



Jubilation

Newsletter of Jubilee United Church

February 2020

Lead Minister's Message

*God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.*

I believe that these words from the *Song of Faith* describe a reason why people come to church. God is a Holy mystery that we mere mortals continue to try to understand. Finding words to describe God is hard enough, but words to describe our understanding of God is even harder. So, we gather together to try to figure out what it is that we believe and we learn from each other, and challenge each other, and support each other in our journeys.

That is the gift of community. The ability to come together believing different things and still sitting together at table and caring for each other with grace and compassion. We recognize that each of us is on a journey that takes us here and there, but ultimately brings us back to centre ourselves in the love of God which we find in community.

I found it hard to be away from this community for five months in the fall of 2019. I am so thankful for the work of our staff, especially Colin and Arzina and for the Transitional Council and those who tirelessly volunteer their time for the betterment of the church. The goal of my sabbatical was rest and reflection; my reflection often brought me back to how this community is one of my touchstones that offers me an understanding of the mystery of God. I was thankful that I have other communities that do that as well, but my missing the Jubilee community helped me reflect on my place within it. Often my colleagues return from sabbatical and discover that it is time for them to move on to a different call. I am grateful that my return from sabbatical affirmed for me my place here at Jubilee. We still have work to do together, and I am excited about it.

The annual report is either out already, or will be out shortly; it talks about what has been. The newsletter does some of that too, but it also looks forward to what is coming. The future is open for us at Jubilee United Church and I am looking forward to jumping into that abyss and mystery together with you.

*Yet, in love, the one eternal God seeks relationship...
We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.*

Thank you for you – each and every one of you. And thank God for you – each and every one of you. You are blessed, as you are blessings to the world.
I am blessed to be your minister.

Rev. Graham K. Brownmiller

Associate Minister's Message

The last six months have not been without their challenges, but it also proved to be a very rewarding time for me in ministry. I am sure that the congregation is happy that Rev. Graham Brownmiller is back from his sabbatical, and I am no less happy to have my supervisor, mentor and confidant back. I believe that Rev. Graham and I have settled back into work together as seamlessly as possible and I believe our partnership is proving to be even more productive than before. Graham, the Learning Core Ministry and I have worked together to prepare what should prove to be an exciting lecture series for Lent. One of the speakers will be an old mentor of mine, Doug Longstaffe, from VGH's Spiritual Care department.

The Wednesday afternoon Bible study continues to be relatively successful. For more than the last six months we have focused on the parables of Jesus and the series was enjoyed by our Bible study regular attendees. We have just started to read and discuss a Karen Armstrong book, "*The Lost Art of Scripture*." We intend to continue discussing this book for at least the next month or two.

I have recently restarted attending tea at Mulberry Parc every Thursday at 3 pm. As with many of my endeavors, this appears popular with attendees. I hope to continue with this ministry for the foreseeable future.

Many of you are curious regarding my candidacy and my progress toward ordination. I will not be ordained this year and our time together will end at the end of May as planned, unless the military has other ideas. I am continuing to explore the possibility for an extension of my training; however, if that happens it will be at another church. I am not sure what the future will look like, but I thank you for our time together and the experiences we have had. If you have any thoughts or questions, please stop by my office during the week or give me a call any time at 778-677-4955.

Blessings:

Colin

Caretaker's Story

I have always been a collector of information and believed that knowledge is power, to ease the worry, burden and possibility of pain. Last February, I discovered that my many years of diabetes had led to heart disease and eventually the clogging of my arteries. The suggested solution was a coronary bypass and a fairly major one at that. Until then I had enjoyed a fast-paced life, working four jobs and speeding through life without a worry or care; I truly felt invincible. I believed that my activeness would prevent the effects predicted by my GP should I not take my diet and lifestyle more seriously. Diabetes ran in my family, but as with most people, with denial and the belief that I was above the norm, I thought I would avoid this inevitable end. I ate what I wanted, took my medication and struggled for 10 years with higher than normal glucose levels while deterioration of my blood vessels

set in. It was February of 2019 while shoveling a crazy amount of snow at the church, that I went inside, fatigued and short of breath, with a heart rate of 126 bpm, to head to urgent care. That was the beginning of what would be a discovery of patience, worry, support and self discovery, as I moved towards a new direction of life, diet and fitness that was long overdue. I share this with you today in hope of alleviating the worry and unknown of a coronary bypass for those who may be faced with the same journey ahead. I spoke to many colleagues, friends and acquaintances who had some experience themselves or with a loved one, and the common thread was "you'll be fine!" I wanted more, I wanted to know how to prepare, statistics, aftercare and recovery.....

My GP received my blood work from my visit to urgent care. He called me at 7 that evening - yes, my GP called me! - telling me to go to Emergency now, with my glucose out of control in need of stabilization. One thing is for certain, when your doctor calls you in the evening, it is serious. In a matter of days, with insulin and rest, I was officially off work and the journey to a quadruple bypass had begun. I had four blockages, one 70, one 80, one 90 and one 100 percent blocked. I can recall asking my GP if there were any arteries still unblocked? The frustrating thing was because of where the blockages were I was not considered urgent! I had little stamina, my strength was minimal and fatigue was the new norm. For the next 8 months I followed strict orders regarding diet, rest and what little exercise I could muster while watching my once muscular body slowly turn to sagging mush. I have to share with you that the mental change that happens after a lifetime of health and strength turns to doubt, frustration and struggles with depression, often feeling helpless as to where one can reach out for support without feeling silly for doing so. I would like to acknowledge both Reverend Graham and Janet Babey for both their love, care and support during my journey; I truly felt loved and supported.

The summer was upon us and my spirits were lifted, and my partner Alex was so supportive. I had had the uncomfortable conversation of what to do if and when the possibility of finding me unconscious should happen, who to call and what protocol should happen there after. This was all becoming so very real and I have to say, for a 26 year old, he handled it so much better than I think I could have at that age. These conversations had to happen and I jokingly expressed there was a healthy life insurance coverage should the worst happen.

Around the sixth month of my journey, I was doubting that the surgery would ever happen when I finally received a call from the surgeon's office with a surgery date for the first week of Oct. I found myself relieved, terrified, and exhausted from waiting but ready for whatever was finally to come. Two weeks later, affairs in order, on the afternoon before surgery, I was called again by the surgeon's office: I had been bumped because of an emergency heart transplant. I can't tell you how disappointed and relieved I felt and recall immediately thinking, 'well, perhaps a life will be saved.' It would be two weeks before I would receive a final surgery date.

The day of surgery at St. Paul's Hospital! I was strangely at ease, perhaps exhausted from the seven months that had passed, as I settled into my hospital gown and bed. In no time I was being wheeled into the operating room, surprisingly cool and quite sparse. There in the middle of the room was a rather small operating table surrounded by staff, friendly and smiling. I think one of my last thoughts before I entered the void was how incredibly grateful I felt at the amount of both resources and people it takes to make this incredible event happen.

Four days after surgery, I was released and walked to the exit. Slowly, but I walked!

For the next four weeks it was slow going, lots of rest and healthy nutrition. Graham took me to have my staples out and my scars have healed incredibly well, almost unnoticeable. My rehab began around the 10th week. St. Paul's has an amazing program with incredible supportive staff. Each day is a victory. Everything hurts as the jelly-donut body starts to firm up and my strength returns. I look forward to years of good health and friendships to come.

Lastly, I leave you with this. I missed the community at Jubilee: the many new friends I made over the last few years, my daily interactions with Graham and all the wonderful volunteers and the community involved with Jubilee. How I look forward to my return and the many years to come.

With fond regards, Justin

Currently we anticipate that Justin will return to work ½-time as of March 15th for two weeks and then full-time beginning March 29th. In Justin's absence, we have been grateful for the work that Crystal & David have provided in keeping the church buildings functioning.

Update from the Transitional Council

Camp Spirit

The Transitional Council has agreed to host Camp Spirit which is a regional Vacation Bible Camp. This will take place July 6-10 and will mean that there will be an extra 25 or so children running around the church, having fun, and learning about God! A few volunteers will be asked to help out, but it is a fully staffed camp.

General Council Explorer

The Transitional Council approved applying to partner as a host to a Summer Student Explorer through the General Council Office. Elijah (Eli) is a 22 year-old student at Acadia University who is considering a possible future in ministry. He will be with us from June 1 until the end of the summer experiencing what ministry might look like in a congregation. Eli feels as though this experience will be "an amazing opportunity to further grow my faith

and explore [that call] in ways that would be productive and beneficial.” Eli has some mobility issues and is hard of hearing/deaf, but has learned how to live in the world, understanding a different way of being for himself and others who experience different ability statuses. Shannon Baird, Debra Legge, and Mark Kitching will be the Host Site Committee with Rev. Graham offering mentorship during the summer. More information will be shared as it all becomes clear!

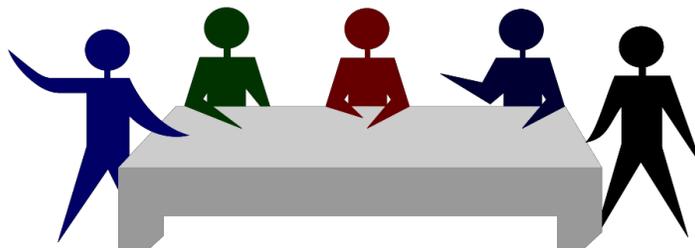
Refugee Requests

There is a Yemeni widow and her 16-year old son who are temporary UNHCR refugees in Egypt. They have family here in Burnaby who are seeking co-sponsors, asking support from Jubilee United, along with the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster. The complete amount of funding is in place, and resettlement with their family will be an easy project for us to support. The Transitional Council has agreed to co-sponsor these refugees.

In 2019 the church also received a request to co-sponsor a refugee through the United Church sponsorship program. Unlike previous work we have done to bring a family to Canada from the Middle East, this request is for a single male who is the nephew of the family we helped sponsor. The goal is to help reunite a family member who is currently living in a camp in northern Iraq. The co-sponsoring group, known as “The Umbrella Group,” consists of the same people we worked with successfully in the past. The Umbrella Group takes on the financial responsibility of supporting the person, along with the base provided by the family. There is no financial requirement from JUC, but previously a number of church members donated to the church’s Refugee Fund and received tax receipts as usual. In September, 2019 the JUC Transitional Council voted in favour of supporting the request to be co-sponsors and the application for this person has been added to the United Church of Canada’s 2020 allocation for refugee sponsorship and support.

Governance: handbooks and names

Having heard some grumbling about the name of the Transitional Council, especially the questions about “when are we no longer in transition” (the answer is never!), there is a new name being suggested for the group that gathers to do the work of the Governing Body. We are testing out “The Executive Team” but are open to other suggestions before the Annual Meeting at which point we will determine what this group will be called into the future. The Governance Handbook is also going to be updated to better reflect what it is that we are doing as a community after three years. Thank you for continually challenging us to better describe what and who we are!



Core Ministry Group: Learning (Coordinator Pamela Evans)

Introducing Pamela Evans



Pamela Evans may be a new member of Jubilee United Church, but she is not a new member of the United Church. For a number of years Pamela was the Staff Associate for Children, Youth & Families at South Arm and Shiloh-Sixth Ave. United Churches. After that, she was the Designated Lay Minister for Children, Youth & Families and then Acting Lead Minister at Shaughnessy Heights United Church. Currently she serves as the Regional Minister for Youth & Young Adults with the Pacific Mountain Region. Pamela has agreed to serve in the role of Coordinator for the CMG: Learning and we are so excited! Pamela brings a love of intergenerational community, a deep faith, and a hunger for justice for all people. When you see her, please welcome her to our community! We are blessed! Pamela says that she is pleased to be part of this community.

JUC Youth Group Activities

Youth are participating in worship as readers & will be writing liturgy in the season of Lent. Erin Gould & Emma Brown have been junior leaders in Sunday School. Many youth also help out with the Sunday school children on alternate weeks. Youth with their families also help prepare, serve & clean up at Pancake breakfasts.

Several of our youth have attended regional events where they met other United church youth from across the province & beyond. Three attended the “**Evolve**” retreat in November. Here is what they have to say about their experience:

“My favorite thing about Evolve was meeting so many new people from all over BC and the Yukon. I also enjoyed having the independence to be away for a weekend with other youth and young adults who have similar values to me. The food was great too!”

Mira Kitching

“At Evolve I enjoyed the different workshops and the Stream I took which was Art. I enjoyed meeting new people and also seeing old friends. It was an amazing community and I think everyone enjoyed it very much. Overall it was an amazing spiritual experience and I was lucky to go.”

Elysia Brown

“While at Evolve I enjoyed the different workshops in my Stream. Over the weekend I learned more about myself and God, and my relationship with God. I explored spirituality. I also met lots of new people and made new friends I still talk to. Overall, Evolve was a very pleasant, spiritual experience and I would like to go again.”

Emma Brown

Two youth from the congregation attended the Pacific Mountain Region “**FaithQuest**” weekend Jan. 24 – 26. This was a chance for youth from around the Region to gather and explore questions of faith. From Jubilee, Emma Brown and Rhi-Ella Davies attended. Along with these two, Erin Goold and Mira Kitching will engage in a Confirmation process this spring and will decide at the end if they wish to be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday! These four youth will spend time with a Mentor through the next few months speaking together on specific topics of faith.

Isobel Brown, Liam Goold & a friend & Zoe Kitching plan to attend the Pacific Mountain Region **Children’s retreat** February Feb. 21-23. This has been a great program for kids 8-12 in the past, so we look forward to hearing about it in the next newsletter.

Please keep these youth in your prayers & talk with them about what they are doing. Your support & encouragement shows how the Spirit is afoot in the life of JUC. Thank you again for welcoming youth involvement, it means more than you know!

Lenten Program (Dinner!)

The CMG: Learning have decided to try a new format for the Lenten Lunches/Program this year – an **evening** program. We will gather from 5:30 – 6:00, eat from 6:00 – 6:30, worship from 6:30 – 7:00 and listen to a speaker from 7:15 – 7:45 (ish). Those who need to leave after worship can do so, and those who can only join for the program will know to come for 7:15. The theme will be “How Then Shall We Live.” Donations to cover the cost of food and program would be appreciated. Childcare will be available during the speaker time.

At this point we have volunteers willing to prepare soup for the weeks March 4 to April 1 but we will need some extra help for setting up or cleaning up! We would also appreciate donations of cookies at each of the Wednesday evening meals.

Part of our community gatherings on Wednesday nights during Lent will be creating care packages for friends in our neighbourhood. Please consider donating a few of the following items. There will be a collection box at worship on Sundays and in the church office during the week. Thank you in advance for your support.

- Gently used or new gloves and mittens (We need these by Sun. Feb. 23rd)
- Cans of diced tomatoes (14 oz size)
- Clean one-pint jars with lids (We need these 2 items by Sun. March 1st)
- Old keys (metal house keys are best)
- Heavy duty string (We need these 2 items by Sun. March 23rd)

Ash Wednesday, February 26th will be a pancake supper beginning at 6:00 in the Hall. There will be food and activities and we will gather together for worship at 7:00 in the sanctuary.

The remaining 5 weeks we will gather at 5:30 pm in the East Narthex for an activity and eat together in the Memorial Room before having worship in the sanctuary. After the worship, we will have our speaker.

Lent 2020

How Then Shall We Live?

Jubilee United Church

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Our Sunday worship services will focus on all our senses as a way to embody our call to action in the world.

Wednesday February 26 - Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday Service. ***this evening begins at 6:00 in the hall***

Sunday March 1 - Smell the Beauty "Jesus in the Wilderness"

Marc D'Anjou will be on the organ & we will celebrate Holy Communion

Wednesday March 4 - Lauren Kirkey "How Can the Church Stay Relevant?"

Sunday March 8 - Touch the World "Nicodemus"

Wednesday March 11 - Doug Longstaffe "Advanced Health Care Planning - Practical and Spiritual Considerations"

Sunday March 15 - Savour and Know "The Woman at the Well"

Wednesday March 18 - Carla Wilks "Alzheimer's Cafe"

Sunday March 22 - See More Clearly "A Man Blind from Birth"

Wednesday March 25 - Jim Hatherly "How Shall We Live Without a Home?"



Sunday March 29 - Listen for Understanding "Dry Bones"

Wednesday April 1 - Andrea McLaren "Tech Addiction"

Sunday April 5 - Notice God's Presence "The Palms and the Passion"

Linnea Good will be joining us in worship!

Thursday April 9 - Maundy Thursday potluck meal and Tenebrae liturgy ***5:30 in the hall***

Sunday April 12 - Easter Sunday

8:30 am "Sonrise" Service

10:30 am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion

Wednesdays

in the Memorial Room

5:30 - 6:00 Gathering

6:00 - 6:30 Dinner

6:30 - 7:00 Worship

7:15 - 7:45 Theme Speaker

*Donations towards the costs of program and dinner would be appreciated.
Childcare will be available during the speaker presentations.*

Core Ministry Group: Worship (Coordinators, Barb Tunnicliffe & Melissa White)

The **CMG: Worship** met January 22nd and considered Lent in light of the CMG: Learning theme of “How Then Shall I (We) Live?” Throughout the season, the lectionary offers us a chance to explore this theme using our senses of smell, touch, taste, sight, and hearing.

Holy Week & Easter Services

April 5 - Palm/Passion Sunday with Linnea Good

April 9 - Maundy Thursday potluck dinner at 5:30 in the Hall. A Tenebrae worship service will be part of the meal. Please come and share.

April 10 - Good Friday – United Churches of Burnaby service, 10:30 am at Deer Lake UC

April 12 - Easter Sunday early service 8:30 (front lawn)

April 12 - Easter breakfast (Hall)

April 12 - Easter Sunday celebration 10:30 am

Christmas Eve

Jubilee’s Intergenerational Christmas Eve service was well-attended, welcoming 230 in the congregation (up from 180 in 2018), and included our United Church Moderator, Rev. Richard Bott. Thirty children took part in the costumed tableau of the Christmas story. The angels were numerous and a 4-year old “Mary” needed to take a bathroom break part-way through! The service ended with the traditional singing of Silent Night by candlelight.



What’s happening with Music?

Elfren Ordanza and Harran Shi have agreed to continue accompanying the congregation for Sunday mornings through to the end of June – THANK YOU Elfren & Harran!! During this period, we continue to explore options around musical needs for the congregation. Rev. Graham has been asked by the Transitional Council to engage with some music leaders to come for short term engagements and work with a choir or small musical group as desired. Those in the congregation who are musical and would like to offer themselves either playing or singing should make themselves known to Rev. Graham.

VST Sunday

The Rev. Dr. Richard R. Topping, Ph.D., Principal and Professor of Studies in Reformed Tradition joined us on Feb. 2nd for the Annual VST Sunday. His message was based on the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes which Jesus addressed to the disciples specifically. We are to consider that those who are “blessed” are those who are the poor in spirit, the grieving, the peacemakers, the merciful..... This is in contrast to our own popular culture where those who have it all are the ones perceived to be blessed. It was great to have Richard with us, to have us look at this scripture in a different light, as well as to remind us of our relationship with VST!



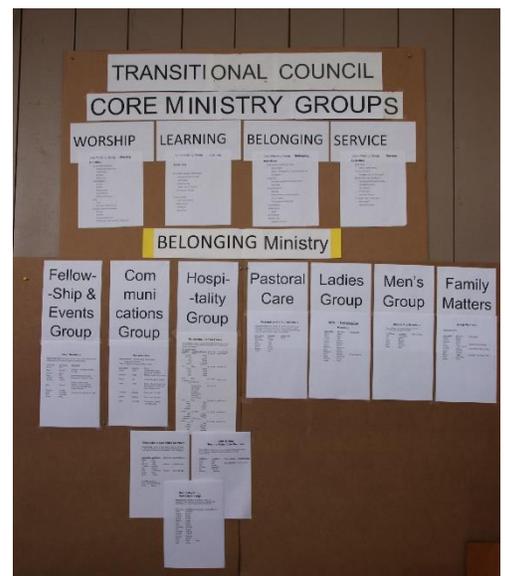
Core Ministry Group: Belonging (Coordinator, Len Gross)

We are all called to different ministries – where do you BELONG?

Have you seen this display in the NE corner of the Jubilee Hall with lists of those involved in the various groups in our church? If your name has been omitted by mistake, or you would like to become involved with one of these groups, we would love to include you. Please let either Dave Ellis or Len Gross know of your interest or if you want more information.

Transportation Help

There are many people in the congregation who would be willing to drive folks to church and church events, however it just takes a request! If you are unable to find someone who might be able to help you, there is a fund at the church available to help pay for a taxi. You will need to keep your receipts and submit them for reimbursement. Please do not allow transportation to be the reason you cannot come to church or a church event.



Other Items of Note

New Stove in the Jubilee Hall

Thanks to Trail Appliances for the generous donation of a new stove for the church hall kitchen. The Community Lunch crew had been “making do” with a stove that finally gave up. Now they are all set to provide lunch for community and congregation members every Tuesday. And everyone who uses the kitchen, including the Fun Raisers serving up their dinners and breakfasts, will appreciate it for years to come!

Marc D’Anjou to play at the Vatican!

Last September, Notre-Dame Basilica in Quebec City, where Marc is principal organist, welcomed the one of the principal organists of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. He gave a grand concert for the Basilica’s balcony organ restoration fund. Marc took the chance to ask him if it might be possible to play during a mass on his next visit to Rome and he was happy to invite Marc. Marc and Masa are going to be in Rome from February 20th to 23rd and Marc will play during the 10:30 mass on Sunday, Feb. 24th: the prelude, the offertory and the postlude. There is a possibility that they might see the Pope give his Sunday blessing. Their trip will include a day in Florence, 2 days in Venice, and 3 nights in Paris. Finally, they will end up in Vancouver for Marc’s traditional birthday meeting with friends Denis Bedard and Rachel Alflatt, organists at Holy Rosary Cathedral and Queens Avenue United respectively. Rachel’s birthday is March 3rd and Marc’s is March 6th, both the same year. So, what does this mean for us at JUC? Marc and Masa will be with us for the March 1st service when we will hear Marc play our organ – no Pope, however!

Mark Your Calendars!! Events for 2020

Thanks to the Fun Raising Committee and all who helped, we enjoyed a lovely Scottish evening on Feb. 8th. The evening was a great success.

Pancake Breakfast: Sat. April 4, Jubilee Hall from 8:00 until noon

\$7.00/adult; \$3.00/child 6-12; under 6, free. Scouting/Guiding members in uniform half price when accompanied by an adult diner.

People/families willing to help with this event (or the set-up on April 3) are asked to contact Dave Ellis (604-327-7734).



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Set-up</u>
May 2	Dinner Concert (Tropical theme)	May 1
Oct. 3	Pancake Breakfast	Oct. 2
Nov. 7	Black & Bling Dinner	Nov. 6
Dec. 13	Breakfast with Santa	Dec. 12

Fun-Raising Committee members: Nancy Baird, Dave Ellis, Barry Morley, Marlene Rogerson, Bev Thacker, Barb Tunnicliffe

Upcoming Events:

You're Invited!

Friday Feb. 28, 12 noon – Ladies Lunch at Mandeville Gardens, hosted by the Seekers UCW group. All women of the congregation are invited! The Café Mandeville menu should suit everyone, offering soups, sandwiches and salads. We have reserved a private room, so that we can mingle. So that the restaurant has an idea of how many women will be coming, please advise Arzina at the church office if you plan to come for lunch. Also, if you need a ride (or can offer a ride) to the lunch, please leave your name with Arzina in the church office.

Sunday March 1st: Marc D'Anjou on the organ for the morning service (see the article on his visit to the Vatican)

Also, **Sunday March 1st: Jubilee United Church Annual meeting**, immediately after the all-ages worship service.



Sunday, March 15th: Lunch after church provided by Pacific Mountain Region.

The BC Native Ministries Council of the Pacific Mountain Region is meeting at the Regional office at Fair Haven on March 13 – 15, 2020. They have asked if Jubilee would like to host them for worship on Sunday, March 15th. The Region would then provide lunch for the Council and congregation following worship. Our Transitional Council has agreed, and we look forward to worshipping with our brothers and sisters from across the Region on this Sunday.

And, looking well into the future:

Rumble on Gray, 2020 will be held on Sat. Sept. 19th. After 2 years of rain/showers, this year we are hoping for sunshine and blue skies! Watch for opportunities to volunteer to make this a great event!

Holy Land Trip, Jan. 2021

From January 14-28, 2021 Rev. Graham and Revs. Scott & Jenn Swanson will once again be leading a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land. There was a recent gathering of those who might be interested in hearing more about the trip, and sixteen people were present. The cost is \$5,000 which includes everything besides your lunch meals (which are fairly inexpensive) and any spending that you may wish to do. Last year there were six members of Jubilee who went on this trip. It is an amazing trip, well worth the time and money to walk in the place where the story of faith began. If you are interested, please see Rev. Graham. **Application deadline is Easter.**

