

October 2021

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XL, Issue 3

Minister's Message

Return to Worship Together

Well, Bloordale's Circle of Friends, after 18 months of pandemic panic in the early days followed by extreme caution and restraining restrictions due to public health measures, we're finally returning to in-person worship the same weekend this Bloorbeat is being released – and what better time than Thanksgiving to gather together and offer our gratitude to God for such a blessed reunion! The pandemic's hold over us continues to some degree, of course, and there are some among us, for good reasons of concern regarding their own or their family member's health and safety, who will not be joining us right away. Others would say that we waited far too long to return, and that our membership has become used to having Sunday morning to ourselves, moving the need to isolate from a public health necessity to a retreat mentality born of uncertainty and devaluing our congregation's need to be re-energized in prayer and song on Sundays. But our hope is that we'll be able to join together again and feel the Spirit's presence anew among us, calling us back to the basics of faith and looking forward to a renewed sense of mission and purpose.

There's more to share about our return in this issue of Bloorbeat beyond this column, and I hope that most if not all of you will try to recover the deep and sacred impulse to be God's Sunday people worshipping together, if and when you feel comfortable doing so. Our future as a congregation is somewhat precarious, for various reasons, most of which are beyond your leadership's control, including the fallout from the pandemic, and yet we have maintained and even gained new rental agreements with many users, and have joined together with our Christian Reformed neighbours to undertake new mission initiatives, thanks in part to stellar volunteers. So while our financial picture looks a little dim, our building is in very good shape, and we're confident we'll navigate the future well if people come together to support our church's ministry and witness to the community.

We've built a solid reputation, friends, as a caring and justice-seeking church, and are known by civic and sacred leaders alike as people who have the common good of the neighbourhood and nation at the core of our activities. One of those activities was on full display a little over a week ago, as we hosted a gathering around the Shoe Memorial on our front steps to recognize and honour the first national holiday named by the federal government only in June, namely the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation September 30th, formerly known as Orange Shirt Day. We received

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Bloordale United Church

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www.bloordale.ca

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Christian Development Co-ordinator	Wendy McEwen
Administrative Assistant	Halyna Parypa
Music Director	Paul Wisniewski
Custodian	Victor Nguyen
	Church Council
Chair	Pat Conway-Willis
Church Council Secretary	Beth Jazvac
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Pat Nelson
Board of Trustees	Julia Stavreff
Ministry and Personnel Co-Chairs	Melody Klassen
	Pat Conway-Willis
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Finance Committee
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	Norm Dundas
Outreach and Christian Development	Lynn Lawrence
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Property	Vacant
Social and Fund Raising	Vacant
Worship	Melody Klassen
Members-at-Large	Amy Bickford
	Joan Hollowell

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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Oct. 17	21 st	Sunday after Pentecost	
Oct. 24	22 nd	Sunday after Pentecost	
Oct. 31		Reformation/All Saints Sunday / COMMUNION	
Nov. 7		Remembrance Sunday – Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Follows Worship	
Nov. 14	25 th	Sunday after Pentecost	
Nov. 21		Reign of Christ Sunday / COMMUNION	
Nov. 28		Advent 1	
Dec. 5		Advent 2 / White Gift	
Dec. 12		Advent 3	
Dec. 19		Advent 4	
Dec. 24		Christmas Eve / COMMUNION	4 pm
Dec. 26		Christmas 1	
Jan. 2		Christmas 2	
Jan. 9		Baptism of Jesus	
Jan. 16		2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	

All Services at 10:30 am except as indicated

Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

local coverage in the Etobicoke Guardian, and I was heard, in excerpts from a pre-recorded interview, on CBC Metro Morning radio. There were about 40 people in attendance most of them beyond our membership, and it was a spiritually rich time of story-telling, repentance, prayer, and remembrance of the children who were lost in Residential Schools across the country.

I saw this gathering as one that epitomizes what the church can do to bring people together in doing the work and giving the witness that God would have us do, as a church and as a country, and I pray to God that that work and witness, on various issues, won't be lost by the slow neglect of our deep convictions about God's will and way. I dare say that if our particular church's way of being in the world, from caring about Black lives and climate change and interfaith relations and poverty and the like to our honouring of the dignity of each person and group who enters our doors, were to pass from history our Markland neighbourhood and Etobicoke community would be the poorer for it. And all of that effort is catalyzed and compelled by the Word of God found in the weekly rhythm of worship!

So we come full circle in this Circle of Friends, who come together to love God and neighbour in a way we've been unable to do for 18 long months this week. May we be blessed beyond our wildest dreams in the days and weeks to come, and offer what we can, hands and hearts and hopes as well as our offerings, as we renew our life together moving toward whatever new normal God has in store for us! This Thanksgiving we give thanks to God for the good gift of worship – and much more! See you on Sundays!

Brian

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.

Mona Murray's 100th Birthday



Mona Murray, a long time member of Bloordale United Church, celebrated her 100th birthday on October 7th, 2021.

Congratulations Mona, and best wishes from all your friends at Bloordale United Church!

In-Person Worship Re-Opens on Thanksgiving Oct. 10th!

Your leadership group has decided to re-open for in-person worship in the sanctuary starting Thanksgiving Sunday Oct. 10th at the usual 10:30 am time.

Please be aware of and observe the following public health protocols as you arrive, so that we can all remain safe and healthy while worshipping together:

- * sign in for contact tracing purposes
- * masked upon entry and throughout the service, with one exception (see below)
- * physically distanced seating
- * no coffee and conversation inside following worship for the time being

We're of course encouraging vaccination, but are not implementing a strict proof-of-vaccination policy, as some people have reasons, medical or otherwise, for not getting the vaccines. We trust that unvaccinated people who attend will remain masked and physically distanced throughout their time inside the building.

There will be two sections of the five in the church, namely the choir section and the one next to it, where people who are vaccinated can physically distance and take off their masks while singing if they're comfortable doing so. Re-masking after singing is required.

Stewardship Spot

“Stewardship is everything I do after I say ‘I believe’.”

Giving Thanks for the Giving of Time

As the Minister of Bloordale, I make my livelihood in living out my calling to serve the church and its people in the mission of God where we’re placed. I still feel fortunate to do so after 33 years, 13 of which have been at Bloordale, and I give thanks to God on a regular basis for living out my life’s work in a faith community that both honours my role and supports one another in our collective desire to live into God’s call for us. This column, therefore, is about giving thanks for the various leaders who have seen us through the pandemic uncertainty with a ready ear and a steady eye on what needs to be done.

To start I give thanks to God for, and wish to commend, our staff, particularly our administrator Halyna, our Custodian Victor, and our Musician Paul, who have all shown tremendous patience in dealing with the uncertainty of a pandemic, as well as stellar persistence in seeking to deliver the tasks of their jobs with dedication, skill and good humour. They each have had their challenges along the way, but have not let those challenges cause them to waver in their consistent commitment to serve Bloordale and its people and ministries. I am blessed to have such people as colleagues in my work, and I thank God for their diligence and service!

The first volunteer I wish to share a word about is our Chair of Council Pat Conway-Willis, who has been a near-daily presence at the church since the pandemic began. Pat has taken upon herself to either oversee or undertake, sometimes singlehandedly, the various issues of our building maintenance, liaising with our various renter groups, particularly Terry Tan Daycare, ensuring our staff are treated well and cared for as the Ministry and Personnel Chair, and doing the hands-on work – I can’t tell you how much paint she’s put on various walls and railings over the last 18 months! – with a smile and a ready laugh along the way! We’re blessed to have her lead our Council and Church, and I thank God for her!

Secondly, Julia Stavreff is a constant presence

and adviser on all things, a part of our hard-working and dedicated Council Executive, Chair of Trustees and Communications, Interim Treasurer, and trusted former Chair of Council. She keeps a keen eye on our books and both alerts us to, and interprets, trends in our financial picture, protecting Bloordale’s financial integrity – and is a key part of our Social and Fundraising team as well, when the pandemic doesn’t make such activities impossible! Julia also helps to solicit articles for the Bloorbeat, alongside her editor/publisher husband John Pauksens, whom I also acknowledge as an equally amazing volunteer. John has contributed a substantial amount of time on a weekly basis to ensure that we have expertise on hand on various building maintenance matters as well as doing all the technical work to ensure our various systems are in good order. John has been an invaluable and essential part of the delivery of our pre-recorded videos for Sunday worship for the last 10 months of the pandemic, setting up the equipment weekly and then spending hours splicing things together into a great Sunday worship package of music, sermon, etc. in time for me to be able to include the link weekly in our bulletin.

Paul Rose is yet another extraordinary volunteer who has worked on various local and regional issues alongside me, including spending many hours serving with me on an Etobicoke Anti-Racism Action Coalition, working on various property-related matters and liaising with the United Property Resource Corporation, serving on the Fellowship Christian Reformed Church Joint Vision and Ministry group, alongside Pat and I, and continuing to serve on the Shining Waters Regional Council Community Ministry Board as its former Chair. Paul cares deeply about making the church’s witness relevant in the community, and I thank God that he keeps my feet on the ground and is such a dedicated servant of our mission, as well as a confidant when I’m struggling about how to proceed in some of my own efforts.

Paul works beside both Lynn Lawrence, our Education, Outreach and Advocacy Cte. Chair, and Beth Jazvac, a member of that group as well as our Council Secretary, both of whose dedication to serving the vulnerable has led to tremendous strides to increase our charitable endeavours in tandem with the Christian Reformed Church. I thank God for

their great efforts to care for those less fortunate, and to send messages of goodwill to our community by sharing our resources to help others. Lynn has also served with me for a number of years on the Shining Waters Living Into Right Relations Circle, and has a deep passion for truth and reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours and surrounding communities, and I thank God that she brought to us the idea to have a Shoe Memorial on our front steps, only one example of her desire to make a tangible difference on the road to building right relations.

This column has become an extended one, so I close, as you may expect, with a recognition of my wife Debbie's commitment also, staying in touch with people, taking the time weekly to record my sermon and send it to John, helping Pat or others with whatever tasks are necessary, serving on a couple of Committees, and generally caring deeply about both Bloordale as her church and me as her husband. I thank God for her love and caring, and her constant support of my ministry.

And I think of all the other fantastic volunteers, all of whom I cannot possibly name, for whom I give God thanks and without whom we would not be the warm, welcoming faith community we are. We've lost a few wonderful people along the way in the last year and a half, and will miss them dearly, given that it is, and always will be, the people who make the church what it is. So thanks be to God and to all of you who serve the church in whatever way I haven't spoken of, and may we continue to be so blessed by longtime and newcomer people alike!

Brian

Plan to Attend

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of Bloordale United Church



Sunday, November 7th 2021 after the worship service

Come for an update on what's been happening at Bloordale.

Financial Update

2020 was a very nice year for Bloordale financially speaking. Although our rental income was down dramatically, it was offset via special donations from tenants, increased congregational giving's (over 2019 contributions and also expected 2020 contributions) and over \$51,000 in government COVID grants. You may recall we ended 2020 with a surplus of \$39,000.

Our expectation was that 2021 would continue to be healthy, or at least break even. This does not seem to be so, at least not to the end of August 2021.

Our government grants (CEWS) were expected to be less; they are \$27,000 for the eight months ended August 31, 2021. Expenses and rentals are pretty much as expected; however congregational givings seem to have dipped quite a bit. 'Out of sight out of mind'.

Our deficit for the eight months ended August 31, 2021, is \$27,000; more than anticipated for this time period.

Please help us recover, with any contributions that you can make. Thank You.

From The Finance Committee

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

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

Outreach, Education and Advocacy News

Refugee Update

The refugee we had submitted a sponsorship application for some 30 months ago, Ali Oubidin, arrived in Canada Sept. 9th! His uncle and other family members were thrilled, and he's now making his way in Canada, doing retraining as an engineer and/or seeking employment. We'll plan a gathering with Ali sometime when it's possible in the future, though Brian met him the day of his arrival and he expressed great gratitude to us all for sponsoring him to come.

We've also recently completed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Syrian Canadian Foundation (SCF) to enable a sponsorship application to be made for two Syrian refugees, upon receipt of the required \$33,000 from the Foundation, which they've raised for this purpose. Final details and the paperwork to make the application should be completed relatively soon, and we hope that a timely decision can be made about their case.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Sept. 30th

In recognition of Canada's first observance of the new federal holiday National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Sept. 30th, Brian hosted the public showing of a 22-minute film entitled "Finding Peter Bryce" at noon on Sept. 26th on Zoom. The film, put together with partial funding from the Toronto United Church Council, tells the story of the first whistleblower of the Residential School system in Canada. Dr. Peter Bryce wrote a book called *Story of a National Crime* to describe the tragic details of the inhuman neglect and/or treatment of children only after being met with a cold shoulder by federal officials regarding what he found.

In addition a public outdoor gathering to observe the Sept. 30th federal holiday was held around the Kamloops 215 Shoe Memorial on the front steps of our church at noon. Many people wore orange shirts, and we had about 40 or so people from Etobicoke present to hear Residential School survivor Michael Cheena tell a bit about his story, our own Lynn Lawrence to give a personal story, and Brian led in giving some background to the day and leading in prayer. We had coverage from the Etobicoke Guardian for this event, and as a result Brian was also interviewed by

CBC Metro Morning radio, excerpts of the interview being played early on the 30th. This was an important occasion to remember the children who died in Residential Schools and to stand in solidarity with the resilient Indigenous peoples of this land.



Etobicoke Climate Action Group Formed and Active

Through the late winter and spring Brian was active in helping to form an Etobicoke Climate Action Group, which has an affiliation with the City of Toronto's efforts to TransformTO. Comprised of central and south Etobicoke people, ECA has already co-sponsored a Climate Workshop with Kairos Toronto West, in June on Zoom, has sponsored an all-candidates forum during the election on the climate crisis, in September on Zoom, and has met with Councillors Holyday and Grimes to discuss changes needed, also in September on the City's WebEx platform. Brian hosted the latter meeting, and is on the core leadership group of the ECA.

EcuLinks Hosts All-Candidates Justice Meeting and Gets Website!

The Etobicoke-based ecumenical justice-seeking network EcuLinks, to which Brian belongs, has also been busy, working on the creation of a website that goes live on October 12th - www.eculinks.ca

In early September EcuLinks partnered with a few other organizations to hold an Etobicoke Lakeshore all-candidates meeting on social justice issues on Zoom, with Brian as the Moderator, and 150 people attended. The group has five priority areas about which it's concerned, namely refugees, poverty, climate change, anti-racism, and Indigenous right

relations, and at least one question on each topic was asked of the candidates. A working group for the latter issue is headed by Brian, and hopes to hold an in-person Kairos Blanket Exercise at some point in late 2021 or early 2022 for those in our churches who wish to attend, hopefully co-sponsoring a KBE with Kairos Toronto West.

Bloordale UC – Fellowship Christian Reformed Church Joint Outreach

Lynn Lawrence and Beth Jazvac of our Education, Outreach and Advocacy Cte. have worked alongside both Paul Rose and colleague volunteers from our sister church on Burnhamthorpe to pull together a few joint outreach initiatives in recent months. In June a food drive supported Ernestine's Women's Shelter, with drivers picking up food from people in parts of central Etobicoke. And on September 2nd Beth spearheaded an effort to thank teachers and staff at Silverthorn C.I. for all they've done during the pandemic by supplying a lunch of sandwiches and cookies as well as Your Community Supports You signs. (See Page 9)

Outreach Offerings

During this pandemic we've continued to share our financial assistance with those organizations who are our community partners, as we always have. We did very well in 2020, but 2021 has not been as successful a year thus far in receiving donations to the Outreach Fund consistent with our stated goals and objectives. We haven't made any special appeals, and aren't doing so now, knowing that people may be hard-pressed to respond financially due to the pandemic. However, if you're able, please consider making an extra donation to the Outreach Fund of Bloordale sometime soon, as we together support many good causes and efforts in our area and region.

13th Annual Heart & Vision Awards

An online event of the Toronto United Church Council, October 18, 2021 @ 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm honouring - Ekuia Asabea Blair and Lawrence Hill.

The Heart & Vision Awards recognize significant contributions to social justice. In 2021, the awards will be presented to two individuals who, through their community and literary work, address the roots and contemporary reality of systemic racism in Canada, and offer us all an alternative vision

of love and hope. Please Register online at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/heart-vision-awards-concert-2021-tickets-164520897433> in order to receive the streaming link or contact Ali Hayes at 905-771-5124 ex. 31 or ali@tucc.ca for more information. This is a free event but donations to the Winston and Merle Roach Camp Leadership Fund and Nancy Peters Massey Centre Fund are greatly appreciated

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.

Roy Nakagawa

Bloordale founding member Roy Nakagawa was featured in the October/November issue of "Our Canada" Magazine (a Reader's Digest Publication).

On page 8 of the magazine there is an article called "Canada's Aviation Icon: The Avro Arrow"



The Avro Arrow was a leading-edge delta-winged interceptor aircraft designed and built by Avro Canada. It held the promise of Mach 2 speeds at altitudes exceeding 50,000 feet (15,000 m) and was intended to serve as the Royal Canadian Air Force's (RCAF) primary interceptor into the 1960s and beyond.

Roy worked as an engineer at Avro Canada at that time.

The work on the Avro Arrow and its highly advanced Iroquois engines was abruptly halted on 20 Feb 1959 by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, when it was already beyond the working prototype stage and going into production. Two months later the assembly line, tooling, plans, existing airframes, and engines were ordered to be destroyed.

The cancellation of the Avro Arrow project was the topic of considerable political controversy, and the destruction of the aircraft and its plans remains a topic for debate among historians and aviation industry enthusiasts.

This action effectively put Avro out of business and its highly skilled engineering and production personnel scattered.

Roy Nakagawa along with other engineers and technologists went on to new careers in other companies.

Despite the destroy order some of the drawings were, nonetheless, preserved and a full size non-operating replica of the Avro Arrow was later built privately.

The full-sized replica and related items of historical interest currently reside at the Edenvale Aviation Heritage Foundation (EAHF) Museum, in Edenvale, Ontario.

John Pauksens

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to **Diane Relyea and Scott Belton** on the birth of

William Maxwell Belton

On Wednesday, September 15, 2021
A brother for **Alexis**

A second grandchild for Evelyn and Terry Relyea

A Bunch of Thanks!

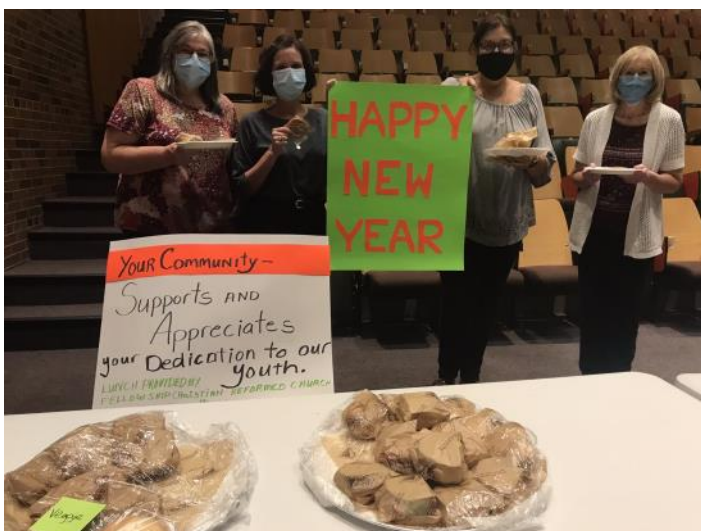
- 1) Thanks to Pat C-W and Brian Mc for painting the Scouts locker room
- 2) Thanks to Julia S and Pat C-W for coordinating with Jason of Food Trucks fame
- 3) Thanks to Debbie C-Mc for recording Brian's sermons
- 4) Thanks to everyone for keeping their church contributions current
- 5) Thanks to our church tenants for donations contributed to Bloordale, when they were not open
- 6) Thanks to the Government of Canada for allowing Bloordale to access funding from CEWS and to Julia S for applying for this funding
- 7) Thanks to John P and Paul W for enabling us to deliver a worship experience on Vimeo, at home

Morale Building Lunch for Silverthorn Staff

This past year and a half has been difficult for all but particularly for the teachers in our community. They have had to worry about their students' safety, personal safety and learning a new way to teach. In order to kick off the new school year one of our projects is to supply lunch to all staff at Silverthorn C.I. We had hoped to make the lunch ourselves but due to Covid-19, we had to have it catered. Bloordale and Fellowship Christian Reformed Church arranged for sandwiches and cookies for the teachers on September 2nd.

There were also signs which said Happy New Year and Your Community supports you and appreciates your dedication to our youth. We know that to be recognized in our community will help to energize and encourage teachers facing another uncertain year.

Beth Jazvac,
Primary planner for this initiative



Scouting News



After a long year of Scout meetings over Zoom, we are excited and relieved to be seeing the children and youth once again in person as meetings have now resumed for the different sections. Our current Group Commissioner, Joe Fong, has been busy with helping to get all sections back to regular meetings.

Certainly, it looks different! As with so many other groups, we come together wearing masks and following Covid protocols, but it has been gratifying to see what it means to the children and youth to be able to participate in Scouting activities once again. We get creative with pool noodles to run games that maintain distance but still teach teamwork; we come armed with hand sanitizer and cleaning solution as standard equipment. But we also look forward to outdoor activities and adventures that provide a Scouting experience for all the children and youth involved.

We did not hold Apple Day this year, and we can only hope that a time will come when we can safely return to those kinds of community activities.

We do plan to run the Christmas tree lot again this year. With careful planning we ran a socially distanced tree sale last year and sold out of trees in record time! We'll be following the same protocols again this year using a pre-ordering system. We've ordered the trees, so please watch for updates when November arrives!

Diane Mulholland
401st Toronto Scouts

IN MEMORIAM

James (Jim) McLean

June 28, 1930 - August 23, 2021

Congratulations Art and Jean!



**Congratulations to
Arthur and Jean
Mosher on their 68th
Wedding
Anniversary, Sept
19th, 2021!**

Hidden Inventions of Blacks

Part 3, By Sylvia Williams

Parts 1 and 2 in previous issues of Bloobeat

Imagine the feeling of excitement and satisfaction when you think, and better yet know, you have invented something new! Now, imagine how disappointed you would be when you are told you have no claim to this invention nor can you patent it because you have no status as a person. This was the reality of innovative slaves and some of their descendants. They have been ignored by history. They were not able to obtain patents nor were their contributions recognized. They were not regarded as persons. The fact is enslaved Blacks were not just slaves they were professionals in their countries of origin and some of their inventions and those of their descendants, are part our daily lives although some have been modified to address today's needs.

The contributions are so many I have no idea where to start, but, in the height of the COVID pandemic, a question relating to the origins of vaccines started me thinking about the many ways our lives have been impacted by the actions and inventions of Blacks. I think I will start with the contribution of a slave whose story helped in the eradication of another deadly virus. Smallpox razed through the world for a number of centuries. In 1721 during a smallpox epidemic in Boston, a slave named Onesimus introduced his master to the practice of variolation. This helped to reduce the number of deaths from the disease and helped lead to its total eradication in 1980. You might ask didn't Jenner invent the **Vaccination** which led to its eradication? Well, yes and no. In centuries past, countries such as Africa and China had a practice known as variolation which involved introducing a small amount of active or dried material from individuals with cow pox or small pox into a small area or the nostril of a healthy individual thus leading to that individual getting a milder form of the disease or not getting the disease at all. The African slave in Boston was noted to have a scar. On questioning by his master Cotton Mather, he described the process of variolation. When Mather, a church minister, described what he had been told, no one was willing to accept this. There was mistrust of African medicine and fear that such methods were designed to harm the masters and their families.

However, a doctor named Zabdiel Boylstan decided to try the method. He first used the method on his six year old son and two of his slaves. As the epidemic progressed, 280 people were inoculated using the method described by Onesimus. Of those, there were 6 deaths while there were 844 deaths among the 5889 non-inoculated. In the late 1700s, Edward Jenner built on Onesimus' information developing what we now know as a vaccine and the practice of variolation was discontinued by the mid 1800s. Boylstan's headstone incorrectly identifies him as the first to introduce inoculation to America. In 2016 Onesimus was recognized for his contribution and placed in the list of 100 best Bostonians of all times noting that he had more medical knowledge than doctors of his time. (Wikipedia.org Onesimus).

As we go about our daily lives there are many critical things which have an impact on us. Have you ever thought that some of these things came from the inventive minds of enslaved Blacks and or their direct descendants.?

Let's think for a while. Because enslaved individuals worked tirelessly to complete chores, it follows that they would think of easier and quicker ways of completing their tasks. Ladies, the **Ironing Board** we have all used at some time was invented by Sarah Boone an individual who was born a slave. Admittedly she made improvements to all the previous models especially the last model made by the African Canadian Elijah McCoy in 1874. She improved on his work and secured a patent in 1892.

Elijah McCoy was born in Canada the child of runaway slaves. He was an engineer who went on to obtain many patents most of which had to do with the lubrication of steam engines.

Gentlemen! It would not be fair of me to talk about **Ironing Boards** and not mention **Dry Cleaning**. While **dry cleaning**, or dry scouring as it was known, was not invented by a slave, it was invented by a Black tailor Thomas Jennings in 1821. Some of his methods are still in use today. Jennings was a free man and the first African American inventor to own the rights to his invention. His business flourished and he used the proceeds to purchase his family's freedom.

He was later involved in the abolitionist movement.

Back to the ladies. **Vanilla** is an exquisite spice which we love especially when we bake. We also like the scent in body products and, both sexes love vanilla ice cream. For this we need to thank the 12year old slave Edmond Albius. **Vanilla** is the seedpod from an orchid flower. Prior to 1841 it was rare and being produced only in Mexico. Pollination of the flower was, and still, is difficult. Albius developed a finger method of pollination which increased the production and marketing of **Vanilla** which is still in use today. It has been said that he enabled the production and improved the market of **Vanilla**.

There are also **other Inventions which impact our daily lives:**

Almost daily we cross an intersection with tri-coloured lights. We cross on foot, on bikes and in automobiles. Despite the fact that accidents often happen, we cross with a sense of security. The colours of the lights indicate when it is our turn to enter the intersection and we feel safe. It turns out that Garrett Morgan, the son of slaves, invented the current tri-coloured lights on which we depend. He witnessed an accident at an intersection in 1923. Building on and improving the lights in use at that time, he invented the current tri- coloured light system and was able to obtain the patent. He is also known to have invented other life saving devices such as gas masks which were used during the war and is credited with saving countless lives world wide. In fact, he is credited with being one of the most inventive individuals we have had.

Some other inventions which came from the minds of Blacks and impact our daily lives include a commercial bakers' oven; a carbon filament which improved the incandescent light bulb; electronic devices some of which are in use in the computers and cell phones we use today; the laser phaco probe used to improve cataract removal; the pacemaker implanted in many of us to regulate our heart beat; an automatic refrigeration system used in the long distance trucking business; the home security system and the ice cream scooper. These are only a few and while not

many inventions mentioned were by Canadian Blacks, a Google check for Black Canadian inventors lists many 20th and 21st century inventors whose products affect our daily lives and or our health. While many enslaved Blacks had the patents and rights to their inventions claimed by their masters because they had no status as persons, we should remember that many of the devices on which we depend today originated from the bright inventive minds of both free and enslaved Blacks.

Sylvia Williams



Food Trucks

The food trucks returned to our Bloordale parking lot in March 2021. Toronto was in lockdown, and the food trucks were additional takeout opportunities for

the Bloordale/Markland Community.

Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021) was a super day for sales and number of customers.

Jason Bellassinio, the organizer of the food truck events, experimented with the trucks for one and two days per week at Bloordale, with one up to five trucks at a time.

In July the food trucks settled into a Wednesday evening timeslot. September changed to Saturdays, finishing up on Saturday September 25th.

Jason had wanted to continue with the food trucks until early December, but community support was not there. Perhaps food trucks were less appealing for outdoor dining (in the colder weather) at a time when regular restaurants were opening up for safer indoor dining with the introduction of the new vaccination requirement.

About \$3,000 was made for Bloordale coffers from the 2021 food trucks experience.

Let's see how this goes for next year.

Julia Stavreff / Pat Conway-Willis
Food Truck Coordinators

In Memory of Marg Cloke

The daughter of a friend of Marg Cloke sent a newspaper article for the Archives of Bloordale United Church. Marg and her husband Fred were Charter Members. Before moving to Newmarket to be closer to her son Alec, Marg served on the Pastoral Care Committee. She passed away last spring just months before her 100th birthday. The newspaper article was accompanied by a picture of Marg standing in front of a fur carving.

The Advertiser, Thursday, December 24, 1970.

After 2500¹ miles and \$500 Guide leader 'finds herself'

by Joanne McCrie

After 2500 miles and \$500, Mrs. Margaret Cloke, Tunbridge Crescent, found herself at Inuvik, North West Territories, early in November.

As honorary treasurer of the Yukon and North West Territories Council for the Girl Guides, she was sent to the North West Territories to assist leaders there.

Mrs. Cloke has been in Guiding all her married life, since her mother-in-law initiated her into the organization, and then eased herself out, leaving Mrs. Cloke in charge of a Brownie pack.

Before that, Mrs. Cloke said, she always thought Brownies were something out of a recipe book.

She is now a leader, "an adviser" she said, of an 18 member Ranger group, girls from 14 to 18, who are now in the process of acting as a "pilot" group for an experimental Ranger program. These girls meet in one another's homes, but are affiliated with the Church of Christ the King.

These same girls visit Wellesley Hospital and take wheelchair patients to the chapel each Sunday.

The girls made a tape to take to the Rangers in Inuvik and hope to receive a tape made by the Eskimo girls in the ranger pack there.

Mrs. Cloke was married in the Yukon. Her fiancé, now her husband, quipped that she chased him 4000 miles to get married when his bank transferred him to the northern

branch, but she reminds him that he sent her the money for transportation. When the opportunity came to visit the North West Territories last year and again this year, she was picked by the Council as adviser to the women who were leaders of Brownies, Girl Guides and Rangers.

Most of the northern leaders are teachers, nurses or wives of the RCMP, but gradually leaders are being introduced from the Indian and Eskimo women in the community.

The native children who are 7 to 10 years old and eligible for Brownies, are unfamiliar with toadstools and Brown Owls which are basic to the Brownie name system in the south.

However, there is an Arctic Owl, the Oopik, which is also revered in the Arctic as a good omen. The toadstool is often replaced by igloo, or "snow house", or by the pingos which are large round bubble-like land formations which rise above the flat ground. The Polar Bear, the Nanook, guards the igloo.

One inventive leader used the tree, which grows just south of the tundra, with three branches representing the Brownies, Guides and Rangers and had an Oopik in the tree.

They hope in this way to draw in native children.

Mrs. Cloke visited Inuvik, Tuktoyaktak, "meeting place of the Tok tuk" or caribou. This latter town is called simply "Tuk".

Mrs. Cloke had a caribou steak here which she said was very good and tasted much like venison.

She said she was snowed in last year, but was lucky to get out in advance of the snows this year. She goes in the month of November because this gives the northern leader the opportunity to get her pack into operation and to discover any problems she might have.

The schools in the north are the meeting places of the community. She said that they could show the south thing or two because there is something going on in the schools all the time.

Eskimo children who live in the tundra are sent to schools in Inuvik and live in hostels, supported by the Anglican or the Roman Catholic Church and by the territorial

Government. They are taken from their family when of nursery school age to get them ready for the kindergarten stage before actual school enrolment.

Most of the children have never seen scissors, for instance, and these they learn to handle, as well as other kindergarten utensils. They are flown home for Christmas and other holidays.

During the Arctic Games, the schools were used for billeting people and the principal of Sir Alexander McKenzie school in Inuvik, G.K. North, and the Department of Education in the North West Territories, were anxious to help in any way they could.

About 600 students go to school there, 400 of these, native children.

The federal government is very concerned about pollution in the Arctic, Mrs. Cloke said. She met an air pilot who worked for an airline whose job was to bring cartage in and to carry garbage out. She didn't know where the garbage was left.

As the population grows, Mrs. Cloke said, so the pollution increases, but an Eskimo is assigned to go around with the government agent on inspection tours to insure the protection of wild life.

The people were concerned about the passage of the Manhattan and said it should have been built with many compartments so that the oil it was carrying could be more quickly controlled. Once the oil spills onto the perma-frost, it can't seep into the land.

On Sachs Harbour, Banks Island, there is oil exploration equipment which startles the game. The Eskimos who lived in this community were very progressive and were self-supporting. Now they are being threatened, Mrs. Cloke said, but the government has insisted that an anti-noise device be installed.

Fur carving - pictures created in fur - soap-stone carving, bead work and other native crafts may be taught to the Brownie packs or Girl Guides, by some of the Eskimo and Indian women who are leaders or assistant leaders, and these will earn a girl her special badge.

The natives also make an "ice worm" or Sikusi of fur. This was supposed to be a fictitious creature, until some scientists discovered that there WERE ice worms.

The northern saying "I'll see you when the iceworms nest again" has had to be revised.

One of the most magnificent sights Mrs. Cloke has seen in the north happened at Hay River. The northern lights put out a magnificent display. A huge pot of red at the horizon shot lights of blue, green and red in an arch across the sky. She said when the lights were shot, one could hear a swish as they travelled. This is a sign of cold weather coming.

The housewives of the north stock their freezers for a year. The food and supplies come down the McKenzie river by Barge. First the trucks are unloaded. Then the trucks unload the barge. One comment, Mrs. Cloke heard with nostalgia was that Inuvik at barge time was like Yonge Street in Toronto for 24 hours.

1 As noted in the article, Inuvik is just over 4000 miles (6490 kms.) from Etobicoke where Marg lived.

Submitted by Nelsona Dundas

Calendars for Veterans



Once again, Legion Branch 266/46 will be collecting calendars to distribute to Sunnybrook Veterans. If you have a number of them, call Nelsona (416-620-4098) to arrange pick up, or leave them at the Church Office.

Deadline: December 15th.

Thank you!

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/>



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

From You Chair of Council



Hi, it has been a long time since we have been together, at church. We hope that you are doing very well.

It has been great seeing you on Sundays for coffee hour, and hope that you have also enjoyed it as well. I know that zoom is not for everyone, plus also, there are a few who do not have a computer. But it will be nice when we can all get together in church for worship. This has been a very difficult time for all of us. Not being able to visit with all of our family and friends. But you know this will soon change.

On Sunday September 26th, Brian showed us a Film "Finding Peter Bryce" . Apart from our church members watching, there were a few others who joined us as well, e.g. the minister of St James United Church. It was very interesting. I am sure that Brian will also mention it in his report.

I know that Victor has been enjoying the new Lawn mower this summer, it has made his job a lot easier.

We will need help soon to clean up our gardens, so if there are any of you who can assist, please let Pat CW know. We will let you know when before the end of October. Thanks

Just don't know where time has gone, as by the time you get this bulletin, we will be in October.

We have been very lucky that our tenants have continued to give us donations. But as you know we have had expenses we didn't expect.

Before going on, I would like to thank Charles Desgrosseilliers of Church of God (one of our tenants), who has been assisting us in obtaining trustworthy contractors to do various jobs, as our volunteers, are few and far between.

September 30th, 2021 we celebrated National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. Brian did a great job. We had a guest Michael Cheena a

residential school survivor who spoke on his experience. We also stood in silent Lament out of respect.

Lyn Lawrence gave a beautiful speech on her experience working with the TRC etc It was a very touching day for all of us.

We had quite a few from Bloordale United Church along with members from the Community, it was nice to see so many.

I am sure that Brian will also be covering this at length in his report.

The Food Trucks were recently still coming to our premises, on Saturday afternoons, but due to a decline in customers, have now decided to call it quits.

Your foursome are still meeting regularly, making sure that all is going well. Thanks to Paul, Julia, Brian and myself.

Once again would like to thank John P for all he has been doing recording the weekly services, and putting together the Bloorbeat, along with Julia. Julia has also been looking after our government grants.

I would like to wish everyone a very safe fall, and hopefully we will all be together for worship. Please continue to be very safe no matter what you do.

Pat Conway-Willis
Chair of Council

Change Your Clocks for November 7th



Don't forget to change Your Clocks before bed, Saturday, November 6th as we "Fall Back" from Daylight Saving Time.

Every Child Matters

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
Nov 28, 2021	Nov 21, 2021
Jan 23, 2022	Jan 16, 2022

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