

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXX, Issue 5

Minister's Message

As we welcome one another back for the renewal of our worship and mission this fall, I wish to share some thoughts about hospitality. Our welcome of others in our midst extends beyond ourselves into our community. Our hospitality is offered to many groups, including two regular Child Care programs, two worshipping congregations beyond our own, and the various groups who use our facilities on a weekly or monthly basis.

But how others use our building isn't all there is to our hospitality. Our motivation has a good deal to do with it as well. For instance, are we happy to have others use our facilities so we can gain rental income alone, or are we also seeking to share with them a little of the grace of God in our relationship with those groups? Hospitality is actually central to who we are as followers of Jesus, who engaged often with people who did not necessarily share either his faith, or his culture or nationality.

At the beginning and close of Jesus' life are foreign bookends, in fact. In the Epiphany story from Matthew 2, we read about wise men from the East coming to find "the new-born king of the Jews." A frequent guess about where they came from is Mesopotamia, later known as Persia and presently known as Iraq. And on the way to Calvary and death Jesus is aided in carrying the cross by an African named Simon, who was said to be from Cyrene, now known as Libya. So in our time, when most of the western powers-that-be are engaged in an alleged "War on Terror," we find that Jesus was positively associated with people who came from areas recently branded as members of the "Axis of Evil."

Let's not forget, too, that Jesus and his family had to flee their home country, as political refugees under threat of death from Herod. We have little or no evidence to go on about how long that forced leave of absence lasted, and so can't speculate about what Jesus' experience in exile meant to him. Yet perhaps it was the hospitality shown to him and his family by people of another culture, another language, that made him so keen to be accepting of people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds throughout his ministry.

Finally, we should remember that fictional character whom Jesus chose to represent the model of care and hospitality. To the first hearers of the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-37), the title itself would seem something of an oxymoron. Just as there are Jewish lepers who don't return to thank God when they've been cured (Luke 17: 11-19), so there are Jewish religious dignitaries who would rather avoid the victim of a mugging than help the injured person. And just as it was a Samaritan leper who expressed gratitude, so it is a Samaritan traveller who cares for the injured man, transports him on his own donkey, and pays for his board and lodging so he can heal.

This is the active agent of good, according to Jesus, whose ethnicity alone suggested to the Jews listening to the story that he was not one they would want to emulate. Samaritans were lowlifes in the first century, people scorned by the Jews in Galilee and elsewhere, so putting together the words "good" and "Samaritan" in the same sentence likely caused something of a shock wave among those gathered to hear Jesus speak.

Continued on page 4

Bloordale United Church

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Honorary Pastoral Associate	Rev. Robert G. Trimble	
Pastoral Care Minister	Rev. Nelsona Dundas	
Christian Development Co-ordinator	Lisa Mazzariol	
Youth Leader	Vacant	
Administrative Assistant	Juanita Eldridge	
Organist & Choir Director	Mervin Fick	
Custodian	Jim Spalding	

Church Council

Chair	Julia Stavreff
Church Council Secretary	Pat Nelson
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Pat Nelson
Board of Trustees	Jack Lovatt
Ministry and Personnel	Connie Drummond
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Norman Dundas
Presbytery Representative	Norman Dundas
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

Committee Chairs

Communications	John Pauksens
Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Shirley Scott Ameena Ramsahai
Finance & Stewardship	Jack Lovatt
Outreach (co-chairs)	Jill Donaghy Shirley Scott
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Planned Gift Fund	Bob Hitchcock
Property	Bruce Jackson
Social and Fund Raising	Vanessa Ramsahai
United Church Women	Jo-Em Bettridge
Worship	Sharron Le Blanc
Member-at-Large	Joan Hollowell

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LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- Friday, September 16 - Movie Night (*Tender Mercies with Robert Duvall*) 7:00 p.m. Room 15
- Sunday, September 18 - 14th after Pentecost / Welcoming Sunday
- Sunday, September 25 - 15th after Pentecost
- Monday, September 26 - UCW Meeting and Refreshments
- Tuesday, September 27 - Our United Church Words of Faith Study Series—10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, October 2 - Worldwide Communion / COMMUNION
- Tuesday, October 4 - Our United Church Words of Faith Study Series—10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 4 - "Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire" study series—7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 9 - Thanksgiving Sunday
- Tuesday, October 11 - Our United Church Words of Faith Study Series—10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, October 11 - "Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire" study series—7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 16 - 18th after Pentecost
- Sunday, October 23 - Outreach / Peace Sunday
- Sunday, October 30 - Reform. / All Saints Sunday / COMMUNION
- Sunday, November 6 - Remembrance Sunday

Worship Services are at 10:30 a. m.

HARBOUR CRUISE UPDATE

On Tuesday June 28th at 3:00 pm, 41 people from the Bloordale community and their friends and family sailed off into the Toronto Harbour aboard the Kajama on the 1st Annual Bloordale Cruise, organized by the Social & Fundraising Committee.

The cruise was a wonderful start to the upcoming summer season, in celebration of the past year of happenings and successes at our church.

The crew sailed in the sunny breeze for 1.5 hours, followed by a scrumptious 3-course dinner at Il Fornello Italian restaurant on the Harbourfront.

The event was enjoyed by all, and we look forward to seeing you onboard the 2nd Annual Bloordale Cruise in 2012!



PLEASE COME AND JOIN US
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
AT 7:30PM
FOR A MEETING
AND REFRESHMENTS.
Contact Jackie 416-239-9419
for additional information

WHEN AND WHERE I

POPE CALLISTUS II WRITES BULL DEFENDING JEWS

In 1119, Pope Callistus II (1050-1124) issued a historic papal bull, *Sicut Judaeis*, defending the Jewish population throughout Europe. Callistus's defense came in response to the violence rained upon the Jews in the Rhineland during the First Crusade (1096). During his rule, Pope Gregory I (540-604) had made a similar attempt to protect the Jews. The terrible attack on Jews at the end of the eleventh century caused Callistus to reinforce the church's condemnation of violently attempting to convert Jews to Christianity. Throughout the next four centuries this papal decree was reissued more than twenty times. *Sicut Judaeis* granted the Jews "the shield of [the church's] protection" and declared "that no Christian shall use violence to force [Jews] into baptism."

FALL ZUMBA 2011



Please join us for a fun time with exercising!!! Come out for a free trial Zumba class!

Zumba is a low impact latin & hip-hop based cardio dance exercise class. We have classes designed for all ages, (from children to older adults) and for all fitness levels.

Our new classes include Zumba Atomic (for children aged 4 - 10), Zumba gold (older adults 55+) and Chair Zumba (for individuals with limited mobility or who have knee and hip pain).

Please RRSP at maddaboutzumba@bell.net for a free trial class. Please visit our website www.maddaboutzumba.com for our locations in the Markland Wood area.

NO EXCUSE SUNDAY

(a lighthearted approach to Welcoming Sunday Sept. 18)

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday."

Cots will be placed in a back room for those who say "Sunday is the only day to sleep in".

Steel helmets will be provided for those who say "the roof will cave in if I come to church".

Blankets will be provided for those who say it is too cold and fans provided for those who say it is too hot.

We will have hearing aids for those who say the minister speaks too softly and cotton for those who say he preaches too loudly.

Score cards will be available for those who wish to list hypocrites present.

Some relatives will be present for those who wish to visit on Sundays.

Take out sandwiches will be provided for those who have to stay at home to make lunch.

Finally, the sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church without them.

A good definition of an equitable settlement is one that will make both sides unhappy.

*Henry Kissinger 1923-
U.S. diplomat*

Continued from page 1

After telling the parable, Jesus asks the lawyer who was neighbor to the man who was mugged. The lawyer replied, "The one who showed him kindness." Jesus then enjoins him to "go and do as he did." But does that imply simply that the lawyer should help people in distress? Or – much more controversial – does it mean that in addition to being extravagantly kind, he also has to love even Samaritans and whomever else helps the distressed? Remember that the initial question was, "Who is the neighbor I have to love?", but Jesus' answer makes the neighbor the one who acted, thereby implying that the good neighbor is the person, irrespective of race, who does good to others.

In increasingly multicultural societies such as ours, where practitioners of world religions – Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and others – can be found, one of the great strengths of the Christian faith should be that its founder recognized that important values weren't the sole property of one religion, but that all people of all faiths had a capacity and a potential for truth, beauty, goodness. When a Muslim Canadian's faith leads him or her to do something sacrificial, it's not an inferior act because it is done by a non-Christian.

Jesus did not come to say that either the ancient Hebrews or the fledgling Christians were morally and spiritually superior beings. He came to proclaim that God was the ground of all goodness, the quality of which manifests in people of all religions and of none.

Our newly approved Vision Statement says we are "building inclusive community." Does this refer to those in the community we call church alone, or to the community in the larger radius around us? I believe it's both, and that both are equally important as callings from the God who grounds all our hospitality in the grace we've been given from before we were even born. May we extend a warm and grace-filled welcome to all who come to us this fall, and reach beyond our walls to extend our hospitality to the community beyond our doors, in loving embrace of all ages, races, and kinds of people, in the name of the One who has brought us together as one people and one body, no matter our background, first language, nationality or gender. Thanks be to God for this vision and promise of inclusion, of community and communion!

Brian

NEW PHOTO DIRECTORY COMING TO BLOODDALE

Wouldn't it be great to have a recent copy of a photo directory to get to know the names of all our fellow church goers? Or, see how we've 'grown' since our last directory, over 10 years ago?

We have made arrangements with IPC Canada to create a pictorial directory of all our church families. Every family will receive a free directory plus a free 8 X 10 portrait for participating. If desired, families or individuals may also purchase studio quality individual or family portraits.

The photographer will be at Bloordale

Monday to Thursday, November 7 to 10:

2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,

Saturday November 19th:

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Appointments take approximately 30 - 45 minutes for the photography and for viewing your portraits.

More information and the opportunity to schedule an appointment will be made available mid October. If you want to schedule a sitting right away, please talk to/call Julia Stavreff: 416-622-6309 or Patricia Nelson: 416-622-5274 (after October 12th).

We need everyone to participate in order to make our directory as complete as possible; all are welcome, both regular attendees, and occasional ones.

HANDS

"Religion is, first, an open hand to receive a gift, and second, an acting hand to distribute gifts."

- Paul Tillich

Examine your hands:

clapping, waving, playing hands;
dirty, sweaty, working hands;
weary, weathered, wounded hands.

Open your hands:

helping, hugging, holding hands;
strong, feeble, gentle hands;
holy, healing, human hands.

Raise your hands:

tender, trembling, touching hands;
pierced, praising, praying hands;
offering, loving, all hands.

Reach out your hands:

tiny, chubby, talking hands;
blistered, frail, serving hands;
broken, forgiven, faithful hands.

PROPERTY NEWS

Have you noticed the new door on the Handicapped washroom?

Easier access for wheelchairs has been made possible by widening the doorway and installing a new door with an automatic opener and closer.

Thank you to the UCW for funding this project.

Last week the kitchen fridge quit functioning and could not be repaired again. A beautiful new glass door cooler is now in place. Again, thank you to the UCW.

Hats Off to . . .



Kashi Ramsahai and John Pauksens for the many hours they spent beginning the update of the sound system in the Sanctuary.

Notice the baffles in the windows!!!

Hats Off to . . .



Shirley Jankus for being our reliable elevator operator on Sunday mornings.

MOVIE NIGHTS

Third Friday of the Month

Come and join Brian and others as we screen a movie once a month while enjoying popcorn and other goodies, and have a brief conversation following.

This month we're showing

Tender Mercies

with Robert Duvall

Friday, September 16th

7:00 p.m.

Room 15

The next one will be on October 21st
Movie TBA.

OUR UNITED CHURCH WORDS OF FAITH STUDY SERIES

In 2006 the United Church approved a new Statement of Faith, the first since 1940, entitled *A Song of Faith*. It's a poetic statement about United Church beliefs, and contains beautiful imagery and language. Brian will be doing a faith exploration study series this fall, called *Our United Church Words of Faith*, for three Tuesday mornings from 10 – 11:30 am beginning Sept. 27th, and will be taking a look at *A Song of Faith*, as well as the United Church's two other historic faith statements, the 1940 Statement of Faith and the 1968 Affirmation of Faith, in preparation for each congregation, including Bloordale, being asked in early 2012 to vote on whether these faith statements should be included in the doctrine section of the United Church governing policy document, the Manual.

Copies of *A Song of Faith* are available on the table near the church office, or ask Brian for one, and plan to come to the study.

A TWO WEEK STUDY SERIES

"Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire: Covenanting for Life in Creation"

Brian will be offering a two evening Study Series this fall on behalf of South West Presbytery's Social Justice and World Affairs Committee, which he chairs, entitled ***"Living Faithfully in the Midst of Empire: Covenanting for Life in Creation."***

From 7 – 9 pm on Tuesdays October 4th and 11th Brian will lead the group in seeking to offer feedback on the United Church's draft Covenant for Life in Creation, the culmination of the national alternative to empire process he's been involved with for the last 6 years, scheduled to go to the next General Council in 2012 for approval.

The draft Covenant is available at the church, on the table near the office, or you can ask Brian for one.

All who care about the United Church's public prophetic witness are invited to attend this study.

There is a serious defect in the thinking of someone who wants more than anything else to become rich. As long as they don't have the money, it'll seem like a worthwhile goal. Once they do, they'll understand how important other things are –and have always been.

*Benjamin Jewett 1817-1893
English scholar and theologian*

WHEN AND WHERE II

EXILED TO PATMOS

September 18, AD 96

What was the apostle John doing on the island of Patmos?

He was there because of a man named Domitian. Domitian was the second son of Vespasian, who commanded the Roman army sent in February, AD 67, to put down the rebellion in Judea. Vespasian's army was so successful that by June, AD 68, only Jerusalem was left to be conquered. Then on June 9, Emperor Nero committed suicide, and Vespasian halted military operations to see what would happen next in Rome.

The following year, 69, was a year of civil war with a succession of four Caesars.

Galba succeeded Nero and then was followed by Otho, Vitellius, and finally Vespasian. Vespasian turned the war against the Jews over to his oldest son, Titus, and concentrated his energy on defeating Vitellius. To stem the revolt of Vespasian's legions, Vitellius tried to take Domitian hostage. However, after two daring escapes, Domitian was able to reach his father's legions. After the death of Vitellius in December, the Roman Senate proclaimed Vespasian as Caesar, and Domitian returned in triumph to Rome.

Vespasian did not come to Rome for ten months, and during that time nineteen year-old Domitian got a taste of ruling the empire. However, he became embroiled in arguments with a representative of his father, and exercising power became a frustrating experience.

During Vespasian's reign, Domitian was given only minor roles, while his older brother Titus functioned as his father's heir apparent. When Vespasian died in 79, Titus succeeded him.

Since Titus was only forty at the time, Domitian again received no positions of authority, as it was assumed that Titus would rule for years to come. However, Titus suddenly died only two years later and Domitian became Caesar. As Caesar, Domitian was autocratic and cruel. He declared himself "lord and god" and demanded to be worshiped. Those refusing to acknowledge his deity were persecuted.

Domitian persecuted all classes of Christians: Roman citizens and noncitizens, male and female, slave and free. It was as part of this persecution that the apostle John, who had been living at Ephesus, was exiled to the island of Patmos. John tells us, "In Jesus we are partners in suffering and in the Kingdom and in patient endurance. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and speaking about Jesus" (Revelation 1:9).

In the Roman Empire, prisoners were commonly exiled to islands, and in John's case it was to Patmos, a desolate volcanic island ten miles long and six miles wide, thirty-seven miles off the coast of Asia Minor.

In his later years, Domitian's behaviour became so intolerable as to drive other pagans, including his wife, to plot a conspiracy against him. He was assassinated on September 18, 96, a few weeks before his forty-fifth birthday.

Nerva, the next caesar, proclaimed a recall of all of Domitian's exiles in 96, and John returned to Ephesus.

An evening of classical jazz with The Mike Daley Quintet

Led by jazz musician, lecturer and tour guide **Dr Mike Daley**, (Jeff Healey's Jazz Wizards), on guitar, banjo, and vocals

Featuring compositions by **Duke Ellington**, **Fats Waller**, **Irving Berlin** and many others, along with Mike's engaging and informed commentary.

The group includes:

Ross Wooldridge, (Jeff Healey's Jazz Wizards, Dixie Demons), on saxophone clarinet and piano,

Brigham Phillips, (Brigham Phillips Big Band, music director for John McDermott), on trumpet and piano,

Jay Burr, (Sam Rivers) on tuba, and

Nick Fraser, (Wynton Marsalis, Joe Lovano), on drums.



**October 28, 2011, 8:00 pm, (doors open 7:15)
at Bloordale United Church**

General admission, refreshments available,
handicapped accessible, ample free parking

Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door
For tickets or information call
Nancy 416-620-5377 or Barbara 416-621-1047

HOLY HUMOUR

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly,

"I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly,

"It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

BLOORBEAT BY E-MAIL

Would you prefer to receive Bloorbeat by e-mail?

Many readers have asked if Bloorbeat could be made available by e-mail. By receiving it electronically you would help us reduce printing costs and ensure prompt distribution even when you are not able to pick up a paper copy.

If you are interested in this option, please contact the Church Office at office@bloordale.ca and you will be placed on the distribution list.

The format will be in Adobe Acrobat which will require Adobe Reader. It can be downloaded for free at:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions>

BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Following is the publication schedule and the deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues through May 2012.

Publication Date

Submission Deadline

2011

October 16th
November 27th

October 7th
November 18th

2012

January 15th
February 12th
March 18nd
May 20rd

January 6th
February 3rd
March 9th
May 11th

NEW VISION, MISSION AND VALUES STATEMENTS

Vision:

Bloordale United Church

- encouraging spiritual growth
- building inclusive community
- transforming people's lives

Mission:

Bloordale United Church is centered in meaningful and engaging explorations of faith, in a supportive and compassionate environment. We strive to be of service to the wider community, and seek through right relationships to nurture justice, peace and harmony in an evolving creation.

Values:

We live out our Christian values by:

- Being in relationship with God, and encouraging life-long faith learning
- Caring for our members and neighbors, and extending hospitality to all
- Working for peace and justice in creation
- Communicating openly, and cultivating respect and trust among all
- Making use of resources responsibly
- Supporting and encouraging principled leadership

NEED A RIDE?

From time to time, some people in the congregation are in need of a ride to or from Sunday services or a special church event. A few folk have a regular arrangement.

We are currently reconfirming our list of possible drivers.

If you find yourself in need of a ride, please arrange one by phoning Pastoral Care,

Helen Hitchcock 416-626-7365

Bloorbeat is published 7 times a year by the Communications Committee of

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It is so much worse to be a mediocre artist than to be a mediocre post office clerk.

*Rudolf Bing (1902-97)
Operatic impresario*