



Jubilation!

September 2025

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

Editor: Elda Scott

Notes from Norm

I'm not saying that this happened (except that it did). And it certainly wasn't one of my sons (except that it was). But it was a very long time ago, and I figure I can get away with telling the story now.

A teenage boy once arrived home and flopped down on the couch while his mother and I carried on a conversation. He huffed and harrumphed; we hardly seemed to notice. He bounced around, sprawled, sighed, even turned on the TV. We kept talking (we were very cruel parents). Finally, he threw himself across my wife's lap.

"Yes?"

"Oh, nothing."

We returned to our conversation... it might have been about Plato, Kierkegaard, or perhaps why I was never to wear Crocs outside of the house (a rule that I have broken in subsequent years).

Then came *the look*, that unmistakable teenage glare that meant: *How can you two possibly be so foolish that you don't notice I have something very important to say?*

"What is it?"

"I need some advice."

Now this was startling. My sons didn't ask for advice. They received it, yes - often at length - but they rarely asked for it.

"I need advice about girls."

He was a teenager. Of course, he needed advice, but it hadn't occurred to me that he knew he needed advice.

"Well," I began, "having considerable experience myself..." I glanced at my wife and corrected myself.

"I mean, having almost no experience beyond meeting the perfect partner once... I'd still be glad to help."

I got *the look* from both of them.

"Okay," he said, "so I was at the mall. I saw this really cute girl I sort of know from school. She was with a friend. Brent and I were across the food court. I told Brent I liked her and Brent went right over and told her."

"That's what friends do. What did she say?"

"I don't know. I... sort of walked really fast and hid behind a door."

"Well, at least you didn't run away."

He went on:

“Brent said, ‘My friend thinks you’re nice and good looking.’

She said, ‘I think your friend is nice, too.’

Then Brent asked if she wanted to see me.

She said, ‘We’ve got shopping to do, but we’ll meet you back in half an hour.’ And then they laughed.”

“And they didn’t show?” I asked.

“How did you know?”

“Experience,” I said.



My wife leaned in. “Well, that’s her loss. She should be sorry she didn’t come back.”

Then came the real question:

“Dad, what am I supposed to do?”

I thought for a moment, then gave the only truly useful pastoral counsel I had:

“Next time—don’t run away.”

So...what does this have to do with anything?

All around us, every day, in big ways and small, God reaches out to us. In Jesus. In the stories that Jesus tells. In a story that stirs our hearts. In a sign at the church. In the words on a banner. In the smile of a neighbour. In a garden ready for harvest. In the colours of fall. In a news story worth rereading. In spontaneous laughter. In the eyes of a friend who really knows us. Each of these is God saying: *I want to be with you.*

And we don’t always know what to do. We blush, we stammer. It’s like those high school dances - everyone lined up on opposite sides of the gym. Then one brave soul crosses that great gulf and, dry-mouthed, asks: “Would you like to dance?”

That’s God - crossing the floor toward us every day. We can giggle and decline. We can watch in silence. Or we can say “Yes, we’d love to dance.”

And when we do, when we bring our bodies, our minds, our creativity, our gifts, even our hesitations, something beautiful happens. Joy breaks loose. And before long, the gym floor is full. Everyone is dancing. It’s infectious.

As we start to get into our fall routines, don’t forget to pay attention to the one who stands before you asking you to dance. Or join the choir. Be part of a **coffee team** or **phone call connections team**. You can dance as you help us sort clothes for our neighbours or set up for **Community Table**. You can join in the **anniversary** fun and take a moment to share with others what it is that keeps you in the Jubilee Community; you join “**A Sparkling Evening**” on October 24 or **The World’s Greatest Church Lunch** on November 2.



You might join in at the **women’s retreat**. You might share our digital services with others or simply come to church and just be you.

These are more than events; they are invitations to join the dance of God’s love with your body, your mind, your heart and spirit... invitations from the one who crosses the floor again and again with the same hopeful question.

As the colours blaze this fall, take a moment to notice that you are being asked. And remember: it is always a good time to dance.

Norm (twinkle toes)

Notes from Rev. Anne

Even during the lazy hazy days of summer, worship and community life at Jubilee was vibrant! We celebrated Emancipation Day and marked Jamaican Independence Day at our in-person service on August 3 and online on August 10. The service was created by a team that included Rev. Norm, André and Ravaughn Latchman, Kareen Williams, Lynella Reid-James and Cheron Christmas-LaFleur. Rev. Norm found the singers, Kye Andrews put the band together for our special service and Jeannie Wyse joined in. The singers were André, Cheron, Roz Espin, and our soloists, Kareen and Rav. The food was fantastic, too!



Our friend, Rev. Marlene Britten, preached on themes of freedom as she drew on the history of slavery and Emancipation Day, tying them to Jamaica's independence and to Luke's gospel story of the woman who reached out to touch Jesus's hem for healing.

It was a truly wonderful day, and through the thoughtful craftsmanship of Rev. Norm and Marty Smyth, and the recordings done by Kye Andrews, Sun Lam, and Dominique Gendron, we were able to enjoy it

online on August 10. Whether you join us in person, online, through Jubilation, our Saturday evening email blasts, in monthly worship at the Donway Place with Rev. Norm and Jeannie, or in another way, we hope that you find connection and belonging here.

Won't You be My Neighbour? Ukulele Camp 2025

Our second Ukulele Camp at Jubilee was held July 21 to 25 from 9am to 12:30pm each day. It was a week full of music and fun with "neighbourliness" as our theme and was supported by volunteers from Jubilee, along with teachers from our Grove Music School ministry. Érika Wood and Natalie Baldocchi returned as our ukulele teachers and did a wonderful job of making learning fun and engaging for our 12 campers, who were divided into two groups: a younger, more novice group, and a group of older kids, many with music experience. Our campers came from Jubilee, from the Music School as well as from our neighbourhood.



Drawing from Mr. Rogers' neighbourly visits, we welcomed a neighbourhood guest each day. Valerie Winters baked with us on Monday, making sure that there was enough to share. Cathy Mines from Reach Yoga led us in a mindfulness exercise on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Elda Scott introduced us to the autoharp and accordion. Matthew Coons was our guest on Thursday and spent time showing the campers how the organ worked. On Friday, Rev. Norm and Drew Winters shared their own special brand of music fun!



Our central story was the parable of the Good Samaritan and we interacted with it through story, drama, art and action. Haley Brown told the story to the kids on our first day and Marcus O'Brien led our art project, creating a giant neighbourhood scape for the kids to paint and decorate through the week. Ken Webber supported our learning centres and led the campers in working outside in the garden as we thought about what it means to look after our neighbourhoods. Mary

Switzer led our snack station with help from Sandra Park, Pam Lock and Valerie Winters. Each morning

Pam made sure campers were welcomed and signed in, ready for the day. Key to the success of this year's camp were our group guides: Christine Crosby and Spencer Clinton (with help from Chanelle Christmas-LaFleur) led our younger group and Elda Scott led our older campers, moving from activity to activity with the campers, making sure they were well supported as they played and learned.



I am grateful to everyone who had a part in running Ukulele Camp. Through your willingness, you made this a wonderful experience for our campers. Haley and Elda also spent time with Kye Andrews and me to brainstorm and create our "Neighbourliness" theme. Dianne Clare supported the camp by looking after administrative aspects of registration. Barb Secord made sure that we had everything in place that we needed through the week. Kye Andrews, who is the director of our Grove Music School, and I worked together on leading this week and Kye led our talent jam on the labyrinth. It was a beautiful moment in the week as campers shared their wide range of talents, and we welcomed friends, family and passers-by. The whole week was a blast, and we are looking forward to next time. Thank you, neighbours!

Music Ministry

Jeannie Wyse, Music Director

As we near the end of summer and begin to welcome fall, Vivaldi's Quattro Stagioni, Earth, Wind & Fire's September and Johnny Mercer's lyrics to Autumn Leaves (Les Feuilles Mortes) swirl in my brain. It always feels like a new season as the air becomes crisp and the Jubilee Choir returns!

The summer months were full, and I thank both Diane Leah and The Grove Band for subbing in while I was away. I had the pleasure of spending July in Grand Bend, Ontario, as music director for *Evita* with Drayton Entertainment. I thank the many folks who came all the way out to see this amazing show.

It was lovely to return to the Jubilee community on July 27, and I want to acknowledge all of the musical gifts offered by members of the choir and the community at large over the summer. We are truly blessed. A personal update: I played my last handful of shows on the savanna as *The Lion King* came to a close on August 30, and I was unexpectedly called upon to play auditions for the upcoming production of *We Will Rock You* coming in from Quebec this December at the CAA Ed Mirvish theatre. I will also be starting rehearsals with Young People's Theatre on October 14 for their holiday musical, *Shrek!* It is an amazing cast and will be so much fun for children and adults alike!



Choir season started with a wonderful dinner provided by the amazing Gary Norris who set up, cooked, served, cleaned up and navigated every single food allergy, sensitivity and preference with grace, charm and skill. It was a very special way to gather together and socialize as we begin another busy year.



This month's special feature is **The Four Tenors!** Please take a moment to read all about these amazing women making harmony in the back row. Thursday evenings will be filled with music once again as we prepare for Sundays and special services. I have planned many new choral pieces and will also honour some of our favourites as we continue to support worship. We will also be participating in Anne Dionisio's Covenanting Service on September 21 at 7pm and again in the Celebration of Ministries service on October 26 at 3pm.

Please mark your calendars and tell all of your friends and family about our Christmas concert on November 29 at 7:30pm. This year's fantastic concert is **A Jubilee Christmas with Jackie Richardson!!** Jackie is a legendary interpreter of gospel, blues and jazz and is a national treasure. We are excited that she is able to join us this year and that the talents of our Jubilee Choir will also be on full display. Tickets will be available in early October, so be sure to get yours.

As I write this, there are only 106 days until Christmas, and I am already looking forward to the musical offerings that Advent and Christmas bring.

The Four Tenors



Patti, Dianne, Christine, Teresa

Patti Jamieson comes to us from Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, where she was a member of the choir and church for over 20 years. Having been under the amazing leadership of our Jeannie Wyse there, it was a no brainer to follow her to Jubilee, where she has settled in nicely over the last two years and enjoys the choir family. Growing up in the Presbyterian church, she found her love of singing when she was in the choir along with her mother.

Sharing the gift of song and love of faith and spirituality is one of her favourite things to do; there's nothing more rewarding than seeing and hearing people experiencing the spirit through music. Her other loves are family, golf and watching the Toronto Sceptres women's hockey.

Dianne Clare, our Tenor Lead, is a lifelong singer. She loves singing the low notes, but has sung soprano, alto, and tenor in various groups (and even bass if you count the women's barbershop chorus!) Dianne loves a cappella harmonies and jazz riffs, and will sing almost anything but opera, and that's just because she doesn't know how! She is very happy to be a part of the Jubilee Choir and to have the opportunity to learn from Jeannie. As well as being the administrator at Jubilee, Dianne is bookkeeper for two charities, chorus director of Scarborough Harmony Chorus, and part-time music arranger and singing coach. She enjoys hiking and swimming, and doing jigsaw puzzles with her partner, Suzanne. Dianne has two sons, one of whom, Joe, frequently joins us in the Jubilee Choir.

Christine Crosby worked in the health care community in various positions for several years and was office manager for a medical devices company and a large property development. She has been a volunteer with the Toronto Police Services for 19 years and has been the Civilian Co-chair of the Community Police Liaison Committee, supporting community safety. Christine held several positions at Westview Presbyterian Church and sang in their choir for 15 years and she joined the Jubilee choir at in 2024. She is a member of the Grove Music School Board and has recently taken on the role of Food Bank Co-ordinator. Christine is the proud mother of Jeff (an army veteran) and his wife, Linda. She has two grandchildren, Michaela and Devin, and one great-grandson, Houston. She is also mom to her fur-baby Maltese Maddie.

Teresa Kayahara's life has always been filled with music. She learned many songs from her sister, Jean, and sang with friends throughout her teen years. Rhythm and flow are what Teresa looks for in a song that naturally leads to movement and praise. A favourite past-time includes singing around her home from contemporary musicals. Her family tolerates this, even when she sings Meat Loaf's "*For Crying out Loud*", but they run away when she puts on the 'nun' album. Teresa sang in the soprano section of the Victoria Village Choir for two years. When she started working part-time, she joined the Jubilee Choir in April 2024 and enjoys the challenge that Jeannie provides. She has also enjoyed training with Erica at the Grove Music School.

Outreach and Mission & Service

Pam Lock

The **Outreach Team** announces two programs for autumn. First, Jubilee is embarking on a partnership with SOLES FOR SOULS, a charitable organization that collects gently used footwear of all kinds, from flip flops to sneakers to winter boots. Joan McKendry is our liaison, and we are awaiting a special bin to collect the footwear. Please keep your items at home until the bin arrives. Second, our continuing speakers' series (*Be Informed, Be Entertained, Be Inspired*) will resume on the following Mondays in November: 10, 17, and 24. Specific details will be available in October. The general theme is "Decision-making to Simplify and Enhance your Life".

Mission & Service

In a letter to Jubilee, the Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada, wrote "The work that your gifts fund through Mission and Service isn't just about food, disaster relief, or human rights. In the end, it comes down to faith, hope, and love. Thank you, again, for compassionately helping to build a better world through your faithful support of our shared Mission and Service." The accompanying Certificate of Thanksgiving, posted on the bulletin board outside the church office, acknowledged our gift of \$19,685 in 2024.

In the first half of 2025, our congregational donations to M&S reached \$14,768. Specifically designated gifts enabled us to send cheques of \$1,201.95 to each of three food banks: Community Share, Scott Mission, and Toronto Urban Native Ministry. As part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the United Church of Canada as a denomination, we hosted an ecumenical afternoon tea on June 10 and offered 100 free tickets. Donations totalled over \$1,000 for the national Mission and Service fund.

Thank you for your continuing support of M&S.



A Covenanting Service

Rev. Anne Dionisio
Jubilee Congregation
Shining Waters Region
God

Jubilee UNITED CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 7PM **JUBILEE UNITED CHURCH**
40 UNDERHILL DRIVE **REV. DR. MAX DIONISIO PREACHING**



WE ARE CELEBRATING!

It is Jubilee United Church's Silver Anniversary! 25 Years Rooted in Faith and Growing in Grace

We're starting the month with one of Canada's finest preachers and former minister of Victoria Village United Church (1974-84), Rev. Malcolm Sinclair, sharing his gift of preaching on Sunday, October 5.



In October, members of the community are invited to share their thoughts and feelings about Jubilee and what it means to them in our in-person services, as well as our digital services and a variety of media. There will be a comprehensive history of Jubilee, including the founding churches, Bethesda, Donminster, Victoria Village, St. John's and Forest Grove.

On October 24 @7:30pm, come and celebrate "**A Sparkling Evening**" with us, enjoying live jazz, delectable bites, and a modest auction, supporting the growth and innovation of Jubilee's community ministries. We'll feature music by Heather Bambrick and Trio, hors d'oeuvres and sweets from Hey Lady Catering and sparkling wine from Hinterland winery. Tickets are \$75; Legacy Builders tickets \$100, with a \$25 tax receipt.

"The World's Greatest Church Lunch" on Sunday, November 2, will be the greatest church lunch of ALL TIME – imagine the jellied salads! There will be other opportunities and events that pop up all through October; keep alert and be ready to join in! We will have lots of branded items that can be purchased and worn with pride during and will beyond our anniversary.



Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath was elected Moderator of The United Church of Canada at our 45th General Council held in August.

The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly A. Heath was born in Lusaka, Zambia, where her parents taught school. She grew up in small towns and cities in Canada, studied history at McGill University, and earned her Master of Divinity at Emmanuel College, before being ordained in 1999. She began her nearly three decades of active ministry in the Claresholm-Stavelly Pastoral Charge in southern rural Alberta. Since 2007, she has served the people of Wall Street United Church in eastern Ontario. She lives in Brockville, Ontario, with her husband, the youngest of her four children, who range in age from 15 to 27 years and Salty, the dog. She enjoys reading, sailing, and open-water swimming.

As Moderator, Rev. Heath engages the nation in deep dialogue and bold commitments, within and beyond the church. She aims to mentor and lift up next-generation leadership in the church, and work with the entirety of the United Church of Canada to deepen our faith in changing times, embrace being small, and create connections in a divided world.

She says "Having been in congregational ministry my entire career, I am passionate about the local church and the struggles that they are experiencing and the gifts they bring," adding that transformation is a key theme to her outlook, and was also the subject of her doctoral thesis, "*Aware, Repair, Renew: Preaching Transformation into the Mainline Church*." "These three themes, rooted in Christianity, are critical to the transformation and new life experienced by many in recovery from addiction. They have the potential to offer new life and deeper discipleship to traditional Christians."

We look forward to the Rt. Rev. Dr. Heath's leadership over the next years and continue to trust that the Spirit provides us the Moderator we need for our times.

Path of the Wise Woman – Fall Retreat
Friday, October 17-Sunday, October 19
Facilitators: Roz Espin & Rev. Anne Dionisio
Location: Five Oaks Retreat Centre, Paris, ON
 \$300 for shared accommodation
 \$375 for private room.
 All meals included
 Register at Jubileeunited.ca



Jubilee 5k
Saturday, October 4th



Our 6th Annual Fun Walk!
 Yes, it can be done remotely if needs be, but if you join us in person, you can enjoy the post 5k BBQ!

There are many ways to get involved:

- register as a participant and run or walk the race route
- sponsor a participant who is doing the 5K
- sponsor a specific or general event expense
- serve as a volunteer, race marshal or official at the start/finish line.

Everything you need to participate is on the Jubilee Website under the events category. Let's get going - once again, Jubilee is on the move!



www.jubileeunited.ca



The Benevolent Fund

Over the past year, the Benevolent Fund has quietly been at work in some remarkable ways. Together, we have been able to share grocery cards with households stretched to the limit, help cover utility bills so families could stay warm and safe, and step in when transportation was needed to get to, or to visit a loved one in hospital. We've helped

children into summer programs, made sure students had school supplies, and eased some of the financial burdens that weigh heavily on people's shoulders.

Most often, the help looks practical and immediate - a card, a bill, a ride, a place to turn. But just as often, it means restoring dignity, offering peace of mind, and reminding someone that they are not alone. What makes this fund unique is its reach and its confidentiality. The Benevolent Fund allows us to respond when people fall through the cracks of other systems. It's offered without fanfare, but always with compassion.

And it should be noted: more than once, someone who once received help has come back later to add to the fund, transforming their gratitude into generosity for someone else.

If you ever feel moved to support the Benevolent Fund, you can do so in the usual ways (envelopes, e-transfer, etc.) by simply marking your gift "Benevolent Fund." Every contribution is used directly, and every contribution makes a difference.

With deep thanks,

Norm

Jubilee really does want you to come to church.

We have a generous fund set aside 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.



Call the church office (416) 447-6846 or speak with either of our ministers, and 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!

Baptisms

Louest Joy Santos, child of Carrie Frias and Emmanuel Santos (May 4, 2025)

Zoe Sylvia Alleyne, child of Elizabeth Robertson and Dwayne Alleyne (August 24, 2025)

In Memoriam:

Fayeann Gilland (April 28)
Shirley Woolridge (early 2025)



Upcoming Events

September 21 (Sunday) Covenanting Service for Rev. Anne Dionisio @3pm

September 22 (Monday) Ulterior Worship returns bi-monthly @6:30pm

September 23 (Tuesday) Women's Bible Study returns weekly @8:30am

September 16 (Tuesdays) Coffee Drop-in returns weekly 1:00-2:30pm

September 26 (Friday) *An Evening of Enchantment* concert by the Dalyma Trio @7:30pm

September 28 (Sunday) Orange Shirt Sunday

October 4 (Saturday) Annual 5K Walk/Run and BBQ

October 5 (Sunday) Common Ground worship services return monthly @7pm

October 6 (Monday) UCW Meeting returns monthly @12:00noon

October 8 (Wednesday) Open Doors returns second Wednesday of each month @1-3pm

October 11 (Saturday) Community Table returns second Saturday of each month @6:00pm

October 17- 19 (Friday-Sunday) *Path of the Wise Woman* Fall Retreat at Five Oaks

October 24 (Friday) *A Sparkling Evening* @7:30pm – Jubilee's 25th Anniversary Celebration

October 26 (Sunday) Witches Brew after church service

October 26 (Sunday) Celebration of Ministries Service @ 3pm

November 2 (Sunday) World's Geatest Church Lunch after church

November 15 (Saturday) Jubilee Market – Christmas is coming! @9:30am-2:00pm **November**

29 (Saturday) Choir concert featuring Jackie Richardson @7:30pm

**The Jubilee Bee has had quite a summer!
From Sudbury to Sintra and everywhere in-between!**

