



March 2026

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

Editor: Elda Scott

Notes from Norm

I would like you to meet a woman – a young woman, perhaps in her late twenties or early thirties. Her life has not been easy. She has known emotional storms, disappointment, and pain. But then something changed: she met an unusual man.

Life changed when she met him. There was no sudden romance, though she may well have loved him deeply. But in his presence, she began to feel whole, and after a while, whether she was with him or not, she knew that something in her had indeed been healed.

If you had asked her what he gave her, she might have struggled to answer. She might have said “kingdom,” or perhaps “vision,” or “dream.” I cannot know for sure, but I imagine her looking into the distance and saying quietly, “He gave me a vision of a new world, where I was different, and people were different, and relationships were different, and even, somehow, all of creation was different.”

If someone had asked, “Different how?” she might have searched again for words and said, “He showed me how to imagine what the world would be like if God’s will were done everywhere, by everyone. He called it the Kingdom of God.” Imagine that world. A world without violence, without stealing, without cheating. A world in which every person is valued. A world in which no one is disposable, and everyone matters.

Time went by for this young woman. She gave much of herself to being with him. By then there was a community of women and men who had begun to share the same vision. So Mary (that was her name) left Magdala and followed him, along with the others. And for a while, things went reasonably well, but only reasonably. There were difficult moments: arguments, misunderstandings, angry crowds, and sometimes real danger. He moved through it all, though never without strain, never without cost. And then everything changed. Gradually there seemed to be more enemies than friends. The danger became immediate, sharp, and terrifying. Later, she would remember those days as if they had been a dream, a terrible dream.

Then came the day she would carry for the rest of her life. She stood on a slope across from the hill. On it were three of the obscene crosses the Romans used to terrorize the world. And on one of them was the man she loved, writhing and crying out in pain. She stayed there until evening, until she saw his body taken down by friends, and watched where he was laid. Then she left, went back to where she was staying, and cried herself to sleep.



Then came the day we call Easter. It is the first day of the week. It is still dark. She has just reached the place where she saw him laid, and, to her astonishment, the tomb stands open. The stone has been rolled away. She steps back in terror, and then she runs. She runs to the place where the others are staying. She bursts in and hears herself shouting, "They've taken him. They've taken him." One of them steadies her until her words become clear. And as soon as they understand, they rush from the house, she with them.

They go into the shadows of the tomb and find the linen wrappings lying on the stone slab; the cloth that had been on his head folded off to one side. But there is no body.

Speechless, they come out. They walk away in shock, as though they scarcely notice that Mary is still there. She remains in the silence, her weeping the only sound. She stoops to look in. And for her, instead of shadows, there is light. It seems to gather in the place where she expected to tend his body. It is as though the light itself is asking why she weeps. She steps back into the open air, hears a voice, and turns. The figure before her could be anyone. Again, the same voice asks why she is weeping. This time she pleads for mercy: if his body has been taken away, will someone please tell her where he is?

She hears her name; her whole world blazes with the same light she has seen in the tomb.

That evening she makes her way back into the city. This time there is no running, no shouting, no sobbing. The news is too large, too deep, too full of joy. She looks at them, and they at her. And she says quietly, "I have seen the Lord." And her face and voice are such that there are no questions.

All this happened a long time ago. To some, it is history. To some, it feels like dream. To others, it is vision. To me, it is present; present because we still catch sight of this vision. We still dream this dream.

At the heart of the dream is the one who dreamed it, who gave his life for it, and who, in a way we will never fully understand, moved through death itself in order to call us to dream the dream, to live the dream, and to build the Kingdom of God in our own lives, in our own communities, in our own time.

If you could have asked Mary of Magdala what she believed, perhaps she would simply have said, "He is risen." And that is still the Easter word to us.

For you, at some point in the last year, life has been hard. You have been hurt, disappointed, or lied to. You have tried to do the right thing, and it did not seem to matter. You have wondered why you bother. You have been bruised by one system and overlooked by another. You have known grief, frustration, loneliness, or weariness.

And the message to you is this: He is risen. Dare to dream again.

For you, at some point in the last year, you have done something you should not have done. There is always something. Something careless. Something selfish. Something done without thinking or perhaps done with full awareness. We all carry something.

And the message to you is this: He is risen. You are forgiven.

I know that can be hard to believe. The world is not especially forgiving. Work often is not. Families can be complicated. And most of us are not very good at forgiving ourselves. But he is risen, and part of what resurrection means is this: the dream has not died. God has not turned away. We are not abandoned to our worst moments. We are forgiven, and the vision still stands. So, in these Easter days, I invite you to dream. More than that, I invite you to trust the dream. To say, with Mary, "He is risen."

**This is the centre of our faith. This is the hope that outlives despair.
This is what makes new life imaginable. This is what makes the dream real.**

Wishing you a Risen Easter, Norm

Anne's Anecdotes: Holy Conversation and Unfolding Faith – Reflections on Lent

A lot can happen in 40 days.

Do you remember that there was a snowstorm on Ash Wednesday this year? It was quite the storm. Some braved the weather and made it to Jubilee to worship and receive the imposition of ashes from Norm. Many of us (including me) stayed home. Thankfully, Norm was also ready with the ashes on Pancake Tuesday after the concert from our Grove Band, and many were able to receive them then.

The season of Lent did not really settle down since that snowstorm. For Christians, Lent is a time set apart as we get ready to come close to Easter. But this year, at least from my perspective, nothing slowed down or paused to get ready with us: The weather flip-flopped between icy cold days and warm hints at spring. The Olympic Winter Games continued with all its disappointments and triumphs. We rolled up rims. Political floors were crossed. Wars continued and the war in Iran started. With deep concern for our neighbours, we heard about shootings at two city synagogues. We marked International Women's Day. Children and families took a breath with March Break. We were met by losses and joys. The world did not settle down for this season.

The Sunday morning gospel lessons brought us through stories of encounters with Jesus. In each of them we found stories of Jesus engaging with individuals in very different ways. First, the teacher Nicodemus seeks Jesus to ask him more about his teaching. Their discussion ends with questions and wonder: "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?" Then, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman (a stranger) at a well and asks her for a drink. Their conversation leads to invitation, if not full understanding: "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" Next, Jesus gives sight to a man he passed along the road. He seems to impose healing on the man as he makes mud out of dirt and his own spit and rubs it on his eyes. Still, in time, the man responds with a willingness to believe saying, "Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Finally, on the way to Martha's home, he meets his old friend on the road. Her brother has died and she is full of grief. When he restores him to life, many who witness it believe in him.

The Sunday morning gospel lessons depict a progression from understanding to invitation to willingness to belief. Faith in this context seems to be found in different kinds of understanding and encounter as Jesus comes close to them not only in miracles but in conversation.

At Jubilee, we have marked this season with similar kinds of conversation. Norm and I led after church "Soul-Making in the Wilderness" sessions where a group of about twenty of us wrestled with the gospel readings by bringing many voices and perspectives. Norm and I also had opportunities to connect with a few people through our "What Matters" groups, where we asked how faith connects to your life beyond church. I have had similar sacred conversations at Bible Study, and I know that they were facilitated by Roz Espin at Path of the Wise Woman and by André Latchman and Kye Andrews at Common Ground Worship. We have connected with each other at worship and in groups, but I have also seen these conversations happening one-to-one.

A lot can happen in 40 days, and we made space for more.

As Lent gives way to Easter hope, we recognize that some seasons can feel harder or longer than others. We also remember that forty days in the wilderness was just the beginning for Jesus. Connection, healing, comfort, and restoration were the "more" that followed. The world does not settle down. There is understanding and misunderstanding. There is grief and there is joy. Yet, this Lent, we have found ways to pause and to make connections between our lives and the gospel and each other, allowing faith to unfold through our holy conversations. May these be the gifts that we carry forward to the coming season.

Rev. Anne

Re-Visiting Our Labyrinth

Submitted by Barbara Greenwood & Valerie Winters

Jubilee has a unique feature on what was the side lawn outside the garden room – a labyrinth based on the design found in Chartres Cathedral in France.

Page 57 of *Researching Our Roots*, gives us a chronological recounting of how it came about. We would like to share with you another part of the story - a human interest story behind the facts.

In the early days of Jubilee, a small group of women formed a meditation group based on walking a labyrinth. In those days we had a portable, canvas one. Karen Stewart, a member of the group, had a dream that Jubilee would one day have a permanent outdoor labyrinth that would be accessible, not only to our church, but also to the wider community. This dream was shared by many others and plans were made. Sadly, in the summer of 2005, after a lengthy battle with cancer, Karen died. Her dream, however, did not end. Word of her wish spread and, in her memory, donations flooded into the church, particularly generous ones from her husband's business clients. They made it possible to start the project almost immediately.

In the spring of 2006, the church community was intrigued by a flurry of activity on the east lawn. Small bulldozers stripped back the grass and shifted earth, trucks delivered skids of interlocking bricks, and workers with little hammers tapped each one into place. Slowly the pattern emerged- a winding pathway leading to the circle in the centre. At last, we had our outdoor labyrinth.



It seemed only fitting that we dedicate our outdoor labyrinth in Karen's name and that is exactly what we did on September 30, 2006. On that bright, brisk fall day, after the church service, Rev. Norm invited us out through the garden room doors. There, we formed a semi-circle around the perimeter of the labyrinth.

The prayers and readings evoked a mood of quiet and somewhat sad contemplation. But then, the mood lifted. Rev. Norm looked up, smiled, and gave his closing words, "This is not a sacred place," he said. "A week from now, we will have a barbecue here." And with those words he moved us from exclusivity to

community. A place for joyful gathering.

And so it has been ever since.

What is a Labyrinth?

Labyrinths have been part of religious life for more than a thousand years. For centuries, pilgrimages to sacred places like Iona, Rome, Canterbury and Jerusalem were part of the Christian story. They were thought to support the inner journey of faith. But during the Middle Ages, the Crusades made pilgrimages to Jerusalem too dangerous. So the Roman Church decided to appoint pilgrimage cathedrals to become the "Jerusalem" for pilgrims. Chartres Cathedral was one of seven cathedrals selected.

The Chartres labyrinth was built around 1201 using sacred geometry, an ancient art that creates a sense of calm surroundings. At first glance, the labyrinth looks like a maze but unlike a maze the labyrinth has no dead ends. It has a single, unicursal path to the centre. These turns remind us of our own winding journey through life. Walking the path offers a unique space to slow down, still the mind and explore the inner self.

There is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Do it in a way most comfortable for you. And may our labyrinth continue to support and inspire our congregation as we journey into the future.

Resource: *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Tool*, by Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress, Canon of Special Ministries of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, is a valuable resource for labyrinth walkers.

In Memory of Charlie Scott

Dear friends,

I read this piece to Charlie a few weeks before he passed and he suggested it might find a place in the Jubilation newsletter in his memory. Although he isn't physically with us, I feel his presence beside me, guiding me and helping me in his calm and polite, gentlemanly way, to share these words with you today.



Charlie would always tell a story! There are so many stories to relate, and an important relevant message is what he believed in and lived by with genuine dignity and honesty: that is to enjoy each moment of this life, to consider others, bring people together, and value family. Give of your time, give of your love, give a smile, and enjoy the moment in whatever you are doing and with whatever company you are in at that moment, especially your family.

I truly believe that Charlie is now with the Lord and his beloved Barbara. They had almost 64 years of marriage before Barbara passed away, and raised a very fine family with strong family values. Charlie and I shared those family values in common, both having come from a Scottish background, of modest means, strong family togetherness, and the loss of some of those family members.

Charlie wrote about “The Value of Family” in the last page of his autobiography to his nine grandchildren. He wrote, and I quote:

Strong family and interpersonal relationships are essential for emotional, mental and physical well-being. These relationships provide emotional support, companionship and a sense of belonging, which can help individuals cope with life's challenges. I would like to think that the above statements reflect the “Scott Family Tradition.”

While we didn't have a very long time together, I am honoured to have experienced Charlie's love, companionship, gentle affectionate and loving togetherness, the many laughs and conversations we jointly had together, and of course, the enjoyable times with friends and family members.

Charlie and I listened to this song many times and it was a part of his Celebration of Life.

<i>When I am down and oh, my soul, so weary</i>	<i>You raise me up so I can stand on mountains</i>
<i>When troubles come and my heart burdened be</i>	<i>You raise me up to walk on stormy seas</i>
<i>Then I am still and wait here in silence</i>	<i>I am strong when I am on your shoulders</i>
<i>Until you come and sit awhile with me.</i>	<i>You raise me up to more than I can be.</i>

Through his love and faith, Charlie certainly did that for me – he raised me up to more than I could be. He was a very special loving light in my life. I miss him greatly and I am so forever grateful for the time we did have together.

Charlie said he had been lucky to have had good health and mobility for most of his life. He told me clearly that he had had a good life, living to over 90 years of age, with lots of love, many connections, lots of activities and adventures, and the enjoyment of his late wife, his children, grandchildren, all his family, many friends, and me. He was grateful for a life well lived.

Please join me in honouring Charlie in living each day as Charlie embraced – with grace and thankfulness for each moment. Enjoy life's moments, be thankful for good health and whatever mobility you do have, live fully, and reach out to those around you. Continue and expand your relationships with family, friends, new friends, new family, neighbours, colleagues, church, and the general community. Be kind, offer a helping hand, a conversation, a phone call, text or email. Offer some of your time, lend your mentorship and stewardship, and always, offer your love and patience to your family and to those around you.

With tremendous love, Doreen Gribbon (Fraser)

Jeannie Wyse
Music Director

Well, here we are in the throes of a Canadian spring... no, winter... no, spring.... The commitment of our wonderful Jubilee Choir continues to amaze me and speaks to the close-knit community seen in all areas of Jubilee. Snow days have not deterred us from weekly practices or Sunday mornings and I would like to thank all choir members for their talent and dedication to each other and to Jubilee.

After an amazing Advent/Christmas season that included Jackie Richardson as our featured concert guest, we continue to grow our musical gifts. Choir rehearsals include bits of vocal pedagogy, new and old pieces, and a lot of laughter.

It has been another beautiful and impactful season of Lent and soon we will celebrate the rebirth of Easter. Good Friday is always my favourite service of the year and will feature two choral works by Canadian composers - Eleanor Daley and Imant Raminsh. Easter Sunday will also include the Grove band this year and the choir will be singing a selection from Handel's Messiah, as well as a more modern choral work by Steven Strite.

Mark your calendars for our Spring concert with the Jubilee Choir on Saturday, May 9, following Community Table. The Choir will be presenting our annual concert at 7:30pm and I promise that it will be a fantastic evening of music! Think of it as "dinner and a show" and invite all your friends and family.

If you are seeing The Book of Mormon in April (Mirvish), please poke your heads over the edge of the orchestra pit, as I will be playing keyboards for the run of the show. In June and July, I will be directing 42nd Street with Drayton Entertainment: June will be in Grand Bend and July in Cambridge. I will once again collaborate with director/choreographer Michael Lichtefeld and the tap numbers in this production will amaze you!

And now back to the window to watch the next season arrive for an hour or so.... I love to see all of the new growth poking through the ground. Here's to a season of growth for all of us.



**COMING HOME
TO EASTER**

Palm Sunday - March 29, 10:30 AM
Informal "Muffin Church"
with conversation and communion.

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 6 PM
Worship at one long table as we share a meal
and remember the Last Supper.

Good Friday - April 3, 10:30 AM
The story of the crucifixion
told through words, music, and prayer.

SONrise Service - April 5, 8 AM
An informal gathering of music, story,
and communion on the Labyrinth.

Easter Breakfast - 9 AM
Pancakes, bacon, sausages—and friends.
A celebration in itself!

Easter Sunday - April 5, 10:30 AM
The service you wait all year for
—Bells, Whistles, Hopes, and Promises!

www.jubileeunited.ca



Outreach/Mission & Service

Pamelia Lock

Later this spring, information about continuing or beginning to be a subscriber to the print issues of BROADVIEW Magazine will be circulated. Meanwhile, many of you will be interested to learn that you can view on-line presentations of BROADVIEW LIVE (formerly the National Online Reading Club), where current issues are discussed by Canadian theologians, politicians, and activists. You can contact promote@broadview.org for more information.

In a recent request for donations to BROADVIEW to help “build a more cohesive, inclusive and compassionate society through trustworthy journalism”, the following prayer was included:

May fearless compassion write the headlines of my life,
May my faith tell the story of love without end,
May my generosity proclaim hope and justice with courage, and
May I trust that every small act of kindness is a living testament to love.
Amen.

**published in December 2006 in 500 Animals in Clay and in August 2011 in 500 Raku by Lark Books,*

News from the OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach Team has planned a spring mini-series of presentations (see flyer on page 10.) Join us on the following Mondays: April 13, 20, and 27 at 1:00 pm. Pick up coffee/tea and cookies and find a comfy seat in the sanctuary, ready to **Be Informed, Be Entertained, and Be Inspired** from 1:15 to 2:30 pm.

Our lead-off speaker will be Whitney Hilts from Del Manor, returning to talk this time about “gut health” especially for seniors. On April 20, Constable Joel Roberts from 33 Division of Toronto Police Services, will give us a refresher course on safety and security for seniors, with a focus on AI (artificial intelligence) and distraction thefts. On April 27, Arlene Chan will share her knowledge of the history of the people and places of Toronto’s Chinese community.

Considering a Legacy Gift



Jubilee has shaped lives, nurtured faith, and offered hope and community to many people over the years. One way to help ensure that this ministry continues for generations to come is through legacy giving.

A legacy gift can be as simple as a bequest in your will or naming Jubilee as a beneficiary of a policy or registered account.

Gifts of every size can help support ministries like Community Table, The Grove Music School, and Jubilee’s ongoing work of welcome, care, and compassion.

During May, we’ll be sharing more information, including resources, on the Jubilee website. You are also invited to a Saturday morning breakfast on May 30 with Janice Meighan of the Toronto United Church Council to learn more. If you have already included Jubilee in your plans, please let us know so we can thank you and plan wisely for the future.

The Benevolent Fund



As Easter arrives, we are reminded of the power of new life and hope. And yet, we also understand how hard it is for some folks to live hopefully when the arrival of another bill could mean drastic change. The world these days seems filled with worry, loneliness, or struggle. In this time when the gap between abundance and need can feel especially wide, the Benevolent Fund continues its quiet, compassionate work.

This year, we've shared grocery cards with households stretched to the limit, helped cover utility bills so families could stay warm, and provided transportation for work or hospital visits. We've helped children into programs, ensured that students had school supplies, and eased the financial burdens that weigh heavily on so many.

These gifts may look small — a card, a bill, a ride — but they carry something sacred: dignity, peace of mind, and the assurance that no one is alone. The Benevolent Fund lets us respond, quietly and compassionately, when people fall through the cracks of other systems.

More than once, someone who once received help has later come back to give — transforming gratitude into generosity, and grace into hope.

If you are moved to support the Benevolent Fund this Easter, you can do so through the usual means (envelope, e-transfer, etc.), marking your gift “Benevolent Fund.” Every dollar goes directly to help those in need — and every gift helps the light of love shine a little brighter in our community.

With deep thanks, Norm

Celebrate Spring with Brookbanks for African Grannies Songs and Sweets

Saturday April 25 @ 2:00pm

Tickets: \$35 before April 1; \$40 after April 1

Purchase from Geri Campbell at (416) 497-1025 or
from any other member of Brookbanks for African Grannies

Visit our Marketplace for gifts and trinkets

Emerging Voices of Amadeus Choir Performing with other Choir Members

Enjoy the concert and a cup of tea with sweet treats



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Gigantic Garage Sale

BBQ & Bake Sale



Do you have quality, nearly new items to donate?

We do not accept:

mattresses, sofa beds, suitcases, large appliances,
computers, typewriters, console TVs, skis, baby car
seats/cribs, encyclopedias, or Christmas décor.

Items can be dropped off to:

Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive

Thursday, April 30 & Friday, May 1

9:00am – 7:00pm

Call 416-447-6846 for large item pickup

Jubilee Council and Trustees

On Sunday, March 15, Jubilee United Church had a very inspiring Annual General Meeting. The incredible work done by volunteers and staff in 2025 was recognized, and we talked of our vision and passed a budget for 2026. We retained many of our leaders and also added three new members to Council.

Chair	Jeanette May
Vice-Chair	Susan-Jane Bynoe
Secretary	Deborah Johnston
Treasurer	Gary Norris
Ministry & Personnel	Vacant
Trustees	Bill Watson, Mag Nashid
AIC/Property	Valerie Winters
Christian Development	Spencer Clinton
Facilities	Christine Crosby
Finance	John Barr, Christine Petrie
Grove Music School	Kye Andrews
Member-at-Large	Doris Doidge
Outreach	Pam Lock
Jubilee Cares	Cher Colford
Region Representative	Pam Lock
UCW	Fran Crabe
Worship	André Latchman



Trustees:
 Bill Watson and Mag Nashid (Co-Chairs), Jean Probyn, Gary Norris, Rai Rimmel, Sue Hawton, Rev. Norm Seli and Rev. Anne Dionisio

New Members



Susan Davey-Ellicock, Shane Kennedy, Kevin Kalanda, Isabella O'Brien, Gary Crawford, Sharon Aylsworth, John Barr.

On February 8, we welcomed seven new members to the Jubilee Community.

We are very excited to embrace their gifts as well as their needs, as we continue to build not only community, but also ministry together.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Mar. 28 – Amadeus Celtic Concerts

Sunday, March 29 – Muffin Church

Holy Week and Easter Plans

March 29 – Palm Sunday

April 2 – Maundy Thursday dinner

April 3 – Good Friday

April 5 – Easter Sunrise service
breakfast & service

Monday, April 13 – Lecture: Gut Health

Saturday, Apr. 18 – Path of the Wise Women

PATH OF THE WISE WOMAN



SPIRITUAL SIGHT:

Awakening Our Inner Vision

How often do we doubt our intuitive knowing and dismiss our inner voice of wisdom that is always speaking to us?

In this workshop we'll explore our "Spidey senses"; reclaim them as natural gifts of birth and learn how to appreciate, nurture, and refine our relationship with them, to guide and guard us through life.


Monday, Apr. 20 – Lecture: Safety & Security –
AI and Distraction Thefts

Saturday, Apr. 25 – Brookbanks Grannies

Monday, Apr. 27 – Lecture: Toronto's Chinese
Community

Saturday, May 2 – Garage Sale

July 20-24 – Ukelele Camp



Jubilee United Church Spring Lecture Series

Be Informed, Be Entertained, Be Inspired

Monday, April 13

Ms. Whitney Hilts from Del Manor returns to talk about "gut health". Learn how your eating habits enhance or destroy your precious gut flora. What are probiotics and prebiotics?

Monday, April 20

Constable Joel Roberts from 33 Division of Toronto Police Services will give a refresher course on safety and security, with a focus on AI (Artificial Intelligence) and distraction thefts.

Monday, April 27

Ms. Arlene Chan, author of several books on the history of the Chinese in Canada, will share her knowledge, with pictures, of the history of the people and places of Toronto's Chinese community.

Join us for one, two, or three presentations. There is no registration or fee. Come to the Garden Room at 1:00 pm to pick up tea/coffee and cookies, and enjoy them in the sanctuary. Presentations will be given from 1:15 to 2:30 pm.

Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Drive, North York, Ontario M3A 2J5
416-447-6846



Weddings

Dianne Clare and Suzanne Christie (February 28, 2026)

In Memoriam

Bill McKendry (November 29, 2025)

Ron Alcock (December 3, 2025)

Marie Paton (December 9, 2025)

Charlie Scott (December 12, 2025)

Judy Olson (December 27, 2025)

Bob Nicholls (January 31, 2026)

Kenneth Prudham (February 5, 2026)

Barbara North (February 7, 2026)

Lesley Anderson (March 4, 2026)

