

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXIII, Issue 2

Minister's Message

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

- Karl Barth

I read a story recently, told by a therapist who was working with a young adult client who couldn't seem to stop a pattern of destructive behavior. After several sessions, the therapist thought to ask *"What do you feel about the future?"* The client replied matter-of-factly, *"We don't have a future."* The fact that this was self-evident to the client, not even worth mentioning until directly asked, tells us something about the nature of fear and despair that present generations have inherited.

Other generations have, of course, known fear. I think of those who grew up in the 50's, or my 60's generation companions, who were born into the knowledge that avoiding worldwide nuclear calamity depended on a fragile and increasingly global diplomacy. Before that, the people of previous eras had to deal with totalitarianism, colonialism, the occasional state attempts at genocide. These are terrors of death far greater in their immediacy, their specificity, than anything I've ever faced.

The shared fear of our time is more general, unattached to particular socio-political situations – pessimism, despair, and hopelessness. Former fears were experienced physically – bombs, camps, gases, smallpox – and our forebears resisted them physically, bullet to bullet being the prime example. But they also resisted spiritually, through community and the search for common ground – the United Nations, medicine, etc. In a new age, however, we need new ways to resist, as the fears we face are more diffuse, less tangible. Two fears come to mind.

First, the global war on terror maintains the same structure of fear and violence, via the military-industrial complex, that has strung us along for many decades now, taking the fruit of our labor and the youth of our communities, especially in the United States, to wreak havoc in other lands. There's an increasing penchant for this in Canada as well, an embarrassment for a country once known for its peacekeeping roles around the globe. The current sanctioned ideology is to indulge in racial and religious scapegoating, promoting fear and justifying violence.

Impending, human-made ecological collapse is a fear that grows as we learn that the lifestyle to which capitalism gives aspiration is neither sustainable nor justifiable – and it certainly creates no safe havens from toxic waste or polluted water. The sanctioned response to this fear is denial, a continuing mistrust in technology, and the refusal to question the socio-economic and political power structures presumably "required" to provide a solution.

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	Victor Nguyen

Church Council

Chair	Julia Stavreff
Church Council Secretary	Dana Bach
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Pat Nelson
Board of Trustees and Personnel	Jack Lovatt Ministry Connie Drummond
Nominations	Pat Nelson Treasurer Norman Dundas
Presbytery Representatives	Norman Dundas Paul Rose
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

Committee Chairs

Communications	John Pauksens
Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Helen Hitchcock Gladys Lewis
Christian Development	Verena von Stritsky
Finance & Stewardship	Jack Lovatt Outreach Vacant
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Planned Gift Fund	Bob Hitchcock
Property	Bruce Jackson Social
and Fund Raising	Vanessa Mitchell
United Church Women	Joan Hollowell
Worship	Sharron Le Blanc
Members-at-Large	Jim Bell Frank Sword

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Column Page</i>	
	Minister's Message 1
	Dates to Remember 2
	Out of the Cold 3
	Bulletin & Music Dedication 3
	Planned Gift 3
	Rummage Sale 3
	Afternoon Tea at Bloordale 4
	Lunch Bunch 5
	Sunday School Creative Writing 5
	Outreach & Social Action 5
	Pancake Supper 5
	Bloordale Anniversary Awards 6
	Children's Craft Night 6
	Stewardship Spot 7
	Shawl Ministry 7

LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- Sunday, March 23 - Lent 3
- Sunday, March 30 - Lent 4
Lunch Bunch - Canadiana Restaurant at Six Points Plaza
- Saturday, April 5 - Rummage Sale - 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 6 - Lent 5
- Sunday, April 13 - Palm / Passion Sunday - COMMUNION
- Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday - Richview United Church - 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 18 - Good Friday at Bloordale - 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, April 20 - Easter
Ecumenical Sunrise Service - Centennial Hill - 6:27 a.m.
Easter Service - 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, April 27 - Easter 2
- Saturday, May 3 - Afternoon Tea at Bloordale -2:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 4 - Easter 3
- Sunday, May 11 - Easter 4 / Good Shepherd Sunday - COMMUNION
- Sunday, May 18 - Easter 5
- Sunday, May 25 - Easter 6
- Sunday, June 1 - Easter 7 / Ascension / BAPTISM
- Sunday, June 8 - Pentecost / COMMUNION / Congregational Picnic outside

Worship Services at 10:30 a.m.

OUT OF THE COLD

On February 21, 16 volunteers from Bloordale helped those from All Saints Anglican Church serve 103 people in their "Out of the Cold" program. We provided a hearty stew, cole slaw, pie and ice cream, all contributed by other generous members of our congregation. Since 20 persons sleep overnight in the church, 30 lunches were made, primarily by our youth, supervised by Helen Hitchcock and Hanna Lyle; subway tokens were provided to the intake personnel to be given out the next day with the lunches. Extra lunches are provided for those who arrive at the church very late, hungry.

Our meal was well received with plenty for seconds for those who requested more.

Fourteen of us met afterwards at The Muddy Duck, relieved that the church meal was smoothly delivered and able to enjoy our own meal and good conversation.

It takes many volunteers to make this program work. I would like to thank the following people who prepared and/or donated supplies: Ruth Alexander, Catherine Armstrong, Bob Bach, Matthew Barrett, Edna & Jim Bell, Adrian Da Cruz, Yvonne Da Cruz, Jill & Jim Donaghy, Connie Drummond, Nelsona Dundas, Grace & John Everett, Helen Hitchcock, Roy Harvey, Joan Hollowell, Lynne Lawrence, Gladys Lewis, Hanna Lyle, Alice Litherland, Pat Litherland, Laura Mazzariol, Lisa Mazzariol, Bev Morgan, Linda Pennock, Linda Sakamoto, Shirley Scott.

As well, I thank those who helped Lisa make cookies after service one Sunday, and all who made financial contributions.

Dana Bach

BULLETIN AND MUSIC DEDICATIONS

Weekly Sunday bulletins can be dedicated, with a note about why, by any member for \$15. This both helps defray our paper and printing costs and provides opportunity for special remembrances to be observed.

Music can also be dedicated in someone's memory, or in honour of someone's faithful living. A new anthem can be purchased for \$75, so please speak to Sharron or Mervin about your wish to support the music program in this way.

Consider a Planned Gift to Bloordale United Church

A planned gift to Bloordale through your Estate plan is a way of saying "I care about my church and its future." It is a way of saying how much you appreciate the personal, family programs and religious and psychological benefits you derive from your church and the other members of the congregation.

A message from your Planned Gift Fund Committee



SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, April 5, 2014



9:30 am - 12:30 pm



Come and explore

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ <i>Granny's Attic</i> | ✓ <i>Small Appliances</i> |
| ✓ <i>Boutique of Better Buys</i> | ✓ <i>Books, Games, Toys</i> |
| ✓ <i>Dollarama</i> | ✓ <i>Good Used Clothing</i> |
| ✓ <i>Small Furniture</i> | ✓ <i>Sporting Goods</i> |

Refreshments will be available

Sponsored by the UNITED CHURCH WOMEN of BLOORDALE UNITED

**4258 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke
1 km west of Hwy 427
Bloor West Bus 49**

*Donations of any of the above may be brought to the Church on
Thursday, April 3rd or Friday morning, April 4th.*

Or phone 416-621-1710

What differentiates man from other animals is perhaps feeling rather than reason. I have seen a cat reason more often than laugh or weep.

*Miguel de Unamuno (1864-1936)
Spanish writer*

Continued from page 1

I think that we, especially in this season of Lent, must resist this spirit of fear that is so prevalent, not because fear is unpleasant, but because "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1: 7) So I have two suggestions that could be considered Lenten spiritual disciplines, or ways to pray, that may yet lead to our, and the world's, transformation.

Neither of these suggestions directly offer hope, however, since looking for hope too early in an age of anxiety can lead to false hope in the form of presumably quick fixes. Like Old Turtle said, in the beloved children's book: "This is an urgent situation: we need to take our time." These suggestions do, however, undercut fear, strip it of its power, and prepare the way for hope.

First, we should grieve, lament, mourn. The prophets didn't just offer condemnation or hope, but called the people to lament. The Empire offers bread and circuses in order to distract us from the anxiety, fear, and sorrow we rightly fear in our spirits, bodies, and brains. Resist those distractions, but not alone. Share your fears and sorrows with others, and listen to theirs. Face your vulnerability toward them, and release yourself from self-control as self-containment once you have trusted space. (A side prayer for me is that church is one of those trusted spaces, but that's a column for another time!) In the exhaustion of lament, vision clears and we have eyes to find hope.

Second, we should praise God. Maybe this is unexpected advice in a world so broken, and it is easy to be dismissive of praise music, for instance – and appropriate to offer a voice of challenge when music, whether in church or beyond, discards or disregards complexity and prevalent brokenness. But the praise of God, especially in worship, does offer us the consistently countercultural notion that God is still the governing Ground of Reality in the universe, that the Holy One is worthy because of the surprising power of the Spirit's plan and promise for human history.

Anyone who is aware of the "signs of the times" will know of, and flirt with, the temptation to despair. As we hear every year on the first Sunday in Lent, Jesus, too, was tempted, in the physical and spiritual wilderness of his time and times. It is a bold thing, foolish in the eyes of the world, to instead glorify God and reaffirm our nature as loved and liberated people.

What will you mourn this Lent? What must be acknowledged as a loss in your life? How will you overcome your deep fears, and seek God's healing? And what goodness of God will you ponder to defy the cold cynicism of this age? What foolishness, including worship, will you indulge in, and what shackles will you break free from in so doing?

Blessings in the journey.
Brian

AFTERNOON TEA AT BLOORDALE

**Saturday May 3, 2014
come anytime between
2:30 and 4:30 in the afternoon**



Tea Selection, Finger Sandwiches,
and More
(more details to follow)

A Bloordale Community Event

Reasonably priced

Free Parking, Wheelchair Accessible, call
if you need a ride

*For further information / tickets
call Vanessa 416-358-4504
or Nancy 416-620-5377*

LUNCH BUNCH

Join "The Lunch Bunch" for their next luncheon on March 30th at the Canadiana Restaurant at the Six Points Plaza.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING

As I mentioned in one of our Children's Time talks, the Sunday School Children embarked on a creative writing project where they created a poem using their senses to create images of God's blessings. Each of the three children submitted a line for each sense so it was truly a group project with equal "billing". These are their words. I simply transcribed. Enjoy a submission from 3 of God's Blessings!

Lisa Mazzariol

A BLESSING FROM GOD

A blessing from God smells like...

A chocolate unicorn,
A hard covered book with fresh pages.
Crispy, warm, frying bacon.

A blessing from God tastes like...

Pancakes with sweet, sticky syrup and warm melted butter.
An ice cream sundae with two scoops of chocolate ice cream, chocolate sauce and a big juicy cherry.
Warm, salty, homemade brussel sprouts, fried perfectly.

A blessing from God feels like...

Being warm and cozy in your bed while cuddling your teddy bear.
A warm, vibrating massage chair.
A comfortable, lovable source of life.

A blessing from God sounds like...

Chirping birds, rustling leaves in the trees and animals getting comfy with the new season.
All of the animals coming out of hibernation and the sound of the first footsteps of a deer.
Mervin's choir, who sound like angels singing.

A blessing from God looks like...

Flowers blooming with beautiful, colourful petals and stems.
Butterflies flying over hot, sunny beaches in Florida.
A happy, toothy, joyful smile from any living thing.

Submitted on behalf of Maya, Jakob and Colin

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL ACTION CHAIR OR CO-CHAIRS NEEDED

After quite a number of years in faithful leadership, for which we owe them a debt of thanks, Shirley Scott and Jill Donaghy have stepped down from Co-chairing the Outreach & Social Action Cte.

We therefore wish to direct your prayers and discernment to who among us might be called to such an important ministry as Chair or Co- Chair of Outreach.

Consider your gifts and willingness, and speak to Brian if you would like to know more about the work of this Committee.

PANCAKE SUPPER A FLIPPING GOOD TIME FOR ALL

Pancake Supper was held on Shrove Tuesday – March 4th.

I would like to thank several people for their assistance, especially Grace E., and Jo-Em B., for shopping, baking cookies, making pancake mix and for their expertise.

Several other people assisted in the kitchen - our pancake flippers John P, Gord M, and Brian M; Joan H. for cooking sausages and helping in the kitchen, to Amy B, and Lara M. who helped with clean up, to Mary M. who manned the juice and cookie table, and to all the other helpers not named. My heartfelt thanks! Although Lynn and Alice were not able to join us, both helped by baking and donating cookies. But most of all, I want to thank all those who came out to join us on this day.

The menu consisted of pancakes (plus trimmings), sausages, a few vegetarian sausages, apples, applesauce, home baked cookies, apple juice, tea and coffee. About 85 guests came and ate, drank and chatted. Bloordale families came, but we also fed quite a number of neighbours and friends.

Thanks to everyone involved in a successful Shrove Tuesday evening; the organizers, the shoppers, the helpers, and, of course, the eaters. Almost \$400 was raised for Bloordale programs.

Please join us again next year, on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 !

Susan Prentice
Pancake Supper Coordinator

BLOORDALE ANNIVERSARY AWARDS RECIPIENTS FOR 2014!

For the last three years we've bestowed upon three people the Annual Anniversary Awards, as a way of recognizing the significant contribution that our members make to both the church and the community. Below are listed the previous recipients, and this year's Award winners. Our 2014 Awards were presented at our 56th Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, March 9th and we again offer the recipients our congratulations!

THE BLOORDALE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

The Bloordale Outstanding Service Award is given to a member in recognition of long-term, distinguished service to Bloordale United Church.

The award may only be bestowed once to an individual, who must have been a member for at least ten years.

2012 Award Recipient – **Grace Everett**

2013 Award Recipient – **Joan Hollowell**

2014 Award Recipient – **Ross Prout**

THE BLOORDALE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Bloordale Community Service Award is given to remarkable people who put service at the center of their lives, making a significant contribution to the surrounding comm.-unity. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

2012 Award Recipient – **Bill Alexander**

2013 Award Recipient – **Jack Lovatt**

2014 Award Recipient – **Jim Donaghy**

THE BLOORDALE VISION AND MISSION AWARD

The Bloordale Vision and Mission Award is given to a person who has offered significant leadership in the past year toward achieving our vision and mission goals and objectives. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

2012 Award Recipient – **John Pauksens**

2013 Award Recipient – **Julia Stavreff**

2014 Award Recipient – **Norman Dundas**

CHILDRENS CRAFT NIGHT 2014

Children's Craft night at Bloordale continued to be popular this winter. Its' purpose has been to provide a venue for neighbourhood kids to get together with other kids interested in crafts during the cold winter season.

We started on February 7th with an unexpected 48 kids. Sign up had been capped at 40, but a number arrived 'at the door'. We were somewhat unprepared for this number, and some of the craft leaders did not have assistants. Although the kids had a great time, the leaders were mostly overwhelmed!

We took the following Friday off because it was Valentine's Day, but in hindsight, to recover. Some of the kids (and parents) forgot about craft night, as attendance dropped to very respectable levels: 33 (February 21), 33 (February 28), and 31 (March 7 - the start of March break).

In addition, all craft leaders now had helpers, so life was nicer. 34 kids came for at least 3 nights; a number came only at the end. Most wished that our craft classes were for longer periods of time.

Each Friday night, we had five different craft leaders at five different tables. The children moved from table to table as there were openings or interest. There was also a colouring table where kids could go if they wanted a break or had to wait for openings at a craft table.

Some of the crafts made this year were: masks, sun catches, ties, sock caterpillars, cotton sheep, spaghetti and meatballs (non-edible), 2 different types of puzzles, Olympic rings, noise makers, and spiders. The children seemed to really enjoy 'glitter stick ons' on everything from lion masks, to spiders to molding clay owls.

A number of craft leaders came two or three times, including Lisa M, Brian M, Juanita E, Diane M, Lara M, Joan H, Kristina P, Ali L, Rob P, Antonella M and Pat N. A number of young people helped out, including Dasha (11 years), a graduate of the programme.

The children seemed to be very well behaved; some were first time attendees, but a number have been coming for all 4 years. All enjoyed snacks of juice or water, and goldfish crackers.

Thanks to all who helped make our 4th Craft Night a success. We could not have done this Community Outreach programme without you.

Julia Stavreff
Craft Night Co-ordinator

There are four ways, and only four ways, in which we have contact with the world. We are evaluated and classified by these four contacts: what we do, how we look, what we say and how we say it.

*Dale Carnegie (1888-1955)
US writer and lecturer*

STEWARDSHIP SPOT

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

Finding More Right Here

If I had a loonie for every time I've heard someone say, "*I am spiritual but not religious*," then I might not be any wiser about what that means – but I'd have a much smaller mortgage! I've heard the phrase in radio and TV interviews, and read it in the newspaper. People often say it to me directly when I'm out of my usual context – on an airplane, for instance – and they learn that I've been a minister for nearly 26 years.

What I think they're usually trying to say is that they have a sense of the divine in general but that they're not religious per se, or churchgoers specifically. They may have a strong sense of ethics and values, but have no time for formal creeds or confessions. Some who say this are likely resigned from the faith communities they once belonged to, taking what was helpful with them while leaving the rest behind. Others have collected wisdom from the four corners of the world, which they use like cooks with a pantry full of spices – a little of this here, a little of that there.

The thing is, I think I know what they mean by "religious," but it's the "spiritual" part that's harder to grasp. It's clearly not a formal set of beliefs, since that's reserved for the religion side of the ledger. It may be the name for simply a vague longing – for more meaning, or feeling, or connection. They sense there is more to life than meets the eye, and they've drawn close to this "More" in nature, in love, in art, in grief. They would be happy for someone to teach them how to spend more time in the presence of this deeper reality, but when they visit the places where such knowledge is supposed to be found, including church, they often find the rituals hollow and the language archaic.

Even the religious are vulnerable to this longing. Those who belong to communities of faith have, of necessity, acquired a certain patience with their religion side. They have learned to forgive its shortcomings as they have learned to forgive themselves. They don't expect their institutions to stand in for God, and they're happy to use inherited maps for some of life's journeys. Yet they too can harbor the sense that there is more to life than they are being shown. Where is the secret key to the treasure box of More?

People seem willing to look all over the place for this treasure. They may spend hours launching prayers into the heavens, or travel halfway around the world to visit a monastery in India or a

Buddhist temple in Thailand. The last place most people look is right under their feet, in the everyday activities, incidents, and encounters of their lives. No one, after all, longs for what they already have. Yet the accumulated insight of the spiritually wise ones – the mystics for instance – suggest that the reason so many of us can't see the X that marks the spot is because we're standing on it.

The treasure we seek is not found at the end of a lengthy trek, and does not need either special training or an uncommon company of angelic friends. All we need that's new is the willingness to imagine that we already have what we need. The only thing missing is our consent to be, and see, where we are. There is no spiritual treasure found apart from the everyday, ordinary experiences of human life on this spinning blue planet home. Our spiritual life – our real life, for that matter! – depends, from first to last, on ignoring all presumed distinctions between the sacred and the secular, the spiritual and the physical, the body and the soul. There is, in fact of faith, no way to God apart from real life in the real world, and there are a million altars found therein, ordinary-looking places where people have met and may continue to meet up with the divine More that they sometimes call God.

Whoever you are at any given time, you are human. Wherever you are at any given moment, you live in the world, a world just waiting for you to notice the amazing holiness in it. So welcome to the stewardship of your own spirituality, practiced at the altar of your own life. The good news is that you have everything you need to find More of what you're looking for.

Brian

SHAWL MINISTRY

Would you like to be part of a "Shawl Ministry"?

Care and love of knitting (and crochet) have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many prayers and blessings are knit into each shawl. The blessing is rippled from person to person, with both giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God.

Shawls enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify and wrap you in a giant hug as one goes through an illness or bereavement.

If you feel you'd like to join some of us who wish to be part of this Ministry, please call Joan Hollowell at 416-621-3641.



Sales Representative

ANNE KARDA

client focus | personal service | corporate strength



3031 Bloor St. W. • The Kingsway Branch

Bus.(416) 236-1871

Alt.(416) 231-3000

akarda@sympatico.ca

www.annekarda.ca

Seniors Real Estate Specialist • Complimentary, Confidential Real Estate Consultations

BLOORBEAT ADVERTISING

Would you like to advertise your business in Bloorbeat? Prices per issue of Bloorbeat are:

Business card size	\$ 20
¼ page size	\$ 40
½ page size	\$ 70

To advertise, please call John Pauksens, 416-622-6309

or email the.editor@bloordale.ca

BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Following is the publication schedule and the deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues through May 2014.

Publication

Submission Date	Deadline
	2014

Bloorbeat is published 5 times a year by the Communications Committee of

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

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

Committee Chair
Editor
Distribution Coordinators

John Pauksens
Norman Dundas
Joan Hollowell
Shirley Scott

