

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXIII, Issue 5

Minister's Message

As we begin the new Christian year with the first Sunday of Advent on November 30th, let me tell you about the Gospel writer we'll hear from the most over the next twelve months. Mark is the Ernest Hemingway of the Gospel writers. He cuts to the chase with a journalist's economy of language, establishing the back-story and hinting at the coming crisis in a few deft verses. Key words such as prophet, messenger, prepare, and wilderness communicate the compelling drama, and both Hemingway and Hollywood could hope for such a screenplay.

Mark has his own unique perspective and voice. This isn't Matthew's historical approach, in which a genealogy sets the stage for the birth. Nor is it primarily a "*human interest story*" (as they say in the newsroom), as in the experiential style of Luke, which begins with Elizabeth and Mary sharing their experiences of pregnancy. And it certainly isn't the philosophical approach of John, which starts "*in the beginning was the Word.*" No, for Mark, this is a political story – though, of course, the political is also very personal.

Ancient depictions typically portray John the Baptist as a scruffy character, with a notable case of bedhead. As my grandmother would have put it, "*He never made his peace with a comb.*" His hippie clothing and strange diet placed him firmly on the fringe of the mainstream. He was, in his words and in his person, a countercultural presence, forever reminding us that something is fundamentally wrong, that the world just isn't working as it should.

Repentance, *metanoia* in the Greek, means literally to change one's mind and heart. But it also carries connotations of conversion, transformation, a realignment of consciousness and conduct, a change of direction in one's life. In the Hebrew, steeped as it is in the experience of exile and wilderness, the word for repentance, *teshuvah*, means literally to return. Repentance is about turning back – to God, to the Source of all life and love, justice and peace. It's about a restoration of right relationship with God, and therefore with all God's creation.

*"When true simplicity is gain'd, To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight, Till by turning, turning we come 'round right."
- from Simple Gifts, an American Shaker hymn*

Continued on page 4

Bloordale United Church

4258 Bloor Street West
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Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh
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	Jack Lovatt
Ministry and Personnel	Connie Drummond
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Norman Dundas
Presbytery Representatives	Norman Dundas
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

Committee Chairs

Communications	John Pauksens
Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Helen Hitchcock
	Gladys Lewis
Christian Development	Diane Mulholland
Finance & Stewardship	Jack Lovatt
Outreach	Roy Harvey
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

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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Nov.	16	23 rd after Pentecost / Children's Sunday – <u>Intergenerational</u>	
	23	Reign of Christ / COMMUNION	
	30	Advent 1	
Dec.	7	Advent 2 / Christmas Pageant	
	14	Advent 3 / Christmas Cantata	
	21	Advent 4	
	24	Christmas Eve / COMMUNION	at 5:00 pm
	28	Christmas 1	
Jan.	4	Epiphany Sunday	
	11	Baptism of Jesus	
	18	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins / COMMUNION	
	25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends – Pulpit Exchange	

All Services at 10:30 am except as shown

Stewardship Spot

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

The Ghost of Christmas Presents

It would be understandable, wouldn't it, if, at the end of a Christmas Eve service, when I say in the blessing at the end to "Go and bring Christ's presence into the world," that some would have been through such a Christmas shopping splurge only days earlier that, for a split second, they would think I mean Christ's presents? Every year in this holy season we are haunted, as was old Jacob Marley, by the ghost of Christmas presents.

A minister friend of mine once asked the children before him on an Advent Sunday morning the following question: What would you do if Jesus slid down the chimney in place of Santa one Christmas Eve? He told them to give their answers to their parents, and after the service, one of the parents came up to my friend and told him what her son had said. If Jesus came instead of Santa, he said, "I'd send him back for Santa Claus."

Well, my friend's initial reaction was negative, as mine would likely have been. How sad, he thought, as would I, that this child can't appreciate the true message of Christmas. How unfortunate that he's so caught up with a commercialized cash-register Christmas, with Santa Claus fronting for the merchants at the mall. How unfortunate that the joys of getting his presents have obscured for him the joys of Christ's presence in our lives.

Upon reflection, however, I'm not so sure. Christmas, after all, commemorates the feast of the incarnation, the time when the Word was made flesh, the season when God put the skin of love on.

And Christmas isn't the only feast of the incarnation, either. Each of us celebrates the feast of our own incarnation, and we call it our birthday, the day on which we became flesh. So Christmas is the season in which embodied people celebrate the embodiment of God, Jesus' birthday.

Unfortunately, too many of us forget the flesh we're celebrating at Christmas. Not only that, but we've tended to spiritualize the flesh of Jesus away through the years, making him disembodied. We've picked the flesh off his human bones and made a man into a ghost, however holy. But the message of Christmas is the delightful sacred dance of spirit and flesh, of spirit enfleshed, of holiness come into the real material world as well as dwelling out of it.

For this reason the material embodiment of Christmas – in Santa Claus, or in those presents under the tree – is a good thing. Santa Claus may not be the incarnation of God's love, but he is the incarnation of our love. Our gifts are also a way that we incarnate our love for one another. We are beings with bodies, after all, and our love is more real to us when we can see, or hear, or feel, or smell, or touch it. We buy or make gifts for family and friends because we need to make material our love. Like a hug or a kiss, a Christmas present is a sign of our loving presence to them.

But this isn't all. Wrapping presents in festive paper and ribbon is a way of making magic and mystery come alive. The wrap creates mystery, and the mystery is followed by surprise – and surprise is another important element of Christmas. In fact, every incarnation is a surprise, because it takes so long to see what a new child in swaddling clothes will become. It's never what we expect – many Jews were hoping for a conquering king, after all – but it's often just what we need.

Even with the wrapped presents, we haven't finished with Christmas incarnations. Usually we open our presents in the presence of others, making the incarnation a communal event. Even in the most secular of households, we break bread together, making a kind of communion of our Christmas feast.

Both our gifts and our guests help us ritualize generosity and hospitality, making those virtues come alive. Like Santa Claus himself, they are ways of seeing the spirit of Christmas made flesh. Jesus is the heart, and soul, and spirit of Christmas, but the message of Christmas is that God's heart, soul, and spirit is embodied. At their best, our Christmas customs – fleshy Santa Claus and all – represent the incarnation of God, but also, the incarnation of our lives.

May your stewardship of the good news of Christmas create a happy and holy holiday season in your household!

Brian

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for our candlelight family Christmas Eve Service

At 5:00 p.m. on December 24th.

Continued from page 1

Mention John the Baptist, and we think of baptism, the sacrament of our belonging and turning. In the earliest baptismal services candidates would face west, renounce Satan (they personified evil then!), and spit. Then they would turn to the east and profess their faith in Christ. Think about it: they turn away from the principalities and powers of the west (the direction of Empire) and turn to the east (the direction of the sunrise, hope, new life and resurrection). Such embodied action carries political implications. That's why certain professions were deemed incompatible with membership in the early Christian community – for example, gladiators (who killed for entertainment), soldiers (who were complicit with the oppression of occupying forces), teachers (who had to swear allegiance to Caesar as a god). Clearly, turning to God in Christ meant turning away from something else also. Returning to right relationship with the Source of all life means a realignment of priorities, values, practices, conduct – all in the context of the new faith community. The personal is political.

In worship you can't go through Advent without going through John the Baptist, whose message of repentance is grating to the modern ear and mind. But to repent by joining the church through the sacrament he bequeathed to us, as many of us have done, most when we were naïve and innocent children, is only the beginning of the story. The life of faith, and the life of the baptized, is a perpetual dance of turning and turning again, until *“by turning, turning, we come round right.”* Get used to the turning, friends, for it's a way of life that never ends until the full advent of God!

May you be blessed by God's turning grace in this sacred season.

Brian

A Big Welcome to Halyna Parypa

Halyna's is the new, warm, friendly voice that greets you when you phone the church office, or drop in for a visit. She and her twin sons, Roman and Adrian, have been joining us for Sunday services the last few weeks. Please introduce yourselves to her, as she gets to know us.

A Larger Santa

The great English writer G.K. Chesterton, in describing his evolving relationship with Santa, beautifully sums up how he seriously entertained the possibility that comes with Christmas:

“What has happened to me (he wrote) has been the very reverse of what appears to be the experience of most of my friends. Instead of dwindling down to a fine point, Santa Claus has grown larger and larger in my life until he fills almost the whole of it. It happened in this way. As a child I was faced with a phenomenon requiring explanation. I hung up at the end of my bed an empty stocking, which in the morning became a full stocking. I had done nothing to produce the things that filled it. I had not worked for them, or made them, or helped to make them. I had not even been good – far from it. And the explanation was that a certain being whom people called Santa Claus who was benevolently disposed toward me ... What we believed was that a certain benevolent agency did give us those toys for nothing. And ... I believe it still. I have merely extended the idea. Then I only wondered who put the toys in the stocking; now I wonder who put the stocking by the bed, and the bed in the room, and the room in the house, and the house on the planet, and the great planet in the void. Once I only thanked Santa Claus for a few dollars and crackers. Now, I thank him for stars ... and wine and the great blue sea. Once I thought it delightful and astonishing to find a gift so big that it only went halfway into my stocking. Now I am delighted and astonished every morning to find a gift so big that it takes two stockings to hold it, and then leaves such a great deal outside; it is the large and preposterous present of myself, as to the origin of which I can offer no suggestion except that Santa Claus gave it to me. in a fit of ... fantastic goodwill.”

A Toast to the Bride & Groom!

On Saturday September 20th 2014, the Social Committee of Bloordale United Church organized a Wedding Shower for Pastor Brian McIntosh and his Fiance Debbie Cauch. The afternoon turned out to be a beautiful one, capturing the true nature of their loving relationship.

As friends from the congregation came out for support, we enjoyed appetizers, light snacks and cake among getting to know the couple a little better. Some of us learned that Debbie is allergic to strawberries and Brian has a weakness for popcorn and cake! Julia Stavreff from the Social Committee gave a nice speech to wish Brian and Debbie off into marital bliss while we toasted to a glass of champagne.

The gym was decorated with soft pastels of purple, a punch of turquoise and the purity of white. Wedding bells, sparkles of diamonds and roses added to the theme of a what a beautiful wedding ceremony we can all come to expect as we gear up for the "Big Day".

The Social Committee and the Congregation of Bloordale would like to wish Brian and Debbie a wonderful lifelong marriage that will be Blessed by God and have the true qualities of a strong healthy marriage. Bloordale will be so honored to see your relationship grow and strengthen just as we saw it bloom from the beginning.

God Bless!

Roxanne Dryding, for the Social Committee

FALL PROPERTY CLEAN-UP

Saturday, Nov.1 was a cold, windy day with a rain-snow mix. How pleasantly surprised we were to have 19 energetic and enthusiastic people show up to complete so many jobs. Leaves were raked, perennials were cut back, eaves were cleaned out, walls were washed, lights were installed, batteries were changed and painting was started. After a coffee/hot cider break around 10:30 work continued past noon. A great big thank-you goes out to all who participated!



Brian and Debbie

Lunch Bunch

Our first Lunch Bunch lunch after the summer was on September 28th. We went to the Muddy Duck on Dundas Street, just west of Highway 427. Only 7 of us went as most were still on holiday mode.

Our subsequent lunch was on November 9th; 18 went to the Q on the Queensway (the old St. Hubert Restaurant). Most of us had breakfast-type meals, although a few had the popular chicken (meals or sandwiches). Our new admin assistant Halyna and her twin sons Roman and Adrian joined us, and we were happy that they did.

The next Lunch Bunch lunch is tentatively scheduled for January 11th, 2015; restaurant to be determined.

Some Lunch Bunchers are regulars, coming most times, others come occasionally as their schedules permit. There are always "first timers". All are most welcome. We order from the menu - breakfast, lunch or dinner, and pay individually. Car pooling is always provided, and a good time is had by all.

For questions or to sign up, see Julia Stavreff, 416-622-6309 or Gord Moore, 905-629-9736.

Our 2014 Semi-Annual Meeting

Our semi-annual congregational meeting was held in the sanctuary after the Church service on November 2nd, 2014. Chair Julia Stavreff stated that what she liked about Bloordale was its sense of Community, much like the 18 year-old on the cover of the current issue of The Observer.

Treasurer Norm Dundas updated us on our finances. For the nine months ended September 30th, 2014, Bloordale givings are behind budget by \$7,000 (budgeted givings had been increased by only a tiny amount over 2013). This currently leaves Bloordale in a \$14,000 deficit position (\$4,600 more than was anticipated for this period). We had anticipated a need for an appeal for extra givings to meet 2014 expenditures and now it is a reality. Please keep Bloordale in mind over the rest of the year so that we may break even.

For information purposes, Chair Julia reviewed some of Bloordale's separate funds. These funds are kept separate from our operating budget and were as follows:

Memorial Fund - \$5,500

All to be used for new carpeting in the sanctuary

Planned Gift Fund - \$22,200

No increases or decreases

Manse Fund - \$278,000

To be used only for Minister(s)' manse allowance(s)

Capital and Contingency Fund - \$9,300

Half carried forward from 2013

Half from current year's contributions

Zero spent through September 2014

\$1,600 spent on surveillance system in October 2014

Additional Capital and Expenditures (100% financed and spent)

\$1,500 men's bathroom counter

\$3,000 kitchen floor

\$1,800 kitchen painting

Choir Fund - \$2,800

To pay for music not covered by Worship Committee, and for special performers (i.e. during Christmas Cantata)

Julia then spoke about the Ministry and Mission Report, which was a new requirement this year from the United Church of Canada. Our report was prepared and approved by Council. (see Ministry and Mission Goal Action Plan write-up elsewhere in this Bloorbeat).

Roy Harvey, our Chair of Outreach and Social Action Committee, updated us on our initiative to sponsor a refugee. You may recall that there was a short congregational meeting in August to discuss this matter. The wish was to sponsor an Iraqi refugee, presently living in Egypt, to be with his family, living in the Bloordale area. The annual cost to sponsor a single person is \$12,600, however this man's family wishes and is financially able to bear this cost. At our council meeting in September, the sponsorship of this young man was approved, and the paperwork has been started.

John Pauksens, speaking on behalf of the property committee, updated us on the sanctuary polished concrete centre floor, a renovation that was approved at our May congregational meeting. Total funds received for this renovation were \$6,500. After accounting for the cement polishing and the new concrete grate, \$2,300 currently remains. This will be used for wood edging around the floor, (estimate pending) and potentially also for new PA speakers in the central speaker cabinet(needed re the extra acoustic feedback from the non-carpeted environment).

Our chair of Ministry and Personnel, Connie Drummond, then took the floor and updated us on our Minister's upcoming sabbatical, of at least three months, some time in 2015. She quoted that *"it is the policy of the United Church of Canada that every pastoral charge provide a paid sabbatical of at least three consecutive months to those in paid accountable ministry who have completed at least five years of service in one appointment."* Ministry personnel must return after the sabbatical for at least one year. Connie went on to say that the plan proposal and timing must be approved by Council.

The last item on the agenda was an update on our Tri-Church Discussions and Property Options. (Our Tri-church partners are St. James and Richview). In the initial meetings of the Tri-Church Committee, the focus of discussion was on four "reasons" why people don't come or have stopped coming to church. This was described in an update in the last issue of Bloorbeat by our Bloordale Tri-church committee chair Jim Donaghy. In subsequent meetings we got back on track for the initial reason of our tri-church meetings: to get to know one another better, and to look into potential sharing of joint activities.

At present, we have not made much progress in the Tri Church meetings, but we hope to have more at our upcoming meeting in a few weeks.

(continued on next page)

The property options group met *in Late September 2014* with Michael Wright (the consultant who was one of the presenters at our 2013 semi-annual meeting). You may recall that the options at that time were:

- (1) Do nothing
- (2) Try to build residential over the sanctuary, and keep the congregational building as is
- (3) Demolish the sanctuary, building residential at the front on Bloor Street, with the sanctuary and other offices/rooms at the rear on our existing CE building footprint

Michael Wright told us in our September meeting with him that there was not much interest from developers re building residential over the sanctuary, but there is interest for Option (3). He suggested that before a decision is made, we should review our Mission and Vision, and decide what we want to do.

Next Julia spoke about St. Paul's Lakeshore United Church, which is located near Lakeshore Blvd, just east of Horner Avenue (the 427 extension). They had sent us a letter last summer asking if we would be interested in discussing the possibility of amalgamation (no commitments at that time). Due to declining membership and finances, St. Paul's felt that they were in a situation where they had to do something by the end of 2015.

Brian and Julia attended a meeting with St Paul's in late August, (which was attended by three other congregations as well). We subsequently sent an email to St. Paul's, endorsed by Council, that we would like to continue our conversation with them.

Our Semi-annual meeting closed with a prayer and the congregation went off with too many things to think about.

Julia Stavreff,
Chair of Council.

Congregational Christmas Potluck Hosted by UCW

Tuesday December 9th at 6:30 pm

Bring your favourite food to share, casseroles, salads, desserts and more. Enjoy food and friendship.

Everyone welcome !

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

The Group

2014 was a successful beginning of The Group with a mission to have all the women of the congregation come together for great conversation with refreshments in a variety of activities and outings. We enjoyed a great variety of conversations, dining out for an evening, and our own sing along!

Our goal though for 2015 is to include more participants who will enjoy a variety of activities including speakers, dining out and the opportunity of conversation on topics requested by someone in the Group.

So if you need advice, wish to share a story, need a night out and would enjoy being empowered and uplifted by the Group, then please mark every second Wednesday of each month on your calendar to join us.

For December the Group has booked an evening to attend a concert with Donnie and Marie. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2015. An announcement about that meeting will be made the Sunday prior.

The Group wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Blessings for a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

Debbie Cauch-McIntosh

Police Appreciation Sunday

In recognition of our gratitude to the law enforcement officers who do so much to make our communities just and safe, Bloordale hosted Police Appreciation Sunday on October 26th.

Police officers, primarily from our 22nd Division, joined us, as did our 401st Scouts. Our own Frank Sword had the idea for this service, and did initial logistics to enable this service to happen. We were very pleased to see Frank and his family at the service, as he was recovering from heart surgery just weeks before.

The 22 Division Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) promoted and pulled the service together under the co-chair of 22 Divisional CPLC, Marlene Cater.

Present to make introductory remarks were Dr. Alok Mukarjee, Chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, and Superintendent Shaun Narine of 22 Division.

Cst. Rich Diodati assisted our Lisa Mazzariol and Roslyn Oates with our children and youth, who were most excited to have hands-on involvement with police motor cycles, police cruisers, police motorboats and the ever-popular police horses.

Cst. John O'Dell shared "Great is Thy Faithfulness" during our offertory and was marvellous.

Lastly, The Rev. Walter Kelly, Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services, not only offered very touching Prayers of the People, but also demonstrated his skills as a stand-up comic.

In total there were 200 attendees at Bloordale's first inter-denominational Police Appreciation Service! It was a wonderful morning.

Many thanks to Rev. Brian McIntosh and Rev. Walter Kelly for the big part that they played in organizing the service, and many thanks to Frank Sword for the idea!



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.

Duet Concert with Michael Downie and Sandy Maxwell

On Saturday, November 8th, over 100 Bloordale members, friends and fans enjoyed a lovely evening of song provided by our very own Michael Downie and Sandy Maxwell. The singers were accompanied by a superb Jazz Trio consisting of Donavon LeNabat on piano, Ryan Spratt on double bass and Chad Davis on drums.

Our "two stars", Michael and Sandy, in duets and solos, sang familiar songs from "The Great American Songbook". Some of the titles were *Pennies from Heaven*, *I Love you for Sentimental Reasons*, *I Just called to say I Love You*, *Over the Rainbow*, *La vie en Rose*, *Unforgettable* and several more. The audience was encouraged to sing along.

Before the concert and during the intermission, wine and refreshments were available in the upper hall. There also was a 50/50 draw during the evening and the lucky winner generously donated her share of the proceeds back to Bloordale.

We thank Michael, Sandy and the trio for a lovely evening of music and fellowship, which just incidentally netted approximately \$1500 for Bloordale's programmes.

Pat Nelson
For the Social and Fundraising
Committee

Pancake Supper

Pancake supper returns to Bloordale on Shrove Tuesday, February 17th, 2015. I would like to get an early start on signing up volunteers this year.

Please contact Susan Prentice at 416-622-0539 or sign up on the sheet outside the gym.



CRAFT NIGHT RETURNING TO BLOORDALE!

Bloordale's popular Craft Night for Kids is returning Friday evenings, January 23, 2015 to February 13, 2015, (4 weeks), 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

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!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's pageant is going to be part of the worship service on December 7th, Second Sunday of Advent, and we're very excited for it!

Please bring your wonder and delight, along with yourselves, for a unique pageant.

Volunteers are also greatly appreciated. Please speak to Lisa or Rozlyn if you are willing to assist.

We look forward to having you join us on December 7th!

Financial Update

as at October 31

	Actual	Budgeted
Income	\$201,866	\$207,185
Expenses	<u>211,950</u>	<u>218,954</u>
Deficit	\$ <u>-10,054</u>	\$ <u>-11,769</u>

Help eliminate our deficit and avoid the necessity of a special fundraising campaign.

Your support is appreciated.

Finance & Stewardship Committee

Analysis of Local Contributions in 2013 (regular givings for BUC Operations)

\$ Range		# of Contri butors	% of Total Contrib utors	Annualiz ed Contrib utions (\$)	% of Total Contrib utions
From	To				
0	199	76	43.18%	2,210	1.51%
200	499	23	13.07%	8,236	5.64%
500	699	12	6.82%	7,080	4.85%
600	799	8	4.55%	5,972	4.09%
800	999	8	4.55%	7,325	5.02%
1,000	2,499	36	20.45%	59,389	40.66%
2,500	3,499	5	2.84%	16,005	10.96%
3,500	4,999	6	3.41%	23,985	16.42%
	and				
5,000	over	2	1.14%	15,845	10.85%
Total		176	100%	146,047	100%

Social Outing to Toronto Christmas Market at the Distillery District

To kick off the holiday season, the Bloordale Social & Fundraising Committee has planned an outing to the **Toronto Christmas Market** at the Distillery Historic District in downtown Toronto on Saturday November 29th. We will meet for a **group lunch at 12:00pm at the Mill Street Brewery Beer Hall**, and following lunch, proceed into the market to experience the tradition, heritage and charm of a European Christmas Market, while showcasing hundreds of unique and locally handcrafted products. Family friendly entertainment includes musicians, carolers and children's choirs.

Carpooling is available for those who are interested or TTC to get there. If you are interested in joining the outing, please contact a member of the S&F Committee to confirm your attendance for our lunch booking.

For more information on the market's events and directions via TTC, please visit the website at www.torontochristmasmarket.com

From The Outreach Committee

Bloordale Outreach News: November 2014

Your committee has met twice this fall. We are very pleased to confirm that formal arrangements to sponsor a refugee have been completed through the Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA), the agency of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto and the United Church in Toronto Conference that works formally with Citizenship and Immigration Canada for refugee settlement. We met with the father, representing his family, and completed the documentation. Our young Iraqi man, Omar Saddam, is waiting anxiously in Cairo, Egypt for his chance to join his family here. His father expressed profound gratitude for the assistance Bloordale is providing. We hope that approval for his coming to Canada will be given prior to the projected 3 – 5 year waiting period, and we intend to advocate for this decision.

We've also obtained our Church Council's approval to start a Refugee Fund, so that if funds are needed for either Omar's case, or a future potential refugee case, we'll be prepared. There will be more about this fund as we move forward.

We will continue to work on your behalf as we plan expanded communication efforts to reinforce awareness of Outreach at Bloordale. Look for us at a table near you on Sunday mornings, both in the sanctuary and at coffee and conversation time following.

We are grateful for the stellar support from Bloordale people of our Outreach Fund, which provides about \$8,000 in support to various organizations throughout each year.

We were also pleased to add a new member this fall, to aid us in our work, and welcome Annabelle Gonzalves. We are also truly helped by the thoughtful and expert guidance of Reverend Brian in our deliberations.

Roy Harvey, Chair

Choir Cantata

"And Glory Shone Around"

At the Worship Service on Sunday December 14th, the Third Sunday of Advent.

Holly Tea and Bake Sale



Saturday, December 6th

1 :00 - 3:30 pm

Invite a friend and enjoy tea or coffee and scones with whipped cream and jam!

YUMMY!!!!

\$5.00 per person

At \$5.00 per dozen, you can also choose your Christmas Cookies at our delectable Cookie Corner



SHARING OUR GIFTS

To further supplement the wonderful work of our very dedicated staff, the Nominations Committee is appealing to all members of the congregation to seriously consider any additional area in which they might share their talents and interests.

Volunteering to serve on a committee, help with occasional tasks, assist with our weekly coffee hours, pancake supper, Out of the Cold, usher or distribute in the neighbourhood Bloordale's seasonal flyers, all provide excellent opportunities for fellowship and go a long way towards assisting with Bloordale's good works.

For more information about any of these areas, please contact Pat Nelson at 416-622-5274 or patrish.nelson@gmail.com. We would like to finalize our committee lists by mid-January in plenty of time for the Annual Report and Annual Meeting.

Let's help to spread the load.

Thanks!

Pat Nelson for
The Nominations Committee

Weddings

Brian McIntosh and Debbie Cauch,
October 4, 2014 at Bloordale United Church
Congratulations!

Ministry and Mission Goal Action Plan

The United Church of Canada asked all congregations to "Tell Our Story" - who we are, our goals and action plans.

Last spring, a number of Bloordale committees were asked to give descriptions of their activities, their goals, and of any action plans. From this, we had to develop a high level goal and action plan for the year.

These was agreed to in Council and were given to the United Church of Canada as follows:

GOAL #1	<p>Developing a strategic plan that aligns with our vision and mission, will provide sustainability for the congregation, and is inclusive of our current directions regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our potential for property redevelopment. 2. Our desire to deepen our community service partnerships, and 3. Our future mission and ministry discussions with partner and other United Churches.
ACTION:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider engaging a consultant to oversee a strategic planning process for Bloordale within the next year (by fall of 2015). 2. Complete the Property Options Task Group research phase, and engage the congregation in a discussion that leads to a decision about property redevelopment. 3. Deepen the conversations with our partner and other surrounding United Churches, and discern potential for viable new directions.

Upcoming Events Summary

(Further details elsewhere in this Bloorbeat)

Sunday November 16th, - Service at Wesburn Manor. Bloordale hosts the service at Wesburn Manor at 2:30 p.m. The Bloordale choir will sing.

Friday November 21st – Movie Night with Brian

Tuesday, November 25th - UCW meets in the afternoon

Saturday November 29th – Outing to Christmas Market and lunch in the Distillery District

Saturday December 6th – Holly Tea and Cookie Sale

Sunday December 7th – Children’s Christmas Pageant

Tuesday December 9th – UCW hosted Pot Luck

Wednesday December 10th – The Group Outing to Donny & Marie Christmas in Toronto

Sunday December 14th – Christmas Cantata

Sunday December 21st – Service at Wesburn Manor. Bloordale hosts the service at Wesburn Manor at 2:30 p.m. The Bloordale choir will sing

Sunday January 11th –The Lunch Bunch

Wednesday January 14th – The Group meets

Friday January 23rd – Craft Night for kids at Bloordale. First Craft Night of the 2015 series.



BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Following is the publication schedule and the deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues through May 2015

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
2015	
Jan 18	Jan 9
Mar 22	Mar 13
May 10	May 1



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