

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXIX, Issue 6

Minister's Message

Here we are in the fall again, post-Thanksgiving stuffing of bird and stomach and pre-November showers and winds. Each year at this time we reconstitute ourselves as a community, the cottages for the most part closed up and the winter snowbirds not yet having flown south. The world has kept turning, and we again turn our thoughts to programs and possibilities for our life of faith together, young and not so young.

For all we'd like to do and be as a people of God, life seems so often to get in the way somehow. While we long for faith to insulate us from bad news, the fact is that conflicts still flare up like a struck match. Believers are shot dead at prayer somewhere. A thin dog and a thinner child stare at us from the TV screen in Pakistan after the flood. There are wars and rumors of wars. Every tragedy, even if sprinkled with occasional glimpses of good news when words like "miracle" make their way back into our common vocabulary, such as the case of 33 rescued miners in Chile this week as I write, deepens our questioning of the meaning and mystery of it all.

Sometimes all it takes is one day's headlines to make me wish I had gone into a more practical line of work. I would like, for instance, to know how to close a wound or set a bone. I would like to land an airplane full of rice and chickens in the middle of the Sudan. I would like to build an irrigation system in the sub-Saharan plain as confidently as I can renovate my basement. But no, I'm a preacher, and the good news story is my line of work, and all I have to share.

Here's a small speculation: I've always thought that Luke the physician, when he left his medical practice for the preaching life, didn't stop carrying his black bag. He simply repacked it, taking out the scissors, scalpel, and iodine to make room for the medicine of the gospel – those healing stories of God that did more to put people back together than all the potions in the world. There were beatitudes for the stricken and prophecies for the blind. There were instructions for the paralyzed and parables for the hard of hearing. There were bold actions for those who no longer trusted words, and there was silence when a holy hush was called for. Altogether it was quite a kit!

One of the things Luke wanted his readers to be clear on is that he wasn't the only doctor with gospel medicine in the household of faith. We are all tellers of the story, at least as it relates to our own – who else could say how the two intertwine? But gospel medicine, strangely, doesn't heal by taking all our pain away, but by giving us a way to live with it – naming, sharing, enduring it. To run from what hurts is natural, while to face it is not – yet the latter is where our true health lies. If we are able to turn toward the pain of the world and let it do its work, the results may be hearts broken, yes, but also hearts broken open to God and one another. Then we'll be, in the words of prominent L'Arche community member and theologian Henry Nouwen, "wounded healers," every one of us.

continued on page 4

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Column</i>	<i>Page</i>
Minister's Message	1
Dates to Remember	2
Merchant of Bollywood	3
Men's Club?	3
In Memoriam	3
Faith Discovery Options	3
Church Membership	4
Stewardship Spot	4
CLIMAX Jazz Band	5
Bloorbeat Publication	
Schedule	5
Canadian Bible Society	
Thank You	5
Calendar	6

LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- **Friday, October 22** - **Dalai Lama Public Talk** - Rogers Centre - 2:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, October 24** - Outreach / Peace Sunday
- **Victoria Mazzariol, Linda Pennock & Outreach folk lead service**
- **Sunday, October 31** - Reformation / All Saints Sunday
- **Friday, November 5** - **Climax Jazz Band** - 8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, November 7** - Remembrance Sunday
- **Sunday, November 14** - 25th Sunday after Pentecost
- **The Merchant of Bollywood** - Sony Centre - 2:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, November 21** - Reign of Christ Sunday
- **Sunday, November 28** - Advent 1 - **Holy Communion**
- **Sunday, December 5** - Advent 2

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT 10:30 A.M.

Come with us to see
The Merchants of Bollywood
at the newly renovated
Sony Centre
for the Performing Arts,
1 Front Street East, (at Yonge)



Sunday November 14, 2010, 2:00 pm,
after church service.

Tickets: \$68
(regular price \$81)

Mezzanine Seats AA 21-36,
 in the very front row of the mezzanine!

A Bloordale and Friends Event
Carpooling Available

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

In Memoriam

L. Mary Brown
 March 20, 2010

Frederick Gunther
 April 1, 2010

Margaret McKenna
 April 7, 2010

Robert J. Fairburn
 August 4, 2010

Frederick A. Voegel
 August 19, 2010

Inez M. Bettinson
 September 9, 2010

Norman G. Wright
 September 12

Harold F. Goss
 October 6, 2010

Faith Discovery Options for the Fall

Movie Nights

3rd Friday every month at 7 p.m. in Room 15.
 Watch a movie with friends, popcorn and
 goodies provided.

Brief discussion following, led by Brian.
 Suggestions for movies welcome!

Coming on November 19th
The Truman Show, with Jim Carrey.

Jesus: His Life, Teachings, and Relevance

A 5-week book study **Tuesdays** from **9:30 –**
11 a.m. beginning **Oct. 26th** in Room 15.

Purchase of an excellent book written for lay
 people by Marcus Borg, for \$17, will be
 necessary, so let Brian know whether you're
 interested.

DVD clips of Borg himself will be included, and
 the study comes complete with a participant's
 guide. Ask or call Brian for more information.

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.

continued from page 1

But you don't have to just take my word for it! You can pay attention to recent scientific research which concludes that the gospel is good medicine, and that, in the words of a line in an intriguing article in the Toronto Star a few years ago, "God is good for you." Here's an excerpt: "Medical science, especially in the West, may still turn up its nose at the mix of health and spirituality, but it's slowly coming around. ... The research – scads of it – continues to confirm more or less the same thing: People who follow a religious/spiritual path are more likely to enjoy greater longevity and superior overall health than those who do not. And prayer, meditation, and other mind-body approaches, whether from the Eastern or Western religious models, appear to be beneficial to the healing process.

"Those who regularly attend a house of worship have demonstrably lower rates of illness and death than do infrequent or non-attenders. For each of the three leading causes of death in North America – heart disease, cancer and hypertension – people who report a religious affiliation have lower rates of illness and higher rates of recovery. Older adults who participate in private and congregational worship exhibit fewer symptoms, less disability and lower rates of depression, chronic anxiety, and dementia than those who do not. Actively religious people live longer, on average, than the non-religious (up to seven years longer say some studies).

"In all, the research points in one direction ...: High, even moderate, levels of religious faith and/or spiritual awareness are associated with great resilience to stress, lower levels of anxiety, better coping skills, a greater sense of belonging, and generally a sunnier, more serene take on life."

Though we shouldn't make too much of this research, and though I as a preacher am awfully tempted to urge you to come to church for your own health, the fact remains that people who worship, pray, care for others and regularly connect with God in the depth of their souls find healing, and in turn can give it away. May we all have a regular dose of gospel medicine this fall and beyond, and create a healthy community of faith together.

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.

Stewardship Spot

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

Voluntary Simplicity

The times seem to demand more of us all, in our lives and in church, and those demands begin to wear on our souls and psyches. "Voluntary Simplicity," also known as "Downshifting" or "Simple Living," is still a trend, according to pollsters. More people are making the seemingly unnatural choice to buy less and earn less – to give up income and career success in exchange for more free time and less stress – even in the face of tough economic times.

Elayne St. James, author of *Simplify Your Life*, describes a moment of realization a number of years ago when she was a successful real estate broker: *"I was sitting at my desk one day, and my schedule was full of phone calls and appointments and meetings with people, and I realized this was just not what I wanted to do. I had finally reached a point I think many of us reach – of despair. We're tired of these complex lives and never having time to ourselves. I think the despair is coming from our souls."*

When people start talking about their souls, about how the choices they've made in their lives have given them success but at the price of eventual "despair," the church should have a relevant and important word to say to them. Despite our perceptions about our lifestyle needs, which are usually not needs at all but rather wants, we all are invited to understand that more is not necessarily better, and that those things we call possessions often end up possessing us, ruling our lives in the endless pursuit of stuff, gadgets and toys. This pursuit of things gets in the way, often, of our relationships, and is a huge factor in high divorce rates, stress leaves and depression diagnoses.

The church should support voluntary simplicity if for no other reason than, in the end, at our end, we all undergo mandatory simplicity. We all know the old adage, *"you can't take it with you,"* yet the cliché seems not to make even a small dent in our consumer habits and desires. When asked in surveys about what they want more of in life, people rarely if ever name things. What they name is a desire for happiness, for relationships of love and loyalty, for psychological rather than material security. Surely the church can offer something on each of these topics that other institutions cannot! May our worship and our witness reflect for the world a voluntary simplicity that befits those who follow one who had nowhere to lay his head, who carried his worldly goods with him daily, and who died having not only given away any and all possessions but also his life, a life rich beyond measure that no accountant would be able to quantify.

**Canada's Traditional
Jazz Ambassadors**

CLIMAX JAZZ BAND

**Returns to Bloordale
November 5, 2010**



www.climaxjazz.com

Wear a fine Southern Chapeau and you might win a prize!

Friday Evening , November 5, 2010 , 8:00 pm
at Bloordale United Church
4258 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke

www.bloordale.ca

Tickets: \$25, includes refreshments after performance

Call Nancy 416-620-5377 or Vanessa 416-358-4504

BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Following is the publication schedule and the deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues in 2010 through June 2011.

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
2010	
November 28th	November 19th
2011	
January 16th	January 7th
February 13th	February 4th
March 20th	March 11th .
May 22nd	May 13th

Blessed is he who expects no gratitude, for he shall not be disappointed.

W. C. Bennett, American clergyman

What happens to those cancelled stamps

Canadian Bible Society Thanks You

Thank you for collecting Used Stamps and sending them into our office! Your efforts are impacting eternity. We are able to turn your cancelled stamps into Bibles for those in need by selling them to collectors that have a heart for our Ministry.

Nothing makes me happier then granting a request for Bibles! Through National Programs, CBS provides Bibles to members of our Canadian Armed Forces, to inmates in prisons across the country, to visually impaired individuals through the CNIB, to ESL students of church programs and to Seminary Students studying Biblical Greek & Hebrew.

This past year, our Central Ontario District worked with Habitat for Humanity to place a Bible in each new home they built. We also worked with local churches of various denominations to provide Bibles to migrant workers in their own languages. We are proud to partner with Youth Unlimited, Toronto City Mission, and many other ministries to reach a world very much in need of hope!

We receive hundreds of requests from grassroots ministries and churches that operate food & clothing banks, outreach programs for the homeless, soup kitchens, visitation programs for elderly shut ins, retreats for single Mothers, and the list goes on! We want to help meet every need in our community, and you are helping us get ever closer to that goal.

The stamps you have sent us will help us reach more and more people with the life giving Word of God.

Thank you. We really appreciate your partnership.



**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

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

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

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

Committee Chair
Editor
Distribution Coordinators

John Pauksens
Norman Dundas
Joan Hollowell
Shirley Scott

