

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XL, Issue 2

Minister's Message

A Transitional Time

Over the past sixteen months it is surely the case that we have had our so-called normal lives overturned, and have faced various threats to both our personal and collective health throughout the pandemic. We have had in-person worship suspended, we've had the Black Lives Matter movement demand justice, and we've had the inadequacies of our formerly-presumed great health care system exposed for all to see. We've seen frontline workers put their lives consistently on the line, and governments refuse to change policies that would protect them in the midst of those risks. We've seen the debacle of the last few months of Donald Trump's presidency, and have reaped the whirlwind of deep divisions that have fractured not only our southern neighbours but also the presumed tranquility of our northern mosaic. And, of course, we've seen the mounting global death toll that will take years to both properly lament and come to grips with. We ministers are bracing, friends, for a steady stream of both funerals and weddings, as these rituals of ending and beginning have both long been delayed for so many!

That dual metaphor of endings and beginnings is a good one to describe our current state, perhaps, as we've also, while in the midst of the second, third and new variant waves of the virus and noting the negatives above, benefited from the blessings of medical science and a federal health system that mobilized to create and then administer a number of new vaccines for our immunization and protection. I write this two days after having received my second dose, and while the vaccines I and the rest of us have received, as possible and available, do not guarantee either our complete personal safety nor our collective ability to put the pandemic completely behind us, they certainly are moving us in the right direction. Surely as we turn the page on spring and launch ourselves into a new summer we're filled with more hope than ever that life will be able to return to whatever semblance of normal we can muster for ourselves. It seems that we're near the beginning of the end of the most devastating and deadly effects of COVID-19, and that surely brings a smile to our faces if not a new spring in our steps!

In acknowledging this transitional time we're in, what I now wonder is whether the

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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

July 4th	Worship led by St James UC
July 11th	Worship led by St James UC
July 18th	Worship led by St James UC
July 25th	Worship led by Richview UC
Aug 1st	Worship led by Richview UC
Aug 8th	Worship led by Richview UC
Aug 15th	Worship led by Bloordale UC
Aug 22nd	Worship led by Bloordale UC
Aug 29th	Worship led by Bloordale UC

In these Tri-Church Services, each congregation has its own way of delivering online worship, and what you receive may not be what you're used to, but we hope that you will find the resource you receive accessible and meaningful.

For additional information please see the article on page 5 of this Bloorbeat.

Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

transition to the new normal we forge in our future will be truly transformative or merely a return to life as we had known it. As I see it, friends, we as people of faith have a vital role to play in the potential outcome of this transitional time, and we have resources at our disposal that enable us to make vital contributions to the public ponderings to come. Two of those resources are our God-given callings to be people of truth-telling and hope, over against the rampant and widespread desire to uphold denial and despair as our watchwords.

As we worship – hopefully in-person in September! – pray and work our way toward a new normal, the truth to be told is that the world has been out of sync and living against the grain of God's holiness and justice, and that such living has consequences because the sync and the grain are God-given and cannot be ignored or set aside. Faithful truth-telling is a consistent insistence that we live in a morally coherent creation, and therefore present choices and future outcomes are deeply connected. Such truth-telling is always prophetic and often poetic, as new visions bear witness to the conviction that God's will and way will not be mocked. The powerful often appear to imagine that with enough technology or shrewd manipulation of public messaging, God's holy cohesion in creation can be dismissed. Such denial opposes vulnerability and uncertainty, and shapes the world to manage and maintain the status quo, refusing the surprising newness, the new normal, that God has on offer for us. But God's holiness demands that we answer for our actions in the creation to the Creator, for this is not our world, it's God's world!

We can see the undeniable injustices in the world, including the climate crisis, our economic system, the long-term care insufficiencies, the racism and poverty, and respond by resigning ourselves to the presumption that "it will always be thus," that nothing will change, that justice, equality,

true inclusion, healing, reconciliation and right relations are not really possible. Or we can fall back on faith, which means trust, in order to move forward, proclaiming hope as the antidote to contemporary despair. Acting and speaking hope requires risks that we rarely wish to take or embrace, mind you, for when a new normal is being sought, the old normal must be left behind as inadequate, even if there were certain benefits contained in it for many of us. But the hope to be told is that God will not be deterred or defeated from the divine plan to finally and fully bring creation to embody the vision of shalom outlined in the Bible and passionately lived by Jesus. The world and its inhabitants, including us, live under the divine umbrella of a promise that will be neither compromised nor put aside. It is a divine dream that is being made real, that rushes beyond present circumstances and, like Martin Luther King Jr., hangs on to that dream of what God intends more than it hangs on to present power arrangements.

God's gift of newness, friends, beyond the pandemic and beyond the various denials, despairs, and negative news that dominate our daily soundbites, is coming, and though no one knows the timing or can possibly outline a complete strategy to get there, it is found on the wings of the truth-telling and active hoping that is given flight by our faith. Our hope is found far beyond the vaccines, rooted and grounded in the God whose loyalty to creation's vulnerable ones is unwavering. May we embrace the Spirit's leading, therefore, and be unafraid in our prophetic calling to speak and live God's way of whatever new normal is in store for us in time to come!

Brian

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/>

Stewardship Spot

Stewards of a New Normal!

(the following is a poetic continuation of my Minister's Message)

Our old normal ways are reassuring to us:
 -our normal way to slot people into wealth or poverty;
 -our normal way to classify people as “us” and “other”;
 -our normal way to privilege white male heteros;
 -our normal way to “not see colour” which makes Black, Asian and Muslim lives matter less.
 -Our usual normal makes us feel safe, happy, certain – as long as the “us” are the ones in power.

Only now this pandemic has exposed our old normal ways
 -as constructs of privilege
 -that cover over the reality of our neglected neighbours.

The virus has exposed the truth:
 -that those others are with us,
 -and we are all vulnerable, and all stand or fall, together.

We want old normals to be entrenched again – but
 -You summon us to new futures made paramount by the pandemic.

-You urge us to imagine and risk new normals among us:
 -the blind see, the poor know good news;
 -student debts are canceled, women have equal pay and opportunity;
 -the “other” is honoured, seniors are protected;
 workers have a real living wage,
 -the atmosphere breathes fresh air.

We want to
 -return to old normals,
 -to turn back the pandemic clock
 -so the privileged may have priority again, in safety and happiness.

But you speak your Word and send us forth, not back,
 -to seek otherwise as stewards of your purposes and promises.

“*All things new*” is a huge stretch for us,
 -but we know it is your good gift to give to your creatures, to creation.

We prefer church to be upbeat,
 -where never a discouraging word is heard in worship.

Yet the pandemic reality reveals
 -deep discords and divisions,
 -losses and illusions, death, denials and despair.

So we cry:
 -Hear! Help! Save! Send!
 We cry to you, the only One who can
 -turn sorrow to joy,
 -mourning to dancing, weeping to laughter,
 -disappointment to resolve.

God who hears, helps, saves and sends,
 -enact newness among us!
 -Bring the worst of this virus to an end;
 -give courage and compassion to pursue justice;
 -enable us to be rich in soul and less willing to hoard power and possessions.

Order a new normal among us, where
 -we support neighbours in need, are generous with goods for life,
 -and free of fear to risk stepping from current comfort zones to the security of your shalom community.

So we speak truth, so we pray, so we trust, and so we hope ... in you! Amen.

Brian
 (with inspiration from Walter Brueggemann)



*Happy
Summer*

Summer Worship Schedule

We've now begun our usual shared summer worship schedule with both St. James and Richview UCs, so we invite you to look for information from our office throughout July and early August while our staff are on holidays.

Here's the worship rotation:

St. James UC July 4, 11 and 18;

Richview UC July 25, August 1 and 8;

Bloordale UC August 15, 22 and 29.

Each congregation has its own way of delivering online worship, and what you receive may not be what you're used to, but we hope that you will find the resource you receive accessible and meaningful.

For the next three weeks, **St. James** will be livestreaming their worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 am on their youtube channel, the link for which is: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJamesEtobicoke>

In addition, following their worship, the Rev. Maya Douglas will be hosting a coffee conversation on zoom, and all are invited to join at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81414121724?pwd=S1lJakFPSnM5UEx1UWVUNHI5MktSUT09Using>

Meeting ID: 814 1412 1724

Passcode: 555637

From late July to early August **Richview** will be livestreaming their service as well, and you can use the following link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88218634724?pwd=anhVUjJDNmhoa2IYMWpVW0o5L3kUT09>

Meeting ID: 882 1863 4724

Passcode: 278664

If there's a problem or a concern, please do not hesitate to contact our summer troubleshooter, Pat Conway-Willis, at 416-695-3976. She will be taking care of communicating with you while Brian is away (July 14th to August 10th inclusive). Halyna is not in the office throughout July and returns in early August.

The **Bloordale** UC virtual services in the second part of August will be done in our accustomed manner, with written materials sent out by e-mail, in advance, including Vimeo links to the video elements of the service.

Brian's Holidays, Office Closing

Brian will be taking holiday time from July 14th to August 10th inclusive, returning to work August 11th. Halyna is taking leave/holiday from July 1st to August 9th inclusive, and the office will be closed in her absence. During this period please call Pat Conway-Willis at 416-695-3976 (after 9 am) if you have a question or concern.

Pastoral Coverage for Brian's Holidays

From July 13th to 17th the Rev. Maya Douglas of St. James United Church will be providing emergency pastoral care in Brian's absence, and information about how to reach her will be shared by e-mail prior to Brian's holiday.

From the 18th until Brian's return August 10th the Rev. John Kim of Richview United Church will be providing that same pastoral coverage, and he can be reached at 647-525-3073 or at ministerrichviewunited@gmail.com

Quo Vadis Polish Catholic School Expands at Bloordale!

Our newest rental partner, the certified private Quo Vadis Polish Catholic School, began to use Room 24 upstairs in mid-September 2020, with a necessarily restricted limited enrollment. Prior to COVID their intentions were to use both 24 & 25 during the day – and they now anticipate doing so as of this fall!

In addition they're running a 3-week day camp in July in these rooms, using the gym as well. They've been a good partner to have over the last ten months, and we're glad they're renewing and expanding their room use!

Osteopath Expands Also!

Our excellent professional Osteopath partner Katharine McLarty has also expanded her consistent use of the former Youth office in the sanctuary, and has increased her rent accordingly! She is an excellent therapist and a very responsible tenant, and we're pleased that she has chosen to continue to rent our space to carry out her practice.

Outreach, Education and Advocacy News

Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Actions

Public Witness for Kamloops 215, and Others, Continues

As a public witness and memorial expression of solidarity and support for those deeply affected by the discovery of the remains of the Kamloops 215, as well as the 104 and 751 found in Brandon and Saskatchewan since then, and those that will continue to be found elsewhere (the TRC suggests as many as 6,000 children suffered a similar fate) we're continuing to invite our members and friends to **bring a pair of shoes**, old and worn or new, children's or youth's or adults, and **place them on our front church steps**. Please consider taking this simple step in solidarity and bringing a pair of shoes, or more than one pair, to lay on our front steps. The shoes will remain in place for the foreseeable future, so share this invitation with your family, friends, neighbours, and others, as we seek to mobilize and educate people about the deplorable history of Residential Schools.

UC Statement, Actions re Attack on London Muslim Family

The United Church, at every level, has strongly condemned the horrific hate-filled attack that killed three generations of a Muslim family in London, Ontario on Sunday, June 6th. A Moderator's Statement dated June 9th was released in which members of the UC were invited to pray, to engage in acts of solidarity with Muslim neighbours, to take concrete actions to combat Islamophobia, to engage in interfaith dialogue and speak out against violence and discrimination rooted in racial superiority, and to participate in community vigils to honour the lives of those affected.

In alignment with our collaborative mourning and caring, Brian took part in an online podcast Memorial event on June 6th, at the invitation of the podcast host, as a representative of the Christian community. The large panel discussion was just over an hour in length, and can be viewed at the following links (in two parts):

Let's mourn together! Part: 1

<https://youtu.be/CiMbGLWIakw>

Let's mourn together! Part: 2

<https://youtu.be/OuyNI36uOA4>

Refugee Sponsorship Update

Just this past week we received an e-mail from the federal government asking us to fill out a plan to assure officials that we have a COVID-19 restrictions plan, including initial quarantine plans, in place to potentially receive our refugee, Ali Oubidin, perhaps sometime soon! We've put that plan in place in collaboration with his family members here in Toronto, and are hopeful that we'll soon receive news about Ali's arrival in Canada!

Outreach Fund Needs a Boost, as Donations to Partners Continues

We've also continued to share our Outreach Fund donations with a number of organizations with whom we partner or whom we want to support, while noting that there has been a bit of a fall off in donations, no doubt due to COVID concerns. We encourage you to give as you are able, as your gifts enable our continuing generosity to our partner service agencies, and we thank all who choose to give of their resources to support that Fund.

Neighbourhood Food Drive

Bloordale United Church's Outreach Team, alongside the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church deacons, led a neighborhood food drive for **Ernestine's Women's Shelter**, one of those agencies we consistently support, with collection of food on Sunday June 27th. (see p.8).

More shared outreach projects that benefit our community will be planned for the fall and going forward, and your outreach team may need your occasional help with these efforts, so please respond positively as you are able. We thank Lynn Lawrence and Beth Jazvac for being our lead volunteers in this and future collaborations, and if you would like to offer a little help, please call either Lynn 905-278-4795 or Beth 416-558-5105.

BUC Worship Service Video Elements Posted on Vimeo

Contact the church office if your would like to be on the mailing list for the Vimeo links to our worship videos and other worship materials.

My Decision

The Standardized Patient Program, in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, provides simulation services to support the teaching and assessment needs of the MD program. Some years ago, I was a Standardized Patient (SP). When your availability was confirmed for the testing date, a prior training session of a few hours was arranged and SPs were given instructions to practise at home. Each SP had only one role but for several candidates in succession in the same testing room. The symptoms of the SP's problem/condition were posted on the door. The candidate had only 5 minutes to study the information, then entered the examination room for 10 minutes to question, observe and physically examine the SP. In the room, there was a supervising MD who was there only to observe and assess. Subsequently, the candidate would submit his diagnosis and treatment recommendation. The supervisor would submit his assessment of the candidate.

There were several different "patients" for the candidate to assess. Each case was different. Some showed signs of physical trauma; the makeup artists were phenomenal! Some testing days were devoted to "foreign" doctors seeking Canadian accreditation. Passing these tests was absolutely essential to all candidates.

The testing days were lengthy, but some refreshments were provided, there was financial remuneration and usually you met SPs whom you already knew. Some roles were more complicated, difficult, than others. My most onerous assignment was portraying a woman with advanced Parkinson's Disease.

There were occasions when I was asked to meet with a small number of students and a doctor in a single interview, not on a regular testing day. We SPs were all serious and concerned about our performances because we knew how essential it was for candidates to deal with a real person rather than a "dummy" or strictly written material.

Realizing the value of having real bodies to learn with, I decided to donate my body to Anatomical Study and Medical Research.

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, has detailed information and a comprehensive booklet available regarding body donation. <https://surgery.utoronto.ca/willed-body-program>.

Should you wish information on possibly becoming a Standardized Patient you can find it on the internet at <https://www.spp.utoronto.ca/standardized-patient-program>

Nancy Harris
Past Standardized Patient (SP)

New Riding Mower

Some of you may have already noticed Victor using our new riding mower that was purchased this spring as a replacement for the old heavy-duty self-propelled push mower (which would have once again needed major repairs to restore its "self-propel" capability.)



The new riding mower will make it quicker and easier to do the lawn mowing at Bloordale, which has been a particularly tough job in the heat of summer. The new riding mower is supplemented by a light-weight ordinary push mower for the spots which are hard to reach with the riding mower

The new mower was funded from the Memorial Fund, in memory of John Everett.

Food Drive- For Ernestine's Place Women's Shelter

Joint Project of Fellowship Christian Reformed Church and Bloordale United Church

A Great Success- Thanks to Our Generous Neighbours

Fellowship Christian Reformed Church has done this project successfully in the past for the St James Food Bank. Flyers and advice were shared with Bloordale participants. We thank Jo-Ann Noble of FCRC for her kind assistance. Flyers describing the work of Ernestine's Place in Etobicoke, were delivered to our neighbours on June 21. The flyers were attached to a white bag to be used for possible donations. 200 were distributed by Bloordale and 200 by Fellowship Christian Reformed Church participants. Donations were then picked up the afternoon of June 27 and delivered to Ernestine's Place.

As we happily picked up donations, we were elated by the generosity of the families in our neighbourhood. The donations packed two SUV's and we didn't see FCRC's donations until we arrived at Ernestine's. Ernestine's staff were amazed by the total collection. The Christian spirit of helping our neighbours is alive and well in Etobicoke.

We look forward to another similar joint project in the fall. Thank you to the Vision Committee -Paul Rose, Pat Conway-Willis and Brian McIntosh for setting up the collaboration and to Lynn Lawrence, Helen Hitchcock, Beth Jazvac, with help from family and friend who delivered flyers and picked up the donations.

Beth Jazvac

Connecting with the Ill, Bereaved, and Shut-in

The Pastoral Care Committee connects with members who are ill, bereaved or are shut in. We are unable to make a connection if we are unaware. We are therefore appealing to members who may be aware of someone who might need a contact from us. Please obtain permission from that individual to contact a member of the committee. Thank you.

Sylvia Williams
Chair, Pastoral Care Committee



IN MEMORIAM

Edna Cartwright Bell

October 28, 1929 - March 26, 2021

Betty Verna Dukelaw

June 25, 1924 - April 20, 2021

Walt Saunders

March 17, 1930- June 25, 2021



How wonderful it is to have a reason to celebrate during this time! We are delighted to share with the Bloordale United Church community that TERRY TAN CHILD CENTRE is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The vision of Terry and Kinzie Tanaka to create a safe and meaningful learning space for young children has resoundingly been achieved over this past half a century. Terry Tan began as a nursery school program, assisting families and children in enhancing preschool learning and social interactions. The need for full day care was quickly seen as more and more families went to work or back to school.

Terry Tan is located here within Bloordale United Church, having the full benefit of dedicated space and a lovely park setting playground adjoining the building. Our other site located within Eatonville Junior School also provides many families with care for their children.

Much has transformed over these many years – where the menu consisted of powdered milk, jello, canned fruit, juice crystals, baloney and hot dogs, we now serve whole milk, fresh fruits and vegetables, plenty of water and whole grains!

Staffing has also changed – Terry Tan has always been proud to provide professional staff through Early Childhood Educator's (ECE's) in all educating positions, surpassing the government's expectation at the start from 1 ECE per centre to one per room. The introduction of the College of Early Childhood Educators has elevated even

further the qualifications and professionalism of the ECE to that of Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE).

Programs have also significantly transformed. What used to be a theme based program directed and guided by the educator has shifted to meet the interests and needs of the children through a more responsive curriculum model. Parent involvement is encouraged and supported in any way that is possible for them to do so. We have a website, communication through email and day to day interactions with the families and community members.

Terry Tan is proud to have been one of the first programs in the city to accept children with identified special needs as a part of the regular ratios within the room, understanding and knowing that each child is a child first, with skills and abilities that could be nurtured and built upon with peers and qualified educators. The addition of Resource Consultation staff to the Terry Tan staff roster which provides support within the community has also been realized.

In this our 50th year, we are pleased to announce that we are still growing! We have a brand new, dedicated infant room within the Bloordale site, allowing for us to support the younger children in families who are eager to return to work or school. We encourage you to take the virtual tour of our spaces. These may be found at www.terrytan.ca

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Tamas RECE
Executive Director, Terry Tan Child Centre

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

The Black Loyalists

Part 2, By Sylvia Williams, February 2021

(Part 3 will be in the next issue of Bloorbeat)

It has been established that for more than 200 years there were slaves in Canada. Apart from the direct buying, selling and auctioning of slaves, how else did slaves get here? To get an idea of what actually happened, one has to look briefly at American history.

It is well known that prior to the Revolutionary War, North American colonies enjoyed a relatively prosperous life under the British Crown, and the ownership of enslaved persons was the norm. Unrest developed as the British Crown attempted to assert control over the colonies, leading to what we now call the American Revolutionary War which lasted from 1775 to 1783. In November 1775 Lord Dunmore, Virginia's Royal Governor, issued a proclamation establishing martial law and freedom and land to slaves who left their patriotic owners and joined the British army. Those who did were labelled Loyalists. The black enslaved who heeded the call, or were forced to fight alongside their owners, became known as Black Loyalists.

Why Black Loyalists left America

The enslaved blacks who joined the British army did not join out of patriotism, but out of a desire to gain their freedom and to be seen as equal in society. In exchange, they were promised land and their freedom. They served the British well, working initially in positions which did not involve using guns because of their former owners' fear of reprisals. As the war progressed and British defeat seemed inevitable, armed enslaved men were sent to the battle field. In the end the British were defeated and all Loyalists were unwelcomed in America. Black Loyalists would return to even harsher enslavement conditions. As a result, approximately 3000 Black Loyalists were sent with the White Loyalists who were leaving America for the colonies, including what is now known as Canada. Blacks were given certificates of freedom and detailed lists of their status were created listing names, whether free, enslaved or indentured, languages spoken and skills. This is factually described in Lawrence Hill's award-winning novel "The Book of Negroes" which is based on the actual "BOOK of NEGROES" prepared at that time. Others followed later. It is estimated that as many as 35,000 made their way to Canada.

Settlement in Canada

Black Loyalists were more unwelcome in America unless they reverted to being enslaved. Many were recaptured, sold back into slavery and treated even more harshly than before the war. Some not captured became indentured to their former owners. This last state was an attempt to survive and in many cases they were never freed. On arrival in Canada, they initially settled in the St. John River Valley, now New Brunswick, and in coastal Nova Scotia in places such as Shelburne, Birchtown, Annapolis Royal, Preston and Digby. In fact, the Maritime Provinces became home to over 30,000 Black, White and Indigenous Loyalists. On many occasions, once the indentured arrived in Canada with their masters, they were declared slaves. All Loyalists, but especially the Blacks, faced poverty, epidemics and lack of healthy food. In addition, Blacks were subjected to racism, hostility, low paying jobs and inequality. They were promised freedom, 100 acres of land for the head of the household, 50 acres for each family member and provisions for three years. The reality was that none of this was forthcoming. Whites were given land grants ahead of the Blacks, they would refuse low paying jobs and resented the Blacks for taking these. Blacks got tired of waiting for the land grants. There was dissatisfaction all round.

How they Survived

Clearly there was a need for housing and other necessities of life. Nova Scotia became known as "Nova Scarcity." The need for housing, and lack of resources to build same, forced the Blacks to build what are called pit houses. This consisted of holes dug in the earth and covered with thatch and earth. Stones were used as steps to enter the hole. The earth provided insulation so these houses could last for several seasons. One such house was excavated in Birchtown in 1994. Pictures of these houses can be seen on Google "**REMEMBERING the BLACK LOYALISTS.**" In addition, replicas have been built and displayed in Black Loyalist museums. Pit houses were not unique to the Loyalists as British soldiers built such houses in the field. Being willing to take very low paying jobs caused resentment by the White Loyalists because it meant they would also be expected to do the same, and this led to even more tensions. Canada's first race riot took place in 1784 in Shelburne when White Loyalists destroyed the houses of Black Loyalists because they worked at a cheaper

rate, thus taking jobs from the Whites. As time went by, the White Loyalists abandoned their enslaved and indentured Black Loyalists because they could not afford to feed and house them. Black Loyalists now had to make a choice. Some chose to leave Canada for other British colonies such as the Caribbean and parts of Europe and Africa. One significant move consisted of a group which chose to go to the new British colony of Sierra Leone off the west coast of Africa. These people adopted English names and many descendants can still be found there.

Contributions to Canadian Life

18th Century Canada was in its infancy when Loyalists came to Nova Scotia. It is known that they helped in the building of the Halifax Citadel and, being forced to work at lumbering, road making, trench digging and mining, worked at laying foundational jobs. They established their own schools and churches. Congregations of Anglicans and Methodists were established in Birchtown and Little Tracadie. Other contributions include supporting the British in the War of 1812 and the rebellions of 1837-38. More information can be found in Ruth Holmes Whitehead's book "Black Loyalists" as well as visits to Loyalist museums and museums displaying slave artifacts.

References: Google, The Canadian Encyclopedia, lecture notes by Channon Oyeniran.

Sylvia Williams

From You Council Chair



Hi again, I know that it has been a very long time since we have gathered together at church. I know that most of us didn't think that it was going to be this long. I hope that you are all doing well, also that most of you have had at least your first shot and that the second one will be soon.

Thanks to all of you.

What we have to do now, is have faith that our church will be open in September, and that you will be there not only for our service, but also for our coffee hour on Sundays,

and to meet up with all your friends whom you have missed during the year and half plus.

As most of you know we have purchased a Riding Lawnmower, which Victor is very happy as it makes his job much easier. We used the Memorial Fund of John Everett, and thank our donors for enabling this purchase.

We would like to thank Roman and Adrian Halyna's boys for assisting with the weeding and gardening chores. Thanks again.

Also, Grace and her two daughters Jan and Leslie assisted with the planting of plants in front and side of the church, Thank you.

We did well in 2020, thanks to all of you and our tenants who continue to make donations, despite the lockdown. We are continuing to receive Federal Government wage subsidies, thanks to Julia. Currently we have a \$15,000 deficit which will hopefully turn around by year's end

Rooks to Cooks have mentioned that they will be coming back in August, this is good news.

The Food trucks are back, but you have to order on your cell phone application. Haylna sends you notifications as to what trucks are in our parking lot.

Your foursomes still meet regularly, making sure that all is going well. Thanks to Paul, Julia, Brian and myself.

I would like to wish everyone, a safe summer, and if you have had your second shot, you will be able to visit with your families with lots of hugs long time overdue.

Stay safe

Pat Conway-Willis,
Chair of Council

St. James Food Basket

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.

Bloordale and Fellowship Reformed Church Shared Vision

Leadership teams at Bloordale United Church and at the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church have been looking into and developing a model for a potential shared ministry arrangement for the future for our two congregations. This was issued as a "Shared Vision Outlined Document" to both congregations, and feedback was solicited from the two congregations in separate Zoom meetings on June 13, 2021. What we are printing here is an abbreviated summary of this document, and comments received at the two Zoom meetings.

Shared Vision Statement

Our mutually shared vision is to journey in faith together as two separate and independent congregations in one shared building with a shared community ministry in the city of Etobicoke.

Phase 1: Laying the Foundation (1-5 yrs)

- * Establishing the vision
- * Communicating and receiving congregational input
- * Developing a strategy for moving forward
- * Exploratory discussions regarding building options
- * Beginning a joint community ministry to build trust and confidence in vision

Phase 2: Building Phase (5-7 yrs)

- * Fully investigate and decide on building option(s)
- * Legalize arrangements
- * Begin to plan and invest in structure
- * Ongoing community ministry

Phase 3: Fully Operational (7yrs +)

- * Achieved vision and operating in new format

Although there is no timeline for the implementation of this vision and we will only go forward toward doing so as members of both churches are comfortable, consulted, involved and approving along the way.

Please be in touch with team members Pat Conway-Willis, Paul Rose or Brian if you have any questions or comments about this subject or about the process outlined here.

Bloordale Feedback Summary

About 18 people attended to offer feedback

What excites you about this vision document?

- There is great potential; this is hopeful
- Plan seems measured, not forced
- Could perhaps move even faster if possible, as finances will be tight sooner
- Meeting community needs is important
- COVID has shown us the building isn't crucial for our identity
- Better to spend money on mission and ministry, not so much the building.
- Christians are Christians, if we're compatible the denomination doesn't really matter, though it would be good to maintain distinct identity

What concerns you about this vision document?

- Timelines not fast enough?
- Hopefully we'll discover our compatibility
- United Church identity is important, not the building
- Hangover from Amalgamation discussion with St. James?
- We're getting older – will we have the volunteer leaders to fill roles for our church and for this at the same time
- Needs to be about growth as well, drawing younger families, etc.

Do you have any suggestions to strengthen this vision document?

- Consider the United Church Property Resource options alongside this, and involve CRC

What expectations do you have regarding next steps?

- Need to communicate even more, and consistently engage members, receive approval
- Getting to know each other first is a good process; keep going
- Have in-person gatherings with both congregations, maybe mutual Bible study, women's groups, etc., though there may still be anxiety about this after COVID for a while
- Hope to retain the same liberal mission gospel messaging
- God is opening us to something new

Appreciation was expressed to the Committee for the Vision.

Fellowship Reformed Church Feedback Summary

What excites you about this vision statement?

- Great to have a plan to move forward with.
- Thrilled to see cooperation in the community.
- Attitude of love and acceptance of each other.
- Feels like a new and hopeful beginning after COVID.
- New friends and an internal refreshing.
- The possibility of a new building with brand new ministry options

What concerns you about this vision statement?

- Things can change (church leadership, denominations etc) - what happens then?
- Need to take our time - a step at a time.
- Are our respective Churches in sync enough to support such a partnership?
- How do we protect ourselves?

Do you have any suggestions to strengthen the vision statement?

- How does this help us to be a stronger Christian community?
- A positive statement of how this will make us better Christians within our community.
- The vision needs to be more than just about a building and working together, it should include a statement that this will equip us for better service and help our respective congregations to grow through evangelism
- PRAYER!

What expectations do you have regarding next steps?

- Need ongoing clarity on relationships - how we will work together.
- Need for clear legal protections on both sides.
- 7+ yrs are a long time, need to ensure continuity in discussions and agreements as we progress.
- 'Off ramps' need to be identified and transparent.
- Continuous feedback, membership engagement and approvals along the way.

Kashi on the High Ladder

For quite some years now, Kashi Ramsahai has been doing the high ladder climb to change burned-out high intensity bulbs in the Gymnasium ceiling lights and the North and East side exterior lights. This involves the use of the tall extension ladder that is stored in the South sump-room. In the case of the hard-to reach gymnasium lights, Kashi has also been using his industrial safety harness that you can see in the photograph, taken on June 11, 2021



Carrying and raising the heavy tall extension ladder is a two-person job, and Kashi has been assisted in this by John Pauksens.

At the June 11 ladder-climb, Kashi and John agreed that it was time for both of them to call it quits for the tall ladder work. For the future, Bloordale will need to hire an electrician for such jobs.

Kashi and John are currently looking into replacement of the current mercury vapour light fixtures, (starting with the damaged one in the photograph), with high intensity LED lights, which have longer life and much-reduced electrical power consumption.

4 GTA locations; including Bloordale United Church

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Volunteers! We are currently looking for summer camp volunteers; please contact us by email for more info.

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EVENT DATES:

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SEPTEMBER 1,8,15,22,29
OCTOBER 6,13,20,27
NOVEMBER 3,10,17,24
DECEMBER 1

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Bulletin and Anthem Sponsorship Opportunities

Would you like to honour the memory of a loved one, commemorate a special event or occasion, such as an anniversary, or simply show your appreciation of someone? For \$15 you can dedicate the Sunday worship bulletin, and have notice of your dedication. Just call Halyna in the office, and give her the date and the information you would like in the bulletin.

Yet another opportunity is to donate \$100 to purchase multiple copies of an anthem for the Bloordale choir library. Whenever that anthem is sung, the bulletin will contain a line of remembrance and acknowledgement, so the anthem becomes a lasting, living memorial. Speak to Paul W or Brian if you're interested in this musical option.

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 Julia Stavreff or Norm Dundas for further information.

Bloorbeat Submission Guidelines *(updated Jan. 2019)*

When you email items to Julia and myself for Bloorbeat, please include the word "Bloorbeat" and words about the specific content in your e-mail header and in any file names, e.g. "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, and fancy spacings or tab settings because these create more work for me and make it more difficult to maintain a consistent style in the newsletter. And please never use "All Caps" in headings or elsewhere .

Straight text, in 11 point font, with bold (but not underlined) headings in 14 point font, is best. Use word wrap within a paragraph and "Enter" key at end of paragraphs, but not at end of each line.

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 your chosen size in black and white on a laser printer and viewed in colour on a computer monitor.

Join Our Circle of Friends!

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 Julia Stavreff if you'd like more information. PAR does offer the church your consistent support, and helps with budget planning.

Subscribe to "Broadview"!

If you don't subscribe to the UC Observer, our award winning magazine about spirituality, justice and ethical living, you might not know that it's received a significant makeover, and is now being marketed more generally, with the new name Broadview. Take a look at Broadview, on the Outreach table, and consider subscribing if you don't already, at a very affordable rate.

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.ca

Bloorbeat Publication Schedule

Following are tentative publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
	2021
Sept 19	Sept 12
Nov 14	Nov 7

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