

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXIX, Issue 7

Minister's Message

G.K. Chesterton, a poet and writer from England who died in 1936, provided some of the world's most memorable words about Christmas. Here's one sample:

Christmas is good news.
But if you ask me what it is, I know not.
It is a track of feet in the snow.
It is a lantern showing a way.
It is a door set open.

The first name for the new fellowship that was later called the church was "followers of the way." Today we speak of discipleship, of making a faith journey. Christianity isn't so much a dwelling as a destination, not a room but a road, not a resting place but a route unmapped, not a conclusion but a quest. It's much more than a set of rules written on paper – it's a set of practices we rehearse over and over, a path along which we follow, a way of life.

The Bible is full of this journeying spirit. Abraham and Sarah went out not knowing where they would end. Moses and his flock followed a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night across the wilderness. The Wise Men journeyed under the guidance of a star. Though we may not literally make the kind of journeys these people did, movement is expected of us, movement of the spirit. Advent, the beginning of a new Christian year, is an invitation to once again take up the quest, in anticipation and hope. T.S. Eliot, another poet, says of this quest: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time."

So we travel on, with new promise and possibility. We've recently received two generous donations, both dedicated to the sound system, and it's expected that the work will be done soon in the new year. Other priorities for some sanctuary changes are being discussed by the Council, and plans are underway to renew our mission and ministry with a Council/leaders/staff retreat in January - If you have a desire to contribute to the shaping of our vision for the future, be in touch with us, through Council Chair Julia Stavreffe or myself. The choir continues to grow in both numbers and skill under Mervin's leadership, and our youth and children continue to enjoy new programming with their leaders Lisa and Sarah. This new season of Advent we have much for which to hope, in the peace, joy, and love of the Spirit that surrounds us each December.

For this month we seek to make our way home, to where it all started, and to know our home as if for the first time – our home of Christmas. We're travelling to Bethlehem where the home of our hearts was born and is yet to be born again. Chesterton writes elsewhere:

Continued on page 7

Bloordale United Church

4258 Bloor Street West
Etobicoke, ON M9C 1Z7
(416) 621-1710

Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh
Honorary Pastoral Associate	Rev. Robert G. Trimble
Pastoral Care Minister	Rev. Nelsona Dundas
Christian Development Co-ordinator	Lisa Mazzariol
Youth Leader	Sarah McIntosh
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	Frank Sword
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Bob Hitchcock
Presbytery Representative	Norman Dundas
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

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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

- **Sunday, November 28** - Advent 1 - Holy Communion
- **Saturday, December 4** - Holly Tea and Bake Sale 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 5** - Advent 2
- **Tuesday, December 7** - Congregational Pot Luck Supper - 6:00 p.m.
- **Friday, December 10** - "A Christmas Carol" - Young Centre for the Performing Arts - 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 12** - Advent 3 - Service of Special Music
- Christmas Pageant following Worship Service
- **Sunday, December 19** - Advent 4
- **Friday, December 24** - Christmas Eve Family Service - 5:00 p.m.
- Candlelight and Communion Service - 9:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 26** - Christmas 1
- **Sunday, January 2** - Epiphany

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT 10:30 A.M.

CLIMAX JAZZ BAND RETURNS TO BLOODALE

On Friday evening, November 5th, the popular Climax Jazz Band returned to Bloordale for a second concert performance. The first was in Autumn of 2008.

Often referred to as Canada's Traditional Jazz Ambassadors, their repertoire consists of marches, rags, blues, spirituals and popular songs.

The evening started with the popular *Bourbon Street Parade* with all six instruments banjo, trombone, clarinet, trumpet, bass and drums. Later in the first set *Oh You Beautiful Doll* was the background number for the parade of 'fine southern chapeaus': 12 ladies and 2 gentlemen. Our own Connie Drummond won first prize for her hat, (and outfit) while Jack Scott tied with a visitor for second place. There was dancing in the back of the sanctuary; watch for the pictures of Bloordale dancers in the next issue of 'Snap Etobicoke' newspaper.

After intermission, there were more numbers, with the fun song *Liza Jane* having enthusiastic audience participation. The evening closed with *When the Saints Go Marching In* as we marched down to the gym for beverages and snacks.

120 people came to hear the Climax Jazz Band, resulting in a profit for Bloordale programmes of \$1,200.

Thanks to the Climax Jazz Band, the attendees, the bakers, the helpers and the Social and Fundraising Committee for such a wonderful evening.

A Great Time Was Had by All!

Should Bloordale Have a Men's Club?

A few men – Frank Sword, Bruce Jackson, and Brian, to name a few – have discussed the idea of forming a Men's Club here at Bloordale. The idea would be to have a breakfast or lunch group with rotating preparation/leadership and guest speakers, perhaps once/month or more often depending on interest. It could be a weekday or a Saturday morning. The United Church has a network of men's groups, and there is an annual conference for men in Toronto Conference, so there's lots of possibilities for fellowship, learning, service, and fun. Any men interested?

Let Brian (416-621-1710 or rev.mcintosh@bellnet.ca) and/or Frank Sword (416-621-1047 or fbsword@rogers.com) know, and we'll get started soon.

THE MERCHANTS OF BOLLYWOOD

On Sunday afternoon, November 14th after the church service, 16 Bloordale family and friends went to see The Merchants of Bollywood at the newly renovated and newly re-opened Sony Centre for the Performing Arts. It was a theatrical dance spectacular.

The show is loosely based on the real-life Merchant family of India. In the show, Shantilal, the grandfather, is a legendary choreographer of the classic films of the fifties and sixties. His granddaughter, Ayesha, wants to follow in his footsteps to Bollywood ("no place for a decent woman" according to Shantilal). This results in conflict between grandfather and granddaughter.

The first act showcased the dancing hits of both the grandfather and of the granddaughter. The dancing was nonstop and very fast with tricky foot and hand movements. The costumes kept changing and it was rumored that a million dollars of jewellery was on stage.

The second act fleshed out the story: Ayesha searches for her destiny, and for the love and approval of her grandfather. There is a wedding, a death, and lots more dancing.

Besides the dancing, the show included some narrative. One of the show's favorites was 'Tony Bakshi', a cynical, but highly amusing modern day Bollywood director, who summed up Bollywood stories as follows: Boy meets girl, they fall in love, there is family conflict and a mustached villain, boy kills villain, wins girl and they live happily ever after: with lots of lip synch singing and dancing.

The Bloordale group sat all together in the very front row of the mezzanine. Some of us enjoyed Indian food from the special Bollywood menu before the show.

Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to the drivers. A wonderful time was had by all.

Planned Gift Fund

Connect, Share, Love, Secure

Avoiding probate and minimizing estate taxes at death requires planning. When you are doing your planning, please consider making a legacy gift to Bloordale's Planned Gift Fund.

Please also see our presentation at:

www.bloordale.ca

Click -Bloordale United Church, Our Church,
Planned Gift Fund, Down Arrow

Grief Seminar Well Attended-Nelsona Dundas

On November 2nd, I attended a seminar on grief sponsored by Turner & Porter Funeral Directors. The presentation was given by Alan D. Wolfelt, Ph.D., C.T., author, educator and grief counsellor from Fort Collins, Colorado. The event was held at the Mississauga Living Arts Centre (their second year here) with an expected attendance of about 700. As the evening was about to get underway, it was announced almost 900 were present!

Dr. Wolfelt began by broadening the framework for loss and grief to include:

loss of significant other through death; separation; divorce; brain surgery;
loss of self-esteem: belief systems; dreams; the physical/cognitive parts of oneself;
loss of external connectors: home; belongings; assisted living; nursing home;
developmental losses: the child becomes an adult; the start/end of school; mid-life transitions; empty nest syndrome; retirement.

He then discussed five common myths about grief...

Myth #1: Grief and mourning are the same experience.

Myth #2: There is a predictable and orderly progression to the experience of grief.

Myth #3: It is best to move away from grief and mourning instead of toward it.

Myth #4: Tears expressing grief are only a sign of weakness.

Myth #5: The goal is to "get over" your grief.

... and proposed eight critical questions for dealing with grief.

1. Will I grieve, or mourn, this loss? (Grief is 'inside'- our thoughts and feelings; mourning is our 'outward' expression of grief - public, shared, social responses to loss.)
2. Will I befriend the feelings that flow from this loss, or deny, repress, or inhibit them?
3. Will I be a passive witness to my grief, or an active participant?
4. Will I embrace the uniqueness of my grief, or assume I mourn like everyone else?
5. Will I identify the six needs of mourning and work on them, or fall victim to the cliché "time heals all wounds"?

Six needs of mourning:

- i. acknowledge the reality of death;
- ii. embrace the pain of loss;
- iii. remember the person who died;
- iv. develop a new identity;
- v. search for meaning;
- vi. seek out ongoing support now and always.

6. Will I move "toward reconciliation", or "get over" my grief?

7. Will I embrace my transformation from this loss, or keep trying to get my old self back?

8. Will this loss add to my divine spark, or take away my life force?

We all have a "divine spark", says Dr. Wolfelt. Grief and loss mute that spark, and slows us down. He talked about "anhedonia", which is a lack of joy in our lives, and warned us that grief can also affect us physically by dulling the thirst centre causing us to become dehydrated, and if not attended to, seriously ill.

The presentation was two hours long with no intermission. Tables in the lobby were lined with his books for sale with people ten deep ready to buy them. There were as many men as women; as many younger folks as there were middle-aged. Interwoven with the above were examples from his practise; his personal life and what he has learned over the years. At times we roared with laughter; at others, we were silent with agreement. I learned a lot and would encourage anyone who has ever experienced loss to attend any future presentations.

I know God loves me

I know God loves me because
 He's with me when I pray,
 And as I go through life's obstacles every single
 day,

I know God loves me because
 When I'm alone with no one to turn to,
 He's right there telling me what to do,
 I know God loves me because
 Every time I shed a tear,
 It seems to just disappear,
 I know God loves me because
 When I'm hurt so much and I feel my heart won't
 mend,
 He shows me that it's never the end,
 I know God loves me because
 No matter how much I do wrong,
 He forgives me after not too long,
 I know God loves me

By: Laura Mazzariol

Church Membership

Church membership is one way of committing oneself to a Christian life. If you have been attending our church and would like to become a member, you are invited to contact the church office or Brian at 416-621-1710. New members are welcomed at a Sunday service on an occasional basis.

PENNIES FOR PEACE - THE FRUGGLE PROJECT



Each summer within our cottage community in the Laurentians - north of Montreal, QC - we hold six or seven Sunday services in various cottages. These services of worship have been held for well over a hundred years. For the past few summers, we have dedicated the service held on the first Sunday in August, to the children.

At this summer's Children's Service, our eldest daughter, Cathy, spoke about the book 'Three Cups of Tea' which many of you may have read. In the part of Pakistan called Baltistan, three cups of tea means that the first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honoured guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family, and for our family, we are prepared to do anything, even die.

Three Cups of Tea is the story of an American mountain climber, Greg Mortenson, who became lost coming down from a failed attempt to climb K2, the second highest peak in the world. He stumbled into the village of Korphe, in Pakistan, where the villagers nursed him back to health. Everyone who has read the book was moved by Greg's promise to the people of Korphe to build them a school and the adversity he overcame to follow through on that promise. What keeps Greg going is his passionate belief that balanced, non-extremist education - for boys and girls alike - is the most effective way to combat the intolerance that breeds terrorism. The Central Asia Institute, which Greg founded 17 years ago, continues to promote literacy and education by building schools in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan. Of the 131 schools built so far, none has been shutdown by the Taliban.

Greg has said that fighting terror is maybe seventh or eighth on his list of priorities. But working in Pakistan and Afghanistan, he has learned that terror doesn't happen because some group of people simply decide to hate others. It happens because children aren't being offered a bright enough future that they have a reason to choose life over death.

Cathy also spoke about Greg's 'Pennies for Peace' project, feeling that the "one penny at a time" message is an important one for our children to hear. As people lingered after our worship service, some shared stories of Greg's second book or of having attended one of his speaking engagements.

As Cathy prepared for that service in July, she shared her reading and research with her husband and two daughters, aged 8 and 6. Devon & Skylar had been making little wool "dolls" called Fruggles (from the book 'For the Love of Fruggles', by Wendy Wong) as a craft and were readying them to sell as a summer business enterprise. Cathy asked her 8 year-old if she would consider bringing some of her Fruggles to the August 1st service and offer them for sale as a fundraiser for Pennies for Peace. Devon agreed and even got up to speak at the service to announce her initiative:

"Grandma gave my sister & me the book, "For the Love of Fruggles". This is a Fruggle (Devon held up a Fruggle). A Fruggle is: "not quite a hug, not really a cuddle, but a friend to help you through your troubles. It will keep you company and when you don't need it anymore, give it to someone you think might need a friend or a hug and a cuddle". Skylar & I have made lots of Fruggles together this summer. I brought some today and they are for sale. If we run out, I will take orders and you can choose the style. The money I raise will be donated to Pennies for Peace. THANK YOU!"

The dozen or so Fruggles that Devon brought that day sold immediately and orders were taken. By Labour Day, they had sold 102 Fruggles and collected \$258.23 for Pennies for Peace!

Cathy wrote Greg Mortenson this fall saying they were pleased to support his work through a total donation of \$658.23, which included \$400.00 allocated by the Lac des Iles Sunday Services Committee from money raised at our services this past summer.

This was a project which was embraced by our whole Lake community and was a marvelous demonstration of how children can give of their talents for a larger cause. Needless to say, I am incredibly proud of my family for giving back in such a meaningful way.

Pat Nelson

BLOODALE ATTENDS TALK BY 14TH DALAI LAMA

Calling himself a simple Buddhist, the 14th Dalai Lama came to Toronto's Roger's Centre on October 22nd, to talk about "Human Approaches to World Peace"!

His central message was that regardless of where we come from, or what we look like, we all want the same things: Love, compassion and peace. "We must genuinely consider others as humans", he continued, often laughing, while talking in an informal manner like a grandfather telling stories around the dinner table.

The Dalai Lama answered questions which had been submitted by people online stating that of the 14 Dalai Lamas, he is not the best and not the worst, but that he is a popular Dalai Lama, and at age 75 he is looking forward to retirement.

The Dalai Lama enthralled the crowd of 15,000. The Toronto Star reported that the majority of the audience was young people. Our group of 20 Bloodale family and friends was 35% under 30 years (that's 7 people).

Thanks to all who attended at the Rogers Centre.

An enlightening time was had by all.

Christmas Pageant

Once again, our Sunday School is pleased to invite you all to this year's heart warming Christmas Pageant, where we will once again tell the tale of our Saviour's Birth. Please join us after service on December 12th for this wonderful production (not to mention a delicious lunch).

All are welcome and we truly appreciate all the support.

***Come with us to see
The Souppeper Production of
A Christmas Carol
at the Young Centre
for the Performing Arts,
in the Distillery District
(at Mill Street and Cherry Street)***



www.soulpepper.ca

***Friday December 10, 2010,
7:30 pm***

Tickets: \$46

***Premium seats, preview performance,
perfect for the whole family.***

Come early and see Lowe's Toronto
Christmas Market - a European Style
Outdoor Christmas Market

A Bloordale and Friends Event

Carpooling Available

For further information and tickets contact
Julia 416-622-6309 (h) / 416-621-8050 (w)

Quotable

No diet will remove all the fat from your body because the brain is entirely fat. Without a brain, you might look good, but all you could do is run for public office.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

Hats Off to . . .



Catherine Armstrong for donating her beautiful ponytail to the association that makes wigs for cancer patients.

**Great job Catherine,
and we love the new
look!**

Outreach News - 2010

So far we have supported the following groups with the contributions you have made to Outreach:

Camping Opportunities - \$750, **Ernestines Women's Shelter** - \$500, **Five Oaks Ministry** - \$750, **All Saints Out of the Cold Program** - \$500, **Out of the cold dinner** - \$367, **Ministers Discretionary Fund** - \$800, **Jane Finch Community Ministry** - \$500, **St James Food Basket** - \$1000, **Youth Without Shelter** - \$1000, and in December we will be focusing on **Fred Victor Centre and Women's Habitat**. In addition, we made a one time payment to **Kairos** - \$500, **Victoria Mazzariol (Me to We program)** - \$250 and the **Agape Congregation** - \$200 for their use to try and increase their Congregation. Special money was donated to support **Haitian Relief** - \$1,570, and **Pakistan Relief** - \$450.

Your contributions come from your Communion envelopes and special appeals envelopes at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. In addition, you may also use your own envelopes or use the other line on your regular envelopes. It is not necessary to indicate the particular Charity we ask you to support. Simply write the word **Outreach** and cheques made out to **Bloordale United Church**. We have targets we like to reach for each group and with your blessing would prefer one pot to dip from. I'm sure you can see from above that we have been very fair in our distribution of Outreach Funds. Sometimes a special need may have to be met which we can meet if we have sufficient funds available. So please be generous as you are able and we will continue to meet our goals and then some.

An Outreach table is set up outside of The Minister's office for Outreach reading material and magazines such as the Observer and Mandate. There will also be petitions you may wish to sign and other pertinent material to read.

Please take the time to read our bulletin board in the lower hallway especially about our overseas personnel and Kairos.

Continued on next page

We are looking for someone to represent Bloordale along with reps from Richview and St James on the Green Awakening project. Please speak to Brian.

Outreach Baskets and the Mitten Tree - Food is always welcome and is taken over regularly to St James United Church Food Basket. They welcome **proper** containers (none with holes or take out containers) **no egg cartons** for now and margarine or sour cream containers which are useful for distribution of bulk items St James receives. We are also collecting items such as soap, shampoo, creams, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, single use razors, new combs or brushes etc. **The Mitten Tree** will be placed next to the pulpit from **Nov 28 - Dec 11**. For the donations to the Mitten Tree we will welcome new underwear, clothes, socks, mitts, hats, gloves, scarves etc. In addition small new toys would be appreciated and don't forget the teenagers. Distributions will be made to Ernestine's, Women's Habitat and Youth Without Shelter the week of Dec 13th.



Jean Mosher is our **Mission and Service enthusiast**. She has done a wonderful job of keeping us informed of what M & S does. The support for The Mission and Service Fund has been great this year so keep it up!! Put a smile on Jean and Brian's face.

You may want to keep this date in mind - Friday **February 18^h 2011**. This is our date to serve dinner for **Out of the Cold** at All Saints. We will be looking for your support in January to put on this dinner.

We thank you so much for however you help in our Outreach efforts.

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To an open house in the evening
Home shall all folk come,
To an older place than Eden
And a taller town than Rome.
To the end of the way of the wandering star,
To the things that cannot be and are,
To the place where God was homeless,
And all folk are at home.

May God be with us as we travel on, guided by a star and an angel, beckoned by the promise of a manger bed and the Babe who is our King.
Shalom! Salaam! Peace!

Brian

Congregational Pot Luck

Tuesday, December 7th

6:00 pm.

Everyone is invited to bring their favourite entrée, salad or dessert and enjoy a time of fellowship.

Entertainment following dinner by Marjorie's Chorus.

Holly Tea & Cookie Sale

December 4th

1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Bring your friends for warm scones, whipped cream and jam-\$4.00.

Stock up on Christmas cookies; choose what you love for \$5.00 a dozen. Baking, candy, preserves, Christmas decorations and books. Help will be needed for serving. A sign-up sheet is in the lower hall. Lets make it a huge success.

Stewardship Spot

"Stewardship is everything I do after I say 'I believe'."

Looking at Gift-Giving from the Inside

If you're like me, you're acutely aware that the calendar's turning to December brings with it cultural pressure about gift-giving. My problems start with shopping. To give, you have to shop, but for me shopping is disturbingly disorienting, especially as the days wind down. With glitzy stuff galore staring at me from everywhere, it's hard to figure out what I want to give, to say nothing of what I can afford. But the ordeal of shopping is nothing compared to the challenge of finding the right kind of gift for the special people in my life. Too expensive a gift isn't good, but too cheap a gift is insulting. Gift-giving becomes almost unbearable, as I'm filled with anxiety and insistent inner voices. And when the actual exchange happens, it often turns into an extended dance of artificial niceties: phony delight, fake praise, feigned gratitude.

Of course, we can all imagine Christmas gift-giving at its best. Shopping is over, gifts are wrapped and waiting under the tree, and the opening rituals begin. Each one gives and each receives; each one is equally generous and grateful, and all rejoice.

The gifts aren't simply things – they are sacraments of a relationship, for in giving well, givers have given their own selves. When we engage in such gift-giving, we have tasted the advent of God's new world in which love reigns. What better expression of Christmas could there be than an intimate community of joyful givers and grateful receivers?

Yet there's something wrong about this account of Christmas gift-giving – and I'm not even referring to its leaving out the most important thing, namely that Christmas is first about receiving the indescribable gift of God – God who was born in human form – and only second about the community of mutual gift-givers. Beyond this, there's something inadequate about celebrating Christmas in this way alone. In a world of such warped and uneven distribution of wealth, it's sinful for communities of care to remain turned only toward one another. Christmas gifts should not just be exchanged by members of a community, whether family or faith circle – they should also reach outsiders in need.

After all, the Son of God did not just come to reveal to humanity the circle of exchange within the Trinity as the model for gift-giving between the community – God divested of heavenly wealth and became a holy child, incarnate in Christ, so that the fragile flesh of humanity could be fully embraced by the eternal God. So, too, Christmas celebrations are about two kinds of gift-giving, not just one. It is about reciprocal giving among our closest relationships, but it's also about giving to those beyond the circle of friends, as we contribute to realigning the world with the advent of God's love for those in need.

Mostly at Christmas we practice the first kind of giving – that is, if we succeed in resisting the temptation to make Christmas into a grand festival, not of mutual sharing but of common greed, a season in which the danger is to use faith to justify our desire to get all we can. But Christmas contains a call beyond this insular gift-giving model alone, namely to draw all people into the advent of newborn love, the incarnate love of God embodied in those who reach beyond the inner circle to encircle the globe, as God does at Christmas, with arms of welcome, of homecoming.

So may I make a modest proposal for us this Christmas: let's give as much to those outside the circle of our closest loved ones as we give to those inside. There are no shortages of need in our neighborhoods, or among any number of agencies who seek to not only distribute gifts but create a commonwealth of joy and justice worthy of our collective desires and delights. In so expanding our giving, we'll be richly blessed, and be a blessing besides. Happy gift-giving this Christmas!

SCROLLS FOR SALE

November 29, 1947

On November 29, 1947, headlines around the world proclaimed that the United Nations had voted to establish two separate states in Palestine, one Jewish and one Arab.

However, another event happened that day that was to influence biblical studies forever. The story begins about a year earlier, when three Bedouin teenagers, Muhammed Ahmed el-Hamed, Jum'a Muhammed Khalib, and Khalil Musa found three scrolls covered with strange writing, while exploring a cave near the Dead Sea.

In April 1947, an uncle of one of the boys took the scrolls to Bethlehem and showed them to a Muslim sheikh, who sent them to a Bethlehem shoemaker and part-time antiquities dealer, known as "Kando." Meanwhile, Khalil Musa and some other Bedouins brought George Isaiah, a Syrian Orthodox merchant from Jerusalem, to see the cave. They found four more scrolls. Isaiah told the Syrian Orthodox Metropolitan in Jerusalem about the scrolls, and he offered to buy them. In July, when Jum'a, Musa, and Isaiah tried to bring the four scrolls to the Syrian Orthodox Metropolitan, they were mistakenly turned away. Instead they sold the four scrolls to Kando, the Bethlehem merchant, who in turn sold them to the Metropolitan for \$97.20. One of the experts the Metropolitan consulted regarding his purchase was Eleazar Sukenik, a noted professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

When Sukenik learned that an antiquities dealer was offering ancient scrolls for sale, he made a secret trip to Bethlehem. He purchased two of the scrolls on November 29, 1947, the day the United Nations voted to create a Jewish state. A month later he purchased a third.

In 1954, the Syrian Orthodox Metropolitan placed an ad in the Wall Street Journal, offering his four scrolls for sale. Sukenik's son, Yigael Yadin, an Israeli general and leading archaeologist, was in the United States when the ad appeared. Yadin was able to purchase the scrolls for \$250,000. Those four together with the three purchased by his father now reside in an exhibit in the Israel Museum called The Shrine of the Book.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, dating from 250 BC to AD 68, are considered by many to be the most important archaeological discovery of all time. They apparently were the library of the Essenes, a Jewish sect that had lived at nearby Qumran. When the invading Roman armies reached southern Judea in AD 68, the Essenes hid their library in caves.

The scrolls range in length from the complete book of Isaiah to thousands of small fragments. At least one fragment from every Old Testament book except Esther has been found. Evidence shows that originally about three hundred books were hidden, a third of them portions of the Old Testament.

The greatest value of the Dead Sea Scrolls is that they demonstrate the accuracy of our current text of the Hebrew Old Testament, showing it to be virtually the same as that 250 BC.

Selected Financial Results – Year to October 31, 2010

	<u>Actual</u> \$	<u>Budget</u> \$	Difference Better / - Worse than Budget \$	2010 Total Year Budget \$
Local Contributions	107,547	112,439	-4,892	147,900
M & S Contributions	21,621	16,340	5,281	21,500
Outreach Contributions	6,377	4,940	1,437	6,500

We are below budget for Local Contributions. All congregational members are requested to keep their givings level up for the balance of the year, as they are able, to help meet this year's operating budget.

Finance Committee

Come with us to see
The Warrior Emperor
 and
China's Terracotta Army
At the ROM

One of the largest collections of artifacts related to the Warrior Emperor ever displayed in North America. This exhibit closes January 2nd.



www.rom.on.ca/terracottaarmy

Wednesday, Dec 29, 2010 at the ROM
100 Queen's Park (just South of Bloor)

Our visit starts at 1:30

Price (includes admission to the ROM) :
 \$27 per person
 \$23 for seniors & students
 \$16 for children

Carpooling available , or take the TTC

A Bloordale and Friends Event

For further information or tickets contact
 Julia 416-622-6309 (h) / 416-621-8050 (w)

Merry Christmas
 and
Happy New Year

BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Following is the publication schedule and the deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues through June 2011.

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
2011	
January 16th	January 7th
February 13th	February 4th
March 20th	March 11th .
May 22nd	May 13th

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Bloordale United Church
 4258 Bloor St. W.
 Etobicoke ON M9C 1Z7
 (416) 621-1710

Email: bloordale@bellnet.ca
 Website: www.bloordale.ca

Committee Chair	John Pauksens
Editor	Norman Dundas
Distribution Coordinators	Joan Hollowell Shirley Scott