

Energizing the VIBE of Jubilee

A Sermon with Jubilee United Church, Burnaby, BC
Sun, Jan 15, 2017



Ps 40:1-11 and 1 Cor 1:1-9

**Let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe forever.
(Ps 40:11b)**

Inspiring Ponderings

- Let me tell you a bit about the person who modeled for me earliest in my life God's steadfast love and faithfulness, whose home felt safest for me – I called her 'Nana' – my mother's mother – emigrated from Scotland in the late-1880s to farm just northwest of Toronto – husband died of a heart attack when he was 40 – left with two small girls to raise on her own – one of her favourite words was "gumption" – points to spirited initiative and resourcefulness – intelligence infused with high energy – earliest uses found in Scottish dialects in the late 1700s – I thought of that word often as we were bringing Jubilee United into being – this took 'gumption' – and you did it!
- Your name choice – Jubilee – reflects the energy of that 'gumption' – in the Biblical way of seeing the world, Jubilee, as laid out in Leviticus 25, is a big deal – it's a time of God's favour, a year of forgiveness and reconciliation in the most concrete ways imaginable – debts wiped out, land returned, and justice realized – God's intent of original blessing is restored – the earth is the Lord's – you are cultivators of God's good gifts – God has called you together and given you all the strengths that you need to live faith, know love, and voice hope in God's service here in – with this kind of 'gumption' you will be and will continue to grow stronger together
- Out of my work with you I developed a new acronym – VIBE – a consolidation of all the bits and pieces of organizational development wisdom that I had gathered – Values, Intentions, Barriers, Execution – when your approach to these things is inspired and informed by the energy of Jubilee – of God's original blessing that was reconstituted in the redemption brought about in Jesus Christ – then God's steadfast love and faithfulness will keep us safe forever (Ps 40:11b) – whatever the barriers, whether from inside and or from outside of our church community, we know God is guiding us with the energy of Jubilee – the energy of God's original values and intent – the energy that fuels our worship, belonging, learning, and service

At this point in our ponderings, then ...

... with this kind of 'gumption,' Jubilee will flourish together in God's unifying strength – in such strength, this church's grace meets the needs of a desperate and divided world – we will live into our name – into the justice, peace, and joy that is energized by the VIBE of God's steadfast love and faithfulness

Notes for a sermon preached by Brian Fraser,
minister with Brentwood Presbyterian Church, Burnaby, BC