan McKendry, William McKendry, Gary Norris,
Barb Secord, Rev. Norm, Susan Snook, Will Snook
and Val Winters.



Christmas @ Jubilee

Jubilee Choir presents

A Welsh Christmas

Saturday, December 7th at 330pm

Toronto Choristers Concert

Tuesday, December 10th at 730pm

Carols and Cookies

We're singing carols
and selling home-made cookies!

Saturday, December 14th, 3-6pm.

Service of Solace

A Worship Service recognizing the variety
of feelings that come with the season.

Sunday, December 15th at 7pm

Carolling on the Labyrinth.

Singing Christmas Carols inside and out.

Tuesday, December 17th at 7pm.

Christmas Eve

430pm Service for Kids, their friends
and families. An active service

730pm Christmas Eve for all ages.

Lots of Music, Stories, Hope and Joy.

11pm. Late Night Communion

Quiet, reflective and Holy.

Jubilee United Church

40 Underhill Dr.

www.jubileeunited.ca

All Events and Services are free of charge (donations accepted)



Growing the Light – A Simple Spiritual Practice for Advent

Rev. Anne Dionisio

My husband Max and I really enjoy the seasons of the church year. I once knit a scarf for Max with the year carefully worked out: blue for Advent, white for Christmas, green for Epiphany, purple for Lent...you get the idea. Max has music playlists for Advent and Epiphany as well as Christmas. It is a source of joy and delight to us that we were married on the third weekend of Advent and included that week's traditional scriptures and only Advent hymns in the ceremony. As I write this, I realize that we may just be the most liturgically geeky people you will ever meet. We love all the seasons, but we especially love Advent.

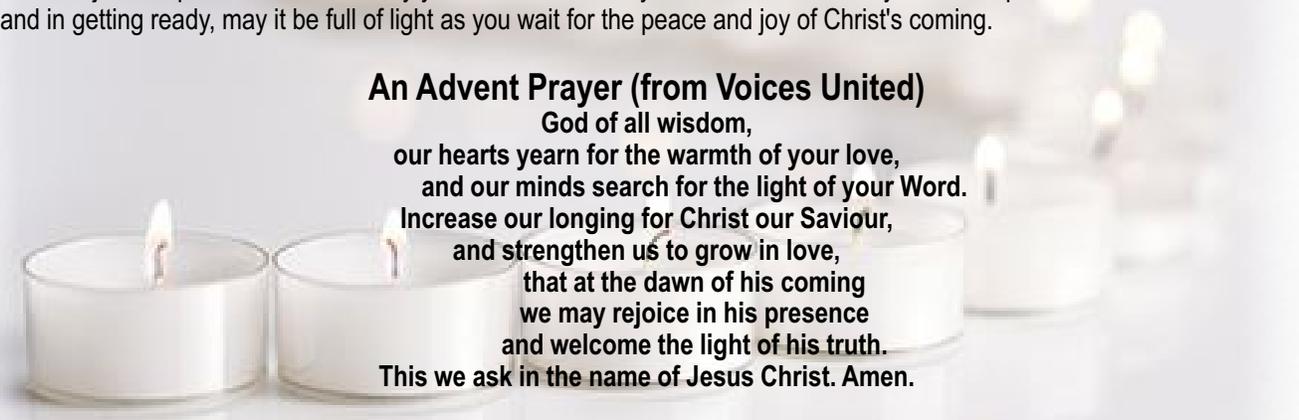
We are also the parents of young children, and we are in a time of creating new traditions around Christmas. We are super excited for the day we will go out and get a real Christmas tree...but we are waiting until we can be sure that the children will not try to climb it. We have been given some lovely decorations over the years...but for now, they remain locked up in cabinets, and our plastic apartment-sized tree is decorated with cloth baubles that can be moved around, played with, and chewed on without too much concern.

So, what does Advent look like for us these days? Well, along with the childproof Christmas decorating, we have developed a simple spiritual practice that we do just before bedtime. Once everyone is in their pyjamas and having their last bottle/big kid cup of milk, we turn the lights low and gather on the couch. We have a basket of 24 electric tealights at the ready, along with a Bible and a prayer.

Each time we gather, we light one more tealight, read a little more of the Christmas story and say a prayer. It is a short practice, but it has become a special moment of peace for us. Okay, by "peace," I mean lights are low, and we are beginning to wind down for bed - there are still the usual wiggles, fussing and giggles of young children. Right now, the practice may hold more meaning for us as parents as we listen to the strange but familiar words of John, Matthew, and Luke and take time to pray. I am not sure what the kids will absorb from the words in our evening ritual this year, but they will know that it is a special set apart time, and they will have fun turning the tealights on (and off and on and off) and playing with them as the light grows and grows over the month. I am sure that as they grow, we will tweak our practice. One day, just as our tree will be tall and have breakable ornaments, we will light real candles and maybe sit around the dinner table together.

For now, we would like to share this practice with you. It is a practice that can be engaged with whether you have children or not, whether you live with a partner or other housemates and family or live on your own. If you are an early riser, you may like to do this in the dark of the morning as you wait for the light of a new day. You may want to include different prayers, or perhaps a different Bible version, or a children's Bible. What you will find on the following pages is a suggested prayer and a reading guide for this season with text from the International Children's Bible version. You can adjust the practice whatever way you like. We miss days but find that it is easy to catch up. Whatever this Advent holds for you in practice and in getting ready, may it be full of light as you wait for the peace and joy of Christ's coming.

An Advent Prayer (from Voices United)



God of all wisdom,
our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love,
and our minds search for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour,
and strengthen us to grow in love,
that at the dawn of his coming
we may rejoice in his presence
and welcome the light of his truth.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Light 1 Candle

Read John 1:1-5: Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing was made without him. In him, there was life. That life was light for the people of the world. The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overpowered the Light.

Advent Prayer

Light 2 Candles

Read John 1:6-9: There was a man named John who was sent by God. He came to tell people about the Light. Through him, all people could hear about the Light and believe. John was not the Light, but he came to tell people about the Light. The true Light was coming into the world. The true Light gives light to all.

Advent Prayer

Light 3 Candles

Read Matthew 1:18-19: The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

Advent Prayer

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Light 4 Candles

Remember: Mary is going to have a baby.

Read Matthew 1:20-23: While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel." This name means "God is with us."

Advent Prayer

Light 5 Candles

Remember: Joseph had a dream about Mary and her baby.

Read Matthew 1:24-25: When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary. But he did not have intimate relations with her until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named the son Jesus.

Advent Prayer

Light 6 Candles

Read Luke 1:5-7: During the time Herod ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. He belonged to Abijah's group. Zechariah's wife came from the family of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. Zechariah and Elizabeth truly did what God said was good. They did everything the Lord commanded and told people to do. They were without fault in keeping his law. But Zechariah and Elizabeth had no children. Elizabeth could not have a baby; both of them were very old.

Advent Prayer

Light 7 Candles

Remember: Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have a baby.

Read Luke 1:8-12: Zechariah was serving as a priest before God for his group. It was his group's time to serve. According to the custom of the priests, he was chosen to go into the Temple of the Lord and burn incense. There were a great many people outside praying at the time the incense was offered. Then, on the right side of the incense table, an angel of the Lord came and stood before Zechariah. When he saw the angel, Zechariah was confused and frightened.

Advent Prayer

Light 8 Candles

Remember: Zechariah met an angel in the Temple and was afraid.

Read Luke 1:13-18: But the angel said to him, "Zechariah, don't be afraid. Your prayer has been heard by God. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son. You will name him John. You will be very happy. Many people will be happy because of his birth. John will be a great man for the Lord. He will never drink wine or beer. Even at the time John is born, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will help many people of Israel return to the Lord their God. He himself will go first before the Lord. John will be powerful in spirit like Elijah. He will make peace between fathers and their children. He will bring those who are not obeying God back to the right way of thinking. He will make people ready for the coming of the Lord."

Advent Prayer

Light 9 Candles

Remember: The angel told Zechariah that he and Elizabeth would have a child.

Read Luke 1:18-19: Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that what you say is true? I am an old man, and my wife is old, too."

The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand before God. God sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news. Now, listen! You will not be able to talk until the day these things happen. You will lose your speech because you did not believe what I told you. But these things will really happen."

Advent Prayer

Light 10 Candles

Remember: Zechariah went into the Temple and met an angel.

Read Luke 1:21-25: Outside, the people were still waiting for Zechariah. They were surprised that he was staying so long in the Temple. Then Zechariah came outside, but he could not speak to them. So they knew that he had seen a vision in the Temple. Zechariah could not speak. He could only make signs to them. When his time of service as a priest was finished, he went home.

Later, Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant. She did not go out of her house for five months. [...]

Advent Prayer

Light 11 Candles

Remember: Elizabeth is going to have a baby.

Read Luke 1:26-29: During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in

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Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."

But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

Advent Prayer

Light 12 Candles

Remember: God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, and she was afraid.

Read Luke 1:30-34: The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!"

Advent Prayer

Light 13 Candles

Remember: Mary is surprised to hear that she will have a baby.

Read Luke 1:35-38: The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!"

Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.

Advent Prayer

Light 14 Candles

Remember: Elizabeth and Mary are both going to have babies.

Read 1:39-45: Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the mountains of Judea. She went to Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the unborn baby inside Elizabeth jumped. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She cried out in a loud voice, "God has blessed you more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby which you will give birth to. You are the mother of my Lord, and you have come to me! Why has something so good happened to me? When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped with joy. You are blessed because you believed what the Lord said to you would really happen."

Advent Prayer

Light 15 Candles

Read Luke 1:46-55: Then Mary said,

"My soul praises the Lord;

my heart is happy because God is my Savior.

I am not important, but God has shown his care for me, his servant girl.

From now on, all people will say that I am blessed,

because the Powerful One has done great things for me.

His name is holy.

God will always give mercy

to those who worship him.

God's arm is strong.

He scatters the people who are proud
and think great things about themselves.

God brings down rulers from their thrones,

and he raises up the humble.

God fills the hungry with good things,

but he sends the rich away with nothing.

God has helped his people Israel who serve him.

He gave them his mercy.

God has done what he promised to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his children forever."

Advent Prayer

Light 16 Candles

Read Luke 1:56-60: Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. Her neighbours and relatives heard how good the Lord was to her, and they rejoiced.

When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father's name. But his mother said, "No! He will be named John."

Advent Prayer

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Light 17 Candles

Remember: Elizabeth wants to name her child John.

Read Luke 1:61-66: The people said to Elizabeth, "But no one in your family has this name!" Then they made signs to his father, "What would you like to name him?"

Zechariah asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was surprised. Then Zechariah could talk again. He began to praise God. And all their neighbours became alarmed. In all the mountains of Judea, people continued talking about all these things. The people who heard about these things wondered about them. They thought, "What will this child be?" They said this because the Lord was with him.

Advent Prayer

Light 18 Candles

Read Luke 1:67-75: Then Zechariah, John's father, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He told the people what would happen:

"Let us thank the Lord, the God of Israel.

God has come to help his people and has given them freedom.

God has given us a powerful Saviour

from the family of God's servant David.

God said that he would do this.

He said it through his holy prophets who lived long ago.

God will save us from our enemies

and from the power of all those who hate us.

God said he would give mercy to our ancestors.

And he remembered his holy promise.

God promised Abraham, our father,

that he would free us from the power of our enemies,

so that we could serve him without fear.

We will be righteous and holy before God as long as we live.

Advent Prayer

Light 19 Candles

Remember: Zechariah is telling the people what will happen.

Read Luke 1:76-80: "Now you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.

You will go first before the Lord

to prepare the people for his coming.

You will make his people know that they will be saved.

They will be saved by having their sins forgiven.

With the loving mercy of our God,

a new day from heaven will shine upon us.

God will help those who live in darkness,

in the fear of death.

He will guide us into the path that goes toward peace."

And so the child grew up and became strong in spirit. John lived away from other people until the time when he came out to preach to Israel.

Advent Prayer

Light 20 Candles

Read Luke 2:1-7: At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.

So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

Advent Prayer

Light 21 Candles

Read Luke 2:8-12: That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am

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bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box."

Advent Prayer

Light 22 Candles

Read Luke 2:13-15: Then, a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth, let there be peace to the people who please God." Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."

Advent Prayer

Light 23 Candles

Read Luke 2:16-20: So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

Advent Prayer



SHARE THE WARMTH

Sunday, December 15th

Jubilee United Church has been challenged by **Metropolitan United Church, Rosedale United Church and The Living Presence Ministry of East Gwillimbury:**

Who can collect the most **socks, mittens, hats, gloves and scarves** for our friends in need at the Toronto Out of the Cold Program?

Sunday, December 15th, after the Pageant, it's another "Sock it to Me" Sunday.

Warm clothing can be collected through December in the designated containers around the church, but on the 15th, let's have the opposite of snowball fight and throw some warmth at our beloved clergy!



CLAXTON FRUIT CAKES
Once again those world famous cakes will be available this Fall.

As most of you know, they come in 1lb bars and are priced as follows- 1lb bar @ \$8.00, Box of 3 1lb bars @ 20.00 (light or dark).

For more information, or to place an order, contact Bob Nicholls at 416-445-2642.

All net proceeds will go to the Benevolent Fund.

Drop in to support Jubilee United Church and get ready for Christmas!!

Saturday, December 14th from 3-6pm

join us for

Cookies & CAROLS

**Come on by, have some hot chocolate, sing a few carols
and stock up on home made cookies for Christmas.**

Volunteers from the Jubilee Community will provide a wide variety of Christmas Cookies that can be purchased individually or included in a fill-your-own box. There will also be a silent auction for desserts made for delivery between December 16th and 30th.

As you look over the various edible delights, you can join us for some Christmas Carols. All proceeds will support the welcoming and inclusive ministries of Jubilee United Church.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS JUBILEE SPRING BRIDGE 2020

At
JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH
40 Underhill Dr.



BRIDGE INSTRUCTION BY JOHN RAYNER

Canadian Open Pairs Championship winner
Canadian Senior Team Championship winner
Twice captain/coach of the Canadian Woman's National team at
World Bridge Championships in Istanbul and Beijing

ONE DAY ONLY: FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

PROGRAM:

9:15 am	Get name tags and meet over coffee
10:00 - 12:00	Bridge Instruction
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (included in the fee)
1:00 - 3:00	More Bridge Instruction

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

For information and registration contact:

Marie at 416-222-9329 or 416-567-1087 (cell) or mmcroe@rogers.com

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

Council Report

Council has held two Council Meetings since my last report. These Council meetings took place on Monday, September 9th, 2018, and Tuesday, October 15th, 2019.

Please see Rev. Norm Seli's report in Jubilation for the Ministers' Report. We are excited about having our two new refugees arriving on Wednesday, November 13th. Programs for Youth, Living the Question, Ulterior Worship Bible Study, Not Alone Group, Tuesday Coffee Time, Open Doors, Muffin Church, and Picnic/Dinner Church continue. Sabbath Retreat did not receive enough interest, so we will try again later. Resistance Church was held for the first time, and although it is aimed at non-church goers, it attracted mostly those already attending a United Church.

The Scotiabank Marathon took place on October 20th, 2019. We had 27 registrations, including runners from outside the church. The Ministers were on a team vs. everyone else that is registered. The losing team will make the other team dinner after the event. So far, we have raised \$3,500 (ultimately \$8,000). Norm sent out an e-mail encouraging all those registered to fundraise. Rev. Anne Dionisio continues with the children's programs, has updated Godly Play and moved it to either the Garden Room or outside. Godly Play uses hands-on materials, including painted stones and small pieces of wood with painted images. Anne is running a successful Drop-In Play Group. We will have a Christmas Pageant this year, and it will be run by Haley.

We now have a large screen TV and blue ray player that came in under the budget of \$2,200 (taxes included) approved by Council in the September meeting. The TV and blue ray player will be used for youth, announcements, and study groups. Council approved the financial reports to the end of August 2019 as reported. Revenue is slightly ahead of budget with fluctuations in envelopes and PAR. Expenditures are up to date. If the current trends continue, our forecasted deficit will be \$75,000, which is lower than the original forecast of \$95,000. St. John's bank account will be closed, and \$17,000 will be moved over to general funds. The \$11,000 HST refund we expected, has been received. Council expressed concern that Legacy Gifts be spent as requested, and that we do a better job communicating what costs are best chosen for Legacy Gifts.

Council began budget discussions in the September and October meetings with a goal to have a draft budget before the end of the year. For the budget, Finance Chair John Sharp would like us to look beyond the current year to 5 and 10 years into the future. A debate ensued over whether PAR and envelopes should cover salaries and operating costs. Finance suggested that they should cover these costs, and others suggested that this is rare in churches.

The interest we earn on our investments is currently covering our operating costs. Concern was expressed for our financial future with changing demographics and the resulting number of parishioners. We were also concerned with the level of contributions and our ability to control costs. John received input from the Council members on fundraising and other expected costs to be included in the budget. See the minutes for more information.

Rev. Norm Seli held some Fundraising meetings with Vice-Chair Heather Callbeck and others over the summer. This committee is suggesting a "Home for Christmas Event" for December 2019, which would include a hymn sing, home-baked cookies for sale, and the auction of some desserts. Several hundred dollars could be raised.

The Fundraising group also suggested that we include the following in our upcoming 2020 celebrations:

- Gala dinner with an honoured Guest at \$100 a ticket.
- One musical event per month, eight with costs, and four free. These musical events could be tied to the dates of the Community Dinners.

We have \$3,500 already raised in past years for the 2020 celebrations; however, we plan to replace these funds with new donations. We will look for sponsors to cover the costs of the larger events. Council supported the ideas of the Fundraising Committee with a show of hands.

Rev. Norm Seli and the Fundraising Committee also suggested a 20th Anniversary Art project. Judy Wells and friends will do the art installation. We are looking for someone to co-ordinate this project. We could include a banner to advertise our anniversary to the community. All ideas from the congregation are welcome.

Resistance Church started in October. The money from TUCC, \$10,000, will be received half in the fall and half in December. The Resistance Church Website, www.resistancechurch.ca, will be linked to our site. There will be a collection done at these services. These services will be under Worship and not M&P since Bri-Anne Swann, who is running them, is not employed by us. These services are aimed at people who are not currently churchgoers.

Amanda Mackenzie reported on the two new refugees who arrived on October 13th. One of them speaks English, so this will be a help to us. We will be receiving practical help from Birchcliff Bluffs United Church and two other churches. We have two years of full support from the federal government. \$2,863 is available from the Refugee Fund and this should be sufficient. The committee will fundraise as needed.

Barb Secord listed the Property items completed during the summer including:

- Window cleaning
- North washroom repairs and painting
- Gardening
- Exhaust fan fixed since it was extremely noisy
- Replaced the dead tree that was planted in memory of Des McCalmont

Property Items being worked on:

- LED lighting retrofit project
- Carpets and ceramic floors cleaned
- Landscaping plan
- Exterior painting of some areas
- New doors
- Sound System Upgrades

See the minutes of these meetings for more detail on the Property items listed above.

Council approved a motion to spend \$8,000 to improve the sound system in the Chancel in the September Meeting. In the October meeting, Fran Crabe let us know that the UCW executive voted to cover the cost and related installation for the new monitors, which are a major portion of the new sound system.

Charlie Scott informed us about the Murder Mystery dinner was sold out, having sold 140 tickets. Beer and wine were available. Council expressed concern that a \$20 ticket price is low compared to market prices. It was decided that the committee should continue to have the responsibility for choosing the price of the event.

Fran Crabe reported that normally, UCW has a fall gathering, but it will be held at Valentine's day instead. Membership is declining rather quickly, although a couple of groups are still active. There are some new members from St. John's. Valerie Winters reported that 61 applications were received for the Administrator's position, a shortlist was made, six candidates were interviewed in September. Technical testing was done. The candidates also met with the staff. Dianne Clare was chosen for the position, and she started on October 15th, 2019. She will receive about 2½ weeks of training from Pat before she retires. Dianne has an accounting background and will be able to assist with accounting when needed. Norm commended the Search Committee of Valerie Winters, Jeanne Elgie-Watson, Jeannette May, and Fran Crabe for a fine job.

We are looking forward to the Christmas season,
Elizabeth

Service of Solace

A service of Light
in the midst of Darkness
because Christmas
isn't just about holy and tinsel,
it's also a time of memories
and deep feelings.

Sunday, December 15th 7pm
@Jubilee United Church

A service for those needing time to grieve, to heal;
to recognize the love and presence of God in the darkness.

Gentle music, gentle thoughts...

Notes from Outreach

This year we gave out two St. John's Community Scholarships. Hailey Clinton and Megan Williams were chosen and outlined in the last Jubilation. I thought that we should have an update on how they are doing.

Cynthia Clinton sent this update on Hailey:

Hailey arrived at Nipissing University at the end of August and settled in easily with three new roommates and a lovely shared dormitory. She is enjoying the concurrent education program, and she has been spending time supporting the school's sports teams when she's able. Cooking and tidying up away from home is hard work, yet she's certainly making an effort. Hailey was able to come home for Thanksgiving and the midterm break that followed. She will return for two weeks at Christmas time.

Megan Williams sent this update:

I want to thank the Jubilee congregation for awarding me with the St. John's Community Scholarship for my post-secondary education. I am about halfway through the first semester of my second year in the Bachelor of Community Mental Health program at Seneca College. I am enjoying all of my classes, but I have a particular interest in my human development class where we are learning about how infants and children develop both physically and cognitively. I have maintained my 4.0 GPA so far and am learning a wealth of knowledge in a variety of topics I have an interest in. Once again, a huge thank you to the Jubilee community for the scholarship. It has helped me continue to thrive in my post-secondary life.

Mission and Service in Changing Times

What's happening with Mission and Service in the United Church of Canada? With the decline in congregational and M&S revenues continuing at 2-3 percent yearly, some changes are necessary.

- The restructuring of the national church from four courts to three will help us live within our means. (Conference and Presbytery levels have been combined into Regional Councils.)
- Funding is clearer: assessments will fund governance and shared services, while M&S donations will fund mission and ministry.
- Regions like our Shining Waters will decide on funding for mission and ministry within their regions.
- New models of being church will be funded by M&S programs like Embracing the Spirit, *Edge*, the New Ministries Fund, and grants from the UCC Foundation.

Please support M&S so that local, national and international projects can continue to show how we love our neighbours.

GIFTS WITH VISION

Gifts with Vision, the giving catalogue from the People of the United Church of Canada, has arrived to help us with our shopping lists for Christmas and beyond. Orders for items can be made between November 2019 and October 2020 to honour a person, celebrate an occasion, or teach children the importance of loving our neighbours.

The gifts available come in such categories as wellness, safe spaces, education, healing and reconciliation, and addressing poverty and hunger. They range in price from \$10 (a grocery gift card) to \$200 (textbooks for one year for one student in Zambia).

Our gifts are sent directly to the chosen Mission & Service partner (less 15% for the costs of printing and distributing the catalogue). Purchasers will receive tax-deductible receipts for the full amount of the gift. Please speak to Pam Lock, Jubilee's M&S Enthusiast, for more details and a copy of the catalogue. You can also order online at www.giftswithvision.ca.

What Is BROADVIEW?

BROADVIEW is the new name of the magazine we knew as THE OBSERVER. It is the oldest, continuously published magazine in North America, engaging Canadians for 190 years. Its content focuses on issues of faith, justice, and contemporary living. It encourages people in the pews, and beyond, to broaden their understanding of what it means to be a Christian in Canada today.

Many members of Jubilee UC are subscribers and receive 11 issues yearly. They will receive renewal notices soon. If you are interested in receiving a trial subscription, please contact Pam Lock (416-499-0101) at your earliest convenience for details.

Social Committee

This current year, 2019, is our initial year as a committee, and the "mission" we embraced is to promote "fellowship activities" that will be of interest to both church members and members of the community we serve.

We believe the activities that we have promoted this year are consistent with this mission objective.

Judy Olsen, a member of our committee, has initiated a weekly program of Bid Euchre every Tuesday afternoon. Judging by the attendance and enthusiasm for this fellowship activity, we believe that this program continues to attract members, and we are thankful to Judy for taking this initiative.

We promoted a concert this year featuring Benjamin Gabbay and his talented friends. A standing ovation from the audience suggested that a "Concert for a Saturday Afternoon" was well received.

Our "Day Trip" to St. Jacobs attracted 46 attendees and our most recent Murder Mystery Dinner held Saturday, Oct. 26th, was sold out with 140 in attendance. With respect to the latter event, we owe a great debt of thanks to Ed Rutherford for the wonderful script, to Gary Norris for the outstanding dinner, to Sarah's Circle (UCW) for the salad and dessert, to the outstanding performers, and the many volunteers from the social committee and from the congregation who made this event so special.

Our focus in 2020 will be to feature interesting Day Trips that we hope will elicit the same positive response we have experienced to date with other events.

Ann Howes and Charlie Scott

FREE RIMBALA CLASSES CONTINUE AT JUBILEE!

Do you worry about falling – especially as winter approaches?
Have you noticed that your movements are becoming more jerky or awkward as you age?
Are you concerned that memory loss may spoil your golden years?

If yes, then Rimbala might be for you, and our church is offering them for free!

Rimbala combines live, improvised music with simple and fun movement activities to help seniors improve balance, mobility and memory. Similar programs in Europe have been scientifically proven to reduce the risk of falls by 54%! Scientists are also researching how these programs are effective in the prevention and control of Alzheimer's disease.

Rimbala was developed by Dr. Daniel Rubinoff, Ph.D., Music Director at Jubilee, a professional performer, composer, and teacher.

Visit Daniel's new website for more info: www.rimbala.com

You can sign up for the 10:00 a.m. class or the 4:00 p.m. class. Try out a class, come for some of the weekly classes, or come for all of them! The classes take place in the auditorium and are 55 minutes in duration.

If you have questions about Rimbala, then please contact Daniel directly:

416 709 8381, or by email: rubinoffdaniel@gmail.com

A Note from the Jubilee Finance Committee

As of August 31, 2019, our revenue is tracking on budget and our expenses are tracking below budget. This should be cause for jubilation. However, the 2019 budget approved by the congregation predicted a deficit of \$95,000. This \$95,000 deficit included a revenue boost of \$20,000 from a special Christmas appeal, (i.e. 13th month).

To help avoid a bigger deficit, please include Jubilee on your Christmas list.

Report from the Music Director

The music program has been quite active this fall! A special thank you to all of the choir members for their dedication to weekly rehearsals and the performance of increasingly challenging music. We are fortunate to have a roster of choir leads who provide choral direction to their respective sections.

Veteran soprano lead Maria Criscione has been stellar this fall, and she is taking on a more active role in providing some vocal warmups at the beginning of rehearsals. Cheron Christmas-Lafleur, our alto lead, is no stranger to the choir or Jubilee. Her work as choir president and librarian is crucial and has enabled the choir to achieve higher levels of organization and focus. Cheron has been featured as a soloist and a member of duos, trios, and quartets – as the repertoire demands. Dylan Hillyer, with his vocal jazz background, has offered some wonderfully creative Offertories this season. Douglas Gallant offers his talents as our bass lead and has distinguished himself as a member of our quartet during the Offertory portion of the Jubilee worship service. Additionally, Heather Callbeck's beautiful soprano voice helps to lead the second sopranos. Elizabeth Clarke, Joan Honeyford and Deborah Johnston have returned to the choir as well!

After special services for Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day, we are excitedly looking forward to Christmas. This year, we are presenting a concert entitled, "A Welsh Christmas." The event is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th at 3:30 p.m. and there will be a freewill offering. We will feature a new choral work by Jon Washburn, the eminent Canadian choral master. His composition, "A Dylan Thomas Christmas," intersperses beautiful renditions of traditional Christmas carols with a reading of Thomas's poem, "A Child's Christmas in Wales." There will also be small-group singing and audience participation.

The choir continues to grow. We rehearse most Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 9:40 to 10:10 a.m. (before the regular 10:30 a.m. worship). We are always looking for new members – especially men! Please see me after church on Sunday if you are interested in auditioning.

A big thank you to everyone who participates in the Rimbala music and movement program for seniors, which is designed to reduce the incidence of falls and develop cognitive plasticity. This past summer, we were honoured to participate in the Canadian Dalcroze Society's annual summer conference at the National Ballet of Canada. Our Swiss instructor (and my mentor), Ruth Gianadda, delighted in giving us a wonderful workshop demonstration!

We have two classes at Jubilee on Thursdays throughout the year. There is no charge to attend because our church is sponsoring the classes as part of our community outreach. The beginner's class meets at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium, and an intermediate level class meets at 4 p.m. If you are interested in trying a class, please contact me for details (416.709.8381).

Blessings to everyone,
Daniel Rubinoff, Director of Music



Open Doors

Wednesdays 430 – 630 pm

The sanctuary is open,
and you are invited to sit...
to pray...
to be still and know that God is.

One of our ministers will be there
if you want to talk

There are candles that can be lit
and time that is just for you and God

Jubilee United Church

Direct from the
Island of Mis-Fit Musicians

Definitely NOT Christmas



Sunday, December 8th @ 7:30pm

Join the Howling Heretics as they tug at Santa's beard
and move stuff around in the manger.

With a soundtrack of pop songs from the past 7 decades, this is one
Christmas Special guaranteed NOT to be warm and cuddly.



After December, when the Christmas Lights go out – it's going to seem awfully dark... cold, even. And we, we usually do our best to warm things up at Jubilee.

Starting Tuesday, January 7th, Tuesday Soup Lunch will be returning.

Through the balance of January, February, and into March we will be offering,
Soup and Bread in the Garden Room on Tuesdays from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Join us. Bring a Friend. We eat, we talk, who knows what friendships might occur or what radical plans might emerge!!

We are always looking for volunteers to help with set up and clean up.

AND of course, we love to have help making soup.

If you would like to help with the setup and clean up OR make soup for 60 people, please sign up in the foyer and/or speak with Rev. Seli.

There is a \$60 subsidy provided for supplies for anyone making soup this year.



The Benevolent Fund

This is the time of year when we get the biggest surge in donations for the Benevolent Fund. **Thank you.** As most of you know, our lives are fragile, and sometimes it just takes a little nudge to bring things crashing down... but sometimes it just takes a little help to keep things together and weather the storm. The money will be used to help people sleep with less dread, stay warm, and hang on a little longer until change can really happen. The gifts will affect women, men, children, strangers, refugees, hungry, hurting, and even some folks with whom you share coffee on a Sunday morning.

The Benevolent Fund is a modest amount of money that is shared at my discretion with those in need. I try to share this resource with those who might otherwise fall through the cracks: Those who have medical or financial needs that cannot be met through other agencies; those who have a one-time challenge that threatens their future. Sometimes we pay a bill; sometimes we share grocery cards... sometimes we make a plan and address a more systemic problem. Sometimes, we just give because we can, and we hope...

Thank you for all that you have done in the past, and should you wish to contribute in the future, donations can be made directly to me, but also to the Church office, or in the Offering Box in an envelope marked "Benevolent Fund." These donations will be added to your other church donations, and you will receive a Tax Receipt.

In the words of our friends, "Thank You." *Norm*



Pat was not just a friendly face when you arrived at Jubilee, but a font of knowledge so that your visit was never in vain. A hub of communication who made sure that everyone who needed to know, got to know what was going on, who was in need, who was celebrating, and who was in danger of being overlooked. Pat was on the front line of Pastoral Care since she arrived and touched more lives than any of us can count.

Pat also started our Radio Plays, worked tirelessly for ArtCraft, and won our first Scotiabank Marathon (just in case you thought she could only be found in the office). In the life of Jubilee, Pat has always been one to stay late and was often the person left to turn off the lights and lock the doors, even after she had put away chairs, tidied the kitchen, and mopped the floor.

Pat was also a source of light on a dark day and a voice of calm in the midst of panic. She has Anchored Norm, Supported Barb, Sorted Daniel, Assisted Anne, and has been a Friend to everyone in the Jubilee Community for so long, it's hard to imagine what we will do without her. Thanks to Pat changing the sign daily, people in the community know how active Jubilee is; thanks to her friendly smile, people experience Jubilee as a welcoming place; thanks to her work on the bulletin we all know what to do on Sunday; thanks to her wisdom and gifts our whole team functioned like an actual Spirit-Filled Ministry.



We will make her proud as we continue to be welcoming, capable, hard-working and occasionally silly folk. In all of that, we will honour Pat's ministry with Jubilee United Church, and we will continually express our gratitude for everything that Pat has done with and for us all.



To the Congregation of Jubilee United Church,

Thank you all for your very generous gift and for all your good wishes for my retirement. They are very much appreciated, and I was extremely touched.

No one walks alone, so I have a few people to acknowledge.

First and foremost, a very big thank you to the staff team, in particular, Barb and Norm, who have been with me since I started here. We have shared a lot of laughs over the past 10+ years. You've been there to support and encourage me whenever both challenges and opportunities arose, and I hope I've been able to do the same for you.

Thank you to the M&P Committee and Council for your support as well. You let me follow my own path, and were always positive when a course correction needed to be made.

When I was growing up, I was taught that when someone needed help, you stepped forward and asked, "What can I do?" I hope I've been able to make your lives a little easier, and thank you for your trust as you handed over your pet projects to me.

More than ten years ago, you opened your arms and welcomed me, a stranger, into your midst. It didn't take long for me to feel like one of the family.

Thank you all so very, very much.

Pat Lansche

On Wednesday, November 12th at 12:20 pm, our new friends Sherry and Ivan arrived from Uganda.

Jubilee, with the help of Birchcliff Bluffs United Church, has committed to developing a deep friendship and helping our friends build a life in Canada.



Met by our welcome committee, Ivan and Sherry experienced snow for the first time! In Swahili, the word for welcome is Karibu.

Life Events

Baptisms

James Stephen Guiliano 29 September 2019
Rufino Vincent Douglas Dionisio 27 October 2019

Celebrations of Life:

Florence Young 21 September 2019
Eleanor Palmer 8 October 2019
Bill Paton 11 November 2019
Beverly Ayles 12 November 2019

Marriages:

Paul Cuprys and Amy Elizabeth Hanson 14 September 2019
Kyle Brian MacCallum and Nicole Marie Baker 19 October 2019

The Jubilee United Church Choir
presents

A Welsh Christmas

**Featuring Jon Washburn's
"A Dylan Thomas Christmas"**



**Saturday,
December 7th, 2019
at 3:30 pm**

40 Underhill Drive
Don Mills, Ontario
(North off Lawrence Ave. E.,
East of the DVP)

*Light refreshments provided
Donations gratefully accepted*

Phone: 416.447.6846