

# BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXI, Issue 1

## Minister's Message

As we enter the early weeks of this new year, the gospel readings on Sundays in the Season after Epiphany all focus on the mission and ministry of Jesus – which causes me to ponder our mission and ministry, our vision and vocation as a congregation. I've been here 3 ½ years now, and in that time we've changed and grown together, gaining new members, new leaders and new hope while focusing on new programs along the way. I believe we're now at a kind of crossroad together, a time when we need to make a trusting turn to an even brighter future to which God calls us if we choose to walk toward it together. This future will include both stability and change, but will primarily involve a willingness to risk our selves, our resources and our time in response to God's call.

We are called to be a people in mission, growing in faithfulness, deepening in learning and stewardship, reaching out to our community and those in need, open to newcomers who will take their place with us and change our fellowship. We may hear afresh God's "Yes" to us and find ways to say "Yes" to God's mission in the way of Jesus, a way which means going out of our comfort zones and sharing solidarity with others in the struggle for life.

We may turn from charity giving to justice seeking, from conflict over direction to community in action, from financial focus to ministry confidence, from friendliness to radical inclusiveness, from spiritual lethargy to the Spirit's power. We may become public witnesses for the gospel, daring to speak to the powers that be on issues, sharing God's vision for the caring and healing of others and all creation. We may renew our deep identity as God's people, becoming a circle of disciples chosen, marked and given the grace to see with Jesus' eyes.

We may recommit ourselves to attending worship and making each week a celebration and revelation, as we rediscover faith and reconnect in heart, mind, and body, by word and music, to God's Spirit of passion and purpose. We may open our doors, our rooms, and our lives to any who find life here, who share the hope by which we are compelled, and seek new partners, in the church and beyond, with whom to walk and work. We may make the church more welcoming for those of any age, by updating our interior, offering creative programs, or providing needed means of support for all who gather.

We may recreate a community of learning and caring, encouraging neighbors and newcomers to come to learning opportunities, expanding our pastoral care of one another, solving disagreements only by Christian love and prayer, and trusting God no matter what. We may communicate openly, encouraging the exploration by which an informed faith is found, considering all questions of our leaders legitimate within our fellowship. We may allow our vision and mission to drive our financial decisions, trusting that we'll have enough when we live by gospel values and asking people for more when there's a good reason to give.

*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	Hanna Lyle
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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Column	Page
Minister's Message	1
Dates to Remember	2
Life & Times of Mackenzie King	3
Photo Directory	3
Free Concert	3
Elmer Iseler Singers in Concert	3
Parfumerie	4
Children's Craft Night	4
Sing 360 Children's Choir	4
Stewardship Spot	5
Looking for a Sponsor	5
When & Where	5
Peanut Allergy Alert	5
Coming Soon to Bloorbeat	5
Mile Daley Jazz Concert Update	6
Movie Night	6
Social Committee Update	6
Christmas Pageant Thank You	6
Upcoming Events	7
Welcome to New Members	7
Upcoming Concerts	7
Teachers, Helpers Needed	7
Choir Fund Donations	8
Guest Preacher	8
Yak With Mervin	8
Worship in the United Church	8
Bloordale Staff Covenanting	8
Calling All Drivers	9
A Moment of Truth: Kairos	
Palestine	9
Annual Congregational Meeting	9
It Matters	9
Calendar of Events	10

## LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- Friday, January 20 - Movie Night - 7:00 p.m. *About Schmidt*
- Sunday, January 22 - 3rd after Epiphany, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins.  
COMMUNION
- Tuesday, January 24 - Humber Latin Jazz Mexican Project - Four Seasons Centre - noon
- Sunday, January 29 - 4th after Epiphany, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
- Tuesday, January 31 - A Moment of Truth Study Series - 7:00 p.m. - Windermere United Church
- Thursday, February 2 - Worship in the United Church Series - 6:30 p.m. - Room 15
- Friday, February 3 - Children's Craft Night - 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 5 - 5th after Epiphany
- Sunday, February 5 - The 4 Men Concert - Emmanuel United Church, Brampton - 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 12 - 6th after Epiphany, **GUEST PREACHER: Lee McKenna**
- Sunday, February 12 - Toronto Beach Chorale, *Love Is . . . 3:00 p.m.*  
Kingston Road United Church
- Sunday, February 19 - Transfiguration Sunday, COMMUNION  
Annual Congregational Meeting
- Tuesday, February 21 - Annual Pancake Supper - Between 5:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday
- Saturday, February 25 - Soweto Gospel Choir - Sony Centre - 8:00 p.m.

**Worship Services are at 10:30 a. m.**

## **VIDEOCAB—THE LIFE & TIMES OF MACKENZIE KING**

The November 29th outing to Videocab was a perfect example of the diversity of theatre productions that Julia has introduced us to since the formation of the Social & Fundraising Committee 5 or 6 years ago.

Over the past thirty years Videocab has created more than forty productions, all written and directed by Michael Holingsworth and Deanne Taylor, including plays, musicals, opera, masquerades and the multi-media cabarets that gave the company its name. This is a timeless theatrical style, in which the actors, words, costumes, props, lighting and sound conjure infinite locations and times without furniture or scenery. These productions take place in a small theatre at the back of The Cameron House bar on Queen Street West, just west of Spadina. The theatre only seats about 40 and there is definitely an intimacy between actors and the audience. It was an amazing evening.

The play we saw was *The Life & Times of Mackenzie King*, a part of *The History of the Village of the Small Huts, 1918-39*. It has been described as "a zeppelin-ride through the soaring 20's and the diving 30's". At the centre of the story is the legendary William Lyon Mackenzie King, who dominated Canadian politics for thirty years and was the grandson of the Great Reformer/Notorious Rebel of 1837, William Lyon Mackenzie. Six actors played a total of sixty different roles. It is very fast-moving with quick scenes, lights out for costume and actor changes, lights on for another scene, etc. The costume changes and particularly the wig/hairpiece changes do an amazing job of creating new characters.

Videocab has won many awards and nominations and on Canada Day 2012 Michael Hollingsworth's, "The War of 1812" will be opening in Stratford, ON in a co-production with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

---

### **PHOTO DIRECTORY**

Please note that for any of you who did not order extra photos, the free single photos have arrived.

Please call Pat Nelson at 416-622-5274 for pick up or delivery.

---

Come with us to a  
**Free Concert**  
*at the*  
**Four Seasons Centre**  
*for the Performing Arts*

**Humber Latin Jazz Mexican Project,**  
 directed by jazz pianist Hilario Duran

*Focusing on the rhythms and  
 music of Mexico*



[www.coc.ca](http://www.coc.ca)

**Tuesday Jan 24, 2012, 12:00 - 1:00 pm**  
**145 Queen Street West**  
**(at University Avenue)**

Part of the World Music Series,  
 in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre.  
 There is reserved seating for our group.

Join us for lunch downtown after the performance

*A Bloordale and Friends Event*

**Carpooling Available, or take the TTC**

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

---

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**at Bloordale United Church**

The Social and Fundraising Committee present:

**The Elmer Iseler Singers in  
 Concert at Bloordale**

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of Canada's most  
 illustrious Choral Choir, conducted by Lydia  
 Adams.

Continued from page 1

We may, above all, trust God, not only for our future but for our present, offering our active willingness to play our part in God's plan for us. When we do these things, our crossroad will become our holy ground, and God will accomplish amazing things through us as we journey together in 2012 and beyond. I am hopeful, as hopeful as I've ever been since coming to Bloordale, but we have choices to make, and in the Bible the chosen are known by their choices. My prayer is that God may guide us to become all that we can be, together, moving by faith and not by sight. God's blessing to you all, and to us as a church, in this new year of our Lord!

Brian

## *Parfumerie*

On Thursday evening, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 13 Bloordale family and friends took a break from the Christmas holidays and went to see Soulepper's production Parfumerie. This play was at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts, in Toronto's Distillery District. Some of our theatre goers had never been to this part of town before, and enjoyed the walk from the parking lot, over cobblestones and amongst pricey restaurants, to the theatre.

Parfumerie is a 1937 play by Miklos Laszlo, set in a Budapest gift shop during the Christmas season. It features two bickering store clerks who have been sending each other anonymous letters via post office boxes for the last year and a half. Of course, they find out the truth near the end of the play, and are destined to marry each other and live happily ever after. Oliver Dennis and Patricia Fagan, were the leads in this play, which was later adapted as the 1940 romantic 'The Shop Around the Corner' and the 1990's Tom Hanks-Meg Ryan movie 'You've Got Mail'.

There is a secondary plot in the play, where the shop's owner, Hammerschmidt, must deal with his wife of 35 years and her affair with a shop employee, found out via an anonymous letter.

Parfumerie was a most delightful holiday treat, and all of our group enjoyed it, as did the sold out audience.

**Thanks to everyone who attended,  
and special thanks to the drivers.**

Julia Stavreff

## *Children's Craft Night 2012*



Classes at:  
Bloordale United  
Church  
4258 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, ON M9C 1Z7  
(416) 621-1710  
Please call to register



Who: Children Ages 4-10 welcome  
When: Every Friday from February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
to Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$3.00 per Friday or  
\$12.00 for all 5 classes



## **SING 360 CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

A community project affiliated with and supported by our church, this Choir enjoyed offering a wonderful Concert on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in our sanctuary, singing in front of beaming parents, relatives and supporters.

They began their next season of rehearsals on January 10<sup>th</sup>, and will practice each Tuesday from 4:15 to 5:15 pm until their next Concert on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Children ages 6 - 13 are welcome, and the Choir would enjoy having more of your children or grandchildren join.

Please speak to Verena, the Sing 360 Administrator, if you're interested in joining, or see their website - [www.sing360.org](http://www.sing360.org)

## Stewardship Spot

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

### **Time and Money: Ours or God's?**

Almost all of us agree, I suspect, that stewardship means "returning to God what God has entrusted to me." Which is fine, except that most of us also affirm that it means "sharing with God the things that are mine." First we say it all belongs to God, then we say it belongs to us.

No, we're not telling tall tales - it's reality! In church every Sunday when the offering is taken, "we give thee but thine own" and yet "some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share." We believe the first offertory hymn when the pay deposit or pension fund comes in and we write the cheques and tuck them in the offering envelope before we pay the mortgage, the credit card and the hydro bills each month. But when the phone rings and someone wants me to do yet another job, or when I'm wanted at yet another meeting, it's "my time" I try to protect. And when we struggle to make the family budget stretch or balance, it's "our money" we're talking about.

God gave us the gift of an active imagination so that we can handle these conflicting pressures and our own ambivalence. And God, I think, smiles often at our attempts, some better than others, to make sense of it all.

In a study called Unitrends a number of years ago within the United Church almost all of us, clergy and lay people alike, see the giving of our offerings as an "act of worship - like communion or prayer." Which is good, because when it comes to the gifts of time and money, we have a lot to pray about - and God has a lot to smile about!

Brian

### **LOOKING FOR A SPONSOR**

The Social and Fundraising committee is looking for one or up to four businesses to sponsor our upcoming concert:

#### **Elmer Iseler Singers In Concert**

#### **Sing For Spring, A Choral Celebration**

at Bloordale United Church,

Sunday April 29th, 2012, 4 pm.

Company name / logo on all advertising and programmes. For information, or to be a sponsor, please call Vanessa Ramsahai at 416-358-4504

## WHEN & WHERE

### 597 AD—AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY EMBARKS ON A MISSION TO ENGLAND

Augustine (d. 604), having taken the name of the earlier bishop, was the prior of the St. Andrews monastery in Rome when Pope Gregory the Great (540-604) commissioned him in 596 to convert pagan England. Stopping along the way in Gaul (modern-day France), he arrived in England. He was welcomed by Athelbert (552-616), the king of Kent, whose wife was already a Christian. Within a short period of time, Athelbert and hundreds of his subjects were converted to Christ. In the same year, Augustine travelled to France to be consecrated as the first archbishop of Canterbury. Pope Gregory later made him metropolitan bishop of England. Augustine failed to win the allegiance of the Celtic church but was successful in spreading the gospel in Kent, eventually leading to the evangelization of all England.

### **PEANUT ALLERGY ALERT**

Please be reminded that we have a number of people, including children in our congregation that have peanut or nut allergies.

We are all aware that these are life threatening allergies and we need to be extremely diligent when it comes to the snacks that are provided at coffee time and other fellowship gatherings.

Even foods that do not appear to contain nuts might be made in a facility that has nuts and therefore can contaminate other food. Please be extremely careful about cross contamination if you are baking and read the labels when providing snacks. Most labels will say "May Contain Traces of Nuts" in which case they are not safe.

Thank you for considering the safety of all our congregation.

### **COMING SOON TO BLOORBEAT**

Would you like to advertise your business in Bloorbeat? Starting next issue, we will be taking paid ads: business card size, 1/4 page ad or 1/2 page ad.

For prices and to advertise, please call John Pauksens, 416-622-6309 or [pauksenj@rogers.com](mailto:pauksenj@rogers.com).

### MIKE DALEY'S CONCERT AT BLOODDALE

On Friday evening, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the very talented Mike Daley Quintet came to Bloordale to present an Evening of Classic Jazz.

Compositions by Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Irving Berlin and others were featured in an evening of vintage jazz, ragtime and blues. The group included Ross Wooldridge (saxophone, clarinet and piano), Brigham Phillips (trumpet and piano), Jay Burr (tuba), Nick Fraser (drums), as well as Mike Daley (guitar, banjo and vocals). These folks are all well known in the jazz world, and have all been part of other illustrious groups as well.

The crowd, which included devoted jazz lovers and many other music lovers as well, were snapping their fingers and tapping their feet throughout the evening. Familiar songs, like 'Poor Papa', 'Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries', 'St. Louis Blues', and 'Jitterbug Waltz' were performed. There was dancing in the aisles and everyone seemed to be enjoying the music. Several concertgoers said that this was our best jazz concert yet.

Nancy Harris was MC for the evening; Bob Hitchcock, who was instrumental in bringing this group to Bloordale, introduced them. Mike Daley is a music professor at York University, and Bob (and Helen) have taken Mike's classes.

The Social and Fundraising Committee provided refreshments upstairs in the elevator lobby and hallway, before the concert, at intermission, and briefly at the end. Wine and water were the hands down favorites.

The 50/50 draw was won by yours truly, to cheering from the audience.

Over 130 people came to hear Mike, Ross, Brigham, Jay and Nick, and the profit for Bloordale programmes was \$1,500.

Thanks to the Mike Daley Quintet, the attendees, Bob Hitchcock, the helpers, and the Social and Fundraising Committee for such a wonderful evening.

### A Great Time Was Had By All!

Julia Stavreff for the Social Committee

---

### MOVIE NIGHT JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>

On the third Friday each month Brian hosts a movie night in Room 15, complete with goodies and good conversation following the movie. It starts at 7 pm, and this month we'll watch the movie *About Schmidt*.

### UPDATE FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Here is a listing of our upcoming Social outings. All are at cost.

- Thursday, Dec 29, 2011, 7:30 pm, Parfumerie (see ad in this issue of Bloorbeat)
- Tuesday, Jan 24, 2012, 12 to 1 pm, Free lunchtime concert at The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, featuring the Humber Latin Jazz Mexican Project.
- Saturday, Feb 25, 2012, 8:00 pm, Soweto Gospel Choir at the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts.
- Monday, April 9, 2012, 7:00 pm Toronto Blue Jays home opener vs Boston Red Sox.
- Saturday, May 12, 2012, 1:30 pm, TSO for Kids, The Hockey Sweater at Roy Thompson Hall; especially for kids 5 to 12 years old.

Please check your calendars and talk to Julia Stavreff for information and/or tickets: 416-622-6309 (H) or 416-621-8050 (W)

---

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

I just wanted to thank all of those who helped with this year's Christmas Pageant. As always, the children and youth were wonderful. So many people kindly lent their time to help us make it such a special day.

Thank you to the ladies in the kitchen, Edna and Jim for setup, Jim for all his help with the stage and Diane, Bernice and Hanna for helping make it all happen.

I hope everyone noticed how terrific it was to have the new head microphones for the children. Just think, they could act, speak and be heard, all at the same time!

My special thanks goes out to the children and youth who made it all happen. You are a constant delight to me and such a pleasure to work with. You always make me smile and I consider each of you, such a blessing.

With love,  
Lisa

---

*If man could learn from history, what lessons might it teach! But passion and party blind our eyes, and the light which experience gives is a lantern on the stern, which shines only on the waves behind us!*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)  
English poet and philosopher

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

The social committee has purchased tickets to see and hear The Soweto Gospel Choir – performing traditional and contemporary songs infused with the Spirit of Africa.

**Saturday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 8:00 p.m.** at the Sony Centre, 1 Front Street East

Tickets in centre Orchestra, Row B, (\$64) or front row of Mezzanine, Row AA (\$56)

Call Julia for tickets/information 416-622-6309 – car pooling available

### PANCAKE SUPPER

Pancake supper returns to Bloordale on Shrove Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

Come any time between 5:15 and 7:00 p.m. \$7.00/\$4.00 for children under 12

To volunteer or for information call John or Julia, 416-622-6309.

### CHILDREN'S CRAFT NIGHT IS RETURNING TO BLOODDALE

Friday evenings, February 3<sup>rd</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012(see ad in this issue of Bloorbeat)

Volunteers welcome for one, some, or all sessions. Qualifies for high school volunteer hours.

Craft ideas provided or come up with your own.

For information, or to volunteer, call Julia at 416-622-6309.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

On January 8<sup>th</sup> in worship we received four new members into our circle of friends by transfer from other congregations:

Paul and Velene Rose, from the Anglican Church in Canada;

Lynn Lawrence, from First United Church in Mississauga;

Obey Odinkemelu, from the Anglican Church in Nigeria.

*We are pleased to now have these four people on our membership roll, and we welcome them warmly to our fellowship.*

## Upcoming Concerts Involving Mervin and Brian

### Toronto Beach Chorale Concert: Love is ...

Sunday, February 12, 2012, 3:00 pm  
Kingston Road United Church,

975 Kingston Road, Toronto (near Victoria Park).

Great songs of love including selections by Cole Porter, and Gershwin, as well as a suite of madrigals and the delightful Love Songs of Springtime by Canadian Paul Halley.

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 under 18 years old. Concert tickets are available from Mervin, Brian or Verena, or at the door (first come, first served).

### The 4 Men Concert Feb. 5th

Brian and Mervin are at it again, singing with their friends Rudy and Lambert, and Accompanist David Murrell, as the Mission and Service fundraising group **The 4 Men**. They sang at the Congregational Dinner on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, and were well received.

Their upcoming Concert is at 7:30 pm on Sunday Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel United Church in Brampton, 420 Balmoral Drive.

Tickets are \$15, and are again available from Brian, Verena or Mervin, or at the door.

This Benefit Concert will be in keeping with the upcoming Valentine's Day, and will feature songs of Love, Hope and Inspiration.

For more information about **The 4 Men**, go to their website – [www.thefourmen.org](http://www.thefourmen.org) – or speak to Brian, Mervin or Verena.

## TEACHERS, HELPERS NEEDED WITH CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Lisa does a wonderful job in leading our children's programming each week, and has built an excellent relationship with the children who attend. As a result we've had a welcome increase in the last number of months in the number of children coming, and have had to reconsider what is an adequate ratio of teachers to children. While the increase is good news, we need to support Lisa as an entire congregation and not leave the whole burden for teaching on her shoulders alone.

We are therefore asking for all members of our congregation, not just parents or younger people, to consider speaking to Lisa or Brian about taking a rotation as a teacher or a helper.

## **CHOIR FUND DONATIONS**

Bloordale Choir expresses heartfelt thanks for the generous donations for their Choir Fund from the congregation. A total of \$822 was gratefully received up to the end of 2011. This will be used to fund future artistic endeavours – for example hiring accompanists for future special performances.

---

## **GUEST PREACHER FEB. 12<sup>TH</sup>**

On **Sunday Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>** we'll have a guest preacher in the pulpit: Lee McKenna, a Baptist who has been active ecumenically in Canada and around the world in doing Non-Violent Conflict Transformation training.

In 2010 Brian nominated her for, and she was awarded, the YMCA's Peace Medallion Award for the Toronto area.

Lee will preach and share reflections about her recent experiences working with Muslims and Christians in South Sudan, and will also be available after worship that day in Room 15 if people would like to hear more, or have conversation with her.

---

## **YAK WITH MERVIN**

Every so often following worship Mervin hosts an open discussion about an aspect of our worship life, creating a safe space for questions and conversation.

On January 15<sup>th</sup> the theme is the balance or tension in worship toward the topics of social justice, advocacy and the place of politics in the Sweet Hour of Prayer.

The next Yak with Mervin will be February 26th, topic to be determined

---

## **WORSHIP IN THE UNITED CHURCH**

The Worship Committee is interested in providing an opportunity for people to learn more about the purpose, meaning, history and future of worship in the United Church in general and Bloordale in particular.

Brian has agreed to offer a series of sessions over time, depending on the level of interest, and Mervin and others may also offer leadership.

The first two sessions, which are open to anyone in the congregation, will be from **6:30 to 7:30 pm on Thursdays February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Room 15.**

## **A BLOORDALE STAFF COVENANT FOR MUTUAL MINISTRY**

On January 8<sup>th</sup> we covenanted with our Youth Minister Hanna Lyle and with the rest of our staff, offering Hanna some symbols of her ministry, sharing in promises together, and then signing A Covenant for Mutual Ministry, reprinted below. It was a moving time of worship, as we formally recognized Hanna's appointment to be with us, and the staff team's mutual support of one another.

### **A Covenant for Mutual Ministry at Bloordale United Church**

In covenant with God,  
as followers of Christ and in trust of the Spirit,  
and in partnership with the people at Bloordale  
United Church  
with whom we are in mission and ministry,  
we pledge ourselves to:

1. Honour and respect each other's call to the ministries and positions we hold;
2. Create a partnership that upholds and enhances:
  - a. the mission and ministry of the whole people of God at Bloordale, as outlined in the Bloordale mission and vision statements, and
  - b. the complimentary roles of our ministries and positions, as outlined in our job descriptions;
3. Maintain open communication and a positive approach to conflict resolution, avoiding triangulation;
4. Take time for mutual reflection on our practices and challenges;
5. Offer collegial support to one another, and maintain confidentiality;
6. Enable the participation of colleagues in wider United Church and/or ecumenical activities.

We will honour and uphold this Covenant with the help of the Ministry and Personnel Committee and the members and adherents of Bloordale United Church.

Signed in partnership this day, January 8<sup>th</sup>,  
2012.

---

Never let your sense of morals keep you from doing what is right.

*Isaac Asimov (1920-92)  
American author and professor*

---

## CALLING ALL DRIVERS

Do you think it's important that those who want to come to church can get to church? We have some younger and older members who would attend services and events at the church regularly if they had a ride. The Pastoral Care Committee believes that we, as a community of faith, can be more attentive to special needs in our circle of friends, and that it's our collective calling and responsibility to extend our welcome to long-time and new members in this way as best we can.

The Committee is trying to update our list of able-bodied drivers who would be willing to offer a ride either occasionally or on a regular basis. If you're willing to help – current needs include Sunday mornings and for Sing 360 on Tuesdays at 4 pm – please be in touch with Helen Hitchcock at [hhelenh@sympatico.ca](mailto:hhelenh@sympatico.ca)

### A MOMENT OF TRUTH: KAIROS PALESTINE

#### A THREE-SESSION STUDY SERIES FOR SOUTH WEST PRESBYTERY CONGREGATIONS

Led by Brian on behalf of the Social Justice and World Affairs Committee. of South West Presbytery, which he Chairs, this study runs on Tuesday evenings from 7 - 8:30 pm, beginning January 31st and ending February 14th inclusive, at Windermere United Church, 356 Windermere Ave. (2 blocks east and 2 blocks south of Jane Subway).

Kairos Palestine is a call to the global Christian community, a word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering. The study guide for the series is produced by the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries, an ecumenical agency supported by the United Church. For more information, call Brian.

## IT MATTERS

Along the coast of the vast Atlantic ocean there lived an old man. Each day when the tide went out he would make his way along the beach for miles. Another man who lived not far away would occasionally watch as he vanished into the distance and later notice that he had returned. The neighbour also noticed that, as he walked, the old man would often stoop down to lift something from the sand and then toss it away into the water.

One day, when the old man went down to the beach this neighbour followed to satisfy his curiosity and, sure enough, as he watched, the old man bent down and gently lifted something from the sand and threw it into the ocean. By the time the old man made his next stop the neighbour had come near enough to see that he was picking up a starfish which had been stranded by the retreating tide and would, of course, die of dehydration before the tide returned. As the old man turned to return it to the ocean the neighbour called out with a degree of mockery in his voice, "Hey, old timer! What are you doing? This beach goes on for hundreds of miles, and thousands of starfish get washed up every day! Surely you don't think that throwing a few back is going to matter."

The old man listened and paused for a moment, then held the starfish in his hand out toward his neighbour. "It matters to this one."

### BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	February 3 <sup>rd</sup>
March 18 <sup>nd</sup>	March 9 <sup>th</sup>
May 20 <sup>rd</sup>	May 11 <sup>th</sup>

*Plan to attend our*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, February 19, 2012**

after worship service

Light Lunch provided

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](mailto:bloordale@bellnet.ca)  
Website: [www.bloordale.ca](http://www.bloordale.ca)

Committee Chair  
Editor  
Distribution Coordinators

John Pauksens  
Norman Dundas  
Joan Hollowell  
Shirley Scott