

Jubilation

Newsletter of Jubilee United Church

February 2019

Lead Minister's Message

We do not rejoice in victories. We rejoice when a new kind of cotton is grown and when strawberries bloom in Israel. (Golda Meir)

As Jubilee United Church celebrates its second anniversary and enters into its third year, these words from Golda Meir spoke to me. Cotton may be the traditional second anniversary gift, but often what was written for one context works well for another.

We as a church do not rejoice in victories, but we rejoice in ordinary things which, when we look with our hearts, we can see as extraordinary. Each day we have chances to engage in relationship, conversations, experiences, and moments that can brighten the world for someone else, or sometimes just ourselves.

God moves in and through each of those moments and blesses us. Thank God for that!

I am writing this just prior to leaving for Israel & Palestine on a Holy Land Tour. I am eagerly anticipating that this will be a trip which helps ground our common faith story in the land where the stories we often tell took place. I wonder if there will be strawberries blooming!

In the next few weeks the 2018 Annual Report will be coming out; it will focus on those things that happened in 2018. In the pages of this Newsletter we look forward to things coming in 2019. For me some of the things I look forward to include: continuing to work with Colin in his formation for ministry, continuing to build the ministry of Jubilee United Church, trying some new things (like Lenten Lunches - see the separate article), and continuing to worship and celebrate and be together for the glory of God.

I am also looking forward to taking a sabbatical beginning July 1st. Read the details of this sabbatical following Colin's message!

Blessings to all,

Rev. Graham K. Brownmiller



Associate Minister's Message

I would like to thank the Jubilee United Church family for welcoming me and my family into your community. These past six months have seemed like a good start to the two years that I will be serving as your associate minister.

I hope to continue to deliver sermons and entire services in the months ahead, as this has proven to be one of the areas that I feel that I have experienced the most growth. I hope that I will continue to receive all of the feedback and constructive suggestions that characterized my first six months, so that I might continue to grow as a preacher and a liturgical minister.

Pastoral visits are another way that I have gotten to know many of you, although this aspect of my ministry has been greatly reduced since the fall due to my work at Vancouver General Hospital. I look forward to arranging pastoral visits to the Mulberry and with many of you later in the new year. Ideally, I would like to make regular visits to the Mulberry and to see as many of you as often as I possibly can

The third ministry that I have embraced in the last six months is adult Christian education, or Bible study. This was possibly my favorite of the three ministries because there is so much to love about the Bible, as well as listening to group members' profound thoughts. I hope that this will continue as we embrace the spiritual practices of Ignatius of Loyola for the first part of the year 2019. The length of this series will be at least six weeks, but we may choose to continue the exercises if all goes well

Both I and my entire family look forward to the next eighteen-or-so months and everything that this time at JUC will bring. I hope to continue with all three of these ministries and I look forward to learning more about them and all of you.

Colin Brown

Learning Support Team for Colin Brown

The Learning Support Team" supports" Colin's learning during his 2 year intern experience here at Jubilee. We meet monthly to check in, provide feedback, receive reports from Colin and engage in theological reflection together. The Journey so far has been meaningful, deep and rewarding for all of us!

Members of the Team are Nancy Baird, Bill Gilpin, Gloria McArter, and Barb Tunnicliffe.

We thought this would be a good time to remind you, the congregation that YOUR feedback for Colin is important and appreciated.

What do we mean by FEEDBACK?

Colin and the Team invite you to notice how Colin's thoughts, words and actions affect you so you can describe the POSITIVE areas of learning and growth that are happening for

Colin. Respectfully naming the areas that call for even MORE learning and growth will be helpful as well.

We ask you to take the time to give that feedback to Colin or members of the Team OR both. As well, Colin and the Team encourage you to continue with this practice of giving you useful feedback.

Thank you for participating in the journey!



Rev. Graham's Sabbatical 2019



I am privileged to be afforded the opportunity to take a sabbatical this coming year. I do see it as a privilege and not a right, and I am grateful for this ability. Last June I communicated with the Ministry & Personnel Committee and the Transitional Council about my plans for this sabbatical, and they agreed to the terms.

The United Church of Canada established in 2005 a policy regarding Sabbaticals for Ministry Personnel. The definition: "A sabbatical is a period of at least 3 consecutive months intentionally set aside by Ministry Personnel in pastoral relationships as an occasion for reflection, recreating and revitalization, unencumbered by their usual and customary responsibilities, and yet still receiving their usual remuneration and benefits. Sabbatical finds expression in study, rest, spiritual retreat, and prayer.

The sabbatical policy grants a sabbatical to Ministers after five years of service in a congregation; as it was summer of 2014 that I was called to West Burnaby United Church, the service credits for sabbatical leave were continued in my call to Jubilee United Church.

At this time the goals of my sabbatical are: renewal of self, renewal of spirit, renewal of vocation. I plan to read books on a variety of topics (church related and fiction), attend worship at other congregations and see what they're up to (locally and nationally), spend time at home, and to disengage with church bureaucratic work. Additionally, I may attempt to work with a consultant to design a process by which Jubilee United Church will have the conversation about being one church with two sites; though it may be too early to engage that conversation when I return.

Along with the three-month sabbatical, I will take a majority of my holidays and study leave. Therefore, I will be away from the congregation beginning July 1, 2019 **but I will return** to my position on November 18th, 2019. My first two weeks will be a re-orientation and catch up about the life and work of the church during my absence, and I will return to worship leadership on Advent 1 - December 1, 2019.

During my sabbatical Colin will be taking care of most aspects of the worship life here at Jubilee. He will be assigned an Educational Supervisor, and the congregation will be assigned a Pastoral Charge Supervisor (that may be the same person). We will have some pulpit supply during that time as well, as Colin will not be licensed to perform sacraments.

While I am on this sabbatical, I will pray for all of you here at Jubilee United Church. I ask that you pray for me, too.

Rev. Graham K. Brownmiller

Youth Group: Good News Good News!!!

2018 saw the birth of an exciting new ministry at JUC...

A youth group has developed for youth Grades 4 – 9. These youth have a Sunday morning program once a month when they divide from the younger children for a program aimed at letting them develop their faith & leadership skills. They also plan a monthly activity night where friends are welcomed. It is wonderful to see the development of our children; their enthusiasm and wisdom is remarkable. This is truly a blessing for our Jubilee family!



If you are willing to help out in any way...we will revive the “Youth Groupies” resource list. We are always grateful for folks who enjoy making treats, driving, making treats, hosting an event, making treats, or coming to share faith stories Sunday morning...*did we mention making treats?*

Our first Youth group event was a Christmas Party where 13 energetic youth connected with great festivities!

And we finished the year with ↑

JUC's newest 4-legged congregation member – Hadley

Hadley is a 2½ year old Labrador/retriever-cross puppy who is now an important part of the Bierhaus family. She has been trained as a service dog able to detect blood sugar levels in diabetics. She was provided to Beau Bierhaus from the Lions Foundation in Oakville, ON with Beau travelling there in November for 3 weeks of training at the school before she brought Hadley home to BC.

Hadley is trained to detect blood sugars by change in scent, so that she can alert when blood sugar readings are 4.5 or lower – and she does this by giving a paw to her owner's knee. She also responds when blood sugars drop suddenly or when the readings are 10 and higher. (Beau's target fasting blood sugar is 6mmol.) Hadley is also trained on command to retrieve a blood test kit and juice box. She can also alert someone else in the house that Beau is in need of help and to activate alert buttons.

Hadley was paired to Beau due to her very relaxed nature. She does not react to children or busy situations, staying focused on her work. An important part of this ongoing training is that no one besides Beau can pet or feed Hadley.

The Lions Foundation provides dogs (at an estimated \$25,000 each) at no cost to the client. They depend solely on fundraising. Beau and family are grateful that JUC made a donation from the proceeds of Rumble on Gray to the Lions Foundation on their behalf.

Beau and Hadley are always more than happy to advocate for the Lions Foundation and Beau will answer any questions. However, they do ask that you not pet or distract Hadley so that she can stay focused on her work.



New Structure of United Church of Canada (UCCan)

At the General Council meeting in 2012, a decision was made to begin a process of reorganization for The United Church of Canada. Recommendations came to the General Council in 2015, which were distributed throughout the church. Approval was granted by a majority of Presbyteries and Congregations. Last summer, the General Council affirmed those decisions, and as of January 1, 2019 the church began to operate in a new structure.

The Previous Structure

The United Church of Canada was organized into four 'courts': General Council (national), 13 Conferences (somewhat provincially), 86 Presbyteries (local areas) and about 3,000 congregation (in our case, Jubilee United Church). We were part of Westminster Presbytery, which included Burnaby, New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Whonnock & Websters Corner; and BC Conference which was basically the province of BC, except the Peace River region.

Congregations paid an assessment (tax) to Presbytery and Presbytery paid an assessment to Conference. Voluntary donations to the Mission & Service Fund (M&S) paid for local, national and international mission, but also supported the governance of the General Council (both the National Office and the every 3-year national meeting).

The New Structure

The church is now organized into three 'councils': Denominational Council (National), 16 Regional Councils, and approximately 3,000 Communities of Faith. We are part of Pacific Mountain Region, which includes most of the province of BC, except the Peace River region, but also includes the Yukon (one congregation in Whitehorse) and Banff (by their request).

Communities of Faith is a new term and they are a bit more fulsome than congregations, and are described as "a community of people that gather to explore faith, worship, and serve including, but not limited to, pastoral charges, congregations, outreach ministries, chaplaincies, faith-based communal living, house churches and online communities and recognized by the region through a covenantal relationship."

The Denominational Council (still called the General Council) now assesses each congregation directly and shares those assessments back to the Regions. Voluntary donations to the Mission & Service Fund (M&S) are now only used for mission work (including staffing associated with that work). Assessments are used for Governance and Ministry work. The Region is also able to assess on top of the Denominational Assessment. In 2019 the assessment for the Denomination is 4.5% of our total income in 2017, and the Region assessment is 10% of the national assessment (0.45%).

Not much has changed for us "on the ground". We have a bit more autonomy in some areas of our governance and ministry areas. The most noticeable item will be the increase in our assessment (approximately \$1,500). Some congregations across the country are seeing increases in the tens of thousands of dollars because the formulas used across the

country have been different. This new process equalizes the variety of processes used previously across the country.

Our church believes that all are ministers in the church, called to different ways of ministering. Lay leadership will no longer occur through Presbyteries (which no longer exist). Lay members of the church will have opportunity to be involved at the Regional Council level and are absolutely necessary to the governance of the UCCan. The way that folks will express interest and be selected for regional opportunities are still being figured out.

Two new (internal) organizations with UCCan were also created.

The first is the National Indigenous Church, which is founded on the principles of Indigenous self-determination as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The National Indigenous Church will, in consultation with the rest of the church, determine how to govern itself, and define and implement its vision.

The second is the Office of Vocation, which will focus on accreditation, oversight and discipline of ministers. This is the office that oversees Colin's candidacy and Supervised Ministry Experience, and where Rev. Graham's membership and accountability lie.

If a change of pastoral relationship happens, we will work with the Regional Pastoral Relations group to go through the process of creating our Faith Story and going through the call process. Local regional representatives will continue to work with congregations on pastoral relationship matters, recognizing the importance and knowledge of those who are "on the ground."

Over the past 6.5 years of serving on The Executive of the General Council, Rev. Graham has been intimately involved in some of the discussions which have led the church to this place. He is happy to see it now in place, and anticipates that there will still be some growing pains as the "things we don't know" continue to be experienced. However, for the congregation of Jubilee United Church, there should not be much that is affected.

Sunday School Christmas Gift Collection Boxes:



The Sunday School children collected just shy of \$ 130 for Gifts with Vision by various interesting methods. Being fairly creative, some collected from friends & family, some earned donations from chores & one father even donated if his children were "quiet". There are many ways to lend a helping hand!

The **next projects** for the Youth Group are to plan a visit with snacks or gifts for folks in Fairhaven & St. Michaels, and to make valentines for shut-ins & seniors.

If you know someone who could use a card to brighten their day, contact Barb, Graham, or Colin.

Lenten Lunches

Entering their 31st year, Lenten Lunches will continue this Lent (beginning March 6th, 2019). However, they will take a bit of a different format this year. Over the past years the attendance at the lunches has become increasingly smaller, however, the folks who do still come enjoy the fellowship time.

So, we are going to try something new this year. We will have a guest preacher on the five Sundays of Lent and then still gather on Wednesday for lunch, a summary of the sermon from Sunday, and some form of response; not to mention time to have fellowship and be together in the season of preparation. The first lunch on March 6th will be an Ash Wednesday service of remembrance and marking of ash.

The theme this year is: "How do you serve in the world in the midst of a changing society and transformative time?"

Sunday Preacher:

March 10 Rev. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls (VST)
 March 17 Rev. Jim Hatherly (First UC)
 March 24 Gillian McLeod
 March 31 Melanie Mark, MLA
 April 7 Rev. Deb Stanbury (Arise Ministry, Toronto)
 April 14 Palm & Passion Sunday

Wednesday Lunch:

March 6 (Ash Wednesday)
 March 13
 March 20
 March 27
 April 3
 April 10

Easter Services

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Tues. March 5th – watch for information. Volunteers are needed to help!!



more

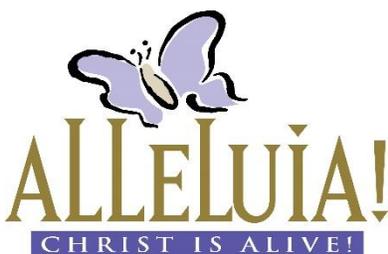
Thursday, April 18 5:00 pm **Maundy Thursday** one-pot potluck dinner in the Hall, including a Tenebrae worship service as part of the meal. Please come and share.



Friday, April 19 10:30 am **Good Friday** worship with the United Churches of Burnaby here at Jubilee United Church.



Sunday, April 21 8:30 am **Easter Sunday** early morning outdoor service (either Gray Ave lawn or inside the East Narthex). There will be a small breakfast and an egg hunt for families before the 10:30 am **Easter Sunday** Celebration in the sanctuary.



“Come and See” - Visiting the Holy Land, Jan. 19-31, 2019

Considering the political situation of (the State of) Israel and (the emerging state of) Palestine, members of The United Church of Canada have been invited to “Come and See” tours. Less than a year ago Rev. Scott Swanson, Rev. Jenn Swanson, and I decided to do just that; in the end, twenty-six of us began this pilgrimage together. Because of the political state, though, we billed it as a “Holy Land Tour,” which would allow each of us to experience the trip on different levels.

From seeing ancient cultures (up to 10,000 years old) to the current situation of political struggle, we walked where our ancestors in faith walked, stood where Jesus Christ was born, lived, ministered, healed, died and was resurrected, and saw ruins of civilizations since those times (like the Crusades).

Ably guided by Abed, a Palestinian who has been leading tours for 20 years, we were regaled with history, politics, and parts of his own personal story. We met with a UCCan partner in Palestine and observed just a portion of what life is like, especially in the current system.

I am incredibly grateful for the invitation to come and see, and the opportunity to take this trip.

– Rev. Graham



Photo taken on the Mount of Olives with the Old City of Jerusalem in the background

Here is a taste of what impressed the members of Jubilee United (Don & Gwen, Sally, Nancy & John, Maureen) as we journeyed on this pilgrimage:

Spiritually, the trip helped bring together the Bible stories. The Biblical, the historical and the geography made it all come together. One of the stops on the first day was the place where David slew Goliath – a lovely place with red poppies and flowering rosemary, & hills above a valley with a tiny stream. Abed described the positions of the Israelites and the Philistines, and that David, as a shepherd, was expert in throwing accuracy with stones. When Abed picked up some stones from the creek bed and held them in his hand, the Bible came alive.

I liked the combination of the old and the new; the way the new is built around the old. But in the 320's AD churches were begun to be built over the holy places so the original stuff is not there anymore. In fact, the high holy places have been "Disneyized" with colour and ornamentation which takes away from the solemnity of the place. Nonetheless, the beautiful churches, the mosaics, the artwork, the domes and the architecture were quite enjoyable. There were many bus tour groups from all over the world all at the same holy place and sometimes this took away from the experience. But on our visit to the Church of the Beatitudes, there was an Asian group singing as we entered, making the experience positive and meaningful. At many sites we visited there were groups who sang and prayed, so universal is the Christian joy to be in the Holy Land.

I really liked Nazareth Village, a re-creation of day-to-day activities: what it looked like and felt like 2000 years ago. Hills, paths, olive groves, houses, carpentry, spinning & weaving, and especially the synagogue that was cool and still bright inside with natural light.

It was overwhelming, seeing so much in such a short time. Just seeing the Dead Sea, and places where history is layer on layer - ruins with more (and more) below. I was astonished by the diversity of the geography in such a small country – you can be in the desert and then 10 min. later in lush farmland. Wilderness was not how I had pictured it (e.g. where David hid from Saul).

It was eye-opening to see life in Israel – very foreign to us Canadians. High security for getting onto an El Al flight in Toronto; fighter jets flying north over the Sea of Galilee during breakfast one morning; a high security zone around all the hospitals in Israel (and also the schools); an armed guard with a group of Grade 2 children visiting Roman ruins on a school field trip; Orthodox Jewish men with black hats and sideburn curls heading to synagogue on Shabbat eve in a city that has an abandoned mosque where Palestinians used to pray before being evicted in 1948; hotels with a Shabbat elevator that opens at every floor so that the orthodox do not have to push buttons (and do work) on the Sabbath; strict milk and meat meals in the hotels (breakfast has no meat while dinner has no dairy); The northern tip of Israel where the borders of Lebanon, Israel and Syria come together: a peaceful looking valley with an Israeli outpost and a UN compound below; a gate at the end of the main road leading to Lebanon, the border closed 50 years ago. Random military ID checks of Palestinians to make sure that they had the proper permission to be in the Israeli controlled area of the country. Having a Palestinian guide and learning about his restrictions was sobering.

History is not of much use without putting it into present day context. There was a quote that sums up the current Palestinian situation: "David has turned into a Goliath". Property & property rights are very important, how land is passed down from generation to generation. If land is lost, people become landless refugees. This applies to the Palestinians who had their land taken over with no compensation, with evictions by the Israelis and lack of access continuing to the present day. With expulsion from the land, it is necessary to see the long term consequences. Contrast this with Canada which has so much land. I was moved by the extent of the disparity between the Israelis and the Palestinians within their own country. The different economic status between Arab Israelis and the non-Arab Israelis was shocking.

I appreciated the organization of the tour. Guide Abed and bus driver Moses made things go smoothly every day, even when the planned schedule had to be rearranged – and all with no major problems. And the cohesiveness of the group made things work. A big thank you to Rev. Graham, Revs. Scott and Jenn for making this such a memorable experience for all of us.

Sussex Site



Work is progressing on the Sussex site. By the end of December, the crane was in place and in January they have been pouring the parking levels (2 levels done as of mid-month). Enlargements of these photos are posted in the Hall. As construction continues, there will be new pictures to let you know what is happening. But right now it still looks like a hole in the ground!

Upcoming Events for 2019 – Mark your Calendars!!

By the time this newsletter is in your inbox (or in your hand), the Fun-Raising Committee will have hosted a Scottish Ceilidh evening. We trust that you had a great time and a great dinner.

And there is lots more.... Join in and, if you can, lend a hand to help with set-up, serving, etc.

Fun-Raising Events:

Pancake Breakfast: Sat. April 27th, Jubilee Hall from 8:00 until noon

\$7.00/adult; \$3.00/child 6-12; under 6 free. Scouting/Guiding members in uniform may eat free accompanied by an adult diner.

People/families willing to help with this event are asked to contact Dave Ellis (604-327-7734)

Spring Fiesta: Sat. May 25, Jubilee Hall

Join us for a Mexican theme dinner and music!! There will be a DJ for dancing, or just come along to shake maracas or tap your toes. This will be a family-friendly event with fun for all. Don't forget your sombrero! Doors open at 5:30; dinner served at 6:00.

Tickets will be on sale in April: \$20. for adults, \$10. for children 6 and up.



Pancake Breakfast: Sat. Oct. 5, Jubilee Hall

Black & Bling dinner: Sat. Nov. 2, Jubilee Hall (time and ticket details TBA)

An elegant dinner with wonderful entertainment. The hall transforms into a sparkling dinner club. Dress up in your finery to enjoy a classy evening.



Breakfast with Santa: Sun. Dec. 15, Jubilee Hall, for our Jubilee families

Thanks to the Fun-Raising Committee: Nancy Baird, Dave Ellis, Barry Morley, Marlene Rogerson, Bev Thacker, Barb Tunncliffe

Other Upcoming events:

Rumble on Gray 2019 will be held on Sept. 14th. The 2018 street fair event was a success despite the weather (and the Rumble St. construction!). There are already vendors waiting to reserve a spot this year and plans are already in motion to make 2019 an even bigger success. Planning will get underway in the spring and volunteers will be needed! Save the date - more details to follow.

Nonagenarian (90+) Tea: Sunday June 23

The Seekers Unit will be hosting a recognition tea after the church service on Sunday June 23rd. Invitations will be going out in the spring to congregation members who are (or will be) 90+ in 2019. Did you know that we have over 30 nonagenarians in our Jubilee family?? If you know of someone who is 90 or over this year, and you think that we might not know their age, please make sure that we include them by leaving a message with Kathy in the office.