

# BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXVII, Issue 3

## Minister's Message

### A Higher Power

They could hardly be a more diverse collection of characters. Some are highly educated, and some never even finished grade school. Some are on welfare, and some of them have hit the jackpot, at least in the past if not presently. Some are straight, and some are gay. There are senior citizens among them, and also twenty-year-olds. The one crucial thing they have in common can be alarmingly, deceptively easy to state: they all believe two things down into the depths of their souls: that they cannot live fully human lives without each other, and they cannot be fully human without what they call their Higher Power. They avoid using the word God because some of them do not believe in God. What they all do believe in, or are searching for, is a power higher than their own that will make them well.

They are apt to begin their meetings with a prayer written by a long-deceased German-American theologian and seminary professor, Reinhold Niebuhr: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." They are apt to end with the Lord's Prayer: "thy will be done ... give us this day our daily bread .. forgive us as we forgive ... deliver us." As they live their lives, they try to follow a kind of spiritual rule, which consists basically not only of uncovering their own deep secrets and shame, for themselves and with one another, but also of making peace with the people they have deeply hurt or been deeply hurt by. Through prayer and meditation, through seeking help from each other, from mentors and sponsors, and from helpful books, they try to draw near any way they can to God or to whatever they call the Higher Power instead of God. They sometimes make serious slips, and often make miraculous gains. They laugh a lot, at themselves and their foibles, and they cry too, sometimes as easily as babies. When the meeting is over, some of them embrace, and newcomers are reminded that one of the group will accept special responsibility for them, agreeing to be available at any hour of the day or night if the need should arise. And they know it will, because they've been there, done that, and may do it yet again themselves.

They also have slogans, which many who are not part of the group dismiss as hopelessly simplistic though many who belong cling to them like driftwood in a stormy sea when they encounter rough waters in the journey called life. One of the most basic is "Let go and let God" – which is so easy to say and yet for people like them, like you and I also, so far from easy to do, to follow. Let go of the surrounding,

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## Bloordale United Church

4258 Bloor Street West  
Etobicoke, ON M9C 1Z7  
(416) 621-1710  
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	Pat Conway-Willis
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
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### Committee Chairs

Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Helen Hitchcock
	Pat Conway-Willis
Communications	Julia Stavreff
Finance, Stewardship, Planned Gift	Jack Lovatt
Outreach and Christian Development	Lynn Lawrence
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Property	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

May 13	Easter 7 / Mother's Day - Brian away—Guest Preacher Rev. Mark Winger
20	Pentecost / COMMUNION (switch to 10 am)
27	Trinity Sunday
June 3	2nd after Pentecost
10	3rd after Pentecost
17	4th after Pentecost / Aboriginal Day
24	5th after Pentecost
July 1, 8, 15	Bloordale UC (tri-church worship)
July 22, 29, Aug 5	St. James UC (tri-church worship)
Aug 12, 19, 26	Richview UC (tri-church worship)
Sept. 2	15th after Pentecost / Labour Day Sunday (last at 10:00 am)
9	Season of Creation 1 (back to 10:30 am)
16	Season of Creation 2

**Services are at 10:30 a.m. except as indicated**

## Stewardship Spot

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

### **We are Stewards of the Gospel!**

It had been a long time since we last had a Yak session after worship, but on May 6th we again gathered in Room 15 to chat, this time about the following quote from Martin Luther King Jr., the 50th Anniversary of whose murder is being remembered in 2018:

"If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth (or twenty-first!) century." We talked a lot about what King may have meant by "the sacrificial spirit of Jesus," and without doing a simple report about all that was said, much of the conversation circled back to what we understand as Christians when we say or use the word 'Gospel,' which simply means 'good news'. My interest in this column is to address that latter question, and to lay the groundwork for another discussion about 'Gospel' soon, in part by sharing some thoughts from the best theologian the United Church ever produced, Douglas John Hall, and his book *Waiting for Gospel*.

The world, friends, is now firmly secular and pluralistic, and, in addition, in many places and among many people it is, frankly, antireligious. As a result the church, particularly the mainline church in North America, has suffered serious decline in the last 3 or 4 decades. This is, of course, an oft-cited and completely familiar observation, but the church's response to this decline has been varied and, for the most part, severely lacking, focused as it has been, as Hall has written, on "more effective means of preserving the churches: ... by bolstering their economic viability through financial ... drives; by devising 'new forms of ministry that fit the times,' by exploiting modern technologies for the promotion of the churches ... (etc.). ... And a religion preoccupied with death – its own death! – as so much contemporary Protestant Christianity patently is – is unlikely to bring light and life to a society that is also fixated on the many faces of failure and possible extinction that confront it on a daily basis."

Hall's plea to the church, instead, is this: "The only thing that can salvage a moribund religion is a lively recovery of its life-giving

essence. ... Christianity, as faith centered in Jesus as the Christ came to be called, got a foothold in the world, and for a vital and vocal minority changed the world, because it proclaimed a message that awakened men and women to possibilities for human life that they had either lost or never entertained. That message the first Christian evangelists (and Jesus himself, according to the record) called euangellion – good news, gospel. ... The lesson of history is clear: the challenge to all serious Christians and Christian bodies today is not whether we can devise yet more novel and promotionally impressive means for the transmission of "the Christian religion" (let alone this or that denomination); it is whether we are able to hear and to proclaim ... gospel!"

What our knee-jerk, trendy, or populist responses to our church's decline fail to notice, according to Hall, "is that this (theological) recession has left in large numbers of Westerners an emptiness that neither consumerism nor social activism nor entertainment nor sex nor any other substitute for religion can fill." People are waiting, it seems, for something more profound and truly transformative of both self and society than religious rock bands, "something to correspond to the spirituality so many of them insist they have even when they loudly disclaim any religious affiliation." In this connection, a recent book by Lillian Daniel entitled *When "Spiritual But Not Religious" Is Not Enough* would be a worthy one to explore in more depth, but that will have to wait for another column. But Hall does speak of a palpable "general public dissatisfaction ... about what is, and is coming to be," a widespread longing and disquiet that reflects an uncertainty about both our collective future and about the leaders who will usher us there. We're talking about a sweeping historical condition made up of trends centuries in the making, a "winding down of the great cultic clock of Western history called Christendom," the fragmenting of truth narratives that held previous eras together and have now left whole hordes of people bereft of either firm anchorage or navigation tools to forge their way forward with confidence – which means "with faith," by the way! – or integrity.

If the church were to authentically address this disquietude, this uncertainty, this sense of being adrift in a sea of incoherence, in

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## Minister's Message

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suffocating shadows, the deeply haunting fears, which we wrap ourselves in like straitjackets, and let in the inexhaustible, always available light. Stop trying to protect, to rescue, to judge, to manage the lives around you – your children's lives, the lives of your husband, your wife, your friends – because that is just what you are powerless to do for anyone, and have had to admit you can't even do for yourself. Remember that the lives of other people are not your business, but their business – and God's business, ultimately, because, in the deep recesses and reservoirs of memory and insight, deeper than anything else because we were made by the Creator at our very beginning, we all have that Higher Power that is also the Ground of our very being, our Origin and Destiny both. Even your own life, in the grand or inglorious scheme of things, is not your business, ultimately, but is God's business, God's creation – and God doesn't make junk, no matter how low or how often you may fall into harsh, self-destructive places. You are made, instead, in the divine image and likeness of God, and with God, all things are possible.

Friends, you've all figured it out by now, I'm sure, but on April 8th this year I was again privileged to witness first-hand the community, compassion, and courage of an AA meeting at Bloordale that took my breath away. The combination of unabashed vulnerability and gritty encouragement, all wrapped in the brutal honesty that refuses to sugar-coat our common sinfulness, different only in degree and kind but not in occurrence, seemed more like the beloved community that Jesus envisioned than most of our weekly sterilized niceties that often leave us as unknowing of each other's stories as if we were still strangers to each other, though we say we've known each other for years.

The speaker from Barrie – "Hi, my name is Bruce, and I'm an alcoholic." "Hi, Bruce." – was terrific, as good a speaker as I've had the good fortune of hearing, without notes and, while well-versed in what to share, funny and not the least bit stale. He said one thing I just had to write down immediately following the meeting, and I share with you now: "We are more like brothers and sisters in our defects than we are in our virtues."

Amen to that, since AA, more than perhaps any other group that meets regularly, including the church, proves the point that our common humanity isn't a constant contest to prove ourselves worthy of anything, but is more like being a member of a dysfunctional family, where the protection of the weakest member is the responsibility of the rest, and the leadership isn't presumed to be any better than the next. Our frailty and faults are what unites us with others, not the gifts or degrees or jobs or incomes or collars that seem to separate us in hierarchies of power and presumption. This is what the church should be, and, please God, could be, if we took the metaphor of being the body of Christ seriously.

"Let go and let God," they say, casting their very survival, their lives, upon the unseen One who alone can be utterly and eternally relied upon to lift them up. It's an astonishing thought, friends, and it has been, and could yet be, a life-transforming thought, for them and for us, each alone and all together. May our summer and coming fall be filled with moments of learning about how to do just that!

Brian

### IN MEMORIUM

**Gladys Mary Lewis**

**December 8, 1927 – April 14, 2018**

### From Chair of Council

All of your Council would like to say thank you to all of our staff and volunteers for what they do to keep our doors open.

Don't forget that this is our 60th Anniversary, and we will be celebrating in different ways throughout the year, this will mean that we will require your assistance to do this.

Now that Spring has sprung, summer is just around the corner, many of you will be going away, have a safe time and don't forget about Bloordale.

Pat Conway– Willis

## Summer Outing

**The Social Committee is  
inviting everyone to our  
summer dinner at**

## **Trattoria Leonardo**



[www.trattorialeonardo.com](http://www.trattorialeonardo.com)

4740 Dundas Street West  
(Just East of Islington Ave)  
across from Montgomery Inn

**Monday June 25, 2018, 6:30 pm**

Varied Italian menu with varied prices

*Friends and Family Welcome*

Carpooling available,  
Call Julia, 416-622-6309 if interested

## Visit the BUC Art Gallery



The Room 15 Art Gallery now has artwork, for viewing and for sale, by Bev Morgan, Rose Robertson, Anne Noble, and others. This artwork will remain on display throughout the Doors Open period on May 26, and May 27. Thanks to Bev and Alun Morgan for arranging this!

## Bloordale Representative for Terry Tan

Matthew Barrett has been the Bloordale Congregational Representative on the Terry Tan Board of Directors for the past five years, and will be finishing his term in June of this year. So Terry Tan are in need of a new BUC representative for this role.

Terry Tan Child Centre has been a long-time partner at Bloordale for several decades. As a not-for-profit organization, the board is comprised of seven volunteer directors. A paid Executive Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the Centre and provides updates to the members of the board. Board meetings are held during the evening on the second Wednesday of the month (September through June), and other committees meet as needed.

The bylaws of Terry Tan requires that one of the volunteer directors on the board is a representative of the Bloordale congregation. This member liaises between Bloordale and Terry Tan on related matters.

No formal training or experience is necessary for this role. The ideal candidate would have knowledge of childcare, education, or business. The candidate will be formally elected at Terry Tan's AGM in June for a two-year term. Contact Bloordale Council Chair, Pat Conway-Willis, if you are interested in this role.

## Bloorbeat Available via E-mail

If you wish, you can receive Bloorbeat electronically as an e-mail attachment.

Just inform Halyna in the church office  
416-621-1710

## 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. Contact Jack Lovatt for further information.

## 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.

## Stewardship Spot

(continued from page 3)

both its messaging and mission, it would at least be attempting to name the bad news for which the gospel may be prophetic good news. As Hall says, "Though they may seldom be able to articulate it, what the people in and around our old churches (and, in my opinion, beyond!) are seeking is not just friendliness or communality or exhortation to moral improvement or a little blessed quietness in the midst of a world become even noisier or stirring displays of the rhetoric of ... optimism or ... happiness ... something far more radical than novelty and hype. They are waiting for gospel!"

The problem is that we have been content to be shallow in our analysis of the anxieties of our age, satisfied with the superficial. "We've replaced thought with ideas, wisdom with six-minute meditations, theology with slogans and sentiment. ... It is not that our leaders are bad priests or ... preachers; it is only that they have inherited social functions that contain their own inner logic, ... their own daily demands ... the inherited business of Christendom, ... the duties of established religion. ... The assumption of entitlement has blinded them to their vocation, as ambassadors of the crucified One, to divest themselves of the aura of officialdom and subject themselves, unprotected by their seeming status, to the stark realities of the human condition."

But Gospel is something else entirely! It does not ask first about organizational refinement or whether church finances are in order or community relationships are congenial or clergy are equipped with the latest managerial, entrepreneurial or technical leadership skills or congregational members content and active, at least with their givings, or whether there's adequate racial representation on a church's Council or Committees – though none of these questions are necessarily bad ones to ask! But the first concern of Gospel is an understanding of the character of the human predicament of the age, the anxieties and turmoil, personal and collective, that hold people back from experiencing abundant or flourishing life, and the quest for a prophetic and pastoral truth – and they always go together, it seems to me, if the good news is truly addressing the depth of the age's bad news! – that is both searing and humble enough to speak authentically to that

contemporary predicament with a word of grace and hope grounded in the core witness of the Christ.

It is for this reason that social justice activism is not alone to be equated with Gospel. Again, as Hall says, "Christian activism achieves many honourable social goals – the betterment of economic conditions for the poor, the greater acceptance of difference, and the like (I would substantially add to this list, by the way, and would articulate an essential necessity for the church to be more daring and risky in living out Gospel among the suffering of the world, but adding to this list would not negate the following point); but it fails often and perhaps characteristically to speak of the loneliness, foreboding, hopelessness, and emptiness in the lives of individuals." In addition to sustaining a recapturing of "the sacrificial spirit of the early church," as King Jr. thought we must, a sacrificial spirit that shows solidarity with the suffering and seeks healed, whole relationships of justice, peace and reconciliation among all peoples, can we address with any sustained clarity the permanent human condition that knows, deep down, we are temporal, flawed creatures? Can we address the pervading sense of futility about our lives with which the always present prospect of death perpetually leaves us? Is there any divine countermelody to relieve, in Wordsworth's phrase, "the still, sad music of humanity?" Can we provide for emerging adult mortals some hint of higher purpose that challenges their innate fears, cynicism or melancholy and delivers them into a future that is, if not certain, at least trustworthy and livable?

So the Gospel of Jesus speaks to the great questions and uncertainties of every age, the questions of being and purpose as much as the questions of ethics, all of it framed in a theological way that transcends any particular preacher or denomination or even continent's voice. We are stewards, shepherds, ambassadors of this Gospel, and I look forward to hearing from you about how we're together to go about sharing and living that Gospel in our life together at Bloordale and beyond.

Brian

**Happy 60th Anniversary  
Bloordale!  
1958-2018**

## Alzheimers Event at St James

St. James United Church will be hosting an event with the Alzheimer Society for the caregivers of people living with dementia, on Thursday, **May 17<sup>th</sup>** from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at St. James UC, 400 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke. Admission is free, but space is limited so please call 416-622-8089 to register.

### Sunday Coffee Hour



Happy Spring/Summer to all of you. We would like to thank everyone who volunteers to assist at coffee time. Without your help, we couldn't continue to enjoy our time with friends, or welcome newcomers. Your homemade goodies are greatly appreciated. So, please say yes, when you get a call or email to help. We'll be overjoyed.

We wish you all a wonderful, refreshing spring and summer.

Thanks again,

Helen and Pat

### From the Pastoral Care Committee



We now have two wheelchairs available for loan and or emergency use. One chair is located under the coat rack behind Brian's office and, the other is in room 14. Whenever the chairs are taken off property, the sign out sheets located on the wall next to them should be signed; we will then be able to keep track of them.

On a related matter we thank everyone for donations but, because of a storage issue we currently are unable to accept more chairs and or walkers. To donate such items please try agencies such as the Salvation Army, or Value Village.

Sylvia Williams

**\$60,000 for 60 Years!**

### Upcoming Events Summary

**Thursday, May 17,** Delivery (pickup) of UCW geraniums, Some flowers available for "walk-ins"

**Sunday, May 20,** Welcome reception for our Refugee Couple, after the church service

**Sunday May 20,** Service at Wesburn Manor, Bloordale hosts the Wesburn service at 2:30 pm. The Bloordale Choir will sing.

**Saturday May 26,** DOORS OPEN at Bloordale

**Sunday May 27,** DOORS OPEN at Bloordale

**Sunday June 3,** Reception after worship service for Brian – 30 years in Ministry

**Friday June 8 ,** Bloordale host Iftar dinner in partnership with the Arab Community Centre of Toronto

**Tuesday June 19,** UCW meeting at Joan's house for lunch

**Monday June 25,** Outing organized by the Social Committee, to dinner at Leonardo's Trattoria, on Dundas St. West

**Wednesday August 15,** Outing, organized by the Social Committee to see the Soulpepper production of "Bed and Breakfast" at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts

**Sunday August 19,** service at Wesburn Manor Bloordale hosts the Wesburn service at 2:30 pm. The Bloordale Choir will sing.

**Sunday September 16,** Welcoming BBQ after the Church Service (date tentative)

### Tri-Church Worship Services at a Glance

July 1, 8 & 15                      Bloordale United Church

July 22, 29 & Aug 5 St.James United Church

Aug 12, 19 & 26                      Richview United Church

All of the above services are at 10:00 a.m.

Services revert to the home churches on Labour Day weekend, Sunday Sept. 2 (also 10:00 a.m.)

Times revert to 10:30, Sunday Sept. 9

## Outreach News

### **Kairos Toronto West Workshop on "Refugee Rights – and Wrongs?"**

On Saturday April 21st the local Kairos Toronto West group, made up of representatives from local churches, hosted the second of two yearly workshops. Held at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, the topic of "Refugee Rights – and Wrongs?" was addressed by Andrew Brouwer, Senior Legal Counsel, Refugee Law Office, Legal Aid Ontario, who gave a very informative talk, complete with powerpoint presentation, about refugee-related human rights law in Canada and in Ontario, and some of the flaws remaining in the legal refugee protection framework. He was aided by Jozsef Pusuma, a Roma human rights worker from Hungary who fled oppression there and ended up on quite a journey with his wife and daughter, including staying in sanctuary for nearly 3 years with the good folks at Windermere United Church while under a deportation order, finally leaving the country and then getting invited back by Minister John McCallum on humanitarian grounds when the Liberals were elected federally.

It was a very informative workshop, and one of the attendees was Mohammed Allely, the father of Omar, who is half of the refugee couple we will welcome to Canada May 20th (see announcement elsewhere in the Bloorbeat). Mohammed knows a fair bit about the refugee system in Canada, having advocated for his son to be reunited with his family here ever since their arrival here in Canada, and their settling in Mississauga, as an immigrant six years ago.

### **Etobicoke – Mississauga Interfaith Festival April 29th**

On Saturday April 29th the Etobicoke – Mississauga Interfaith Leaders Network (EMILN), of which Brian is a part, hosted an Interfaith Festival at the Tibetan Cultural Centre on Titan Road, just north of Norseman between Kipling and Islington, from 2 – 6 pm. Participating faith communities had table displays which included various kinds of information, a wide variety of food, and smiling faces ready to greet people of other faiths. There were also a few speeches and entertainment from each faith tradition, which included chanting, singing, dancing, drumming, etc.

It was the second annual gathering of its kind, intended to join faith communities of many creeds and backgrounds in celebration

of displaying our collective unity in diversity and our shared values of respect and peace. About 500 people across the age spectrum, including many children who took part in their own supervised program, attended, and Debbie and Brian saw a few there from Bloordale. Ask Brian if you'd like to know more about this event.

### **Interfaith Leadership During a Time of Tragedy**

Brian also belongs to Faith in the City (FITC), a collection of interfaith representatives who have advocated for a more just and equitable set of policies within the City of Toronto, especially regarding poverty, housing the homeless, the welfare shelter system, and implementing the city budget to adequately reflect shared social justice concerns, including the City's own commitment to poverty reduction. Because FITC has worked closely with numerous City Counselors, they were turned to for leadership by the City of Toronto following the horrific killing of 10 people, and the severe injuring of many more, in the van rampage of Monday April 23rd on Yonge Street in North York.

FITC issued a Statement about the tragedy, worked with local faith leaders to open doors and provide space for grieving, and offered high quality, united leadership for the City's Interfaith Vigil held and broadcast the following Sunday evening, April 29th, at Mel Lastman Square, where 25,000 people came to remember the dead and grieve with their families, honour the numerous people who were injured and affected, and reflect about both the tragedy and the kind of city we want to build together.

For faith communities and leaders, that means, in part, a city in which the incel (involuntary celibate) group is exposed; such mental health issues as a frustrated sense of male sexual entitlement, as well as many others, are treated adequately; police training for dealing with violent or threatening offenders is both comprehensive and consistent (thanks to Officer Lam's textbook defusing of the situation); and gun and other forms of violence, especially gender-based violence, are reduced as much as possible.

### **Interfaith Leaders Statements About the Toronto Tragedy**

Two Statements from faith leaders about the Toronto Tragedy on Yonge Street this past Monday were released on Thursday. The

Etobicoke & Mississauga Faith Community Leaders Forum released the following statement, copies of which are available on the Outreach table:

"Monday's brutal tragedy on Yonge Street evokes heavy hearts of lament and fervent prayers. Our thoughts, prayers and love go out to the many victims and those who know and love them. We all join in their sorrow and the facing of the difficult days ahead. We pray also for the perpetrator and others who seek violence as a way to address their issues. All Canadians are appalled by this event and look for ways to avoid such tragedies. Faith communities and their leaders are available to their wider communities for comfort and solace. Together we seek to inspire love, peace, justice, compassion, and hope for all."

And the current President of Toronto Conference of the United Church, the Rev. Audrey Brown, issued a statement, copies of which are also available on the Outreach table.

### **"Milk Bags for Mats" Collection**

The Outreach and Education Committee would like to invite you along with your friends and family to participate in a "Milk Bags for Mats" Collection. Since 2009 over 11 million milk bags have been collected in Ontario, and made into mats, handbags and pillows from which people in 23 countries, including Canada, have benefited.

Here is how you can help: Please save only the colourful outer bag from 4 L milk bags. Rinse out milk spills and leave bag open to air dry for about an hour. No need to wash. Flatten bags and bring into the church and place your bags in a box provided next to the food bank collection boxes in the sanctuary.

More information is available about this drive on the Outreach table, or please speak to Debbie Cauch-McIntosh. Thank you in advance for your participation, as this not only stops these bags from reaching our landfills but assists our fellow human beings in need.

### **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/>

## **Update on Refugee Couple**

### **Refugee Couple Arriving May 17th!**

Omar Alhelaly, from Iraq, and his wife Khaloud, from Egypt, have been waiting for 3 years for our sponsorship application to come to Canada to be approved, and we found out recently that they will arrive the evening of May 17th! A small welcome party from Bloordale, along with Omar's father Mohammed, mother Majida, and sister Marwa, will be at the airport to greet them, and the long-anticipated family reunion will be a joy to behold!

### **Welcome Reception May 20th after the Worship Service!**

The Outreach and Education Cte. will be hosting a Welcome Reception for Omar and Khaloud, and the entire family, following the Service on Sunday May 20th, and a light lunch will be served. This will be a great opportunity to meet them, to hear their words of gratitude for our sponsorship, and to wish them well as they settle into life in this new land. Plan on coming to worship on May 20th, Pentecost Sunday, and then stay afterward to celebrate the working of the Spirit to bring these two people, (whose English is excellent!), to Canada!

## **Bloordale Hosts Iftar "Breaking the Ramadan Fast" Dinner June 8th!**

On Friday June 8th Bloordale's Outreach Cte., in partnership with the staff and volunteers from the Arab Community Centre of Toronto, will be hosting a special Muslim - Christian Iftar Dinner in the evening. Iftar, which means "break fast," is the evening meal with which Muslims end their daily Ramadan fast at sunset.

The Arab Community Centre of Toronto is partnering with Bloordale to host this dinner at sunset on June 8th. Christians from the various 427 Ministerial churches will be invited, as well as others from the surrounding community. The final details for this Iftar are still being worked out, so please contact the church closer to the date if you'd like to know more, or register your attendance. All are invited.

## Revitalization Property Options EDGE Process Update

In the last Bloorbeat it was reported that Bloordale and EDGE, a United Church national Network for new initiatives, had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allows us to engage in the work, including extensive research and consultation, to create "development options" that will assist us in pursuing our Vision and Mission by better utilizing our property, including our building and footprint. We assured you at that time that no physical work will be done to our structure until we as a congregation approve any development plan and a new agreement with EDGE is signed.

We reported that Kristopher Tavella, a Property Consultant with EDGE, made a presentation at the Annual General Meeting March 11th which outlined the consultative, collaborative process to be followed over the next number of months. The projected timeline to complete the research and development options phase is the end of 2018.

The first step to be taken was the completion by Bloordale leaders of a Vitality-Viability report about all aspects of our church's life, and that has basically been completed. In addition it was agreed that EDGE could make inquiries of the City of Toronto regarding potential uses for the property, given that the majority of our site is located in a use-limited flood plain. We will soon have a report about that.

The next phase will be to do some mission exploration within our church, with EDGE leaders seeking to help us answer these questions: How do we see our mission being expressed in relation to our use of the Bloordale property? What kinds and amount of space are necessary for us to retain so that the mission we identify is adequately supported in the future?

From there, some property options will be explored, examining various potential uses with the City of Toronto, private developers, other partners, etc. In addition more consultation will take place with and within the congregation.

Please take note of upcoming opportunities to contribute to the discussion about our mission and property, and/or ask Paul Rose, Julia Stavreff or myself about the process we've undertaken.

Brian

## Bloordale Church Craft Night 2018



### Report from our Craft Night Coordinator: Lisa Cecchetto

Craft Night 2018 was a big success! Both parents and the children loved the crafts, being in the gym and also that Craft Night was extended this year! Being in the gym really gave a little more wiggle room for everyone to move from table to table. It was also convenient being very close to the kitchen for snack time and also for constant hand-washing, as the kids loved getting their hands messy! The kids were thrilled that craft night went into April. They looked forward to coming every week. In addition to the crafts, there was also a Lego station near the stage for those who wanted to take a break. This was a great idea and both girls and boys loved building towers with the Lego.

Craft Night also had a few new High School students come volunteer each week, earning hours to graduate. They also loved participating and will definitely return next year. Julia Stavreff and all the Craft Night volunteers did an amazing job every week making sure the evening went smoothly and that the kids had fun!

Here are a just few of the crafts that were done this year:

- Cup wind chimes
- Straw-blown hair paint face. The children put various colours of paint on top a hairless illustrated person, and was able to create colourful variations of hairstyles by blowing paint with a straw.
- Plant a tulip. Each child had a tiny pot they got to fill with dirt and plant a flower.
- Dinosaur eggs
- Window greenhouses. A mini window greenhouse to take home and watch a seed grow.
- Northern light chalk drawing. Lead by Rev. Brian McIntosh. The children used chalk on black cardstock to create beautiful sky illustrations.

- St. Patrick's Day leprechaun traps. Green hats with sparkly green grass and a gold coin hanging above to lure the leprechaun.
- Slime! Major hit with the kids. They absolutely loved this craft.
- Cupshakers
- 4 leaf clover tissue paper decoration
- Cotton ball gold at the end of the rainbow.
- Easter sock bunnies. The kids made really cute outfits and necklaces for them.
- Birds nests with painted rock robin's eggs.
- Easter eggs in a basket
- Shaving cream egg staining
- Foam eggs decoration
- Bedroom door collage hanging signs
- Creative clay - use your imagination. Another hands on craft where kids were able to get their hands a little dirty. There were a lot of beautiful clay pieces.
- Tissue paper flowers
- Use your imagination creatures. Various craft supplies were used to create these creative creatures. Each child really channeled their inner fashion designer!
- Button snails with slime trail. Buttons used to create the shell, and a clear plastic slime was attached at the base. The kids loved that funny detail.
- Paper plate dreamcatchers - the kids used string and made a beautiful beaded web dreamcatcher with feathers hanging below.
- Pool noodle-poppers. A chunk of a pool noodle plus a balloon and some tape makes a great cotton ball popper!
- Paper bag monsters.
- Painters tape stain glass
- Slime - we did slime a second time for the last craft night as it was their favourite.

It was a pleasure to coordinate Bloordale Craft Night 2018! I loved researching fun and different kinds of crafts for the kids. Each week I tried to incorporate various mediums, whether it be paper, paint, clay, dirt, slime, gemstones, glue, feathers and all kinds of textures.

It was very rewarding to see how happy the kids were at the end of the night when they were showing their parents what they made. Overall Craft Night was a hit! The parents and the kids are looking forward to coming again next year!

It was great working with everyone. Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lisa Cecchetto

**Come with us to see  
the Toronto Premiere Production of  
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**Wednesday Aug 15, 2018, 7:30 pm  
Young Centre for the Performing Arts**

In the Distillery District

**A Bloordale and Friends Event**

Discounted Earlybird Tickets: \$50

Carpooling Available

For Tickets or Information contact  
Julia 416-621-8050 (w) or 416-622-6309 (h)

**10:00 A.M. Summer Services**

Just a reminder that our Bloordale church services start at 10:00 a.m. on May 20th, and continue at that time up to and including Labour Day weekend, September 2nd

## Craft Night 2018 By The Numbers

- 10 weeks of Friday Evening sessions from February 9th to April 20th
- 62 different children came from 39 different families
- 5 children came all 10 weeks
- 15 children came 7 to 9 weeks
- 18 children came 4 to 6 weeks
- 15 children came 2 to 3 weeks
- 9 children came only 1 week
- Average attendance per week was 30 children (from a low of 23 to a high of 42)
- Co-ordinated by Lynn Lawrence weeks 1 to 3
- Co-ordinated by Lisa Cecchetto weeks 4 to 10
- 9 to 12 Volunteers each week leading/assisting activities
- At least 50% of volunteers were from Bloordale
- 3 high school students received volunteer hours
- \$4,000 grant received from United Church's Embracing The Spirit Programme
- Fee charged each child attending \$3 per session (maximum \$25)
- At least 40 different craft/activity ideas
- Parent's hospitality suite (room 13) used by at least 10 families
- Written Invitation extended to parents on last day of session to visit Bloordale
- Parent's survey done at last session indicated:
  - ◊ 100% of children enjoyed coming
  - ◊ 100% of parents enjoyed bringing their children

Many thanks to Lisa Cecchetto and to Lynn Lawrence, and to all the Volunteers!

Julia Stavreff  
Children's Craft Night Director

## Esprit's Upcoming "Italian Soujourn" - Part II

(continued from the March/April 2018 Issue of Bloorbeat)



We are scheduled to sing our first concert in Rome on July 15th, at Sant'Agnese in Agone on the Piazza Navona, a 17th century baroque church built in 1652 on the site where the Early Christian Saint Agnes was martyred in the ancient Stadium of Domitian.

On July 16th we board our bus and travel to Assisi for a tour, and then on to Montecatini Terme, known for the art nouveau Parco delle Terme spa complex, and where we will perform a recital concert in Santa Maria Maggiore.

July 17th we tour Florence, including the famed Academia Gallery and sing a concert in the Church of San Filippo Neri, a 17th century baroque church in Florence.

July 18th we visit Lucca; return to Montecatini for a concert in the Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta, a modern church built between 1953 and 1958.

On July 19th we are to travel to San Gimignano and sing a concert at the Sant'Agostino Convent, an imposing 13th century building. The interior is dominated by a 17-panel fresco cycle on the life of St. Augustine.

On July 20th we travel to Mestre, Venice via Ravenna. A possible concert there has not yet been confirmed.

July 21st we spend the day in Venice where we will participate in mass in the famous Basilica San Marco, and sing a concert in the Church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli, also known as the "marble church." It is one of the best examples of the early Venetian Renaissance, combining use of the Gothic lancet arch with Byzantine and Ottoman influences. The style originated in Venice during the 14th century.

Most of us will fly back to Toronto from Venice on July 22, where we will absorb and then share the many impressions and experiences of the "Italian Sojourn."

Verena von Stritzky

## Property Updates

### New Phone & Internet Service Provider

After a review of prices and service with our previous Phone and Internet Service Provider, Bell Canada, we switched to Rogers. This change provides us with much faster internet connections speed, a third phone line, and a significant saving in monthly costs. The church phone number remains the same. Church email addresses have changed. (see separate box below)

### New Toilets in Men's and Ladies Washrooms

After much aggravation with poor flushing, and unsuccessful repair attempts, we have replaced all of the toilets in these washrooms with new ones. Moreover, one of the new toilets in each washroom is now "comfort height" .

The replacement arrangements were made by the Property Committee. Funding was provided by UCW. The new toilets are working perfectly!

John Pauksens

### New Church Email Addresses

With our change of Internet Service Providers, we lost our "bellnet.ca" email addresses for the church office and the minister. The new email addresses are:

[bloordaleunited@gmail.com](mailto:bloordaleunited@gmail.com) (Halyna), and  
[minister.bloordaleunited@gmail.com](mailto:minister.bloordaleunited@gmail.com) (Brian)

### Hats Off!



To the 14 volunteers who took part in spring property cleanup on May 5th. These were:

Jo-Em Bettridge, Victor Chivers-Wilson, Pat Conway-Willis, Grace Everett, Victor Nguyen, Shirley Jankus, Shirley Scott, Helen Hitchcock, Lynn Lawrence, Diane Mulholland, Yvonne Mulholland, John Pauksens, Kashi Ramsahai, and Victor Sakamoto.

## The Lunch Bunch Beat

The lunch bunch has been around for a number of years, and has no intention of stopping. 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.

Our last lunch bunch was March 16th, at The Bounty Restaurant, as reported in our last issue of Bloorbeat. There has been so much happening since then at Bloordale, that we have not had a lunch bunch subsequently.

Our next lunch bunch lunch is slated for July 8th or July 15th, when Bloordale is hosting Tri Church services, at a place to be determined. Watch for more details.

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

## Congratulations Brian!

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*

*Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Rev. Brian McIntosh as he celebrates 30 years in Ministry.

Join us on June 3rd, after Church Service as we offer him our warmest wishes on this special occasion.

## WANTED!



**WHAT:** Your empty wine and liqueur bottles and any other such bottles you may have.

**WHY:** Connie and Nelsona are working on a project.

**WHERE:** Bring your bottles TO, but not INTO, church Sunday morning from now until November.

**HOW:** Let Nelsona know you have them either before service or during Coffee Hour. She will transfer them from your car to hers. This is not a recycling programme so please don't leave them at the church! (Pick-up can be arranged for a large quantity: Nelsona 416-620-4098.)

**WHEN:** Expect results most likely early December.

In the meantime, don't ask what they're up to because they won't tell you!

Thank you!

## U.C.W. News

Much thanks to all who came out to help make the Rummage Sale a success. \$2,700+ was raised...

and everything left went to the Diabetes Society who would sell it to Value Village. Good Recycling! Our resolve to make this the last one is now in re-think. Keep tuned!

The pickup for geranium orders will be 1:00 – 5:00 May 17. Extra geraniums, impatiens and begonias will be on sale and many perennials from our gardens will be available.

UCW's next meeting will be lunch at Joan's June 19th 11:30 am. All ladies of the congregation and the community are welcome.

Joan Hollowell

## Coming This Fall - Panache!

**Panache Steel Band** is coming to Bloordale this fall:

It is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday afternoon, October 21.**

Plan on attending this lively Feel Good Concert.

## Upcoming Concerts

**Artistic Director: Mervin William Fick**

**Espirit Chamber Choir in Concert at DOORS OPEN –**

Saturday, May 26, at 2:00pm  
At Bloordale United Church  
FREE

**Bloordale United Church Choir in Concert at DOORS OPEN**

Sunday May 27 at 1:00pm  
At Bloordale United Church  
FREE

**Espirit Chamber Choir Italian Sojourn**

July 12th to July 22

First concert July 13, in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City at 5:00pm –

Followed by concerts in Rome, Montecatina Terme, Florence, San Gimignano, and Venice



## Diabetes Canada Donation Bin

You may have noticed the new blue donation bin located in the parking lot near our waste disposal area. The bin was placed there in the aftermath of the Spring Rummage Sale. UCW donated everything that was left over from the Rummage sale to Diabetes Canada who raise funds and perform a useful service by collecting such donations and selling them for a modest fee to places such as Value Village.

Diabetes Canada subsequently asked UCW if they could set up one of their donation bins at BUC for collecting good reusable items year round. The Property Committee agreed with UCW that this was a good idea, and gave the go-ahead for the Donation bin.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Doors Open Toronto

**Right here at Bloordale on  
May 26th and May 27th**

Bloordale's time as a Doors Open venue is fast approaching!! We're lining up Ambassadors - Guides - to welcome our visitors, hand out brochures and answer any questions about aspects of our unique round Sanctuary.

We're hoping for a big turnout for the art show that is already up in Room 15 - thanks to Bev and Alun Morgan - and for Mervin's Esprit Chamber Choir concert on Saturday at 2:00 p.m., the Bloordale Choir concert at 1:00 p.m. Sunday and Melody Klassen's Celtic Harp recitals at several times during the weekend. The hours are Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.

We're hoping a few more Bloordale folk will volunteer to help out and we encourage the rest of the congregation to drop by during the weekend to help us celebrate again our 60th anniversary.

Hope to see you there!!

Patricia Nelson

## 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 Stavreff, 416-622-6309,  
stavreffj@stavreff.com

## Bloorbeat Publication Schedule

Following are publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
<b>2018</b>	
Sept 16	Sept 9
Nov 11	Nov 4
<b>2019</b>	
Jan 13	Jan 6
Mar 17	Mar 10
May 12	May 5



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Business card size	\$ 20
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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

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

Bloordale United Church

4258 Bloor St. W.

Etobicoke ON M9C 1Z7

(416) 621-1710

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