

Jubilation!

September 2024

Jubilation! is the newsletter of Jubilee United Church
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Notes from Norm

After you're through the Gospels, there are a number of letters in our Bible. One is from James. We're not exactly sure who James is, but I'm struck by a statement in the first verse of chapter 3:

*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters,
for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*

Oh my, here we are at the beginning of the school year and the Bible seems to be recommending that our dedicated teachers should find less hazardous work.

And yet, I am who I am because of my teachers. When I was in **Kindergarten**, legend has it that one afternoon I flopped onto the couch and proclaimed, "I don't care what they say about getting a better education for a better job – I quit!" You see, my teacher, Miss McMurchy, had announced that she was getting married, and I saw no reason to continue wooing her with my mastery of Play-Doh, nap-time discipline, and winning smile. Miss McMurchy was a patient woman.



Fast forward to **Grade Two**, and there I was, planted directly in front of Mrs. Schwartz's desk for the entire year. While the rest of the class made papier-mâché swans, I insisted on crafting a frog. Mrs. Schwartz, whom I now realize was an insightful woman, not only allowed it but praised my creation.

Grade Four brought Miss Storton into my life, and she read to the class from Enid Blyton's *Four for Adventure* books. One day, she asked me to read aloud, encouraging me to use voices and sound effects. That small invitation ignited something in me, though she also strategically placed me in front of her desk.

By **Grade Five**, I'd earned some freedom. Mr. Borovoy allowed me to roam the library when I was finished with my work. I suspect he, too, was tired of seeing me in front of his desk, and believed my time would be better spent elsewhere. He was a very trusting man.



In **Grade Seven**, I took music because Home Economics was full. I had only dabbled in piano for a year, and my hopes weren't high. But Miss MacLean had other ideas. She declared that I was a trumpet player. I was certain she was mistaken - the trumpet section was reserved for the cool kids. But she insisted. Before I knew it, I had my own key to the music room and would be found there at 7:30am, blowing my horn. Miss MacLean, a very brave woman, saw something in me before I did.



High school brought me a parade of influential teachers: Mr. Dart fostered my love of history; Mr. Boucher pushed me to do better, even as he handed me a failing grade; Mr. Halloran demanded respect for others, while Mr. Cringan nurtured my musical side, inviting me to write and even produce a musical. Mrs. Von Buttler patiently listened to my French attempts and personal grievances. These were great people who saw value in me, even when I didn't.

University and grad school brought even more lessons. I learned that being on time is often better than being perfect. That cleverness is in the eye of the student, not the professor. That life doesn't always make sense, but you still have to learn it. And that *Carpe Diem* does not, in fact, mean "complain to God."

I am who I am today because of insightful, trusting, gracious, and sometimes stern teachers. I am proud to have produced a son who is a high school teacher (surely, I owe the School Board at least that).

This week, I invite you to pause and reflect on your teachers—those you met in school and the ones you've encountered elsewhere. Think about the people who saw potential in you, who trusted and believed in you, even when you doubted yourself. Take a moment to give thanks for those mentors, supporters, critics, and friends who shaped who you are today. Be glad that they didn't listen to our friend, James.

And then... dare to ignore James yourself. Think about the people *you* have taught. You may not be a paid, unionized teacher, but you have inspired others. You've shared insight, offered support, and helped people see the world, and themselves, differently. In that, you are a teacher, and even if you are judged with greater strictness, don't worry, the judgement will still be loving and kind. God wants you to continue to inspire, nurture, challenge, and believe in others. In doing so, you will be the hands of God, just as my teachers were for me.

Thanks a Lot!

Rev. Anne Dionisio



Over the years, I have heard bits and pieces about the children's summer programs that have been run at Jubilee. Now, thanks to old recordings, I have seen and heard evidence of the events! There's a treasure trove of songs and slides that tell of some pretty awesome weeks of fun and an online search for "Jubilee United Church VBS Followers of the Way", will lead you to a fun little song from 2008 created by Drew Winters and Rev. Norm.

This August, we revived this tradition at Jubilee. We added ukuleles and created a wonderful week at Kids Ukulele Camp, which ran from August 19 to 23. With many thanks to Kye Andrews, Érika Wood, and Natalie Baldocci of Grove Music School, campers experienced a week full of music as they worked together to learn to play "Thanks a Lot" by Raffi. With gratitude to our team of volunteers and staff, the campers explored a "Giving Thanks" theme through story, service activities, art, snacks and games.



Thank you to Charlie Scott, Sandra Park, Valerie Winters, Cher Colford, Pam Lock, Chanelle Christmas-LaFleur, Brenda Coull, Barb Secord, Dianne Clare, and Norm Seli for all that you poured into the week.

A highlight was the lemonade stand that the kids ran on Tuesday morning; the campers were so excited to offer free lemonade to all who passed by. We invited friends and neighbours to add to our Thanksgiving Banner by writing down one thing that they were thankful for that day and we had a donation bin for Jubilee's Refugee Fund. The kids raised over \$160 within that one hour and were encouraged by the generosity of others and by what can happen when we work together on a giving project. Thank you to all who came and supported us!

It was a pretty loud week to be around Jubilee. Our highest decibels were reached on Thursday when we finished the morning with free play in the gym with a bouncy castle, thanks to Kathy who runs Little Acorns Daycare out of Jubilee. The kids had a blast as they bounced and created games.

Kye Andrews and I, who are both pretty new, put the week together. We had so much fun as we moved through the week and are now thinking about how we can build on it to create a similar week of ukulele camp soon. Campers got a glimpse of Jubilee and Grove Music School as they were welcomed and we would like to give them and others the opportunity to do it again!

Another exciting thing for Jubilee kids this summer was being able to move into their own space as we created The Story Room. Haley Brown leads our Sunday Morning Children's Program using Godly Play as our central source for storytelling and inviting wonder. With The Story Room and ukulele camp, we are building on our children's programming to welcome children and families. Over the coming months, you will be invited to consider what gifts you might have to share with this ongoing work. Maybe you love doing crafts, or leading games, or baking, or telling stories, or something we haven't thought of yet. If you have been looking for a way to connect with Jubilee and have gifts to share with children and youth, please, come speak to me. We would love to find out what else we can create when we work together to do something awesome.

Music Ministry

Jeannie Wyse, Music Director

In the blink of an eye, September is upon us, apples and pumpkins abound and the choir is back! I know that we are all very excited to hear this talented group of singers after a well-deserved summer break. I am thrilled that Allie Jeffery, Katie White, Dianne Clare and Christopher Wilson have all returned as section leaders. A warm welcome to our two newest faces, Christine Crosby (tenor section) and Ravaughn Latchman (bass section).

The choir is planning a choral workshop with Robert Cooper in the near future (date tbd) to continue to develop our sound and skills. Choir rehearsals are from 7:00-9:00pm on Thursdays in the sanctuary. You do not need to sight-read or have prior experience - just a love for singing and a willing spirit.

I would like to thank all of our soloists for the music and joy that they brought to church services throughout the summer months: John Brooker, Roz Espin, Patti Jamieson and Dianne Clare graciously gave of their time and talents for our enjoyment. Thank you, also, to Christopher Wilson for subbing in my place and to Kye Andrews and the Grove Band for leading two services, as well.

During my vacation time, I had the great pleasure of being the Music Director for *Kiss Me, Kate* at St. Jacob's Country Playhouse for Drayton Entertainment. This was truly an amazing cast featuring Canada's top talent and a couple of Broadway veterans. It also reunited director/choreographer Michael Lichtefeld and me, for which I am always grateful. I really appreciated seeing all of the familiar Jubilee faces who made day trips to St. Jacob's to enjoy this golden age gem.

I will also be the Music Director for *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* in November/December at Young People's Theatre in downtown Toronto. Drum roll.....

We are already planning our epic Christmas Concert for Friday, December 6, at 7:30pm. Tickets will be available by mid-October and the Jubilee Choir will be the main event! In addition, our featured guests will be The Mantini Sisters. If you're not already familiar with this amazingly talented trio of sisters, check them out at <https://www.mantinisisters.com/>.

I look forward to a vibrant and dynamic season ahead.

Outreach and Mission & Service

Pam Lock

Please mark your calendars for some outreach presentations this autumn. The general theme is:

Be Informed, Be Entertained, and Be Inspired
October 23 and 30, and November 4, 11, 18, 25

The first speaker will be Ruth Lor Malloy, whose memoir *Brightening My Corner* was published just before her 91st birthday in 2023. Ruth will talk about her lifelong quest for social justice, working and living in many parts of the world.

Our second speaker will be Constable Joel Roberts from the Crime Prevention unit of 33 Division of Toronto Police Services. Last spring, he spoke on identity frauds targeting seniors. His topic on October 30 will be protecting your house and vehicle from thieves.

You are invited to pick up coffee/tea and cookies in the Garden Room at 12:45pm and bring them into the adjoining sanctuary to be ready for the presentation at 1:00 pm. We will finish at 2:30 pm. There will be no charge for the series. Come to one or all of the presentations. Details about the presentations in November will be published in October on the Jubilee website and in the weekly bulletins.

At Jubilee we continue to offer financial support to certain causes. Recognizing food insecurity as a major social problem, we have been designating regular donations to three organizations. In our immediate neighbourhood, the **Community Share Food Bank** received \$447.00. The **Scott Mission**, a city-based organization, received \$447.00, and we sent \$447.00 to the **Toronto Urban Native Ministry**. We will again be supporting the "**Cram-a-Cruiser**" food drive by 33 Division of the Toronto Police Services later in the fall season.

Miscellaneous donations from the congregation included \$120.00 for the ongoing **Ukraine Relief Fund** and \$30.00 to the **Toronto Urban Native Ministry**.

Many folks at Jubilee include the national **Mission and Service Fund** in their regular offerings through envelopes, PAR, and e-transfers. Our congregation's recent donation of \$6,196.50 will support a multitude of local, national, and international programs. Many thanks for your donations.

Our Refugees Have Arrived!

Val Winters on behalf of the Refugee Team

One of the two refugee families that Jubilee is sponsoring has arrived! Two parents and four children arrived late in the evening of August 29 after a two-day trip from Pakistan. They had fled a precarious situation from the Taliban in Afghanistan in January 2022. Life was not easy in Pakistan as they were undocumented and faced deportation back to Afghanistan if discovered.

Rev. Bri-anne Swan was approached by two of the husband's sisters who had arrived as refugees themselves a few years ago. They were looking for help to get their brother, his family, and their parents out of Pakistan. We had already committed to another refugee family from Syria, but with support from Metropolitan U.C., we agreed to a joint sponsorship of this second family. We are not mentioning names or showing pictures here for fear of repercussions for family left behind.

The refugee team met the family at a potluck welcome lunch early in September. Mom and Dad were tired but happy to be in Canada. The kids (three girls ages 6, 13 & 15 and one boy age 11 years) were bubbly and excited to be back in school. They have been out of school for three years and are being placed in age-appropriate grades with newcomer support within their schools.

Our newcomers are permanent residents now and are no longer considered refugees. They are in temporary housing for the month of September, and a top priority is to get them permanent housing. Once housed, we will help them get it set up; there's not a lot of room now to store furniture in their partially furnished home. We're helping them to obtain SIN#,s, HCN, banking, driver's licences, doctor, dentist, and more. As sponsors, we have a checklist of things that need to be done and have come up with a monthly budget to carry them through the first year here in Canada.

We were not expecting them so quickly, so we have not finished our fundraising, but our government recognized the urgency and expedited the process, getting them here within 18 months of our application. We are going to use the Jubilee 5K walk and the Jubilee Christmas Market proceeds towards our refugee fund to help reach our goal. We are about \$15,000 short.

Thank you for your support with fundraising and helping with setting up house. There will be an updated list of items needed once our newcomers are in their permanent housing.

Upcoming Sightseeing Trip

Charlie Scott

In response to popular demand, we are in the process of establishing another interesting sightseeing bus tour, and this time, we have selected the quaint village of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2024, this tour will include sightseeing highlights in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area, and wine tasting at Caroline Cellars winery, followed by lunch at the winery. We are hoping to have an extensive view of the Niagara River on the return journey.

The anticipated cost is \$120 per person, and approximately 45 people will take part. Tickets go on sale in early October and can be purchased through Dianne in the church office and/or following Sunday service.

The Walk

Jeanne Kennedy and Teresa Kayahara



What an experience!! From September 7-13, we walked 126K on the Coastal Portuguese Path. Aside from training, our journey began with Norm meeting and praying with us that our journey would be filled with good health and spiritual guidance. He asked what were we walking from and what were we walking to? We're not sure if we found the answers, but they were great questions.

We walked in the pilgrimage area that has been journeyed for over 1,000 years, starting in Baiona, a medieval port town found at the opening of the Ria de Vigo, and ending at Santiago Compostela Cathedral, the church where it is said pilgrims carried the body of the apostle James for burial, located north-west Spain Galicia region.



Our journey took us through beaches covered in fog, cobble stone paths in small towns, forests, rocky paths, that in the past were used for horse and buggy travel, and country hill sides, which felt like small mountains, *considering the elevation for us.*

Teresa carried the prayers of the people in her backpack. Together we lit candles for all who sent prayers. In addition, we said prayers and lit candles for our Jubilee family and for our own personal relations. We often started and ended our day with prayers of thanksgiving that a friend provided us. We sang many songs along the way: *By My Side (Godspell)*, Irish ballads and pretty much any song that we could remember the words to, which were not too many but enough to carry us on. We did not put a pebble in our shoes but we sure did walk and carried all that we are on our journey. We found it interesting that the first 5K for each day seemed endless and the last 3K seemed to take forever. At times we were not sure if we were on the right path, but we learned to trust the walk and that we would reach our destination. We met many lovely and helpful people from around the world, some walking on their own, others from large church groups.



Thank you all for your support! God bless, and much love.

The Bee Maker – An Interview with Jessica McKendry Rev. Anne Dionisio



If you are not familiar with the J.B. the Jubilee Bee, let me catch you up. At the beginning of the summer, Norm handed out small, crocheted bees at church. Since then, photos with J.B. keep coming back to be included in online worship, Sunday bulletins, and Saturday updates. J.B., or all the J.B.s, had a wonderful summer hanging out at the pool, going on vacation, visiting friends in hospital, playing a game of scrabble, and seeing the world.

I keep getting asked, “Who made them all?” and I want to take a moment to introduce you to our own “Bee Maker”, Jessica McKendry, although it is hardly an introduction, since Jessica has been a part of Jubilee for years! She very kindly met up with me recently.

Rev. Anne: My first question, Jessica, is where are you on Sunday mornings?

Jessica: At Jubilee Church!!

A: Where do we find you? - we might not always see you in the sanctuary.

J: In the nursery, usually hanging out with Chanelle.

A: How long have you been working in the nursery? I know that you were there right through my babies’ years. So at least 7.

J: Right. I’ve been helping in the nursery for about 10 years.

A: So where do we find you during the week?

J: I’m normally downtown, working at St. Lawrence Daycare. Or at home crocheting!

A: What age groups do you work with, and how long have you worked in daycare?

J: Between 2½ and 4 years of age, and it’s coming up to eight years now, in November.

A: How did you get into daycare work and working with kids?

J: From both my mom and my aunt. My mom works in the school board, so I was always going there or to the daycare to help my aunt. And then, when I came of age, Phil, my supervisor said, “Well, I’ll just give you a job.” And I knew everybody, so it just kind of worked out.

A: When did you first start coming to Jubilee?

J: It was when Lee-Ann (Ahlstrom) was here. I was in the older youth group, but I don’t remember what year that was. Our other church was closing down, and we were in the market for a new church, so we said, “Why don’t we try this one? Lee-Ann was very welcoming to me, and I kind of just fell in love with this church. Ever since, we’ve just been coming here.

A: Nice! Alright, tell me about the bees. How did they come about?

J: Norm asked if we could do like a little toy for the church to take pictures with in the summer. I came up with the bees because they’re small and because we’re called Jubilee; it kind of just stuck.

A: When did you start crocheting? How did you learn?

J: I learned to crochet about two years ago. My nana started to teach me and then I moved to YouTube.

A: Do you know how many bees you’ve been so far?

J: Probably close to 200 now.

A: How long does it take to make each one?

J: It probably took 20 or 30 minutes when I first started. Now I have the pattern in my head and it takes about 10 minutes.

A: Do you think that you will make any more?

J: Knowing Norm, probably!

A: My last question is: What keeps you here at Jubilee?

J: It’s just so friendly and I love the people. There is good conversation and it’s always a joy to come here. It’s a safe space.

A: I’m glad! Is there anything else you would like to say?

J: Thank you for buying my bees!

If you are looking to have something crocheted, Jessica sells her work online and does have business cards available. Now you know where to find her.

And she wants to let you know that the nursery door is always open. You are welcome to bring your little ones in to check it out or stay for the morning service, and you are welcome to stop by to talk!



Here's a photo of our amazing Jubilee staff:

Rev. Norm Seli, Rev. Anne Dionisio, Jeannie Wyse, Marcos O'Brien, Kye Andrews, Dianne Clare, Barb Secord

In the next editions of Jubilation, we will be featuring interviews with each of these folks. Please stay tuned.

When Life Changes

This six-part grief education and support program, facilitated by Rev. Dr. Deborah Hart, is designed for those who are dealing with the death of a loved one. It will be held on Thursdays from October 10 to November 14 from 1:30-3:30pm. There is no charge. Register through the church office (416-447-6846) or at admin@jubileeunited.ca. For more information, speak to Rev. Norm.

The Benevolent Fund

We all know how expensive groceries and rent have become, so it's no surprise that our Benevolent Fund is quickly depleted; money goes out almost as fast as it comes in. While we can't save the world, we can make a difference for some. To those who contribute to the fund, thank you. Your generosity is helping us to provide grocery cards, assist with utility bills, and even send kids to camp for a summer break, giving parents a few days of respite.



The Benevolent Fund is a discretionary fund, confidentially managed by your ministers, to provide occasional or one-time support for those in need. We aim to assist with needs that aren't met by existing systems, such as food security, paying a heating bill, or getting school books.

You may be surprised by who needs help and what kind of help is needed. Many who have received support from the fund in the past are now contributors themselves. Donations can be made by e-transfer to admin@jubileeunited.ca, mailed or dropped-off cheques, or via Canada Helps (search "Jubilee United Church"). Please indicate that your donation is for the Benevolent Fund.

Thank you for your continued support; it makes a real difference.
Norm



Jamie Mills and Jordyn Allan were married at Jubilee on September 21.
Jamie is the grandson of Doug and Mary Ann Hicks

In Memoriam:

- Hector Reid – July 18
- Marianne Loranger – August 8
- Harold (Hal) Balderson – September 4
- Josey Chisamore – September 14 (funeral planned for Nov. 2)
- Douglas (Doug) Hicks – September 16 (funeral planned for Oct. 4)



Jubilee really does want you to come to church.

We have a generous fund set aside just to pay for taxis so that everybody who wants to come to Jubilee for Sunday worship or an event at the church (like Community Table) can join us. There is no charge to you and it is an important part of our community ministry.



If you call the church office (416) 447-6846 or speak with either of our ministers, we will get vouchers for Beck Taxi into your hands. All you do is order a Beck taxi by phone, fill in your name and your destination on the voucher and the driver can take you to the rest. You will be transported to and from Jubilee at no cost to you. We want you to join us when you can, so please don't hesitate to call; we'll deliver taxi vouchers to you right away!

Upcoming Events

October 5 (Saturday) Jubilee's Annual 5K Walk/Run and BBQ – You can run, you can walk, or you can participate in other ways like volunteering or sponsoring a participant. This year's fundraiser supports Jubilee's Refugee Fund.

October 10 (Thursday) First in a series of *When Life Changes* grief group. Register to join. Details on page 8.

October 12 (Saturday) Community Table Thanksgiving Dinner – Gary returns to the Jubilee kitchen to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for our whole Jubilee community of family and friends. Join us for a traditional holiday meal.

October 14 (Monday) Thanksgiving Day – NO Ulterior Worship. As a reminder, Ulterior Worship has been moved to the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. When holidays fall on those dates, we cancel Ulterior Worship.

October 23 (Wednesday). First in the *Informed, Entertained, and Inspired* series - details on page 4.

October 26 (Saturday) Halloween Party – hosted by the Jubilee Cares team, it's a Hallowe'en celebration for all ages. If you're interested, please call the office later in October for more details.

October 27 (Sunday) Witch's Brew soup lunch after church – a tradition coming to Jubilee from Forest Grove continuing the fun of Hallowe'en time. Join us for a bowl of witch's brew with friends and ghouls, ghosts and witches all. As we know, Jubilee is a very welcoming community!

October 28 (Monday) Ulterior Worship returns.

October 29 (Tuesday) Jubilee Sightseeing Bus Trip – details on page 5.

November 16 (Saturday) Jubilee Christmas Market. We have 40+ vendors displaying their wares at Jubilee from 9:30am to 2pm. It's not too early to shop for holiday gifts: jewelry, handmade items, angels, cards, books, beauty products, kitchen items, baking, preserves, sewing, wool items, woodwork, pottery, quilts and more! There will be a café with homemade soup, chili, and treats, too. Free admission.

November 30 (Saturday) Jubilee Christmas Dinner – details to follow in the next *Jubilation*.

December 6 (Friday) Jubilee Choir Concert @7:30pm. The Mantini Sisters trio will join the choir for a holiday concert this year. More details on page 4.

The Jubilee Bee has had quite a summer visiting friends, enjoying digital worship, going to tailgate parties, plays and movies; making music, curling up with kittens and spending lots of time exploring, healing and just looking out at the world. Hope that you've had that kind of summer, too.

