

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXI, Issue 5

Minister's Message

I begin with a bright fall "welcome," as we reinvigorate our life together again here at Bloordale. Fall is my favorite season of the year, as it holds so much promise – partly because, after a summer hiatus, the school, and church school, year begins anew, and partly because it's the time of year when we dream big and set some goals and connect with both familiar and new faces in our worship and work together. In line with that notion of promise, I'm glad to report that our plans to fix the dome and to renovate the chancel this fall are moving ahead, with both projects likely to be completed by the end of October, all being well. While these projects may cause some disruption in our use of the sanctuary for a few weeks, it won't stop us from worshipping and will be a small price to pay for the fresh new look and feel we'll enjoy when they're done. I'm also glad to report that we've already had a few inquiries about our programming, as we continue to welcome newcomers young and old alike, and that we have a returning full complement of excellent staff – Lisa, Hanna, Mervin, Nelsona, Juanita, Jim and I – to seek to be attentive to our vision and mission as God's people. Be on the lookout for how you can contribute your gifts to our community in the church and beyond, as you seek to share your passion with us - and don't be shy to invite your new or not-so-new neighbors to our church to check us out, both on Welcoming Sunday September 16th and throughout the fall, as we continue to build momentum by the grace of God's Spirit.

The fall is also my favorite time of year because it's perhaps the most colorful, this glorious creation sprouting vibrant golds and reds and an endless rainbow variety of life. This year we're marking the colorful, fragile beauty of creation by undertaking something new alongside many other churches around the world, namely a Season of Creation for the four weeks of September. The United Church has produced resources each year for this season since 2009, and named the liturgical colour orange for congregations who wish to take part, so we're jumping on board this fall – feel free to wear orange to worship if you wish, as you won't be alone! Each week there is a different emphasis, and over the three year cycle of readings known as the lectionary this new Season is observed, thus giving us twelve Sundays over a three year period to focus our attention, to one degree or another, on the delights and the dilemmas of this original gift of God our Creator.

Looked at from one perspective, the Bible is actually all about God's creational gifts to us, our misuse of those gifts, and God's continuing effort and call to transform and renew what God has made, including us as God's new creation, to bring us back to honor and respect what God originally gave us as a sacred gift. Consider the first three chapters of Genesis, where in metaphorical form God gave us three significant gifts. The first is companionship with our fellow creatures, and with the entire creation. In Genesis we learn that we don't own this life-giving Earth, but we are given the gift, and therefore also the responsibility, to nurture and enable the life of the whole creation, to be a steward of the ozone layer, the rivers and plants and animals and fish and eco-systems of each region, and all the rest.

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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	Hanna Lyle
Administrative Assistant	Juanita Eldridge
Organist & Choir Director	Mervin Fick
Custodian	Jim Spalding

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Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Planned Gift Fund	Bob Hitchcock
Property	Bruce Jackson
Social and Fund Raising	Vanessa Ramsahai

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LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- Sunday, September 9 - Season of Creation 1
- Sunday, September 16 - Season of Creation 2 - **Welcoming Sunday**
- Wednesday, September 19 - **Cirque du Soleil's AMALUNA** - 8:00 p.m.
Under the Grand Chapiteau, 51 Commissioner Street, Toronto
- Sunday, September 23 - Season of Creation 3
Yak with Mervin . . . and Brian - Room 15 after Worship
- Monday, September 24 - UCW Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - Room 15
- Friday, September 28 - Movie Night - *Changeling with Angelina Jolie* - 7:00 p.m. Room 15
- Sunday, September 30 - Season of Creation 4
- Sunday, October 7 - Thanksgiving Sunday - **Worldwide Communion**
- Sunday, October 14 - World Food Sunday - **Outreach Sunday**
- Sunday, October 21 - Peace Sunday
- Sunday, October 28 - Reformation / All Saints Sunday - **Communion**
- Friday, November 2 - Movie Night - *Milk with Sean Penn* - 7:00 p.m. Room 15
- Saturday, November 3 - **Blazing Fiddles** -7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 4 - 23rd after Pentecost
- Sunday, November 11 - Remembrance Sunday

Worship Services at 10:30 a.m.

Come with us to see

Cirque du Soleil's
AMALUNA
Under the Grand Chapiteau



51 Commissioner Street, Toronto
(off Cherry Street, South of Lakeshore)

Wednesday Sept 19, 2012, 8:00 pm,

Tickets: \$80 and \$73
(regular price \$116 and \$105)

A Bloordale and Friends Event
Carpooling Available

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

The remaining \$15,500 is to be applied towards the dome replacement; our cost is expected to be just over \$21,000, leaving us short by \$6,000. The dome replacement is scheduled to commence on Monday September 24th (weather permitting) and will take 3 to 5 days. Thanks to John Pauksens for putting this project together.

Additional donations are invited.

Julia Stavreff
Chair of Council

The Blazing Fiddles

Toronto's Premiere Fiddle Group
Coming to Bloordale



A group of lively and talented musicians playing an amazing variety of celtic fiddle tunes, popular show songs, and a medley of classical violin.

A cabaret style performance, with refreshments

Saturday, November 3, 2012
at 7:30 pm,

Bloordale United Church
4258 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke
www.bloordale.ca

Tickets \$25
For tickets or information call Jackie 905-270-8748,
or Vanessa 416-358-4504

RENOVATION OF CHANCEL AREA

Estimates are in for our chancel renovation including moving the organ and installing necessary electrical services. The total cost is \$27,000. The contractors are ready to start work October 15th. Thanks to John Pauksens for putting this project together.

At our AGM last February, the congregation voted to go ahead with this project, if total funding had been received. To date, we have received \$20,000 towards this project, a shortfall of \$7,000.

Please consider donating to this project, to enable our sanctuary to be appropriately modernized!

Julia Stavreff
Chair of Council

DOMe REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Thank you for your generous contributions to our capital appeal. To date, \$26,000 has been received and pledged. \$10,500 has already been spent on eliminating our spring mould problem.

WORSHIP WAYS

Yet another occasional gathering led by Brian to learn about and discuss topics related to worship and faith in an open and exploratory setting.

Usually held on a Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:25 pm just before choir practice, the first one this fall is in Room 15 on Thursday **September 20th**, and all who enjoy worship at Bloordale, or would like to know how Brian and Mervin plan together, are invited to come.

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Second, we are given the gift of companionship with our fellow human beings. In human community, people different from each other, diverse in color, creed, race, religion, origin, language, and countless other ways, are bound together on this one planetary home. We are called to care for and share with each other, to join with each other in human community, and in the local faith community of which we are a part.

Last, but some would say best, we have the greatest gift of intimate companionship with God. We are given minds to ponder God's will and ways, hearts to love and praise God, and hands and feet to respond in service and solidarity to God's call to be in relationship with God, both directly and indirectly, the latter by becoming good stewards of the first two gifts. This is the gift that draws out our expressive joy in worship, as we return to God to offer thanks and seek guidance each week together.

As we begin – again! – this fall, may we pay deep attention to these three gifts of God, and become effective care-takers of life in all its forms, including our communal life here at Bloordale. See you soon – maybe in orange!

Brian

STEWARDSHIP SPOT

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

Anywhere Everywhere

We often associate the call of God to stewardship with only two things: our financial life, and our environment. But as the tag below the title of this Spot seeks to make clear in every issue of Bloorbeat, stewardship really is about every act we do in faith - nurturing, caring for and being in service of all the gifts God has given us, including even the values, vision and mission we understand as the gospel, the good news of Jesus. Seen in this light, stewardship is a very broad category of thinking and acting, as the following piece taken from a sermon by Dr. Charles Adams, a Baptist minister in the United States, makes clear.

Debt anywhere, threatens solvency
everywhere;

Ignorance anywhere, subtracts from truth
everywhere;

Injustice anywhere, subverts justice
everywhere;

War anywhere, endangers peace
everywhere;

Sickness anywhere, challenges health
everywhere;

Addiction anywhere, dilutes wholeness
everywhere;

Death anywhere, diminishes life
everywhere;

Sin anywhere, weakens integrity
everywhere;

Poverty anywhere, destroys security
everywhere;

Suffering anywhere, dampens joy
everywhere;

Hunger anywhere, limits satisfaction
everywhere;

Fear anywhere, inhibits hope
everywhere;

Hate anywhere, attacks love
everywhere;

Indifference anywhere, compromises
community everywhere;

Bigotry anywhere, poisons justice
everywhere;

Slavery anywhere, contradicts freedom
everywhere.



Lisa and Brian with 2012 Confirmation Class

Planned Gift Fund

Connect, Share, Love, Secure

*We are pleased to advise the congregation that the
Planned Gift Fund has:*

***Received one bequest to date in 2012
from the estate of:***

• Johanna Zegwaard

***Been advised by another family that they
have named Bloordale in their Estate Plan
(Will). This brings the current total to 5
families.***

Please see our presentation at:

www.bloordale.ca

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A NOTE FROM HANNA

After my first fantastic year at Bloordale United Church, I have spent a wonderful summer back in my home city, Victoria, BC. During the summer I have been working with children and youth who have disabilities, and through them and the awesome organization I work for, I have had a truly amazing and blessed summer.

However, as the summer is coming to a close, I am looking forward to a new school and church year. Air Canada and zany Victoria weather permitting, I am scheduled to return to Toronto on September 7th, and thus shortly thereafter, will be returning to Bloordale.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall and I truly hope your summers have been wonder filled!

Hanna Lyle,
Youth Leader

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Well, it is hard to believe September is already here but the good news is Sunday School is starting up! I'm looking forward to another fabulous year filled with fun, friendship and faith.

Hurry back and feel free to bring a friend!

Lisa

MOVIE NIGHTS AT BLOODALE

One Friday/Month

Come and join Brian and others as we screen a meaningful movie once a month in Room 15 while enjoying popcorn and other goodies. We usually have a brief conversation following the film, as we relate what we've seen to our faith journeys. Here's the schedule for the fall:

Friday **September 28th** at 7 pm
Changeling with Angelina Jolie

Friday **November 2nd** at 7 pm
Milk with Sean Penn

Friday **November 30th** at 7 pm
The Matrix with Keanu Reeves

YAK WITH MERVIN ... AND BRIAN

Always a lively, open and safe conversation, join Mervin (and Brian) in Room 15 periodically after worship for a fresh take on a wide-range of topics.

This fall the first Yak is on Sunday **September 23rd** (keep your eye on the bulletin for the topic).

An Invitation...

to come on a journey of self discovery!

"DISCOVERING GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR LIFE: YOU AND YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS"

November 7, 14, 21, 28,
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Bloordale United Church, Rm. 15.

This workshop is a very **practical**, yet **spiritual**, experience! It will help you to identify your spiritual gifts and to find out how to use them in the world in a real and practical way that brings you a sense of purpose and joy.

◊It's about discovering who God wants you to be and what work God wants you to undertake.

◊It's about answering the question: "*How is God calling me to exercise my gifts in the world?*"

◊It's about putting your faith to work in meaningful ways.

The course helps answer that age old question: "*What am I to be when I grow up?*" A question not as trite as it might sound because it speaks to a bigger issue. People today are looking for deeper meaning in their lives - witness the popularity of Rick Warren's "*The Purpose Driven Life.*" Many are tired of society's materialistic focus and are becoming more concerned with things beyond themselves. So, when we ask ourselves, "*What am I supposed to do with my life?*", what we are really asking is: "*What is your will for my life, God? What is the work you would have me do?*"

Shortly before his death, Pope John XXIII said: "*I believe that, when I stand before God, God will simply ask me, 'How did you use the gift of life I gave you?'*" Discovering our gifts is a way of beginning to answer that question.

Lynn Morrison, who leads the course, is a member of Islington United Church, a former teacher and a skilled leader, having presented the workshop many times in various settings. I was first introduced to "Discovering God's Vision..." in May, when it was sponsored by South-West Presbytery, at which time I experienced firsthand what a fine presenter Lynn is. Come! Bring a friend! Register early so we can order the materials. Open to all including our neighbours at St. James and Richview.

Deadline for registering: Friday, October 26th.

Cost (*manual, inventory, shipping, etc.*): \$30.00

For further information and to register:

Nelsona Dundas: 416-620-4098

E-mail: nelsona.dundas@sympatico.ca

UCW MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24TH

7:30 P.M. ROOM 15

(watch for upcoming Card Party information)

VESEY'S BULBS AVAILABLE

SUPPORT THE ETOBICOKE CENTENNIAL CHOIR FUNDRAISING PROJECT

- Tulips
- Hyacinths
- Snow Crocuses
- Daffodils
- Mixed Wildflowers
- Muscari Magic Carpet
- and more

Order from Jill Donaghy or Norman Dundas
during Coffee time (brochures available)

Order deadline: September 25th

The Inquisition in Spain began by offering heretics the Edict of Grace, a period of thirty to forty days during which they could identify themselves and, on their confession, be assured of a pardon. The catch was that those who confessed their heresies, called *penitentes*, were forced to take a vow to reveal other heretics.

The grounds for a person's arrest were accusation by another or even mere rumour.

A person was assumed to be guilty until proven innocent. Torture was used regularly. Even when there was sufficient testimony from others to convict the accused, the victim was still tortured to extract a confession. Torture also was used to acquire names of additional heretics.

From the beginning, the primary means of execution was by fire. The tribunal established at Ciudad Real in 1483 burned 52 heretics in two years. When the Inquisition moved to Toledo in 1485, 750 *penitentes* were marched into the cathedral to be told that one-fifth of their property had been confiscated. Next the tribunal went to Avila where 75 were burned at the stake and 26 corpses were exhumed and burned.

By the time of Torquemada's death, on September 16, 1498, two thousand heretics had been executed under his authority. The great irony is that Torquemada died hiding the fact that he himself had Jewish blood.

WHEN AND WHERE

TORTURE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

September 16, 1498

What makes a religious person cruel?

Tomas de Torquemada had good religious genes. Born in Spain in 1420, he was the nephew of a prominent cardinal. After entering a Dominican monastery, Torquemada was made prior of another monastery. Subsequently, he was appointed confessor to King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella, best known for sponsoring Christopher Columbus's voyage.

Back in 1163, Pope Alexander IV had encouraged princes and bishops to imprison heretics and confiscate their property. And beginning in 1231, Pope Gregory IX set up the Inquisition, a special church tribunal for combating heresy.

Prodded by Queen Isabella of Spain, Pope Sixtus IV authorized the Spanish Inquisition in 1478. No nation during this time period was more interested in keeping the Catholic faith pure than Spain. In 1483, Torquemada was appointed the Spanish grand inquisitor and became the most powerful person in Spain after the king and queen. In 1487, the persecution was leveled against the Spanish Muslims, called Moors, and Jewish and Muslim converts to Christianity who were suspected of duplicity. The conversion of the Muslims and the Jews to Christianity had been forced in almost all cases.

BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Following is the publication schedule and the deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues through May 2013.

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
	2012
October 21	October 13
November 25	November 17
	2013
January 13	January 5
March 24	March 16
May 19	May 11

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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