

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXVII, Issue 1

Minister's Message

A Little Breathing Space for the Spirit

God knows I'm more of an activist than a mystic, but I do find myself praying a fair bit as I'm active in movements for justice and peace in the world. Not the kind of formal prayers I prepare for Sundays, though, but just paying attention, as you do, to what's going on, in the news, in the neighbourhood, and in my own interior life, and offering what's going on, and my role in it all, to the One who knows my prayers before I even formulate them.

It seems to me that we could do worse as a form of prayer at night, for instance, when you turn out the light and wait for sleep to visit you, to think back over your day that's come to an end. To remember, not just the international and national and local conflicts that are current, but also to remember our own aggressive engagements with others – to gain control, to get the upper hand, to have the last word, to dismiss or deflect others thoughts or desires or needs, done not necessarily with weapons or even words, but with silences, tones, gestures, our feet and all the many less than helpful ways we know of reaching self-imposed solutions to conflicts with loved ones and enemies alike.

We're often in conflict, actually, with the people we love the best, engaging in exchanges between spouses, parent and child, friends, thinking that our psychic well-being and even survival depends on it. We often camouflage ourselves in ways that hide we're fighting at all, and most of us manage to appear magnanimous, for the most part, as we move around and go about our business. But at the end of the day, as you look back over the places you've been, the things you've done, the people with whom you've spent time, if we're really honest with ourselves, we know such camouflage and magnanimity masks our attempts to assert ourselves and our will upon others, so the question really becomes: how honest can you be with yourself about what such conflicts, and winning them, really means?

This is hard to do well, of course, since one of the people we're in conflict with is ourselves. Some of the wars I fight with myself are legitimate, such as slaying my persistent demons, overcoming my fears, or laying a long-present ghost to rest. But there are other wars you fight with yourself that aren't really worth fighting, such as to make yourself be more and do more than you have it in you, truly, to do or to be. More isn't always better, and yet our interior voices often fail to remember that. The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins shared this lovely line once in a poem, relative to this point: "*My own heart let me more have pity on.*" Cut yourself, as well as those around you, some slack as you pray such night prayers, and remember to be merciful to yourself as well as to them.

The search for peace should involve engaging the deeper levels of ourselves that go beyond aggressive or defensive actions, snipings, strategic maneuvers, however large or lonely the

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Bloordale United Church

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www.bloordale.ca

Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh
Pastoral Care Minister	Rev. Nelsona Dundas
Christian Development Co-ordinator	Lisa Mazzariol
Administrative Assistant	Halyna Parypa
Organist & Choir Director	Mervin Fick
Custodian	Victor Nguyen

Church Council

Chair (Acting)	Julia Stavreff
Church Council Secretary	Dana Bach
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Pat Nelson
Board of Trustees	Jack Lovatt
Ministry and Personnel Co-Chairs	Dana Bach
	Pat Conway-Willis
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Norman Dundas
Presbytery Representatives	Norman Dundas
	Paul Rose
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

Committee Chairs

Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Helen Hitchcock
	Pat Conway-Willis
Communications	Julia Stavreff
Christian Development	Vacant
Finance & Stewardship	Jack Lovatt
Outreach (Acting)	Lynn Lawrence
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Planned Gift & Memorial Funds	Vacant
Property (Acting)	John Pauksens
Social and Fund Raising	Julia Stavreff
United Church Women	Joan Hollowell
Worship	Sharron Le Blanc
Members-at-Large	Jim Bell
	Amy Bickford

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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Worship Schedule

Jan. 21	Epiphany 3 / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
28	Epiphany 4 / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends / Pulpit Exchange
Feb. 4	Epiphany 5
11	Transfiguration of Jesus / COMMUNION
14	Ash Wednesday – 4:30 pm
18	Lent 1
25	Lent 2
Mar. 4	Lent 3 / 60 th Anniversary!
11	Lent 4 / Annual Congregational Meeting
18	Lent 5
25	Palm/Passion Sunday / COMMUNION
29	Maundy Thursday / Tri-Church Service at Bloordale
30	Good Friday / Tri-Church Service at St. James
Apr. 1	Easter Sunrise at Centennial Hill
1	Easter

All Services at 10:30 a.m. except as indicated

Stewardship Spot

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

Accounting for Climate Change

This is a column that often involves reflecting on money – though since everything involves money to one degree or another, that's not saying much! But our traditional understanding of stewardship has long been about how the church can raise more money for its mission, its ministry, its survival, which neglects the current understanding of stewardship as not only the preservation but the care of creation. I've written about this before, but it bears repeating: if we don't take care of the one planetary home which we all live in and share, such that Earth becomes inhabitable, the survival of the church in our own little enclave rather becomes a moot point, don't you think?

Now I'm not saying that you shouldn't support the church by giving it a portion of your financial resources – far be it for me to write that! But at least part of what I am saying is that one of the best reasons to support the church's mission and ministry is because the church, especially the United Church, is an organization with a long track record of advocacy and action regarding environmental issues, banding together with societal partners to advocate for the planet's and its peoples future. Over the decades of the 20th century we learned the following important theological lesson, I think: If we concentrate solely on trying to get people into heaven when they die by making them Christian, we're really of little or no earthly good, ignoring the planet to which God came, and for which became incarnate in Jesus 2,000 years ago!

Still, this is a stewardship column, so while I really want to write briefly about climate change – as a quick aside, it's hard to write about global warming in the middle of an early January cold snap, though I know enough about both to know they're related! – I'm going to do so by sharing some numbers, behind which, of course, lie dollar signs in the trillions. To help me I'm going to share some thoughts from an old 2012 article by one of the most prominent environmental activists of the last five decades, Bill McKibben, which I just came across again in my home office while leafing through fugitive articles to find a topic for this column. It's called, with a nod to accountants, "*The Reckoning*," and in it he shares some scary new math involving three simple numbers, each of which help to cut through the climate denial that many still engage in and cut to the quick about the precarious position we're in as a global community.

The first number is 2 degrees Celsius, which represents the acceptable – not ambitious, but simply acceptable! – scientific consensus about what global temperatures must not rise beyond by

2050, the baseline being the Copenhagen Climate Conference of 2009. Since then, it's gone up by about 1 degree already, which has left well over a third of sea ice in the Arctic gone, oceans far more acidic, and the atmosphere over the oceans 5 to 10 per cent wetter, creating the conditions for devastating flooding around the globe. Numerous other dangerous trends have occurred as a result of the rise thus far, making this number the bottomest of bottom lines.

The second number is 565 Gigatons, which is roughly the amount of carbon dioxide we can collectively put into the atmosphere by 2050 to still have a reasonable hope of staying below 2 degrees. We've continued to pour record amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, year after horrific year, and even if we stopped increasing right now the temperature would likely still rise another 0.8 degrees, leaving us little room to maneuver. Yet study after study, with computer models and simulations overseen by the global scientific community, predict that our emissions will continue to grow by about 3% per year, and that means we'd reach the 565 Gigaton allowance by about 2028 or so. This is a trend that would see an increase in temperature of about 6 degrees by 2050, rather than 2 degrees, which would create, not a planet that pays attention to science, but a perilous planet that places us in a science fiction future no longer confined to Hollywood but all too real.

The third number is 2,795 Gigatons, which represents the amount of carbon already contained in the coal, oil and gas reserves of fossil-fuel companies and fossil-fuel rich countries, combined. As McKibben says, "*In short, it's the fossil fuel we're currently planning to burn. And the key point is that this new number – 2,795 – is (five times) higher than 565.*" This is the number that has more to do with economics than either of the other two, as it represents the economic interests and future profitability of big oil and gas. The bottom line here is that those 2,795 Gigatons are worth about \$27 trillion, which means that if the science is heeded and we enforce keeping 80% of it in the ground, they'd be writing off \$20 trillion in assets. If we burn all that carbon, in other words, investors will do fine but the planet will crater, which means that the time is long overdue to choose between a healthy fossil-fuel balance or a healthy planet, since we can't have both.

Here's some of McKibben's closing words: "*If people come to understand the cold, mathematical truth – that the fossil-fuel industry is systematically undermining the planet's physical systems – it might weaken it enough to matter politically. ... The three numbers I've described are daunting – they may define an essentially impossible future. But at least they*

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Minister's Message

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camps in which we find ourselves. One of the ways we engage that deeper level of ourselves is simply, though crucially, to acknowledge our common created nature as God's children, to remember that we are loved and that all are loved by God as precious and beautiful and unique and irreplaceable. When we do that we reflect God's image in us more clearly than at any other time in our lives, and may remember that the one with whom we engage in combat, including ourselves, is exactly the same as us in this regard, on love's equal footing when we consider the source of that love is divine and, therefore, not bestowed by us or dependent upon us. A simple expression of love, beyond any current conflict, can change a conversation, bring tears to the eye, and send ripples of peace out in waves that make relationships transform, in an instant or over time, to fall into a better place.

Hunger and homelessness and our chronic lack of peace, within and without, occur in large part because we all fight to survive as if the other is in competition for the presumably scarce resources we need, including love. We fight because we think we need to secure our own place in the world, when actually the lofty distinction and destiny of being a beloved child of God has been given to us from our birth. We feel starved, and struggle to feed ourselves with more than mere food, without knowing what we're starved for, and homeless, as in insecure, when what we really need to do is simply come home to God to know the peace that passes all understanding or even articulation. There can really be no peace for any of us, friends, until there is peace for all of us, until we know, deep down, that there is no true home for anyone unless we all have a home in God's country and live among those whom we recognize as God's kin as well as our own.

You don't have to be particularly religious or even conscientious for this to be true, since it's built into us from the beginning and is part of our human nature. We were made by a loving God to love one another, and when we fight, we fight, often unwittingly, with a crucial part of ourselves, or, if you prefer, with a reflection of ourselves, as in a mirror. When we close our eyes to the needs of others, whether they live on the other side of the globe, around the block or under our own roof, we close our eyes to our own deep needs, and therefore can never really be at home.

So I commend this way of praying as perhaps a simple thing to do in 2018 to give ourselves a little breathing space for the Spirit to work her wonders. As night falls let your head fall to the pillow and do a brief, silent inventory of the day's news. Ask yourself what went on, and how God might be found in those moments or events. Then let it go, and give it all to God, and ask God

to speak the word you may need to hear beyond even your most honest words to yourself. In listening for that word, you'll likely find, almost in spite of yourself, glimpses of untold joy to enable your gratitude to swell, even when conflicts seem strongest, a joy beyond the walls of the world that sets you humming and hopeful and filled with the love that may yet make you truly happy, at home, and at peace, at last.

May you know the blessing of this kind of prayer, as well as untold other riches of God's amazing grace, in 2018!

Brian

Stewardship Spot

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provide intellectual clarity about the greatest challenge humans have ever faced." In my last Sunday of Advent sermon December 24th I spoke about "*choosing an impossible future*," namely the one that God makes for us instead of presuming that we're in complete control of our future alone. In the challenge that the climate change numbers above represent, we'll need to choose that "*essentially impossible future*" McKibben refers to, and rely on God as well as our combined global human efforts to embrace the new math and render an appropriate accounting for the future of our planet, God's original 13.7 billion year old gift, and our own future place within it, back to God. Let's start, and act as those who, as it says in 1 Peter 1, verse 3, have been "*given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*"

Brian

St. James Food Basket Needs Our Help

When you go shopping, please pick up one extra item for our food box, if you are able. Each week, we suggest a food item, to help feed the hungry.

Past weeks' suggested items have been: peanut butter, cereal, canned tuna or salmon, toothpaste, pasta, beans or lentils, canned fruit, cookies and crackers.

Please put items in Bloordale's food box, located in the sanctuary, and we shall take it to The St. James Food Basket.

Trivia Night 2017

Saturday November 18, 2017 the Social Committee at Bloordale United Church hosted its 2nd Trivia Night. Everyone who attended agreed how much fun they had and can't wait for the next one. Shirley Scott and Roxanne Dryding took the lead to organize the event and once again trivia questions remained top secret. The brainstorming was intense and you could see the competitive side really come out in people at each table. The excitement level rose up a few more notches at the end of the night as there was a tie between "The Einstein's" and "The Purple People Eaters" with a whopping 30 points each. With much anticipation, "The Einstein's" table won trivia night in the tie breaker round. Congrats to The Einstein's! They each won a \$25 gift card.

We had a 50/50 draw won by Lynn's friend Anna Bassila. Congrats to you! Rumour has it, she wasn't even supposed to come, but at the last minute she changed her mind. Good instincts! You walked out with \$50 and a door prize. There were so many door prizes that each person who attended walked away with one. We had pizza supplied by Pizzaville, free Timbits courtesy of Tim Horton's Renforth, and free snacks throughout the night. Brian McIntosh did a fabulous job hosting for a second time. He had such wonderful and witty jokes when reading the questions and answers. Thank you Brian for your sparkling personality as host, we hope you can do it again.

We have a list of donors that helped us with our prizes and giveaways that we would like to thank: Glencade Pharmacy (gift basket), M & M's - Dixie & Dundas (gift card), Markland Wood Pharmacy (gift basket), Muddy Duck (2 breakfast buffets), TD Canada Trust (pens), TD Wealth Management (luggage tags), Tim Horton's - Renforth (thermos of coffee, Timbits, Door Prizes).

Thank you to everyone who made it out as we could not have done this without your participation. This is a fundraiser for Bloordale and we raised just under \$700. We really need your support to make this event happen as everyone who attends leaves with such positive things to say. But we need to see your smiling faces there otherwise Trivia Night may not run. What better way to spend a Saturday night than with friends, family, neighbours or members from the community having the time of your life.

Test your smarts with fun trivia. Will you be at the winning table next time around?

Roxanne Dryding
Social Committee



Coffee Hour Thank You's



Happy New Year to all. We hope that you have made your resolutions to volunteer at coffee time.

We once again need you to volunteer for our Coffee hour. This is one way we enjoy each other's company and welcome our newcomers.

Once again, if you hear from either one of us, please say "yes" to volunteering and let us know the Sundays that you are available.

Thank you once again for all you do. We'll see you soon

Helen and Pat

60th Anniversary Dinner

"Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord!"

The "Dynamic Duo", Larry Barnes and Roy Harvey, will lead us in a sing-along of old favourites at our 60th Anniversary Dinner March 4, 2018. They are wonderfully adept at this and, although they occasionally get into some "questionable" dialogue, it is always joyful! Song sheets will be distributed.

Larry will also provide some piano music throughout the evening.

All in all, our 60th Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction will be superb!

Y'all come!

Nancy Harris

Silent Auction Returning at our 60th Anniversary Dinner

In conjunction with our 60th Anniversary dinner on March 4th, we will be holding a repeat Silent Auction. Please think about what you would like to contribute. Some suggestions include:

- Theatre tickets
- Sports tickets
- Original artwork
- Baking
- Baby sitting
- Cottage rentals
- Bed and breakfast
- Gift certificates

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go towards Bloordale programmes.

For further information, please talk to Pat Nelson or any other member of the Social and Fundraising Committee.

Let's make our 60th year an outstanding one!

Come From Away Tickets Ready for Pick Up

Back in August, Bloordale ordered 30 group tickets to the hit musical 'Come From Away', for Friday May 11th, 2018

Our tickets have now arrived and are ready for pickup (and payment) from Julia Stavreff 416-622-6309

Carpooling available

Bloordale United Church 60th Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction

Sunday March 4, 2018, at the Church

Reception at 5:00 pm

Fully catered sit-down dinner starting at 5:30 pm



Salad, Rolls, Chicken Entree
Tea or Coffee and Dessert, Fruit
Cash Bar : beer, wine, soft drinks

Friends and Family welcome, both old and new

Tickets: TBA
includes tax and tip
Special rates available for children

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

*For further information / tickets
call Julia 416-621-8050 (w) or 416-622-6309 (h).*

Change Your Clocks for March 11

Don't forget to change Your Clocks before bed, Saturday, March 10th. Come to Church an hour earlier on Sunday, March 11th, as we "Spring Forward" into Daylight Saving Time.

From the Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee is dedicated to the welfare of our congregation. We strive to connect with those who are shut in and those who are temporarily ill.

It would be very helpful if you would inform Sylvia Williams when you have made contact with one of our members needing a visit. She will chart it so no one is left out.

We would ask that you let Joan Hollowell know when you know of someone that is temporarily ill.

If we all work together we can take care of each other!

Tenants' Potluck

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017 Bloordale's Congregational Life and Social and Fundraising Committees jointly hosted our first Tenants' Potluck Dinner. Colourful poster invitations were extended in person, where possible, and failing that, by e-mail, to the four congregations which worship in our building and the ten other groups that rent space from us. We thank Halyna for her contact list so that we could be sure to reach all tenants.

Tuesday was the meeting night for a couple of the groups, so their leaders had commitments, but we were delighted to welcome eight from the Tuesday and Thursday morning badminton group, three of the Monday Seniors' Bridge and Euchre players and there were several from the Seventh Day Adventist congregation.

Along with the usual buffet tables, we had arranged tables for six to make for cozier dining. The gym had already been decorated for Saturday's Holly Tea so the general appearance was quite festive. Also, there was Christmas music for all to enjoy.

Approximately twenty-five of our Bloordale congregation came to share in the meal with our guests and in several cases to sit with them and actually break bread together.

If the hum from much talking and laughing was any indication, a good time was had by all.

We wish to thank the eight or more Bloordale folk who helped to set up in the afternoon and to clean up at the end of the evening.

Patricia Nelson
Patricia Conway-Willis
Roxanne Dryding



Upcoming Events Summary

Tuesday, January 23, UCW meets in the afternoon at Grace's house

Sunday, January 28, Pulpit exchange

Friday, February 2, Craft Night I

Sunday, February 4, Lunch Bunch lunch at The Muddy Duck Restaurant on Dundas St. (Just W of Hwy 427)

Friday, February 9, Craft Night II

Tuesday, February 13, Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's Day

Friday, February 16, Craft Night III

Sunday, February 18, Service at Wesburn Manor, Bloordale hosts the Wesburn service at 2:30 pm. The Bloordale Choir will sing.

Monday, February 19, Family Day

Wednesday, February 21, Outing to see King Charles III at CAA Theatre

Friday, February 23, Craft Night IV

Sunday, February 25, Scout Sunday

Friday, March 2, Bloordale Participates in 'Out of the Cold'

Friday, March 2, Craft Night V

Sunday, March 4, 60th Anniversary Dinner and silent auction

Friday, March 9, Craft Night VI

Saturday, Sunday March 11, Change clocks

Sunday, March 11, Annual Congregational meeting (after Church service)

Friday March 16, Craft Night VII

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 \$100, so please speak to Sharron or Mervin about your wish to support the music program in this way.

Joint Service at Fellowship Christian Reformed Church

Here are my impressions from our joint worship service at the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, (formerly called Rehoboth), on Dec 31, 2018

The church is located at 800 Burnhamthorpe Road, just east of the apartment buildings at Burnhamthorpe and Mill Road. You can find more information about the church, including copies of their weekly bulletins, on their website: <https://sites.google.com/site/rehobothfellowshipcrc/>

They have a very large parking lot, which is always a plus. There's a back entrance from the parking lot, as at Bloordale.

The service was led by their pastor, Joan DeVries. Brian, of course, was there, and assisted in the opening and gave several of the prayers. Mervin directed the choir.

In addition to Mervin and Brian there were 32 Bloordale people there, including 11 of our choir members. I thought that was a really good turnout for a holiday weekend at the end of a busy season and on such a bitterly cold day.

There were lots of grey heads among the Fellowship CRC people - as at Bloordale - but probably a few more younger people than we have. There was a couple with an infant. I didn't count their numbers, but there were more of them than of us

I don't believe there is a choir regularly, but yesterday there were about 10 or 12 Fellowship folks singing with our choir under Mervin's direction

There was a lady pianist, playing the piano and singing for 10 or 15 minutes before the service started. That was very pleasant, and a nice calming down period.

I was very impressed with Pastor Joan. She was finishing up an 18 month term as a Specialized Transitional Minister there. She is currently continuing on a three month 60% contract - no longer looking after pastoral care and some other matters, but will maintain responsibilities for preaching and worship as well as some continuing administration with Council and the Worship Committee.

There was a bulletin with the order of service, but no hymn books. The words of the hymns and some lessons were projected on the wall at the front and at the back (for the ministers). This was fine, except perhaps for those who read music and would find it easier to pick up new hymns if the music was also available.

The sermon was in two parts - not sure if that is

usual. The bible verses on which the sermon was based were projected on the wall. Several of us found that that helped us stay more focused!!

There are two collections at the same time - one for the ministries of the congregation and one for another local or global cause. People used yellow envelopes for the latter. On this occasion it was for the Salvation Army. There was also a note in the bulletin saying that "Members of Bloordale are invited to submit gifts in their own envelopes, and these will then be sorted after the service".

Communion by intinction went well- similar to ours, with similar words of invitation - gluten free bread available.

There was a note in the bulletin as follows: "if you are away from church due to illness, vacation, etc. and you wish to have the bulletin e-mailed to you, please advise the Ministry Coordinator". Perhaps something we should do as well.

They also advertised the PAR program for offerings.

The coffee room was in their "fellowship hall" : a nice, large, very bright room - the sunny day helped - unlike our gym which of course hasn't any windows except for the small ones located high up at the ends of the gym. There was quite a spread - maybe because it was New Year's and because there was a visiting congregation. There was a table to the side with a sign over it "Nut Free Zone".

People were friendly and welcoming, and at the end when Helen and I were getting our coats, one of their members came up to us and gave us each a small poinsettia plant. She told us that their congregation is struggling too. Their membership is very scattered. Originally most lived in the area, but as they moved away, there are now people coming from as far away as Oakville, Burlington and even Woodbridge. I understand that it started out as mostly a Dutch immigrant church - Dutch Reformed Church - and there are still quite a few names that sounded Dutch, but their services are entirely in English now, and they are seeking to serve a wider number of people irrespective of their ethnic background.

Pat Nelson

Mark Your Calendars!



Friday March 2nd, 2018

Bloordale participation in Out of the Cold

Sunday Feb 25th, 2018,

10:30 am at Bloordale United Church: Cubs and Scouts Service

Report from the Revitalization Task Group

Below is a list of what the Task Group has been looking at/doing over the last two months.

- 1) Two committee members attended the young people's service at St. Matthew's Anglican Church on Bloor Street, west of Kipling (9:30 am service)
 - casualness and flexibility may be the attraction
 - attended by a group of people which includes younger people as well as some who are older
 - no offering was taken at this service
- 2) Doors Open Toronto has accepted Bloordale as a venue for May 2018
- 3) A \$4,000 grant has been approved from the United Church's Embracing The Spirit Program for Bloordale to hire a paid part-time coordinator to organize craft nights and to extend Craft Nights from one month to three months. The community had expressed a wish for more than one month of Craft Nights .
- 4) Two representatives from the United Church of Canada EDGE network met with Bloordale's Church Council.
 - a focus on what do we want to do re programmes and activities and outreach at Bloordale
 - possibility of keeping Bloordale as "our Church" and centre but not have to worry about property issues.
 - More to follow later
- 5) Possibility for Bloordale to become a government and NGO sponsored "Community Hub" satellite services centre; Central Etobicoke has the most seniors in Toronto but not enough services centres for them
- 6) Perhaps Bloordale should look at being a community Senior's Centre like Franklin Horner Community Centre which provides a meeting place and wide variety of activities for seniors, with financial support from different levels of government
- 7) Some committee members had discussions with Fellowship Christian Reformed Church

members. They are in a state of renewal and are expecting to hire a Community Person to try to determine the needs of the community and how FCRC can fill these needs

- 8) It seems most churches in the area are in the same boat as ourselves:
 - dwindling attendance and finances
 - trying to find out what the community needs and how their church can fill that need
- 9) Perhaps we should all band together and become one Community Church

Julia Stavreff

Chair of the Revitalization Task Group

416-622-6309 / 416-621-8050

stavreffj@stavreff.com

Being a Volunteer

Its not for money, its not for fame
 Its not for any personal gain
 Its just for love of fellow man
 Its just to lend a helping hand
 Its just to give a tithe of self
 That's something you can't buy with wealth
 Its not for medals worn with pride
 Its for that feeling deep inside
 Its that reward down in your heart
 Its that feeling that you are being a part
 Of helping others far and near
 That makes you be a volunteer

Submitted by Jean Mosher

Easter 2018

For those who plan ahead:

Shrove Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018

Good Friday, March 30, 2018

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018

Join us as we go to see

King Charles III
a future history play

*at the Mirvish
CAA Theatre
(formerly the Panasonic Theatre)*



www.mirvish.com

*651 Yonge Street, Toronto
(South of Bloor, near Isabella Street)*

Wednesday Feb 21, 2018, 8:00 pm,

Tickets: \$43 (orchestra)

*we have 11 group tickets in the orchestra,
(50% group discount from the regular price)*

***A Bloordale and Friends Event
Carpooling Available***

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

Doors Open is a Go !!

Bloordale's Christmas present from the City of Toronto was being accepted as a 2018 Doors Open venue during the weekend of May 26th and 27th.

The theme this year is FILM, but I think we were chosen because of our 60th anniversary and the uniqueness of our round Sanctuary. We also ticked a lot of the boxes by having an accessible building, a large, free parking lot, being on both TTC and Mississauga Transit bus routes and also because there aren't many Doors Open venues in this part of Etobicoke.

The City has asked for certain information for the Doors Open website and the large spread that will appear in the Toronto Star listing all the Doors Open sites for this year.

So, we are compiling the information required - accessibility, hours we will be open for guests, a description of our building, purpose, age, architect, etc. and the uniqueness of our space.

In the months to come we will be preparing handouts with descriptions of our Sanctuary and details of all that Bloordale does in Outreach and community involvement.

It's still a few months off, but if anyone is interested in showing our guests around for a couple of hours on one of those days in May, do please speak to me.

Patricia Nelson

Christmas Thank You's

Thank you to Lisa and all the children, and the participating parents for a wonderful pageant December 10th.

Thank you to Diane Mulholland and the 401st Scouts for the donation of the Christmas Trees in the front of Church urns.



Thank you to Grace and Jo-Em for their expertise in decorating these trees.

Thank you to Grace, Jo-Em and Amy for the wonderful job done decorating the gym for Christmas.

Thank You Bloordale Choir!

Thank you to Mervin and our choir, as well as the readers, for the special music service of Lessons and Carols on December 17th .

Consider a Planned Gift to Bloordale United Church

Giving a gift to the Planned Gift Fund through your will is one way to continue faithful stewardship beyond your lifetime. When your estate plan is prepared please consider a gift to your church through the Bloordale Planned Gift Fund.

A message from your Memorial and Planned Gift Funds Administrative Committee

Bloorbeat on the Internet

This issue as well as past issues of Bloorbeat can be accessed on the Bloordale United Church website at:

<http://bloordale.ca/bloorbeat/>

Nominate Someone for a Bloordale Anniversary Award!

For the last six years we've bestowed upon three people the Annual Bloordale Anniversary Awards, as a way of recognizing the significant contribution that our members make to both the church and the community. They were:

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.

Previous Award Recipients

2017 - Edna Bell
 2016 - Helen Hitchcock
 2015 - Jo-Em Bettridge
 2014 - Ross Prout
 2013 - Joan Hollowell
 2012 - Grace Everett

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 community. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

Previous Award Recipients

2017 - Joan Hollowell
 2016 - Frank Sword
 2015 - Ruth Alexander
 2014 - Jim Donaghy
 2013 - Jack Lovatt
 2012 - Bill Alexander

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.

Previous Award Recipients

2017 - Roy Harvey
 2016 - Jim Donaghy
 2015 - Robert Hitchcock
 2014 - Norman Dundas
 2013 - Julia Stavreff
 2012 - John Pauksens

This year the Council invites anyone within the congregation to anonymously nominate a potential worthy recipient for any of these three Awards by February 18th, by speaking to or contacting Julia at 416-622-6309. The Awards will be given out on Anniversary Sunday March 4th

Out of the Cold Needs Volunteers

Bloordale will once again be supporting the "Out of the Cold" program by providing dinner on March 2nd. More information will follow but I am hoping that you will consider helping in any way you see fit. We will need people to make food for that night, work crews for the evening and of course financial support is always welcome. If you are able to help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping out. Many thanks,

Lisa



Craft Night Update

Our Friday evening Craft Nights in the month of February have been going on at Bloordale United Church for 7 years! Initially conceived as a means to interest families to come to Bloordale, it soon became clear that this was not to be. Children enjoyed coming, and parents enjoyed bringing their kids to a fun, safe, creative and non-athletic environment.

Craft Nights have been very popular and we have had to cap our numbers due to space and volunteer constraints. Every year, parents stated how they and their kids wished Craft Nights would be longer than 4 weeks.

Craft Nights have always been run by Bloordale volunteers; co-chaired by Julia Stavreff and Diane Mulholland, and backed by capable and enthusiastic volunteers. But four weeks of volunteering was everyone's limit.

With encouragement from Carla Leon of the United Church's EDGE Group, we applied for, and received funding to expand Craft Night from one month to three months, (Embracing the Spirit Funding). The grant of \$4,000 is allowing us to hire a part time coordinator to design craft ideas, recruit and coordinate volunteers – both church volunteers and non-church volunteers, and to lead the Friday evening sessions.

We have decided to move from Room 24/25 to the gym, to allow for some more children to attend, and to allow us to design crafts that need more of a kitchen or oven presence. The longer time frame (3 months) will also be conducive to crafts beginning one week and finishing another. All in all, more variety for our young participants.

This coordinator position has recently been filled by Kaylee McRae, a past Children's leader at Bloordale, vacation bible camp leader, and a graduate Marine Biologist. Something tells me a lot of our crafts will be sea creature oriented!

Friday Night Craft Nights is a Bloordale Programme. Diane and Julia will still be involved. Bloordale members will still need to be involved, as volunteers. There is a need of approximately 12 people per Friday (12 Fridays in Total). That's 144 people! Many of these positions will be filled by high school and university/college volunteers, but we need Bloordale people to help out one, two or more times. Please look at your calendars and tell Julia which Friday(s) work for you.

Bloordale needs you and the Children need you!

Julia Stavreff with Diane Mulholland



CRAFT NIGHT 2018

Bloordale's popular Craft Night for Kids is returning Friday evenings, February 2nd to April 27th, 2018, (12 weeks), 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

For Kids 4 to 10 years old

If you would like to volunteer for any of the above evening(s), or for the extended program, please talk to Julia at 416-622-6309, or Diane at 905-847-0845. Come up with your own craft ideas, or we will provide one for you.

We are seeking high school and university/college volunteers to help deal with the expanded program, but need to have a Bloordale presence as well.

Perfect for high school volunteer credits, and an excellent thing to add to your resume for university/college students!

BLOODALE COMMITTEES ARE HIRING!!!

Where do your interests lie?

Christian Development?

Outreach and Advocacy?

Pastoral Care?

Property?

All committees would be happy to welcome new members.

Please consider sharing your ideas and energy during this rejuvenation period in our church's life.

For more information please contact Pat Nelson, Joan Hollowell or Shirley Scott

*Patricia Nelson
for the Nominating Committee*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 21-28

Pulpit Exchange

Among the churches who belong to the 427 Ministerial, there will be a Pulpit Exchange for morning worship services Jan. 28th. Brian will be visiting St. Philips Lutheran Church, and Chris Stefanidis of Renforth Baptist Church will be preaching here at Bloordale.

Interfaith Events of Interest

1) *Understanding our Abrahamic Roots Lecture Series*

A free interfaith lecture series entitled Understanding our Abrahamic Roots started last Wednesday Jan. 10th and continues on the 17th and 24th, then again on Feb. 7th, all from 7 - 9 pm at Islington UC, 25 Burnhamthorpe Road.

In the week of Jan 17th Rabbi Michael Satz of Holy Blossom Temple will speak, followed by Timothy Gianotti, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies at Univ. of Waterloo Jan. 24th.

The series closes with a Panel Presentation on Feb. 7th. See poster/flyer on bulletin boards for more info.

2) *Prayers for Peace Interfaith Service Jan. 29th*

Brian is the Christian speaker at an Interfaith Prayers for Peace Service to take place at 7 pm at Islington UC on Monday, Jan. 29th. The service is sponsored by Islington UC, the Arab Community Centre of Toronto, and EcuLinks Etobicoke, and seeks to build interfaith relationships while commemorating the one year anniversary of the tragedy of the 2017 Quebec City Mosque attack that killed six Muslims.

Annual Reports due Monday January 30th

Please submit annual reports from all Committees and groups by Monday January 30th to the office in order to prepare the congregational report for publishing prior to the annual meeting in March.

The Lunch Bunch Beat

The lunch bunch has been around for a number of years, and has every intention of continuing. The brainchild of Gord Moore, the lunch bunch arranges for group lunches after the church service and coffee time. Generally we try to have outings every 6 to 8 weeks; restaurants are nearby, and are able to accommodate groups of 10 to 20 people at peak Sunday brunch time. Not everyone's favourite spot can accommodate us, but do give us suggestions, and we will try to accommodate.

When we go, we sit together at tables of 4 or 6, and order from the menu (breakfast, lunch or even dinner) and pay individually. Everyone is welcome, and we will save you a spot if you are on "coffee" duty and will be a bit late.

We have not had a lunch bunch since our last issue of Bloorbeat was published. Sometimes there is much going on at Bloordale, and we try to balance and accommodate.

Our next lunch bunch is slated for February, 4th at the Muddy Duck on Dundas Street just west of Highway 427. The Muddy Duck has been a strong supporter of Bloordale, giving us Silent Auction, and other event gift certificates. Thank you Muddy Duck!

Please tell us if you are coming so that our reserve seating is not way off. Last minute eaters are also welcome; just tell us that you are coming, during coffee time. To sign up, or for information, talk to Gord Moore (647-660-1359) or to me, Julia (416-622-6309). Carpooling is provided, and a good time is had by all.

Julia Stavreff

Plan to Attend Our Annual General Meeting

Sunday March 11, 2018 after the worship service

To:

Review our past year

Review our 2017 financials

Vote on 2018 budget

Elect new council and committees

Get more info on our Revitalization Task Force
Activities

Lunch will be provided.

Pancake Supper

Pancake Supper returns to Bloordale United Church on
Shrove Tuesday Feb. 13, 2018



Come any time between 5:00 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 Julia
416-622-6309 (h) or 416-621-8050 (w)*

Volunteers are needed to assist with this event. To volunteer please use the sign-up sheet outside the gym or call Julia

U.C.W. News

The Holly Tea and Cookie Sale, held Saturday December 2nd, raised in excess of \$4,000. Thanks to all who helped: baking, serving, cleaning, setting up / taking down. We could have not done this without you!

UCW gave Bloordale United Church \$5,000 to cover operating expenses in December 2017.

As a Christmas present to Bloordale Staff, the UCW has made a donation of \$500 to Doctors Without Borders. To Mervin, Brian, Nelsona, Halyna, Lisa and Victor, Thank you!

UCW's next meeting will be at Grace's house on Tuesday January 23rd at 1:00pm. All ladies of the congregation and the community are welcome.

The Rummage Day sale is planned for Saturday, April 7th - watch for details in the next Bloorbeat, and in May our popular geranium sale returns.

Julia Stavreff,
with notes from Joan Hollowell.

Birth Announcement

**Congratulations to
Stephanie Crouch and Darryl Hobbs**
on the birth of
Grace Maria Hobbs
on Monday, November 20th, 2017

A sister for Colin, Maya and Katie

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

One of the ways that people who care about Bloordale act to secure its future is through the PAR program. Brochures that outline how to do this are available in the display case near the office, or speak to Brian, Norm Dundas or Jack Lovatt if you'd like more information. PAR does offer the church your consistent support, and helps with budget planning.

Upcoming Concerts

Artistic Director: Mervin William Fick

MCS Chorus Presents **Mozart Mass in C Minor**
Jennifer Krabbe Soprano, Laura McAlpine Mezzo-Soprano, Ryan Harper Tenor
Saturday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

First United Church
151 Lakeshore Road West
Port Credit, Ontario
Tickets - \$25A/\$12Y

Toronto Beach Chorale presents **Mozart Mass in C Minor**
Jennifer Krabbe Soprano, Laura McAlpine Mezzo-Soprano, Ryan Harper Tenor

Good Friday, March 30th at 7:30 p.m.
Kingston Road United Church
975 Kingston Road
Toronto, Ontario
Tickets - \$25/\$12.50

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Prout

December 25, 1929 – November 8, 2017

Invitation for Submissions to Bloorbeat

Spiritual perspectives, committee news, community happenings, and ideas for changes and improvements to make Bloordale an even nicer place than it already is are all welcome.

Please submit or discuss your ideas with our Communications Committee chair

Julia Stavrefff, 416-622-6309,
stavreffj@stavreff.com

Bloorbeat Submission Guidelines

When you email items to Julia and myself for Bloorbeat, please include words about the specific content in your e-mail header and in any file names, e.g. not just "Bloorbeat" but "Bloorbeat Upcoming Events". This makes it much easier to locate the items in my rather busy e-mail inbox when putting the Bloorbeat together.

In general, for text-based submissions, please avoid use of fancy fonts, headers, spacings or tab settings because these create more work for me and make it more difficult to maintain a consistent style in the newsletter.

Straight text, in 10 point font, with bold (but not underlined) headings in 14 point font, is best.

For photographs of church related items we can handle the standard graphics formats such as .tif, .gif, .jpg, .png or .pdf. We print in black and white but post on the church website in colour

For advertisements, PDF or uncompressed TIFF are the preferred formats. Please check picture clarity and text clarity of your ad printed in chosen size in black and white on a laser printer and viewed in colour at chosen size on a computer monitor.

Christmas Pageant 2017



A wonderful Christmas Pageant was presented in the Sanctuary on Dec 10, 2017! It was greatly appreciated by all present including both our regular congregants and numerous guests.

Many thanks to Lisa Mazzariol and Bernice Thompson and their helpers for putting this together, and to the kids, including baby Grace who made her acting debut as Baby Jesus at age 3 weeks!



Bloorbeat Publication Schedule

Following is the publication date and the deadline for submissions for the upcoming issue.

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
2018	
March 18	March 11
May 13	May 6



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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

Our printed pages size is 8 1/2" x 11"

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

or email pauksenj@gmail.com

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