

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXII, Issue 1

Minister's Message

Friends, we've just observed the twelve days of Christmas, times with family and friends that include great celebrations. Those celebrations would not be known as such without a feast of food of some kind, gathered round a common table that nourishes each one. For the most part we take food for granted in our city and time, but in biblical times and places nourishment was a big concern. Difficult as it may be for us to visualize, there were no supermarkets, drive-in restaurants, or fast-food places – at least, as far as I know!

That's why food is a central question for Jesus, the disciples, and for all their companions in time. For instance, on the several occasions when crowds formed around Jesus to listen to his teaching, the time passed quickly, hunger set in, and food became a scarce necessity. As you read the accounts of these settings, it was often the disciples who called attention to the hunger problem. Jesus would respond by asking what was available by way of nourishment, and whatever the answer, the available food would be presented to the Master, who would bless it and ask that it be distributed. The supply always seemed adequate to meet the need – with leftovers!

As we turn over the secular calendar into a new year (the Christian year, remember, begins with Advent four weeks before Christmas!), the outward feasting and the inward fasting causes me to wonder: who is hungry, and for what? What supplies do we bring for the Master to bless, and how best may the available nourishment be distributed? Who makes up the community in which we worship and serve, and what are the boundaries of our vision and mission? Our church received a demographic analysis, based on recent census information, some time ago, yet I wonder whether we've used the information contained in it to a sufficient degree, so that we can discern the hungers of those around us.

A friend in ministry told me a story about a church group who were planning some activities for the seniors within their catchment area. They labored long, developed elaborate ideas, and just as they were ready to implement their plans, someone in the group raised the question: "Do you think we should ask the seniors in our area what they want?" They'd forgotten the chief ingredient to providing good nourishment – knowing the people you wish to serve so you can provide the appropriate kind of food!

I know that one kind of hunger we all share is for the church to have a larger degree of financial stability. I also know that we'll have a chance to address that question this month by having opportunity to discuss together the various possibilities for the redevelopment of our property, and how those possibilities fit with our vision and mission. As we seek to be nurtured and nurturing, let us engage one another with open minds and hearts, keeping before us the need to ask the Master to bless our efforts.

Continued on page 4

Bloordale United Church

4258 Bloor Street West
Etobicoke, ON M9C 1Z7
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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
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Social and Fund Raising	Vanessa Ramsahai
United Church Women	Joan Hollowell
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LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- Sunday, January 13 - Baptism of Jesus / Baptism / Membership Transfer
- Friday, January 18 - Movie Night (*Changeling with Angelina Jolie*) 7:00 p.m. Room 15
- Sunday, January 20 - 2nd after Epiphany / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- Tuesday, January 22 - Free Chamber Music Concert - "Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts" - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 27 - 3rd after Epiphany / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
"Lunch Bunch" meets at the Q Restaurant (tentative)
- Sunday, February 3 - 4th after Epiphany
- Friday, February 8 - Children's Craft Night - 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 10 - Transfiguration Sunday
- Tuesday, February 12 - Shrove Tuesday - Annual Pancake Supper
- Wednesday, February 13 - Ash Wednesday
- Friday, February 15 - Children's Craft Night - 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 17 - Lent 1—COMMUNION
Annual Congregational Meeting after Worship
- Friday, February 22 - Children's Craft Night - 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, February 24 - Lent 2
- Sunday, March 3 - Lent 3
- Saturday, March 9 - Silent Auction and ESPRIT CHAMBER CHOIR
- Sunday, March 10 - Lent 4
- Sunday, March 17 - Lent 5

Worship Services at 10:30 a.m.

THE CHOIR'S PLACE IN WORSHIP

With the completion of the new chancel project, some have asked why the choir hasn't returned to its "natural home" behind the pulpit. In a round sanctuary such as ours, unique among Christian worship spaces in many ways, the placement of the choir is an interesting question. The answer needs to rest, pardon the pun, on sound theological, acoustical and liturgical reasoning, and not simply on tradition.

In much recent Christian theological reflection about worship spaces, there's a new recognition of the function and role of the choir being about the encouragement of, and participation alongside, the congregation in offering the community's song. This recognition has led to a far greater emphasis on having the choir in closer proximity to the people, rather than set apart either in a removed chancel or a raised loft. It has also meant a liturgical shift away from focusing on the choir and/or soloists as performers in favor of their being viewed as worship participants, first and foremost, and secondarily as specialized leaders. All the gifts of the people, from time, money, outreach, a host of various talents and skills, including song, etc. should be embraced in the community's worship and service. There is the need for balance between the various factors at play in a worship service, and the choir's role in enabling a sung prayer response or the congregational Psalm for the day, in addition to offering an anthem, is important to take into account when considering placement.

Thomas Long wrote a book in 2001 entitled Beyond the Worship Wars, and in addition to discussing various aspects of the use of space, wrote about choir space in the following helpful way: Vital churches, he said, "*worked hard architecturally to underscore the dual function of the choir – that choir members are both worship leaders and members of the assembly. On the one hand, to place the choir front and center can turn them from leaders of the whole congregation into performers of sacred music. Moreover, this arrangement makes it virtually impossible for the choir to be perceived or to function as members of the gathered congregation. On the other hand, to place the choir in the back or in a balcony loft, out of sight, can be an overcompensation. ...*

The ideal is to place the choir in a 'borderline' position – that is, in a spot that places them among the worshiping congregation and allows their music to come from the gathered assembly but also in a spot that allows them to be seen and heard easily so that they can exercise musical leadership. ... Some of the vital congregations placed the choir in the front-most section of the congregation; others placed them so that they completed the circle of a congregation in the round."

In addition to this author, Bill Kervin, who teaches worship at Emmanuel College in Toronto, in a book from 2010 called Gathered for Worship (which is available for borrowing and covers many interesting topics related to worship – just speak to Brian), has shared an illustration about the placement of pulpit, font, table and choir in a round sanctuary – and all four are exactly as we have them now!

As worship leaders we had discussed the placement of the choir long before we even dreamed of a new chancel, and a decision was made, for the above reasons and more, to move the choir to the adjacent congregational section of seating, making it clear that the singers are part of the congregation, though they do have a music leadership role. The new chancel has increased our capacity for flexibility in worship, and for other purposes, has provided a more beautiful point of focus for the eye, has provided a much safer surface for worship leaders, and has modernized our church architecture. For example, the recent Sunday School pageant used the chancel to great effect, much to the delight of the congregation, in a way that would have been impossible six weeks prior.

The reasons for leaving the choir where they have been for the past three years, in their "borderline" single section of seats among the congregation, enables them to see the chancel, to see the screens we've installed, to see and hear the preacher, and to be seen to be part of the congregation, in a way that would be impossible if they were to return to the chancel. We give God thanks for the wonderful ministry of our choir, and intend to enjoy their sacred offerings of music from where they are for many years to come.

Brian and Mervin

MOVIE NIGHT JANUARY 18TH

Brian's Movie Night returns at 7 pm January 18th in Room 15 with *Changeling*, a movie from 2008 starring Angelina Jolie as a single mother whose son vanishes in 1928 and who is declared mentally incompetent when corrupt police reunite her with another boy who is not her son.

Complete with popcorn and snacks, movie night is for anyone who wishes to come, and includes a brief chat about the movie's themes following the viewing.

CHOIR THANK-YOU

The choir wishes to thank those who donated to the choir to offset the expenses for our Christmas cantata.

Continued from page 1

So often in his ministry, Jesus was confronted by hungry people who wanted and needed to be nourished. A quick survey of our area reveals many pockets of various kinds of need, and while we certainly should look after our own house, we also should look beyond it, to the community around us, to discern, in conversation with others, what the larger and most pressing needs are, and to provide the nourishment, material and spiritual both – they always go together! – that we who are stewards of the gospel of Jesus are called to offer.

Friends, are we offering the right kind of food, and to all those whom we are called to offer nourishment? Each week we are blessed with rich nourishment in Sunday Services, from Word and choir and teaching and fellowship, and as we receive, so may we give. Let us together trust that God will provide abundant food for the journey, for both us and others!

Brian

A PARABLE ABOUT MISSION

There was once a factory which employed thousands of people. Its production line was a miracle of modern engineering, turning out thousands of machines every day. The factory did, however, have a high accident rate. The complicated machinery of the production line took little account of human error, forgetfulness, or ignorance. Day after day people came out of the factory with squashed fingers, cuts, bruises. Sometimes a man would lose an arm or a leg. Occasionally someone was electrocuted or crushed to death.

Enlightened people began to see that something needed to be done. First on the scene were the churches. An enterprising minister organized a small first-aid tent outside the factory gate. Soon, with the backing of the local Council of Churches, it grew into a properly built Clinic, able to give first-aid to quite serious cases, and to treat minor injuries. The Town Council then became interested together with local bodies like the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club, and with their help, the Clinic grew into a small hospital, with modern equipment, an operating theatre, and a full-time staff of doctors and nurses. Finally the factory management, seeing the good thing that was being done and wishing to prove itself a good corporate citizen, gave the hospital its official backing, with unrestricted access to the factory, a small annual grant, and an ambulance to speed serious cases from workshop to hospital ward.

But, year after year, as production increased the accident rate continued to rise. More and more workers were hurt and maimed, and, in spite of everything the hospital could do, more and more people died from the injuries they received.

Only then did some people begin to ask if it was enough to treat people's injuries while leaving untouched the machinery that caused them.

- from an old Church World Service Report

PANCAKE SUPPER

Pancake supper returns to Bloordale on Shrove Tuesday, February 12th, 2013.

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 Susan Prentice, 905-272-4424.

Pancake Supper

The Pancake Supper returns to
Bloordale United Church on

Shrove Tuesday
Feb 12, 2013



Come any time between
5:15 pm and 7:00 pm

\$7.00 / \$4.00 for Children under 12

A Bloordale Community Event

**All are welcome,
bring your friends and
neighbours**

For further information / tickets
call Susan 905-272-4424 (h) or 416-621-8050 (w)
or Julia 416-622-6309 (h).

Tickets will also be available at the door.

STEWARDSHIP SPOT

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

A Penny for Your Thoughts

Through the Christmas period we do a lot of buying, and cash, including numerous coins, changes hands at a great pace. I don't know about you, but each night I empty my pockets of change, and in the last month I've added significantly to my penny jar on my bedroom dresser. Because of this, I've thought about pennies lately.

Are you aware that Bloordale has had a few penny drives in the last few years? While we know that we'll never solve our budget woes with such efforts, these penny collections help us remember that every little bit helps, and that all of us adding up our small contributions together can make a huge difference.

Have you ever noticed how people leave pennies by a cash register? Many corner stores have little penny trays, where you can leave a couple or take a couple. I may see the world with rose-coloured glasses – and four eyes! – but to my way of thinking, penny trays create a small island of community and mutual aid in a vast sea of individualism and greed. I also find it interesting that we find such penny trays at small or family-owned operations, such as diners, etc., but never at fine resorts or five-star restaurants or major chain stores!

Have you ever considered why people put their pennies in such trays? There are at least two motivations: either a) people have no regard for a penny's potential worth, or b) they wish to be generous and neighborly for those in sudden need of a penny or two. I hope that we Christians who have been called by God to value all gifts, no matter how large or small, participate in such giving from a heart of generosity.

Finally, have you wondered what it will be like to no longer have the penny in circulation? The Canadian government has announced the phasing out of the penny, leaving the nickel as the new "baby" coin. The funny thing is, the phasing out of the penny will make them more valuable, over time of course, than when they were plentiful.

Is this not true also with faith? When attendance at church was high a few decades ago, people took the church for granted, and the values Christians hold, while not doing so flawlessly, trickled into all walks of life – education, politics, judicial, etc.

Communities nurtured religious values in public places, and there was a foundational story of God's creative and loving care for all people that was held, relatively, in common. In our time the value of church attendance is down, and is not nurtured by our common public life as it once was. Of course, we live in a thoroughly secular and pluralistic society, one that can no longer with any even small degree of truth be called Christian, and that's not entirely a bad thing, as we who follow Jesus are cast back to our roots in the first few centuries of the church's life as an oppressed minority in the midst of a powerful and persuasive, in addition to threatening, imperial reality.

Now, it seems, the value of church attendance is growing, as more and more people find themselves needing to be grounded in something beyond the consumption story of empire, and parents recognize the rootlessness of raising children in the secular story of accumulation alone. As people of various kinds – the unemployed, the poor, the old, the sick, the disabled, the weak, etc. – are cast aside in the name of so-called "progress," or the latest "fiscal cliff," the church, alongside other religions of course, is called to help nurture the small, simple values of love, justice, peace, caring for others, etc. that will see us through the coming age of discontent and division.

Like the penny, the church gains more value the further it goes out of style in popularity. May we pay attention to how we a) combine our small individual efforts, b) nurture islands of community and mutual aid in a sea of secular greed, and c) lift up the old but now even more relevant values of the good news gospel of Jesus, and give not only our pennies but our lives to such hopes.

Brian

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Our first 'lunch bunch' lunch was on November 11th, 2012 at the Canadiana Restaurant at Six Points Plaza. 17 people attended and had a great time.

Our next Lunch is tentatively scheduled for January 27th, 2013 after worship service and coffee time, at the Q Restaurant on the Queensway - the old St Hubert Restaurant. We order from the menu and pay individually at the restaurant. It is a time of fellowship. If you are interested in going, or have questions, please talk with organizer Gord Moore (416-695-2639) or with Julia Stavreff (416-622-6309).

Come with us to a
Free Chamber Music Concert
 at the
*Four Seasons Centre
 for the Performing Arts*
**“Meditations on East and
 West”**



*Works by Takemitsu, Ravel, and Stravinsky
 presented by
 Artists of the Glenn Gould School,
 under the direction of Barry Shiffman*

Tuesday Jan 22, 2013, 12:00 - 1:00 pm
 145 Queen Street West
 (at University Avenue)

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)

Plan to attend our
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
 MEETING**

Sunday, February 17, 2013
 after worship service

Light Lunch provided

"ZUMBA", Latin inspired fitness fun has been meeting at Bloordale for 2 years.

As a thank you, they are offering 2 weeks of free classes. Contact Maddalena at 416-695-2967 if you are interested."

CRAFT NIGHTS RETURNING TO BLOODALE

Bloordale's popular Craft Night for Kids is returning Friday evenings, from February 8th 2013 to March 1st, 2013 (4 weeks), 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. (See ad below).

If you would like to volunteer for any evening(s), talk to Julia at 416-622-6309. Come up with your own craft ideas, or we will provide one for you.

Perfect for high school volunteer credits.

Children's Craft Night 2013



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 8th
 to Friday March 1st, 2013

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

Cost: \$3.00 per Friday or
 \$10.00 for all 4 classes



In Memoriam

Grace Macdonald

December 24, 2012

Thelma Johnson

January 2, 2013

UPDATE FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Here is a list of our confirmed future social outings. Tickets are available at cost.

- Tuesday, January 22, 2013, 12 to 1 pm – Free lunch time concert at The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (see ad in this issue of Bloorbeat)
- Saturday, Feb 23, 2013, 7:30pm-Mississauga Choral Society at the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga (see ad in this issue of Bloorbeat)
- Tuesday, April 2nd, 2013, 7 pm – Toronto Blue Jays home opener, vs. Cleveland Indians
- Saturday, May 11, 2013, 3:30 pm –TSO for Kids, Emily Saves the Orchestra at Roy Thomson 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)

SILENT AUCTION RETURNING TO BLOODALE

In conjunction with ESPRIT CHAMBER CHOIR concert on March 9th, 2013, we will again be holding a silent auction. Please think about what you would like to contribute. Some suggestions include:

- Theatre tickets
- Sports tickets
- Original artwork
- Baking
- Babysitting
- Cottage rentals
- Gift certificates
- Rides to the airport

Proceeds from the silent auction will go towards Bloordale programmes.

For further information , please talk to Vanessa Ramsahai or any other member of the social and fundraising committee.

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, March 9th, 2013

7:30 pm

At Bloordale United Church

The Social and Fundraising Committee present:

ESPRIT CHAMBER CHOIR

In Concert at Bloordale

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of this award winning choir conducted by Mervin Fick

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

I know we broke with tradition this year when we did "A Charlie Brown Christmas," but I must say I think it was a wonderful play with a beautiful message. It was also a great way for us to showcase our newly renovated sanctuary space. I know how important the children and youth felt being able to present this to you "in church." I know I mentioned there were so many people to thank for helping to make this happen, so please read on so you can understand fully how many people had a hand in making this production so special.

A great big hug and a huge thank you to the following people for their contributions:

- Hanna, our amazing director.
- John Pauksens, our sound and lighting man who always comes through for us.
- Sara for her incredible help with our amazing props (who didn't love Snoopy's house and Lucy's stand).
- Both the CD and Congregational Life for their support with lunch and coffee (Helen for organizing the team).
- Lynn for magically taking the design for Snoopy's costume out of my head and making it happen without a pattern-Incredible!
- Mervin my musical maestro.
- Brian for making it come alive with his narration.
- Joan for always helping out with lunch.
- To the parents for helping out backstage (or side stage) and for bringing them to extra practices.
- To our choir angels, Sharron and Verena, for their help with the musical portion of our play and their wonderful encouragement.
- For all those unsung heroes that I am forgetting to name at this moment but willingly helped out, many, many thanks.
- BUT MOST OF ALL.....to our brilliant cast, aged 18 months to 15 years. You were all wonderful and thank you for bringing me such laughter and joy, every single week.

With love,

Lisa

The following is a poem that Brian used with the Council in September, at the beginning of the fall start up. Here it's call to trust God for the future, and blessings to all of you for 2013!

Brian

STANDING AT THE GATES OF THE NEW YEAR

Sacred Mystery,
waiting on the threshold of this new year,
You open the gates and beckon to me:
"Come! Come!
Be not wary of what awaits you
as you enter the unknown terrain,
be not doubtful of your ability
to grow from its joys and sorrows.

For I am with you.
I will be your Guide.
I will be your Protector.
You will never be alone."

Guardian of this new year,
I set aside my fears, worries, concerns,
I open my life to mystery, to beauty,
to hospitality, to questions,
to the endless opportunity
of discovering you in my relationships,
and to all the silent wisps of wonder
that will draw me to your heart.

I welcome your unfailing Presence
and walk with hope into this new year.
- Joyce Rupp
from Out of the Ordinary, 2010

WHEN & WHERE

PROTESTANTS EMERGE AT THE DIET OF SPEYER -1529-

The term *Protestant* was first used in 1529 at the Diet of Speyer, the Holy Roman Empire's parliament meeting in Speyer along the Rhine River in Bavaria (present-day Germany).

There, several German princes signed a formal protest to Emperor Charles V (1500-1558) challenging his demand that the rulers of Germany enforce the 1521 Edict of Worms that had declared Luther and his followers to be outlaws.

The signatories became known as Protestants, and the name came to be applied to all who left the Catholic Church to join the Reformation.

Music is the only sensual gratification which mankind may indulge in to excess without injury to their moral or religious feelings.

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)
English poet and politician

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 pauksenj@rogers.com

Burial Plot For Sale

Burial plot in the highly regarded Glen Oaks Memorial Gardens, Oakville for sale.

It is located in the Garden of Joshua Ridge and will accommodate One (1) traditional interment and one (1) cremation.

Selling for below market value.

Contact: Paul @ 416-729-3690 or
parose@sympatico.ca

BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
2013	
March 24	March 16
May 19	May 11

Bloorbeat is published 6 times a year by the Communications Committee of

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