

November 2022

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XLI Issue 4

Minister's Message

The Essence of Advent

I've often pondered, as we come round to this special pre-December time of year, how much of our now thoroughly secular world loves Christmas alongside we who genuinely seek to believe and learn and hold to faith with sincerity. There's a magic about the season, the countless Hallmark movies tell sentimental stories of homecoming and shared family values, and the biggest holiday of the year seems to be built for the joy and innocence of children. Even people who will never darken the door of a church at Christmas know the words to the verses of Silent Night, and most of us, content with carols, a few candles, and good, if fattening, food, bask in the warmth of familiar traditions, in reciprocated, if expected, acts of kindness, and in feelings of general goodwill.

While none of these time-honoured observances can be said to be bad in any way, shape, or form, they still, to this theologian's way of thinking anyway, somehow miss the central point of the season. How many of us extract real hard-won meaning, rather than simple sentiment, from the season of Christ's first coming, remembering the context of the incarnation, for instance: the dank stable, the cold night, the closed door of the inn, the pure poverty of the scene? How many of us share the longing of the ancient prophets, who awaited the Messiah with such aching intensity that they foresaw his arrival thousands of years before he was born?

Mother Teresa once noted that the first person to welcome Christ's coming was John the Baptist, who leaped for joy when mothers Mary and Elizabeth met, though both boys were still within their wombs. We, in stark contrast, often leap at the chance for pleasure or power, our deeper spiritual selves so often dulled by superficial distractions that the feeling we know as Christmas cheer lacks any real connection to the vital spirit that radiated from the manger. We miss the essence of Christmas unless we become, intentionally and consistently, mindful of how Christ's birth took place. When we do, we sense immediately

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Church Council Secretary	Beth Jazvac
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Beth Jazvac
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	Pat Conway-Willis
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	Paul Rose
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

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	Pat Conway-Willis
Communications	Julia Stavreff
Finance, Stewardship, Planned Gift	Norm Dundas
Outreach and Christian Development	Lynn Lawrence
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Property	Pat Conway-Willis
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Worship	Melody Klassen
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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Nov. 20	Reign of Christ Sunday
Nov. 27	Advent 1 / COMMUNION
Dec. 4	Advent 2 / White Gift
Dec. 11	Advent 3
Dec. 18	Advent 4
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve / COMMUNION 4 pm (to be confirmed)
Dec. 25	Christmas 1 (to be confirmed)
Jan. 1	Christmas 2
Jan. 8	Baptism of Jesus
Jan. 15	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany
Jan. 22	3 rd after Epiphany / COMMUNION
Jan. 29	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

All Services at 10:30 am except as indicated

Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

that the four weeks of our Advent journey gives guideposts to glory and markers toward the greatest miracle: God's coming into our midst. And the even greater miracle is that God's coming isn't just something that happened that one time in the past, but is a recurring blessing in every here and now, in all times and places. It's for this reason that Advent can never be considered just a commemoration of the past or an anniversary, but is instead a yearly opportunity for us to consider the continuous advent of God, especially the promised coming of God's reign in all its fullness on earth.

There's a paradox to this promise, though, as the love that was born and revealed at Bethlehem is not the easy sympathy of a transcendent and uninvolved God, but is a burning fire whose light chases away every shadow, floods every corner, and turns midnight into noon, bringing all evil and sin into broad daylight in order to defeat it once and for all. Endless debates among theologians through the ages have considered the degree to which we human beings can help God's second coming reign arrive, but virtually all, except those who deny God any agency altogether, agree that this decisive transformation of the world is a divine achievement, an incarnation of the holy from beyond the human alone, just as it was the first time. Even so, our dependency on the divine does not release us from responsibility. If the essence of Advent is expectancy, it is also readiness for action: watchfulness for every opening which a holy word might address, and willingness to risk to the point of sacrifice for the birth of a new beginning of justice and peace.

That's why the imagery of nativity scenes is not sufficient to explain the Christmas message. Yes, God came to a lowly stable, where ox and cow and goat were fed and slept. But it was not only as a baby that he

lay there, for this child was the same man who was crucified at Calvary, and who rose again to confirm the promise of new life for us and for the world. So within the manger lies the inevitability of the cross, and the hope, through this One who was born, crucified, and raised, of our own redemption and resurrection.

To recognize this requires our sincere and penitential mix of reverence and humility, otherwise known as faith. May we who tend to be no different than our neighbours at this time of year have such deep and abiding faith over the next month or so, and throughout the year. May we not only bask in the sentiment of the season, enjoying the sweeter music and the traditions we've made our own, but truly believe, as Mary and the shepherds and the wise men did. May we give God the glory this year, not just in thanks for gifts given and received, but in awe of the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Brian



Stewardship Spot

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

The Stewardship of Inclusion

There's little doubt that The United Church of Canada is the most inclusive church in the country, as we're known for taking in those

whom others have rejected to one degree or another. This inclusion is built, of course, on a vision of Jesus in the gospels that has him showing compassion to and embracing the least, the last, the lost, the sick and suffering, the poor and neglected. Not only that, but Jesus calls upon his followers, his disciples, to do the same.

The Greek word at the root of the word "ecumenical," which means the whole church across all denominations, is "oikos," which means "the whole household." This same word is the root of the word "ecology," and it's also the root of the word "economy," implying that our economy should be an inclusive one, leaving no one behind. Inclusive economy frameworks, also known as community wealth building and sharing, are growing in popularity among many economists, and are not only developing principles of inclusion but enhancing the participatory and democratic roots that enable the best of our traditions to potentially flourish in a time when our voter turnouts for elections are at an all-time low.

According to writers Marjorie Kelly and Ted Howard, in their 2019 book *The Making of a Democratic Economy*, the principles of such an inclusive and democratic economy include:

- The principle of community, where the common good is prioritized;
- The principle of inclusion, premised on creating opportunities for those long excluded;
- The principle of place, which focuses on ensuring that building community wealth stays local;
- The principle of good work, which puts labour before capital;
- The principle of democratized ownership, which emphasizes creating enterprises that are community and/or cooperative in nature;

- The principle of sustainability, to protect the ecosystem as the foundation of life;
- The principle of ethical finance, which means investing and lending for people and place.

Such economic models have taken hold in some cities and communities around the world, and in Preston, a city in northern England, where they were systematically introduced, from 2012-2018 unemployment fell, incomes rose, and the Preston Council's spending went from 5 % to 18 % local. In 2018 Preston was named the most improved city in the U.K.

If governments leverage their power as public anchor institutions within communities to create social policies aimed at directing public goods and services spending toward local, community-owned enterprises, the community captures more of the benefits of those public investments. Similarly, governments that attach community benefit agreement criteria, a concept I only heard of about four years ago, to infrastructure procurement foster a culture that rewards companies that hire and train more workers from equity-seeking backgrounds. These inclusive economy principles are an example of how a conceptual framework can be inclusive without sacrificing growth or sustainability.

Beyond the weary models of privatization and pure capitalism, which have only created growing gaps between the haves and the have nots for decades, high unemployment, the degradation of the environment, and numerous other undesirable side effects in exchange for private wealth in the hands of a few, our attempt to be stewards of inclusion through an inclusive economy model seems like a step forward. In addition, it seems like a step that Jesus would trumpet in the face of the mass suffering and poverty that exists today because of our current exclusive economic model. May we all be more conscious of how we might contribute to this

renewal of a more compassionate economy, where no one is left behind and we take account of the needs of all within the one household of humanity.

Brian

Outreach News

Outreach Sunday October 16th

On Sunday October 16th the Education, Outreach and Advocacy Cte. hosted a reception for the latest refugee we sponsored, Ali Oubidin, who arrived in September of 2021 during a wave of COVID that prevented us from having such a reception earlier.

We gave Ali a gift, Beth Jazvac made a cake and wrote Welcome to Canada – in Arabic! – on it, and Ali, who works in a bakery, had made some baclava treats to share.

We also heard a couple of brief speeches, and wished Ali well as he was scheduled to move soon to Montreal to unite with others from Algeria there and build a new life.

It was another humbling instance of how our refugee sponsorship program has changed lives and enabled safety and security for those who have needed our help.

Thanks to all who made this reception the special time it was!



Indigenous Right Relations Building

On Sept. 24th, only six days from the second annual observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Sept. 30th, Kairos Toronto West and EcuLinks Etobicoke sponsored a Kairos Blanket Exercise for the enrollment limit of 26 people held at Martin Luther Church in south Etobicoke.

Then, on Sept. 30th itself, those two sponsoring organizations hosted an event at The Gatehouse on the grounds of Humber College, where guest Indigenous leader Barry Gilbert spoke about his Residential School experience. 140 people showed up, and 2 federal MPs as well.

Town Halls for Municipal Election

As a member of the three sponsoring organizations, namely Etobicoke Climate Action Group, Central Etobicoke Community Hub Initiative, and EcuLinks Etobicoke, Brian moderated two Municipal Election Town Hall meetings online, for Etobicoke Lakeshore and Etobicoke Centre, on Oct. 17th and 19th respectively. Each of the candidates were asked six pre-arranged questions, and three questions emerged from the watching audience, with well over 100 people attending in Lakeshore and 50 people in Centre.

Central Etobicoke Community Hub Initiative

The Hub Board elected Brian as the new Chairperson in September to serve a 2-year term, and has been undertaking collaborative work regarding the election as well as planning to redesign their website and add an innovative Space Inventory Tool, which will enable agencies who want to deliver programs in central Etobicoke, but lack spaces to do so, to quickly obtain a listing of possible spaces to rent quickly and efficiently, based on their needs and budget. This work should be completed by mid-January.

Bloordale UC – Fellowship Christian Reformed Church Shared Community Ministry Vision Discussions

A Next Steps document has been produced by the Joint Vision Group, and will soon be shared with both church Councils, and then with the congregations. A report will also occur at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday Nov. 13th. Pat Conway-Willis, Paul Rose and Brian continue to represent the congregation in these discussions.

Christmas Worship

At the time of writing for this Bloorbeat, our Christmas Service schedule is not yet confirmed, though the proposal to be discussed by our Council is to hold our regular 4 or 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24th, and then to have a Service on Christmas Day, Sunday Dec. 25th at 10:30 am. We would also have a New Year's Day Service on Sunday Jan. 1st at 10:30 am. Please pay attention to the bulletin and/or e-mail notices to have these Services confirmed, as there may be changes to this schedule decided upon soon.

Property Options Update

Over the past year as we emerge from the shadow of COVID-19, which is still with us to some extent, it is fair to state that we are not where we expected to be at this time. We expected by now to be reporting the conclusion of our negotiating team's discussions with UPRC & Kindred Works.

COVID-19 delays along with staffing issues at UPRC & Kindred Works played a role in the delay, but an experienced project management individual, Melissa Routley, has now been assigned by UPRC/Kindred Works

to facilitate moving this joint initiative through to conclusion.

The current project plan takes us through January 31, 2023, with focused activities beginning on Wednesday, November 09, 2022.

There are three principal parties involved:

1. Bloordale United Church
2. UPRC/Kindred Works
3. Shining Waters

These three parties form an oversight body for any major decisions.

A written agreement is presently being drafted by Melissa Routely with input from the BUC negotiating team. Once the draft agreement has been finalized it must be presented for approval by Shining Waters and by the Bloordale United Church Council and Congregation.

Once it is approved and signed we expect it to result in the following:

- A. BUC Building & Property would be handed over to Shining Waters
- B. BUC Congregation would continue to worship and serve the community from this site as a tenant
- C. BUC Congregation would pay \$1 annually for the use of the property on negotiated usage terms.
- D. UPRC/Kindred Works would be responsible for BUC Building & Property management & maintenance. Third parties working for UPRC/Kindred Works would be responsible for detailed day to day management & development aspects of the Bloordale physical plant.
- E. UPRC/Kindred Works would manage the existing BUC rentals and maximize the space usage by engaging new tenants.
- F. BUC Congregation & UPRC/Kindred Works would continue to explore development of the property to enable

us to enhance our service to the community.

- G. UPRC/Kindred Works would provide revenue flow to BUC Congregation to cover the shortfall resulting from the forgoing of the existing revenues

Item 'F' above includes UPRC/Kindred Works support for our ongoing discussions with the Christian Reformed Church Congregation about "One Church, Two Congregations", and includes UPRC/Kindred Works involvement with the Christian Reformed Church regarding the joint assessment of their property as a potential development site for a significant property development initiative.

Please contact anyone of us on the BUC negotiating team, Pat C-W, Julia, Brian or me, if you have any comments &/or concerns.

Paul Rose

From Your Chair of Council



That time of year once again, so Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy New Year to all of you and your families.

We would like to thank Diane Kovaz for all she has been doing around the lot, the cutting back of our plants and raking up the leaves. Also, thanks Grace and Jo-Em for looking after the plants all summer long, it is very much appreciated by all of us.

Rooks to Cooks is doing a winter cooking class once a week, along with school breaks, in addition to their summer program. The winter classes are their first., so let us hope all goes well for them.

Our Wine and Cheese Reception went very well on October 30th, and hope that all who attended had a great time. It was so nice seeing all of you.

Beth, Melody, and I are in the office, daily, and hope that we find an applicant very soon.

We are still receiving lots of calls to rent our gym which is very good. Basketball on Fridays is doing very well.

Our next council meeting will be November 21st at 7 PM in room 15.

Thanks to John and Julia for looking after Bloorbeat We all appreciate it.

Thanks to our volunteers on Sundays, Debbie, Joan and myself, along with Linda and Beth assisting in the kitchen.

Until the new year, please all of you continue to be very safe and healthy

Pat Conway-Willis, Chair of Council

From Your Choir Director



I would like to take this opportunity and update you on a few items re our music program.

During the month of October, in addition to our regularly scheduled anthems and solos, the music at BUC was further enriched by the children in the congregation who led in singing a children's friendly hymn. They were accompanied by Pablo's wonderful guitar playing. Thank you Pablo! I hope that we can resume this practice later, and that more children will join us.

As Christmas is fast approaching, I would like to notify you of 2 special dates which have been confirmed. On Dec.11th our choir will be participating in a joint service with the Richview United Church choir for a special service of Lessons and Carols. This event will be held at 4:30 pm at Richview United Church. And on Dec.18th we will be having our own music service dedicated to celebrating Christmas through a song, in which we will have our choir, soloists and instrumentalists share their talents with the

congregation. Please mark these dates in your calendars and we hope that you'll come out, support us, and enjoy the music.

If you would like to participate in any services with your musical talents please feel free to send me an email at pawel.w.music@gmail.com or join us on Thursdays at 7:30pm for rehearsals.

Thank you,

Paul Wisniewski

Special Music Events in December

Oakville Choral Concert Dec. 4th at 3 pm

Brian has started to sing again with the Oakville Choral group after a 2 ½ year COVID hiatus. Their first Concert of the year is at 3 pm on Sunday Dec. 4th at St. John's United Church, 262 Randall St. in Oakville, and features Beethoven's *Mass in C Major* and a new composition by conductor David Bowser called *The Earth Spins Her Eternal Force*. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for students and are available from Brian.

Lessons and Carols Service Dec. 18th at St Timothy Presbyterian Church

In addition to our own music service in the morning of Dec 18th, Paul and our choir will participate in the afternoon of the 18th at 4 pm at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 106 Ravenscrest Dr. in a shared Lessons and Carols Service. This will be in collaboration with a number of 427 Ministerial churches.

All are warmly invited to all of these musical events!

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

"I Still Matter"

by Patricia A. Fleming

I'm still here.
My looks are nothing special.
My face reveals my age.
My body shows some wear
And tear and my energy's not the same.

Too often, my memory fails me,
And I lose things all the time.
One minute I know what I plan to do
And the next it may just slip my mind.

I try hard to avoid my mirror.
There are things I would rather not see,
And even those times when I just catch a
glimpse,

I can no longer recognize me.

The things I used to do with ease
Can now cause aches and pains,
And the quality of things I do
Will never be quite the same.

I always compare my older self
To those younger versions of me,
And I know I'm wasting too much time
Missing who I used to be.

But the thing that really makes me sad
Is despite what people see,
Underneath my tattered, worn-out shell,
I'm still the same old me.

My heart can still feel endless love,
And at times it can still ache.
My heart can fill with so much joy,
And then it can suddenly break.

My soul can still feel sympathy
And longs for forgiveness and peace,

And there are times its light shines boldly
through,
And times when it longs for release.

It's true, maybe now that I'm older,
Feeling lonely may be status quo,
But it also has made me more willing
To forgive and let past conflicts go.

So maybe to some I may look ugly and old,
A person who barely exists.
I'm still quite aware of the beauty inside,
And my value should not be dismissed.

So, although not as strong and no beauty,
it's true,
I'm still here and want so much to live.
And I know that there is no one in this world
quite like me,
And no one who has more to give.

*Forwarded by Nancy Harris, circulated to
Pastoral Care Committee and submitted by
Sylvia Williams*

Mona Murray's 101st Birthday



Mona Murray, a long time member of Bloordale United Church, celebrated her 101st birthday on October 7th, 2022. Congratulations Mona, and best wishes from all your friends at Bloordale United Church!

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/>

IN MEMORIAM

John Doran 'Jack' Lovatt

May 16, 1928 – October 28, 2022

Financial Update

Finances for Bloordale did not start off looking very good in 2021. But we did finish that year with a surplus of \$ 2,400. Very nice indeed.

Numbers for this year so far, are quite sad. Our deficit to the end of October, is approximately \$ 30,000.

Our rental income and expenditures are spot on, however congregational givings have dropped quite a bit, both from what was anticipated, and from last year.

November and December are generally our biggest congregational giving months. Please make this a reality again and help Bloordale with your generous contributions.

Thank You

From the Finance Committee

Upcoming Events Summary

Sunday, November 13, Semi-Annual Congregational meeting after the church service

Friday, November 18, 25; December 2, 9, 16; January 6, 13, 20; 7 to 9pm free gym basketball for tweens and teens

Monday, November 21, 7pm Council meeting

Sunday, December 4, 3pm, Oakville Choral Concert, in Oakville

Sunday, December 11, 4:30pm joint service of Lessons and Carols, with Richview United Church

Sunday, December 18, 10:30am Bloordale United Church Christmas music service

Sunday, December 18, 4:00pm, shared Lessons and Carols Service, St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church

Saturday, December 24, 4:00pm (time approximate) Christmas Eve Service

Forever Grateful



"Forever Grateful" is my memoir. It highlights the ups and downs of living with kidney disease. For instance: laying on the couch knowing that if I did not get up and do something about my health

that I could die. And then being told at 17 that I might never have children due to the same kidney disease.

"Forever Grateful" is filled with gratitude and hope. It illustrates that life after receiving a transplant (or two) is a wonderful journey. I would love to have a positive impact on the donor rate in Canada through people reading my book.

Copies of "Forever Grateful" are available at the church or directly from me at a cost of \$25.00. If you would like it inscribed I can most certainly do that. I can be reached at

Melodious_harper@hotmail.com or 416-951-2758.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

Melody Klassen

St. James Food Basket

When you go shopping, please pick up one extra item for our food box, if you are able. Please put items in Bloordale's food box, located in the sanctuary, and we shall take it

to the St. James Food Basket. Suggested items include cereal, canned tuna, crackers, and soup

Calendars for Veterans Deadline Friday, December 2nd

I hope you have been receiving lots of calendars for our Veterans! We put them in the Christmas bags our Legion prepares for Veterans for distribution at Christmastime. The deadline for getting them to the Church Office is **Friday, December 2nd**. Or, you may call Nelsona, 416-620-4098, to arrange pickup. Sunnybrook Veterans are tentatively scheduled to come to Br. 266-46 for their Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 4th, at which time the Christmas bags will be given out. After two Christmases without the Veterans, we are really looking forward to their being with us this year!

Thank you!

Nelsona

Basketball Fridays



Our Basketball evenings have started again and are currently enjoyed by students from two neighbourhood schools. The free program allows the players to practice skills and play pick up games. Currently we have 10 participants and a couple of Dads who can't resist "getting in some hoops". Pablo Rodrigues has been helping out on the court each night as well. Our gym is such an excellent resource and to have it open to the community contributes to the mission of the church. Our teenagers need to feel that not only do they belong in our community but that they are welcomed and valued. 7-9pm.

United Church Gifts with Vision Catalogue Now Available

Over the last number of years the United Church of Canada has made available to congregations and partners a Gifts with Vision catalogue, which enables you to choose what programs or causes you want to support with a designated gift, perhaps as an alternative Christmas gift or simply because you care. The catalogue includes cards to send to your loved ones if you choose to make a donation in lieu of a gift you would normally give to them. There are five or six catalogues now available in the sanctuary, and we encourage you to check them out. If you do take one home, please bring it back when you've made your choices, so it could be made available to others again – and thanks in advance for your generosity!

Office Assistant Needed

Bloordale is looking for a person to join our staff and circle of friends. The position is part time, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Monday to Friday. The successful candidate's qualifications will include proficient use of Microsoft Office and Quick Books on line. Also necessary are strong organizational skills. Accuracy in data entry and task completion is essential. If you are interested drop by the office to submit a resume and pick up a copy of the job description. The pay scale is \$20.00 per hour with benefits and parking. If you are an independent worker who prides themselves on a job well done please consider applying. Call Beth Jazvac for information- 416 621-1710 or 416 558 5105 Applications close at noon Friday, Nov 25, 2022.



MERRY CHRISTMAS !

Books Needed for our Little Free Library

This is an appeal to all book lovers who have bookcases overflowing with books that you know you will probably never read again.

I am thrilled that our Little Free Library (LFL) seems to be very popular this fall, but more books are being taken, and not so many returned or exchanged. I have had to replenish its shelves much more frequently than in the spring and I am running out of stock.

If any of you have books you would be willing to donate, I would be very happy to pick them up from you and/or transfer them from your car to mine in the church parking lot some Sunday soon.

Thanks in anticipation!!

Pat Nelson, tel. 416-622-5274 or
patrish.nelson@gmail.com

Congratulations Art and Jean!



**Congratulations to
Arthur and Jean
Mosher on their
69th Wedding
Anniversary,
Sept 19th, 2022!**

Wine & Cheese Get Together

Our 'Lets Get Together' Wine and Cheese was a roaring success!

After two and a half years of COVID hibernation, many of us were longing to see our Bloordale friends. We had gotten out of the habit of going to church Sunday mornings. It was just easier to stay home, 'drink coffee' and sit on the couch.

Bloordale gave us just the nudge we needed, to move out of our COVID related comfort zones, and meet our friends.

Council held a complimentary Wine & Cheese, Sunday October 30th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, with red, white, and rosé wine, Perrier water and regular water. We had five varieties of cheese and six different kinds of crackers. Cheddar Cheese sticks, and raw almonds were around for some added variety. Finger fruits were there too: red and green grapes, blueberries, and raspberries. A most lovely spread!



For dessert, Beth J. made some tasty brownie squares sprinkled with cream on top. Del Manor Prince Edward, from Dundas Street West also provided some snacks: lots of lovely lemon squares.

Del Manor Prince Edward also hosted a raffle for a \$100 VISA gift card. Our winner was Sol Kanjirthingal!

In total 42 Bloordale family and friends attended our Wine & Cheese. Much thanks to Nancy H. for phoning our members with a personal invite and thanks to Pat C-W, and Julia S. for organizing, setting up and buying the goodies. And of course, special thanks to our cleaner uppers: Debbie C-M, Linda S, Helen H. Beth J., and Pat C-W.

Everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time, nibbling, sipping, and chatting.

The organizers were also having a good time, such that no one remembered to take a few pictures! Oh well, next time! And there will be a next time!

Thanks to Council for this great idea, and thanks to all for coming.

Julia Stavreff

For the Social Committee

Bloordale Outing to "Singin in the Rain"



20 Bloordale family and friends went to see the Mirvish Production of 'Singin in the Rain' on Tuesday October 18, 8pm. Our performance was in the last week of the show's run and was sold out. Some of our attendees TTC'd it, but the majority carpooled. As happens, 4 of our ticket holders had health issues, but their tickets were quickly snapped up by others.

The Mirvish production of Singin in the Rain is based on the 1952 movie hit of the same name, with Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, and Jean Hagen.

Silent pictures had become talkies and the musical is the 'trials and tribulations that come, when one silent film star has a challenged larynx' (Lina Lamont).

The two favourite songs are Singin in the Rain (of course) and Good Morning, whereby the three stars do the going over couch scene (rumor has it that Debbie Reynolds practiced this scene a hundred times and was black and blue from all the falling).

There was real rain falling onto the stage during the Singin in the Rain number, which ended the first act, and the grand finale. It was most fun to watch the dancers kicking their feet, and splashing the front rows patrons, with water.

This was a first outing for many in our group, after COVID. Virtually all of our 20 attendees wore masks, although they are not mandatory in theatre settings (just strongly recommended). The Princess of Wales Theatre accommodates 2000 people, and our performance was sold out.

Our group sat in three areas of the theatre; 11 in orchestra left, 5 in orchestra centre (further back) 2 in orchestra rear and two by their lonseomes in the front row of the orchestra left and orchestra right.

The current Hallmark movies must have gotten their start from productions like Singin in the Rain: Boy meets Girl, Boy falls in love with Girl, there is conflict, and finally, Boy ends up with Girl.

Thanks to our car pooling drivers Sol K., Julia S., Jean P. and Wendy S. Thanks to Nancy H. for organizing the carpools. And thanks to me for arranging this outing. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Julia Stavreff

For the Social Committee

Christmas Trees



401st Scouts are taking orders for Christmas trees! We sold out quickly last year so order ahead and come out early to pick out your tree. The lot will be open as of Saturday, Dec 3rd.

Trees can be ordered here: <https://401st-scouts.square.site/>

Bloorbeat Available by e-mail

If you wish, you can receive Bloorbeat electronically as an e-mail attachment. Just inform the church office 416-621-1710

Potential Outing to See HAMILTON



After our very successful, and enjoyable, outing to see 'Singin in the Rain', we thought another social outing might be in order: HAMILTON

It seems HAMILTON was, and is, extremely popular. You may recall that HAMILTON was playing at one of the Mirvish Theatres, just before COVID 'cancelled' it.

HAMILTON will be playing at the Princess of Wales Theatre, from February 22, 2023 to May 14, 2023. Groups are 10 plus people **but** there is no group discount! To quote the Mirvish group sales rep 'This is Hamilton. There is no 'Discount'. I believe we will each save \$7 service charge, but no 20% discount.

Performances are Tuesday to Saturday evenings, 7:30pm, Saturday and Sundays, at 1:30pm, and until April 23rd, Wednesdays at 1:30pm. Mirvish is one of those theatres that has different prices for different days, with Saturday night being most expensive.

Our initial thought is to go on a Saturday afternoon, to appeal to the maximum number of people. Ticket availability is restricted by priority given to Mirvish season ticket subscribers. If there are not enough seats, our next thought is Wednesday afternoon.

Is anyone interested in seeing HAMILTON with Bloordale?

If yes, please tell me, 416-622-6309, stavreffj@stavreff.ca, with any time/date restrictions that you have.

Julia Stavreff
For the Social Committee

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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 Stavreffe 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.

Health Guidelines for In-Person Worship Attendees

While we continue to encourage vaccination, we no longer require proof of being vaccinated, and will therefore no longer do contact tracing or be asking for either a medical exemption letter or negative PCR test. Our only continuing suggested protocol is using masks when in proximity with others.

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

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 Stavreffe, 416-622-6309,
stavreffj@stavreff.ca

Bloorbeat Publication Schedule

Following are tentative publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
Jan 22, 2023	Jan 15, 2023
Mar 19, 2023	Mar 12, 2023

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To advertise, please call Julia Stavreff,
416-621-8050 or email stavreffj@stavreff.ca

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