

## **WHAT IT IS LIKE BEING JEWISH AT BCUCC**

**By Judy Zibbell**

While I am neither black nor gay, I am Jewish at a Christian Church and have found there, support, encouragement, and another family.

First, let me tell you how I found BCUCC. I used to live right across the street from the church and one day Dan came by on his bicycle and asked if I would be interested in coming to the church. I said I was Jewish but noted how nice a smile he had and how bright his eyes were. But I put it out of my mind for a while.

Finally, one day I got there and although the details of the day are fuzzy, I know I felt a warmth and friendliness I don't often find.

Things progressed till I offered to be a worship leader which I enjoyed and found much to my surprise that I like public speaking.

With Dan's approval I even spoke about Hanukkah and Passover which was well accepted by the congregation. People told me I had a nice voice and at one point I joined the choir as well. Jessie Paterson and I went to the Symphony a number of times and it became my job to visit the homebound.

I can't tell you how much it meant to my soul to be able to speak about my religion to people of another faith. I know I don't get the opportunity to talk about my religion to people of my own faith.

But best of all were the people I met: liberal, good sense of humor and just plain fun. When my father died, I got a lot of support which helped me through the difficult time. When I really needed someone to talk to I would go to Dan in his office and have a chat which made me feel much better and comforted.

So I feel like I want to thank the whole Broadview community for being so welcoming to me. You are indeed open and affirming.