

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXIX, Issue 4

Minister's Message

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No part of the Christian story is more world-transforming than Easter, and it's such a central part of the Christian faith that neither millions of chocolate bunnies nor tons of Easter eggs can entirely obscure the origins of the good news given new birth in Jesus' astonishing rising.



Yet, as central as the Easter message is, no part of the gospel is more difficult to proclaim. It is a challenge to our scientific worldview and our notions of what is possible. It is a riddle for the historian in each one of us, defying all explanations. It is also a challenge to reason itself, since it asserts that God really can be victorious over the power of death and all powers that are against life.

Christians have long known that the message of resurrection is earlier than the biblical stories about Jesus' rising. The stories of Jesus' post-Easter appearances are unique to each Gospel's writer, told from the perspective of a human memory formed by an unmistakable presence in their own lives. For those writers, the modern distinctions between historical facts and spiritual experience didn't exist, so their experience of Christ's presence beyond death was the only significant "proof" they ever needed that the resurrection message of new life was true.

While the modern privatizing of faith leaves us with the impression that Easter occurred only in individual's experience, this is not the whole truth about Easter. With some measure of relief on Easter Sunday we put the somewhat gloomy mood of Lent behind us and, in the midst of banks of lilies and a splash of gold, celebrate the return of spring and grasp the hope of personal immortality beyond the grave, presuming that this is the extent of the good news of Easter.

But the church was and is more than a loosely knit collection of individuals who believe in the resurrection. We are, rather, the community of new Easter life, as is clear from biblical stories in which Jesus appears to many at once. Easter is more than the guarantee of private salvation for believers, of "pie in the sky by and by"; it's the power of God's Yes to life and new life for us and for the world, God's triumph over every death-dealing No, whether from fear, hate or greed.

(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 Leaders	Lydia McIntosh 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

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LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sunday, May 30 · Friday, June 4 · Sunday, June 6 · Saturday, June 12 · Sunday, June 13 · Tuesday, June 15 · Sunday, June 20 · Sunday, June 27 · Sunday, July 4, 11, 18 · Sunday, July 25, August 1, 8 · Wednesday, August 18 · Sunday, August 15, 22, 29 · Sunday, September 5 · Sunday, September 12 · Sunday, September 19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trinity Sunday/ Toronto Conference - "Finest Kind" Concert — 8:00 pm - 2nd after Pentecost
Church Picnic - Seven Rivers Chorus Concert
Glenview Presbyterian Church — 7:30 pm, - 3rd after Pentecost
United Church 85th Anniversary - Bloordale Annual Golf Day — Braeben Golf Course - 4th after Pentecost - 5th after Pentecost - Worship at St. James United Church - Worship at Richview United Church - "South Pacific" Outing
Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts—7:30 pm - Worship at Bloordale United Church - 15th after Pentecost / Labour Day Sunday - 16th after Pentecost - 17th after Pentecost—Re-covenanting Sunday |
|---|--|

**WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT 10:00 A.M.
UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12 WHEN SERVICES REVERT TO 10:30 A.M.**

Come with us to see
The DANCAP Production of
Rogers & Hammerstein's
South Pacific
at the
Four Seasons Centre
for the Performing Arts



Wednesday August 18, 2010
7:30 pm
145 Queen Street West
(at University Avenue)

Price: \$90
Orchestra Seats T 11-20 and U 11-20

A Bloordale and Friends Event
Carpooling Available

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

Bloordale United Church presents:

Grammy Nominated Folk Trio
FINEST KIND

Ian Robb, Ann Downey, and
Shelley Posen



www.finestkind.ca (photo by Beth Girdler)

Friday, June 4, 2010, 8:00 pm
at Bloordale United Church

Tickets: \$20

For tickets call Vanessa 416-358-4504 or
Julia 416-622-6309 (h) / 416-621-8050 (w)

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Services at 10:00 AM

July 4, 11, 18	St. James United Church 400 Burnhamthorpe Rd
July 25, August 1, 8	Richview United Church 149 Wellesworth Drive
August 15, 22, 29	Bloordale United Church 4258 Bloor St. W.

Go for the Gold

We have raised over \$6,000 towards our goal of \$10,000 and plan to have a final appraisal session for our **"Go for the Gold"** campaign.

A **"Win, Win"** with 75% of the appraised value of gold and sterling silver donated going to Bloordale United Church and a tax receipt for every donor.

For further information or questions, contact Marjorie Jackson at (416) 621-4719 or talk with her during coffee time.

Many Thanks!!!

2nd Annual Wine & Cheese/Silent Auction

On Saturday, April 10th, Bloordale held its second annual Community Wine & Cheese/Silent Auction. This year, we had a special guest speaker; Dr. Ron Taylor, a two time World Series champion pitcher, for the 1964 St. Louis Cardinals and the 1969 New York Mets (The 'Miracle Mets').

After retiring from his playing career, Ron entered medical school, became a doctor, and was and still is team physician for the Toronto Blue Jays. In total, he has four World Series rings.

Dr. Taylor was a very engaging and relaxed speaker, telling the crowd glittering stories. The 2 highlights of his life were delivering his first baby, and taking part in the ticker parade in New York as a World Series champion.

In total about 80 members and friends came to hear Dr. Taylor, sip on glasses of wine or punch, sample cheeses and plot bids.

About \$2,800 was raised for Bloordale's Securing a Sound Future campaign.

Thanks to the Social & Fundraising Committee for organizing the evening, and thanks to the auction bidders, contributors, and attendees for making the evening a great success!

A Reminder

Climax Jazz Band will be doing a return performance at Bloordale, on Friday evening, November 5th, 2010.

Church Picnic June 6th

This year's Picnic will be held on June 6th, here at Bloordale.

The service will be held outdoors, weather permitting, with lunch, games and prizes to follow.

Games are for EVERYONE, (watch out though, Brian is pretty competitive) so make sure you join us and JOIN IN!



Seven Rivers Chorus of Canada
June 12, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Glenview Presbyterian Church
Toronto

Seven Rivers Chorus of Canada, composed of 45 singers from across the GTA and the Ottawa Valley, is conducted by **Mervin Fick**, Artistic Director/Conductor of the Ottawa Valley Music Festival Chorus, Toronto Beach Chorale, Mississauga Choral Society, Peel Choral Society and the Bloordale United Church Choir.

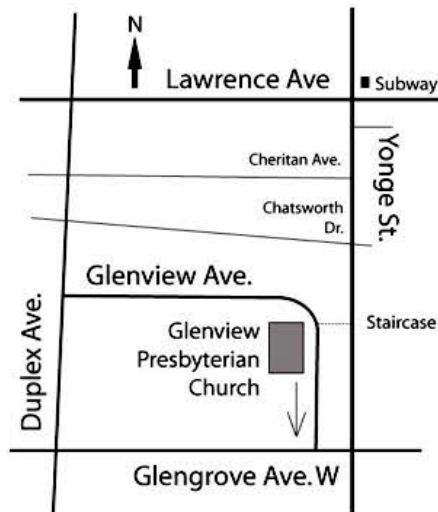
The chorus, which will be touring Europe in July, has been rehearsing at Glenview Presbyterian Church on Sunday evenings since January. They would like to offer their thanks for the use of this space by presenting a concert to benefit the church's Transforming Lives initiative. Admission: free will donation.

The June 12 concert will include a selection of the repertoire to be sung in Europe this summer. Mozart's *Coronation Mass*; Healey Willan's *Gloria Deo per Immensa Saecula*; Paul Halley's *Song for Freedom* . . . and other works by Canadian composers.

Our own **Brian McIntosh**, **Verena von Stritsky** and **Francine Morency** are soloists for the Mozart Mass together with **Michael Downie**, a frequent guest and friend of our choir.

Members of the Bloordale Choir who will be touring with Seven Rivers include Brian McIntosh, Verena von Stritzky, Francine Morency, Sharron Le Blanc and Jill Donaghy.

Glenview Presbyterian Church is located at 1 Glenview Avenue, just off Yonge Street, south-west of Lawrence.

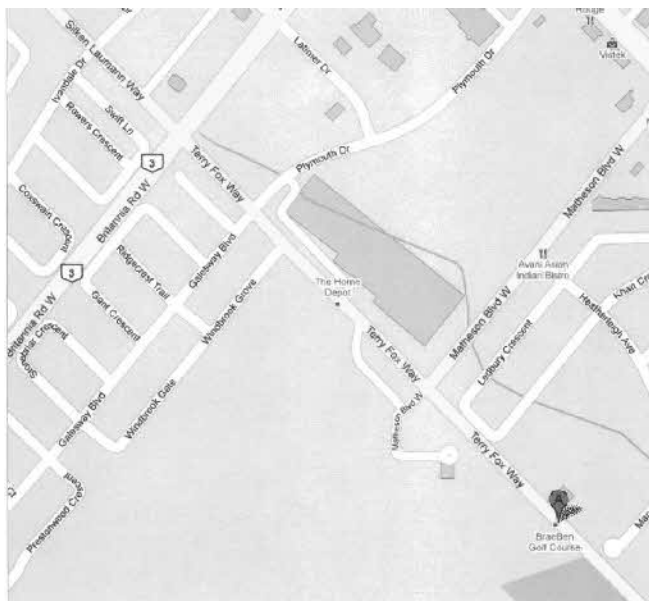


Bloordale Golf Day

June 15th



Location: Braeben Golf Course
5700 Terry Fox Way
Mississauga



Time: 8:00 a.m.

Cost: \$80.00 per person (includes taxes, green fees, golf carts and buffet lunch)

Contact: Bruce Jackson (416) 621-4719
Jack Lovatt (416) 621-2763
Frank Sword (416) 621-1047

Stewardship Spot

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

We are at a critical time for stewardship within the United Church of Canada as a whole - though the financial anxiety of the leadership of Bloordale has lessened considerably since the relative success of our *Securing a Sound Future* campaign (see elsewhere in Bloorbeat for details) - but the struggle to meet budgets and campaign targets is probably the last reason why!

It's time to look deeply into what stewardship has become to the person in the pews. We need a revitalized and renewed theology of God's grace if we're going to grow into being generous people.

We need people in touch with the countless gifts of God, in this creation, the church, and our own lives, to be able to respond faithfully to God's abundant and relentless giving with consistent generosity of our own. We need to look first into the depths of our hearts and souls, and foster an attitude of gratitude, before we consider the depths of our pocketbooks.

Stewardship education done only with dollar figures, charts and analysis of giving patterns is not the deepest or most fruitful kind. The "guilt and embarrassment (or worse, harassment!)" approach may produce an increased income for the church,



though that is questionable, but even if it does, it also produces a certain attitude of negativity and dependence, and ignores the vital thrust that is part of God's gift and call to us toward mission and ministry in Christ's name. We sometimes forget that good stewardship is calling forth from people the gratitude for God's gifts in history and our lives that enables us to "sign on" with joy alongside God's purposes of hope, peace, joy and justice in both church and world. It's not about creating a begrudging attitude toward giving, one that looks no further, often, than the bottom-line chequebook balance.

If we could welcome each other and strangers alike with love and acceptance, and begin to become, by baby steps, an even more faithful and caring Christian community with open hearts, minds, and doors, we would be closer to understanding the true meaning of stewardship. If we could recover our focus on seeing, hearing and knowing God in our everyday lives again, learning to find God in ourselves and others, then generosity would be a natural impulse, and we would not be able to help but give of our time and talents in addition to our treasures.

It's often said that good givers reach toward tithing, which is 10% of what we take in for God's purposes, in church and charities. The sign of a joyful giver is this: when the first, and not the last, of our giving, no matter what percentage of our income, is for God's mission, given with a grateful heart and in the hope that we're not just meeting a budget but meeting a need in fulfillment of God's call! May we all become such joyful givers!

Brian

Outreach News



Your Outreach Committee has been busy, offering some education about the organizations we've received donations for and growing more aware of the diversity of concerns and challenges that face people and the planet around us. We are very grateful for the generosity the congregation has shown to outreach initiatives year round, and glad that the Mission and Service fund givings have been going up alongside both those special initiatives and our congregation's operating account givings. We are becoming more and more a giving people, and that needs to be celebrated!

The United Church of Canada is active in mission around the world, in medical, social justice, educational, and a host of other fields. While they used to be called missionaries, a term that carried with it the baggage of implying that we were trying to convert people to Christ, we still support what are now called overseas personnel, in various lands and multiple endeavors. We receive occasional letters from overseas personnel, distributed by the General Council office, and will try and post them when we do on the outreach bulletin board downstairs, so take a look sometime and learn how the United Church is active on a global scale.

The church is also active in fostering a sense of commitment to help those who cannot help themselves, and one way many churches do that is through refugee sponsorship. There are many millions of people in refugee camps in other lands, who have fled their home countries because of the threat of persecution or death, and while Bloordale has never sponsored a refugee before, your Council, upon our Committee's recommendation, recently voted to apply to the Canadian government to become a sponsor. We have been moved by the story of Lauriane Vuganeza, who is the sister of a member of the small congregation with whom we are in covenant, Agape Salvation Ministry. From Burundi, she is in Rwanda and will apply for refugee status there, having fled her home country with her mother a few years ago. A young woman in her early twenties, she recently suffered the death of her mother, leaving her brother here in Canada as her last living relative, and she is sick, having contracted AIDS through a bad blood transfusion. The application process is being explored as this is being published, with Brian leading that effort due to his experience in refugee sponsorship, and we pray that both we and Lauriane won't have to wait for years to see

her reunited with her family here in Canada, her only hope for a recovery to good health and a better life.

The financial burden of this sponsorship, by the way, will be virtually nil, as her brother is prepared to undertake full responsibility for his sister upon her arrival.

The last item to highlight is our hope to pay more attention to how we can become a "green" church. We're fortunate to have a person in our congregation, Bob Bach, who has vast knowledge in the clean energy field, and who has not only helped us in the past with an energy audit but who is committed to working with others to promote various green initiatives. Bob has attended on our behalf a few recent workshops, offered by a local group of the ecumenical organization KAIROS and by the United Church's regional Green Awakening Network, and we're now trying to form, with partners from Richview and St. James, a Green Team that will help all three churches, and their members, become as ecologically friendly as possible. If you have some expertise or interest to share, we'd love to hear from you, so call Brian in the office.

These are just some of the projects and goals of your Outreach Committee, and if you're interested in joining us, let us know by calling the office at 416-621-1710. May you have a green summer of growth and peace.

Secret Pals

Dear Bloordale,

We all had a lot of fun with Secret Pals. We all made up a secret name and got paired up with adults in the congregation who also had a secret name. We wrote letters to each other for a few months. We gave clues but we did not give away our names. We learned interesting facts about our Pals.

If you were not a Secret Pal, you should think about becoming one if we have another opportunity! It was a great way to make new friends.

We would like to thank the adults who participated in Secret Pals:

Linda Pennock
Marg Cloke
Joan Hollowell
Jim Bell
Edna Bell
Sharron Le Blanc

Sincerely,

*Catherine, Elizabeth, Yvonne,
Adrian, Nicole, Jackson*

Securing a Sound Future Update

As we approach the end of the Securing a Sound Future campaign we would like to provide an update of its status, and extend an invitation to you to consider whether you can provide further help with it.

The SSF campaign originated in a Council meeting in early 2009 and was approved at the February 2009 AGM, as a measure to address the accumulated deficit of \$50,000 that had developed over the preceding years. The deficit had been dealt with, on an interim basis, by borrowing money from the Memorial Fund and the Capital and Contingency Fund, and from Toronto West Presbytery. The objective of the SSF Campaign was to replenish the two funds, to pay back our two presbytery loans, and to build up some funding for new programs and capital improvements. The fundraising goal for the SSF program, as approved at the 2009 AGM, was to raise \$100,000 for these purposes by the end of June 2010.

We are still a good distance from meeting that ambitious goal, but much has been accomplished as a result of generous givings to the campaign:

- by the end of Dec 2009 contributions received were \$38,300, and a further \$12,500 had been pledged for the Period Jan-June 2010
- subsequent to Dec 2009 a further \$7,300 has been received consisting of \$3,300 towards the previous pledges and \$4,000 of new givings
- several innovative and generously supported SSF Fundraising events have raised additional revenues as follows:
 - à -Going For the Gold Campaign (ongoing) \$6,200 (to date)
 - à -Silent Auction/Guest Speaker Event \$2,800
 - à -Investing in us Campaign (ongoing) \$2,000 (estimated , by end of June)

In total this amounts to approximately \$56,000, with an additional \$9,000 pledged but not yet received. While short of the original \$100,000 goal this is still a very impressive showing of support for Bloordale, and it has substantially improved our financial position. In particular:

- the first of the two Presbytery Loans has been paid off in full
- the memorial fund has been replenished
- the Capital and Contingency fund has been brought back to its Dec 31, 2009 level of \$3,000
- funds are available to meet summertime needs

- some funds are available to build up the Capital and Contingency fund further to a healthier level or to repay part or all of the second Presbytery Loan (but not both)
- **however, we do not have enough money, at this point, for additional hoped-for capital improvements such as a new sound system for the sanctuary.**

The generosity of all those who have given to SSF is greatly appreciated. But it is important to get closer to our original goal of \$100,000 by the June 30 end-date of the program.

If you have not yet contributed, or are able to augment your givings to date, this would be much appreciated and would help Bloordale with that sound future to which we all aspire. To facilitate that, you will find an SSF contribution envelope attached to this current issue of Bloorbeat.

Thank you for your support,
 Julia Stavreff,
 Chair of Council and
 Treasurer, Securing a Sound Future Campaign

continued from page 1

Easter is also the traditional time of incorporating new members, those who have responded to God's Yes with faith, and we did that this year with the celebration of Confirmation on May 16th, making three young women part of our company in Christ and re-committing ourselves to accompany them and one another into becoming more fully God's Easter people. To keep this promise we are called to dedicate our hearts and homes, our children and our church, to reach out in love and justice-seeking, in reconciliation and right relationships, in service and song.

Easter isn't just a day, but a whole season of 50 days, ending on Pentecost. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the church, when God's Spirit encouraged those who had been mired in fear to mature in faith and delight in God's call to discipleship. Both on Easter and on Pentecost we began worship with the refrain that frames our life of faith from first to last: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!



As this is the last Bloorbeat until the early fall, I offer you all God's blessing and peace, and pray that you may have joy in the good times and hope in the bad times.

Brian

Brian's Book Review

People who have attended the Learning Seminars I've offered have told me I ought to suggest a book or two that would convey what I've been trying to teach. Well, here goes! New Testament scholar Marcus Borg believes that the biblical text should be taken seriously without being interpreted literally. In his book *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* he states, in a style both convincing and highly readable, that we need a "historical-metaphorical" way of seeing scripture's origins and authority, its roots and power. Available in paperback, it's a good place to start to gain an understanding of the context of the Gospels, and how the gospel message of Jesus relates to both the first and the twenty-first century.

A more recent book of Borg's is *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*, in which he explores



the importance of Jesus' vision about the character and passion of God – what God is like and what God cares about – for both his time and our own. The book is usually available in any Chapters, but can also be ordered conveniently through United Church Resource Distribution (UCRD). Brian will be offering a Seminar this fall entitled Experiencing Jesus which will be based on this book, and if you'd like to order a copy to purchase, just let him know.

Pastoral Care Summer Coverage

July contact

Helen Hitchcock at 416-626-7365

August contact

Sylvia Williams at 416-622-1928.

Please note that Gladys Lewis 416-622-1372 should be contacted in the event that neither Helen nor Sylvia are available.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

HAVE YOU ENJOYED OUR CONCERTS?
AND OUR YUMMY HOMEMADE REFRESHMENTS?
WE ARE LOOKING FOR "**ASSOCIATES**" TO SHARE IN OUR
FUN TO PROVIDE BAKING
TO TAKE TICKETS
OR TO DO OTHER JOBS AT CONCERTS
OCCASIONALLY OR WHENEVER YOU CAN HELP US.
PLEASE SPEAK TO NANCY HARRIS AT 416- 620-5377
OR PAT NELSON AT 416-622-5274
FROM YOUR SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

*Singers from the Jewish and
Christian GTA Communities
present*

AN
**INTERFAITH
CONCERT**
FOR
HAITI

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2010 AT 7:30 PM
AT TEMPLE SINAI,
210 WILSON AVE
(BETWEEN BATHURST ST. & AVENUE RD.,
JUST SOUTH OF THE 401)

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20

*All proceeds to go to Haiti
Relief Organizations*

Christian Development

Easter Passion Play

I wanted to thank all those who participated in, and helped with, this year's Easter Passion Play. I was so proud of the children and youth for the magnificent job they did of portraying the story of Christ's crucifixion with such dignity and reverence. I know I was not alone in the emotion it evoked in many of us. Well done!

With heartfelt thanks, Lisa

Deadline for Next Issue

Articles for the next issue of Bloorbeat should be submitted no later than **August 27th**.

Send your articles directly to the Church Office at **office@bloordale.ca**.

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

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