

Jan-Feb 2019

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXXVIII, Issue 1

Minister's Message

Darwin's Great Gift to Theology

A friend of mine once asked, jokingly, why I spent so much time writing sermons when I could spend that time looking for them. I assured him that I'm on the lookout for sermons all the time, in the world underneath and above and around us, and that, after all, most of any given week is not given to sermon writing at all, but to tasks that expose me to the wonders of daily miracles like sleeping, waking, walking, talking, eating, meeting, and the host of other things we all do. A bit of a smart remark, no doubt, but true just the same, the point not being lost on either of us, namely that nature, including our human nature, is filled with the wonder and awe of God, ever fresh and ready to be seen at any given moment no matter where we are or what we're doing – including scouting for sermons!

The even more important point, of course, is that our worship, our Sunday sermons and prayers and songs and our personal practices of leaning Godward at any given moment, are designed to unearth what has already been there for millennia, namely to remind us of our intimations and connections with divinity, with the inexhaustible Source from which all of life, love, beauty, and goodness springs, and that Source has a particular fondness for creation in all its glory. What if our worship, our sermons and prayers and music and spiritual practices, was reworked from the perspective of the great evolutionary story of the universe? What if worshipping communities took to heart what Professor John Haught once said, namely that "*evolution is Darwin's great gift to theology.*" What would liturgies look like if science was fully integrated with theology?

We don't know conclusively if Darwin lost his faith and became an atheist because of his discoveries about the natural world 150 years ago, which blew theological assumptions about God being a supernatural, ie. "beyond nature" Being who alone controlled all growth and natural events, out of the holy waters of religious dominance. We do know, however, that the theological models available to him were severely limited in the light of these discoveries. Yet we now know that there is no reason for the science of evolution and the theology of Christianity to continue to live out the uneasy truce of operating in separate domains, quite apart from one another, for we do not need to choose between the two, but can instead join the delightful

(continued on page 4)

Bloordale United Church

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Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh
Pastoral Care Minister	Rev. Nelsona Dundas
Christian Development Co-ordinator	Lisa Mazzariol
Administrative Assistant	Halyna Parypa
Music Director	Paul Wisniewski
Custodian	Victor Nguyen

Church Council

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

Committee Chairs

Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Pat Nelson
	Pat Conway-Willis
Communications	Julia Stavreff
Finance, Stewardship, Planned Gift (acting)	Julia Stavreff
Outreach and Christian Development	Lynn Lawrence
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Property (acting)	Shirley Scott
Social and Fund Raising	Julia Stavreff
United Church Women	Joan Hollowell
Worship	Melody Klassen
Members-at-Large	Jim Bell
	Amy Bickford

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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Jan.	13	Baptism of Jesus
	20	Epiphany 3 / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
	27	Epiphany 4 / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends / Pulpit Exchange
Feb.	3	Epiphany 5 / COMMUNION
	10	Epiphany 6
	17	Epiphany 7
	24	Epiphany 8 / Scout Sunday
Mar.	3	Transfiguration of Jesus / COMMUNION
	6	Ash Wednesday - 4:30 pm
	10	Lent 1
	17	Lent 2
	24	Lent 3
	31	Lent 4
April	7	Lent 5
	14	Palm / Passion Sunday / COMMUNION

Services are at 10:30 a.m.

Stewardship Spot

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

Stewardship of Racial Justice: What's at Stake?

(Reprint of the Afterword in the Canadian Council of Churches 2012 Resource *Cracking Open White Identity towards Transformation*, by Michael Blair)

Michael Blair is Black and of Jamaican descent. He serves as an Executive Minister within the General Council office of the United Church of Canada.

"What is at stake for the Church if addressing White power and privilege are not engaged?"

At the risk of being alarmist, in reflecting on this question I would say the very essence of what it means to be Church is at stake. For me the issue is one of ecclesiology. The traditional marks of the church – one, holy, catholic and apostolic – are challenged, particularly if we choose not to deal with issues of power and privilege.

Unity, holiness, apostolicity and catholicity are rooted in the relationships that exist within and outside the church communities. The misuse of power and the misuse and ignorance of privilege threaten the witness of the Church and rob it of the credibility of its message and affirmations.

Certainly the model of the ministry of Jesus was the dismantling of systems of power and privilege – particularly within the context of institutionalized religion. Stories like the conversation with the rich young ruler, the Caananite woman and Nicodemus; the cleansing of the temple and overturning the money changers table; and the invitation to eat with Zacchaeus are all examples of the ways in which Jesus works at challenging the issues of power and privilege.

The model of Jesus must be at the heart of the work of the Church. Thus the Church has no option but to address issues of Whiteness, ie., power and privilege.

Not only are the traditional marks of the Church called into question, but three affirmations of the Church are also called into

question if the issues are not addressed:

- embracing the resurrection as a principle of new life, new beginnings and possibilities;
- commitment to reconciliation and healing; and
- experiencing authentic community.

For the Church in Canada, there is a unique opportunity. Statistics Canada reports indicate that by 2061 the population of Canada will be sustained by immigration. It means that increasingly, new Canadians will be more and more racialized. There are over 250 million migrants worldwide (in 2012, many more now - Brian) and many are landing on Canada's shores. Often these migrants are from communities that were missionized and colonized. Welcoming the presence of these immigrants and migrants provides an incredible opportunity for the Church to live out its commitment to dismantle empire and to be transformed by the gifts and wisdom of global communities.

But in order to get there, the Church must begin to confront the issues of White power and privilege. May we find the courage to engage!

Brian

U.C.W. News

Thank you to all who contributed to the Holly Tea – workers, bakers, buyers. The total receipts were over \$3,000, with \$1,500 going to the Anniversary Fund and the rest held for emergencies.

We also contributed \$500 to the fund to honour our staff at Christmas.

UCW contributed \$2,000 towards our parking lot repairs, and to our new curbs on the east side of the building.

On January 29th, UCW has arranged a lunch, and a tour, at Delmanor Prince Edward. Any ladies of the congregation may join us; just let Joan know that you are coming, so Delmanor can plan for us,

Remember we are doing a Rummage Sale again in April, tentative date is April 6, 2019. Let's make it a success!

Joan Hollowell
416-621-3641

Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

dance that the two have taken up in our time. One need only look at our very selves, with cosmic stardust as part of our DNA and nature fused within our humanity, our material and spiritual being inexorably and inescapably integrated, to know the truth of which theology ought to speak more clearly. Each of us is, in fact as well as by faith, the presence of the universe, of cosmic evolution, in human form, imbued and created with the dignity that the universe ought to command from each and all of us.

The mystic Rumi once said, *"God comes to you in whatever image you have been able to form of (the divine). The wiser and broader and more gorgeous the image, the more the grace and power can flow from the (Higher Realm) into your heart. God is saying, 'Be very careful then, My servants, and purify, attune, and expand your thoughts about Me, for they are My House'."* Friends, the great story of the universe, as clarified more and more by science that increasingly functions like mysticism, reveals that there is no disconnection anywhere or between anything in the universe. We are cousins, not only with monkeys, but with the planets of distant galaxies, the squid, the sabre tooth tiger, and the salad that nourishes us at lunch or dinner. We share a single energy with every form and mode of being and consciousness in the great scheme of things, an unbroken lineage with all of life! What an amazing revelation, that there are no strangers in this awesome cosmos, just what the Indigenous people call *"all my relations"*! What a gift of becoming and belonging to ponder!

Evolution is all about adaptation, as life, and the conditions that create life on this planet, change. Conditions have, indeed, changed for Christianity and for faith expressions, in whatever neck of the woods you occupy in your days in 2019. The percentage of people who claim no religious affiliation continues to grow, and secularism, materialism, and individualism run roughshod over the religious impulse that lies dormant in our time, hidden and even suppressed. Part of this aversion to expressions of spirituality is due, of course, to a checkered history of religious institutions, to offenses of gender, race, religion, to formerly rigid belief systems which forced people to conform or be rejected or, worse, condemned.

We can't change the past, though we can certainly apologize for the role of religion in various former and, honestly, current oppressions. But if intrepid souls, including our children or theirs, who would perhaps run for cover at the mention of God or Christ in conversation, were to hear from us that faith is no barrier to scientific discoveries, and that in fact both science and religion deal with what could be called "liminal" language, namely with concepts on the very edge of truth that look more like intuitions than fact, they might be willing to give us, and our worship, a try again. Often new first impressions come through a courageous visit to a Sunday service, as savvy visitors pay attention to the images and cosmology of our prayers and hymns. If these elements of worship reflect an old and outdated three-tiered universe, with Hell below, Earth between, and Heaven above, or a transcendent God alone who lives exclusively beyond us and only intervenes occasionally to teach us a lesson or straighten us out before returning to a cosmic throne far removed from daily reality, it's not likely we'll be worthy of their time or attention again. If they hear that "God sent Jesus to Earth," as though Jesus were beamed down from Heaven, in Star Trek fashion, to teach us a thing or two and rescue us from ourselves or from Earth – as opposed to Jesus being history's perhaps most brilliant incarnation or embodiment of the sacred, emerging universe awakening to itself and to the divinity that gave it life – the chances of them returning are slim to none.

Our liturgies must reflect a more evolutionary lens, or else we'll simply continue to "devolve" as churches and thereby deny modern and post-modern people the chance to reclaim, with full integrity, the new age faith of the ages, a faith we still believe the world so desperately needs in the midst of the hate, rage, terrors, and environmental degradation with which we live on a daily basis. Perhaps even staunch secularists will take stock of what kind of a world they and their presumably non-religious friends inhabit and realize that the decline of religion may not just be coincidental to a decline in civility, in ethics, in charity and compassion, and in communal visioning necessary for the planet's very survival, let alone it's, and our, flourishing? Who knows what 2019 will bring!

Let's join the evolution revolution, as most of the world has already done, and pray and

sing and speak our way into a new and more relevant and enriching spirituality! See you in worship!

Brian

**With thanks to Bruce Sanguin for the Prologue to his book If Darwin Prayed, 2010.*

Congregants and Tenants Potluck

Delicious food and great conversation were the order of the day on Tuesday, January 8th, 2019, when Bloordale held their Second Annual Congregants' and Tenants' Potluck in the Bloordale gym. As there were no snow storms to worry about, thirty-two Bloordale folk dodged a few raindrops for a friendly evening. We had invited, in person where possible, and also by e-mail, representation from our three tenant congregations and seven other tenants. We were pleased to be joined by Nancy and Michelle from Terry Tan as well as Katharine McLarty the Osteopath who is now renting a small office in the Sanctuary building.

As the Christmas decorations were still up, the gym looked very attractive. The arrangement of the tables for six made for friendly, small groups, with enough space to visit other tables as well.

After a welcoming punch, it was on to the main event. The dishes served, as usual, were varied, tasty and plentiful! And none of the gooey desserts had any calories!

From the hum of conversation and laughter, everyone seemed to be having a good time.

And, as Bloordale volunteers do, at the end of the evening the gym was back to rights in no time, and there was a swarm of about 10 people - men and women - happily doing all the kitchen chores.

The committee will be giving some thought as to how to attract more of our tenants and decide whether scheduling the dinner in the future in December - always a busy month - or in January again, as this year.

We have since received a lovely letter from Nancy at Terry Tan expressing their gratitude at being invited. And as a result of conversations during dinner, Katharine has expressed an interest in running a seminar to explain to Bloordale folk - and anyone else who is interested - what exactly an Osteopath does. By the end of the evening she had actually lined up a new patient!

Pat Conway-Willis, Pat Nelson

Sharing our Gifts through Volunteering

Staff are important, but the Nominations Committee seeks lay people to volunteer their gifts and service in various areas of mission and ministry. This opportunity for growth in the Spirit calls out from us prayerful discernment about our God-given gifts and skills, and a faith commitment to support the ministry we have together in Christ's name. Your Nominations Committee encourages everyone to consider in which ministry or Committee you might like to serve, and let Pat Nelson know at 416-622-5274 by **January 27th**. All hands and hearts in this body of Christ are needed to enable us to fulfill God's call to us, so find your passion and speak to Pat.

Annual Reports due Monday January 21st

Please submit annual reports from all Committees and groups by Monday January 21st to the office in order to prepare the congregational report for publishing two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Outreach & Education Committee Gives Thanks for Giving Tree Gifts!

Your Outreach and Education Committee wants to offer a big THANK YOU to each and every donor who gave gift cards, food, clothing, money, and other things for the Giving Tree drive in December! We sent numerous boxes of gifts for those who find themselves at Women's Habitat, Ernestine's Women's Shelter, and Youth In Transition. Your generosity went a long way in making a better Christmas for the recipients of your gifts, so we again say thank you!

Pulpit Exchange January 27th in 427 Ministerial



Among the churches who belong to the 427 Ministerial, as a means of recognizing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in late January, there will be the annual Pulpit Exchange for morning worship services Jan. 27th. Brian will be visiting Graceview Presbyterian Church, and MarK Broadus of the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church will be preaching here at Bloordale.

The Power of the Pen

This was indeed one of the more exciting and different events that Bloordale has presented. On Sunday November 25th, from 2 to 3:30 in the afternoon, Bloordale hosted a writers' series called 'The Power of the Pen'. Three different writers came; each one different from the others; each one someone's favourite.

Our first speaker was the well-known newspaper journalist, columnist and a former editor of the Toronto Star: Haroon Siddiqui. He said that there are words in the Koran that talk of the Power of the Pen. In his talk he emphasized the importance of speaking out the truth in journalism, to combat fake news and outright lies by politicians and others. There was a lively question and answer session before Haroon had to leave. Haroon told us that he would be glad to come back anytime for a repeat discussion.

Richard Longley, former director/producer/writer/researcher for CBC and a past president of the Architecture Conservancy ON, arrived on his bicycle, in true Toronto style. He presented a power point series on churches and their architecture as well as changes made to other churches to stay viable. Quite relevant at this time as Bloordale explores repurposing options.

Our third author, and my favourite, was Uzma Jalaluddin, a high school teacher who writes 'Samosas and Maple Syrup', a regular column about modern Muslim life for the Toronto Star. She recently published her first novel 'Ayesha At Last'; 'A sparkling big hearted debut that is part Pride and Prejudice and all modern twist'. Uzma did a short reading from her book, which prompted Diane to say: Don't Stop Now! I Want More!

The reading was followed by a question and answer period, and then Uzma signed her book. (29 sold in total, with Bloordale receiving \$8 per book)

About 55 people attended our Power of the Pen afternoon and every one of them enjoyed themselves. Delmanor Prince Edward provided lemon squares to compliment the fruit punch, put together by Pat C-W, and Pat N.

This event was organized by the Community Fundraising Wing of the Revitalization Task Group. Over \$700 was raised for the \$60,000 for 60 years campaign.



Thanks to the organizers, and thank you to everyone for coming.

Julia Stavreff

Change Your Clocks for March 10

Don't forget to change Your Clocks before bed, Saturday, March 9th. Come to Church an hour earlier on Sunday, March 10th, as we "Spring Forward" into Daylight Saving Time.

Our New Music Director Paul Wisniewski



Paul began his music studies in his home town of Warsaw, Poland at the Elsner Conservatory of Music focusing on Piano and Organ studies. It was here that he developed a deep appreciation for classical and choral repertoire especially from the Baroque period. He continued his music education in Canada at the University of Toronto completing his organ studies under the tutelage of Prof. John Tuttle and received his Bachelor of Music. During his university years, he also studied choral directing with Elmer Iseler. He has also performed recitals throughout the GTA and abroad, specifically in Finland for the 2002 Kotka International Organ Competition where he was a Finalist. Paul has worked with choirs of different Christian denominations as well as independent choirs whose repertoires ranged from gospel to jazz, contemporary and Broadway.

Paul's full time job is that of a high school teacher in Brampton. He enjoys coming to Bloordale with wife Patsy, and children Emily (3 1/2) and Walter (15 months).

Paul started with us as Music Director at the end of November 2018. We are very happy to have him with us!

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.

The clients of St. James Food Basket could also use winter jackets or coats, hats, mittens, gloves & scarves for adults and children. If you have any that you are finished with, please bring them to the stage in the gym.

The Lunch Bunch Beat

What can we say about the Lunch Bunch that has not already been said?

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.

We have not had a lunch bunch since October 28th, when we went for a last time, to the now closed The Q on the Queensway. The location is turning into a car dealership/service centre.

Our upcoming lunch bunch is on January 20th, at Cora's on the Queensway; with all that lovely fruit!

We have tentative dates for the following lunch bunches; they are March 3rd, April 7th and May 26th. It is hard to slot something in every 5 to 6 weeks, as there is much going on at both Bloordale, and in life (ie Easter, Mothers' Day, Victoria Weekend, etc.).

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

Happy New Year!

Nominate Someone for a Bloordale Anniversary Award!

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

The Bloordale Outstanding Service Award

The Bloordale Outstanding Service Award is given to a member in recognition of long-term, distinguished service to Bloordale United Church. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual, who must have been a member for at least ten years.

Previous Award Recipients

2018 - Patricia Nelson
 2017 - Edna Bell
 2016 - Helen Hitchcock
 2015 - Jo-Em Bettridge
 2014 - Ross Prout
 2013 - Joan Hollowell
 2012 - Grace Everett

The Bloordale Community Service Award

The Bloordale Community Service Award is given to remarkable people who put service at the center of their lives, making a significant contribution to the surrounding community. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

Previous Award Recipients

2018 - Diane Hercus
 2017 - Joan Hollowell
 2016 - Frank Sword
 2015 - Ruth Alexander
 2014 - Jim Donaghy
 2013 - Jack Lovatt
 2012 - Bill Alexander

The Bloordale Vision and Mission Award

The Bloordale Vision and Mission Award is given to a person who has offered significant leadership in the past year toward achieving our vision and mission goals and objectives. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

Previous Award Recipients

2018 - Patricia Conway-Willis
 2017 - Roy Harvey
 2016 - Jim Donaghy
 2015 - Robert Hitchcock
 2014 - Norman Dundas
 2013 - Julia Stavreff
 2012 - John Pauksens

This year the Council invites anyone within the congregation to anonymously nominate a potential worthy recipient for any of these three Awards by February 28th, by speaking to or contacting Julia at 416-622-6309. The Awards will be given out on Anniversary Sunday March 17th

Bloordale United Church 61st Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction

Sunday March 17, 2019, at the Church

Reception at 5:00 pm

Fully catered buffet dinner starting at 5:30 pm

Menu TBA, St Patrick's Day theme

Friends and Family welcome, both old and new

Tickets: TBA

includes tax and tip

Special rates available for children

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

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

Refugee Updates, Old and New

First, an update about Omar and Kholoud, our young refugee couple who arrived in May. Unhappy in the basement apartment, underneath a loud family, they moved into in September in Brampton, out from under the thumb and restrictions of his parents, they moved in December to an apartment in Mississauga. Having both worked at part-time jobs since they arrived, Kholoud started work just this past week in a local accounting firm, while Omar continues to pursue work in the dental field, seeking to attach himself to a dental office in order to pursue his certification.

We pursued various options, including visits as well as letters, to try and come to an agreement with Omar's parents about paying their rent, but to no avail. In discussing it with Council in the fall, it was decided to drop our pursuit of the above agreement and find a way to pay the \$1200/month for rent for the remaining 9 months of the sponsorship, retroactive to September, from a combination of non-operating funds as well as donations. While this was an unexpected and unanticipated cost for this sponsorship, the Outreach & Education Cte. is heartened that most people have responded positively to our having done it, and have helped supply the couple with furniture, kitchen and household items, being very generous. We thank the donors, and those who have made special gifts to help with the costs incurred.

Second, Bloordale Council considered in November a proposal from our partner the Arab Community Centre of Toronto regarding the refugee sponsorship of a young Syrian male currently in Algeria. An engineer by training, the man has family here in Canada, including an uncle, known to the ACCT, who was willing to put up the \$18,000 necessary for sponsorship immediately, prior even to our sponsorship application with the federal government. Given our partnership with the ACCT, and with the promise of the sponsorship money up front, the Council decided to seek the congregation's approval at a special meeting after church on Dec. 9th. Both the Executive Director of the ACCT, Huda Bukhari, as well as the uncle, Ibrahim Hasayi, were there, and after some discussion, the

congregation overwhelmingly approved the sponsorship, with the stipulation that we receive the money prior to our sponsorship application being turned in. Once again the Outreach and Education Cte. is pleased with this outcome.

In addition to the money, the ACCT is prepared to do all the paperwork and on the ground support upon arrival for the young Syrian male, making Bloordale's role a minimal though still crucial one. And both the ACCT and the uncle have pledged to help with our first sponsorship in some way, yet to be determined! As of January 5th the bank account for this refugee sponsorship has been opened, the \$18,000 has been deposited, and we'll soon be turning the papers in to the United Church to approve before they go to the federal government as our sponsorship application!



A big thank you again to all who have helped in any way with either of these refugee cases, as we take seriously Jesus' call to us to welcome the stranger!

Brian

Plan to Attend Our Annual General Meeting

Sunday March 10, 2019 after the worship service.
(Date Tentative)

To:

- Review our past year
- Review our 2018 financials
- Vote on 2019 budget
- Elect new council and committees
- Get more info on our Revitalization Task Force Activities

Lunch will be provided.

Fundraising Initiatives for \$60,000 for 60 years Campaign

Here are the different fundraisers to December 31, 2018 and their 'take':

Lighted Bottles by Nelsona & Connie	\$1,954
Photography sales, by Linda & Nelsona	\$610
National Muffin Day, by Joan Hollowell	\$230
The Power of the Pen	\$700
A Dickens of an Evening	\$329
Holly Tea, contribution by UCW	\$1,500
Staff Appreciation, contribution by UCW	\$500
Jewelry Sale, by Maureen Bell	\$55
Jewelry Sale, donated to Connie D.	<u>\$71</u>
Total	\$5,949
Congregational Contributions	<u>\$19,547</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$25,496</u>

Thank you to everyone; from attendees to buyers, to helpers, to those that came up with ideas. And of course, thank you to our congregational contributors.

Pat Conway-Willis

Thank You UCW

Thank you UCW for paying for the added curbs by the East side of the church and for contributing \$2,000 towards the patching of the parking lot

Pat Conway-Willis

Rides to Church

If anyone is in need of / or able to offer – a ride to and from church for Sunday services, please contact Sylvia Williams of Pastoral Care at 289-232-5857.

Report from the Revitalization Task Group

The Task Group has not met since our last Bloorbeat was published, but the subcommittees have been moving on.

1. **The Property Options Subgroup**, under Paul Rose's leadership, has been further exploring options re property use and redirection. Wait for updates in our next issue of Bloorbeat.
2. **Community Fundraising Programmes** have progressed, and more are in the works. These programmes endeavour to raise Bloordale's profile in the community, as well as to fundraise. Please see write up's in this Bloorbeat about our Power of the Pen and 'A Dickens of an Evening'. We have also started work on a variety show, slated for late March/early April, under the leadership of Nancy Harris and Sandy Maxwell. If you have any suggestions for other fundraisers please let us know. All ideas are welcome.
3. **Children's Craft Night**, one of our most popular community programmes, is set to resume on February 8th.
4. **Finance Campaign**, Our \$60,000 for 60 years campaign is well underway; this fundraiser is expected to go on until the end of March 2019. As of December 31, 2018 we have raised \$25,496: 43% of our goal! \$19,600 of this amount is from congregational contributions. The balance of almost \$6,000 is from various fundraising activities (see summary). See our treasurer Norm Dundas' item re why we need this campaign, even if we plan on repurposing our property (see page 12).

Julia Stavreff
Chair of the Revitalization Task Group
416-622-6309 / 416-621-8050
stavreffj@stavreff.com

Save The Date

Trivia Night Returns to Bloordale,

Saturday, April 27, 2019

'Way More Fun Than You Think!'

CRAFT NIGHT FOR KIDS

At Bloordale United Church



Craft Night 2019

Bloordale's popular Craft Night for Kids is returning Friday evenings, February 8th to March 1st, 2019, (4 weeks), 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

For Kids 4 to 10 years old

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

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

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

IN MEMORIAM

**Richard "Dick" Francis
Bettinson**

October 25, 1921 - November 9, 2018

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.

Pancake Supper

Pancake Supper returns to Bloordale United Church on
Shrove Tuesday March 5, 2019



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

\$7.00 / \$4.00 for Children under 12

A Bloordale Community Event

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

*For further information / tickets call
Pat N at 416-622-5274 or Pat C-W at 416-695-3976*

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

Out of the Cold Needs Volunteers

Bloordale will once again be supporting the "Out of the Cold" program by providing dinner on February 15th. More information will follow but I am hoping that you will consider helping in any way you see fit. We will need people to make food for that night, work crews for the evening and of course financial support is always welcome. If you are able to help in any way, it would be greatly appreciated.

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

Lisa

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.

What is the Purpose of 60K for 60 Years?

(reprinted from Sept-Oct 2018 Bloorbeat)

Bloordale is facing challenges in financial support. Over the past few years we have incurred annual deficits and at the end of last year the accumulated deficit totalled \$9,408.

Contributions have been in decline and expenses for salaries and benefits, utilities service contracts and property maintenance continue to rise.

To address these concerns, Bloordale has been in discussion with EDGE, a service offered by the United Church, to explore options to repurpose the use of our property and ensure the continuation of our church on a financially sound basis. Meanwhile, it will be necessary to cover anticipated future annual deficits for the next few years.

That is the purpose of the **60K for 60 Years** Campaign. It will enable Bloordale, our place of worship, to also continue our support of the many activities we offer to the community.

Norm Dundas
Treasurer

Property Report

This is just to let you know that we are looking after Bloordale to the best of our ability. As BUC has limited resources at this time we have limits on what we can do. Hence, instead of a new parking lot we were only able to do a small repair to the garbage bin area and a patch job on our worst pot holes. We have so far not been able to do repairs to the roof. Both would each need \$100,000 approximately to really do the right job..

We have ongoing small items that get fixed thanks to the skills of John Pauksens and Kashi Ramsahai. To save money on Wi Fi and phone John set us up with a switch to Rogers from Bell and he continues to look after problems that arise in these areas. So be patient with us as we work on your behalf.

We really appreciate the help you give us on our Clean Up days. We need your support.

Shirley Scott
Acting Chair for Property Committee

"Bottled Lights" Raise \$1963.89!

Connie and Nelsona are 'over the moon' to report their never-done-this-before project raised \$1963.89 for Bloordale's 60th Anniversary Fund!

This was not without your support... in supplying us with bottles; in asking friends and neighbours to save them; in purchasing the hand-painted bottles by Connie; in telling your friends and, with special thanks to Nancy and Roxanne, in helping us to sell them. Thank you everyone!

Now that we know what we're doing, we plan on carrying on. Proceeds to Bloordale once again. Please save your empty wine, liqueur, some beer bottles (unique colours, shapes, designs) and other such bottles you may come across. BLUE bottles seem to be particularly popular, but they are scarce. We will not be collecting the large 1.5 l. bottles... unless they are blue!

Bring your bottles TO, but not INTO, church Sunday mornings. Let Nelsona know you have them either before service, during Coffee Hour, or e-mail her during the week to make arrangements:

nelsona.dundas@sympatico.ca

She will transfer the bottles from your car to hers. Please do not leave bottles in the church! We regret we are unable to accommodate special orders. are starting earlier this year to be well organized for fall sales and early Christmas shopping. Stay tuned for interesting developments!

Connie & Nelsona

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

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/>

Upcoming Events Summary

Sunday, January 20, Lunch bunch lunch at Cora's on the Queensway.

Sunday, January 27, Pulpit exchange at Bloordale.

Tuesday, January 29, UCW arranged lunch and tour of DelManor Prince Edward.

Friday, February 8, Craft Night I.

Thursday, February 14, Valentine's Day.

Friday, February 15, Bloordale Participates in 'Out of the Cold'.

Friday, February 15, Craft Night II.

Monday, February 19, Family Day.

Friday, February 22, Craft Night III.

Sunday, February 24, Scout Sunday

Friday, March 1, Craft Night IV.

Sunday March 3, Lunch Bunch Lunch location TBD (date Tentative)

Tuesday, March 5, Shrove Tuesday/ Pancake Supper.

Sunday March 10, Annual General Meeting (date tentative)

Sunday, March 17, 61st Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction.

Sunday Coffee Hour

Many thanks again to all of our volunteers who provide their goodies each Sunday, so that we may enjoy our time with our friends and make new ones. We look forward to the coming months. So if you get a call from Pat Nelson or myself, please say yes.

Pat Conway-Willis

Thank You 401st Scouts

Thank you 401st Scouts for donating the 2 Christmas Trees for the front of the church, (already in stands, making setup and removal much easier!).

Grace Everett, for UCW

Scouting News

The 401st Toronto Scouts is continuing to run a busy program geared to the changing seasons. We are hoping for some snow to allow the kids to participate in more winter related activities. Winter camping without snow can be quite a challenge!

Many people noted that we sold out our Christmas trees well before Christmas this year. Our thanks to anyone who helped support us with that fundraising effort. There seemed to be a lot of interest this year in having a real tree as part of the Christmas celebrations.

We will be joining Bloordale on Sunday, February 24th to celebrate Scout Sunday and recognize 61 years of Scouting at Bloordale. See you soon!

Diane Mulholland,
Group Commissioner
401st Toronto Scouts

Coming to Bloordale: Variety Show

Variety Show Coming to Bloordale! Some talent already lined up. Let us know if you or your friends want to be part of the act.

Tentative date Saturday or Sunday March 30th or 31st, 2019. Proceeds go to \$60,000 for 60 years.

Mark Your Calendars!

Friday Feb. 15th, 2019

Bloordale participation in Out of the Cold

Sunday Feb 24th, 2019, 10:30 am at Bloordale United Church: Cubs and Scouts Service

\$60,000 for 60 Years!

A Dickens of an Evening

On Monday, 10th December 2018, Bloordale family and friends were treated to "A Dickens of an Evening". a re-telling and re-creation of Charles Dickens' Christmas Classic, "A Christmas Carol", held in our Sanctuary.

This was a joint fundraiser for Partera Peacebuilders International to support their peacemaking work and for Bloordale United Church's 60th Anniversary Fund. Brian is on the Board of Partera, an organization that "works with people on the front lines of violent conflict, training communities with a proven methodology that gives them the peacemaking skills they need to build the future they yearn for". Partera is the Spanish word for midwife, i.e. they are midwifing for peace around the world.

This production was written by Jeffrey Cottam, an award-winning and high energy English actor and the husband of Partera founder, LeeAnn McKenna. Jeffrey played all the roles, Canadian composer and musician Bruce Ley provided live musical accompaniment on the piano and organ, and LeeAnn handled all the lighting, fog and sound effects. The audience was told at the beginning that during costume changes we were welcome to just chat with those around us! And the costume changes were timed to the second!!

As Charles Dickens was an activist highlighting and working to improve life for a large section of the populace of his day, his play about Ebenezer Scrooge was very appropriate for an organization like Partera. That evening's performance was the sixth of eight, in this year's pre-Christmas season, so a major undertaking for the company of three.

At intermission and during costume changes, the audience enjoyed refreshments of five different kinds of pure fruit juices and a selection of cookies.

We had 42 paid attendees and 3 non-paying children for a box office take of \$823.00. According to our 60/40 agreement, Bloordale's share of \$329, went directly to our 60 for 60 campaign.

This was a lovely, very topical, start to the holiday season.

Patricia Nelson

Gallery News

A huge thank you goes out to Nelsona Dundas and Linda Smith for their very generous donation of \$610.00 to our 60th Anniversary Fund. This donation represents the entire proceeds from their outstanding photography show and sale which took place from November 13 to December 18, 2018.

Interestingly, most of their subjects were photographed locally with many found in Centennial Park.

A big thank you to our many church members who supported this show by viewing and purchasing these beautiful images

Bev and Alun Morgan

Silent Auction Returning at our 61st Anniversary Dinner

In conjunction with our 61st Anniversary dinner on March 17th, we will be holding a repeat Silent Auction. Please think about what you would like to contribute. Some suggestions include:

- Theatre tickets
- Sports tickets
- Original artwork
- Baking
- Baby sitting
- Gift certificates

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go towards Bloordale programmes.

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

Let's make our 61st year an outstanding one!

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 Brian or Halyna about your wish to support the music program in this way.

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 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.

Book Review

Seven Fallen Feathers

Each year I buy for my brother Ralph the Massey Lectures book, published by Anansi Press annually just after the CBC Massey Lectures are delivered on radio by a distinguished speaker in November. I've been doing this for about 30 years, and in so doing I usually also receive these books at Christmas from a loved one. This year the book was highly anticipated, as it was Tanya Talaga, Indigenous author of the award-winning book Seven Fallen Feathers, who delivered the lectures, now contained in the collection All Our Relations. As the 2017-18 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy, Talaga explored the same difficult topic as she did in her previous book, namely the rise of youth suicide in Indigenous communities in Canada and beyond. The back cover of the book says this: "*All Our Relations promises to be a powerful call for action, justice, and a better, more equitable world for all Indigenous Peoples.*" I urge you to consider picking up this book and reading the heart-wrenching story of the despair and deficiency of opportunity that leads to suicide among Indigenous young people in our time, and become part of the solution if you can.

Brian

34 Calendars Collected!!

Thank you! They were added to the Christmas bags prepared for the Sunnybrook Veterans who came for Turkey Dinner Sunday past at Legion Branch 266/46 (Jane & Dundas). Twice a year at Christmas and Easter, the Branch entertains a busload of Veterans with a special dinner.

Nelsona

Bloorbeat Publication Schedule

Following are publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
	2019
Mar 17	Mar 10
May 12	May 5

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Would you like to advertise your business in Bloorbeat? Prices per issue of Bloorbeat are:

- Business card size \$ 20
- ¼ page size \$ 40
- ½ page size \$ 70

Our printed pages size is 8 1/2" x 11"
To advertise, please call Julia Stavreff,
416-621-8050

or email stavreffj@stavreff.com

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