

January 2023

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XLII Issue 1

Minister's Message

Minister's Message

I admit to begin that I write this first Bloorbeat message of 2023 with a tinge of sadness, having experienced the decline in our congregation's health and vitality, its capacity to undertake the shared leadership that would implement our mission with hope and passion, over the past few years. Though many would say that COVID has devastated all segments of our society, and the church is no different, and that most of our sister churches, both within the United Church as well as ecumenically, have all suffered huge losses over the past nearly three years, and are therefore in the same big boat, slowly paddling forward while taking on water with fewer hands to do the bailing, my perspective is that the trend began long before COVID, and goes far beyond both the pandemic and even the church alone.

That perspective has seen many relatively new leaders come to Bloordale during my 14-year ministry, the majority now having been in attendance less than ten years, and realizes that this new cohort is also growing tired, having come while into their either near or post-retirement years to begin with. Our worship attendance has plummeted, even pre-pandemic, and the comeback has been both slow and unsteady. Our visioning efforts at discerning options for our future have proven to be challenging, and uncertainty about our sustainability grows among those who know the facts regarding our finances and dwindling available volunteers.

All of this leads me to think that, while theologically I know that only God, and not any particular church, is eternal, we've tended to take our position and even privilege in society for granted, having become complacent in failing to nurture faith and leadership among the younger generations, even among ourselves, and have generally succumbed to understanding our Christian faith as a take-it-or-leave-it habit which we enact or participate in only if we're entertained or able to "*get something out of it.*" I realize, friends, that this is a somewhat cruel exaggeration, though it's not meant to be taken by any readers here as a personal indictment, and we still have numerous stellar volunteer leaders who do the work of maintaining our existence in this Bloordale/Markland community. I also realize that we still accomplish much good, given the widespread use of our building by an array of groups, and the mission efforts for justice and reconciliation that we consistently live out, both on our own and among our

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Administrative Assistant	Mae Herrera
Music Director	Paul Wisniewski
Custodian	Awaiz Dean

Church Council

Chair	Pat Conway-Willis
Church Council Secretary	Beth Jazvac
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Beth Jazvac
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	Pat Conway-Willis
Social and Fund Raising	Vacant
Worship	Melody Klassen
Member-at-Large	Joan Hollowell

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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Jan.	29	Epiphany 4 / Communion
Feb.	5	Epiphany 5
	12	Epiphany 6
	19	Transfiguration of Jesus / Communion
	26	Lent 1
Mar.	5	Lent 2 / AGM
	12	Lent 3 / 65 th Anniversary Wine and Cheese
	19	Lent 4
	26	Lent 5
April	2	Palm / Passion Sunday / Communion
	6	Maundy Thursday
	7	Good Friday
	9	Easter Sunday
	16	Easter 2

All Services at 10:30 am except as indicated

Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

inter-church friends, to say nothing yet of our consistent Sunday morning nurturing of faith in the context of worship.

But the sad truth, friends in Bloordale's circle, is that we're a few more years of deficits away from closing our church, as we come to grips with the realization that, as former United Church moderator Peter Short once said, "*the church is many generations long but only one generation deep*," and the current generation of active church members and friends is now becoming unable to sustain the church any longer. We may be able to figure out a way to sustain ourselves through the leveraging of our building into the near or immediate future, but if our faith and passion isn't renewed or reawakened alongside such a process, we're really only delaying the inevitable.

The other side of this perspective's coin, of course, is that, ironically, I'm convicted more than ever of the opinion that the world needs our Christian witness more than ever before, as the decline in religion seems also to coincide with a decline in personal and corporate ethics, in shared pursuit of the socio-economic and political common good, and in an awareness of the existential threat to human existence that is posed by the climate crisis, whereby we continue to treat the earth as a commodity rather than as God's creation. My hope is not based, friends, in any human capacity to do what's sacrificially necessary on our own, in order to secure a sustainable human future unto what the Indigenous peoples call the "*seventh generation*." My hope is sustained, rather, by a deep and abiding faith that the God of the Bible is still for this creation and we who are its creatures, that the Christ of Christmas is still Emmanuel, "God-With-Us," and that the Spirit is still at loose and at large in the world, taking all our failings and any remaining, latent faith and mixing them together to forge a new future from both the agony and glory

of the past and the present remnant shell of the church into something new and faithful.

This reflection leaves me thinking, in my heart of hearts, that we're at something of a real crossroads as a church, a crossroad being a mysterious place of both problem and possibility. There is an old legend that both God and the devil are at the crossroads of life, waiting, each trying to ensure that the choice is made which eventually, by many other roads and lesser choices, will bring the traveller to heaven or to hell. One was urged, therefore, to take pause at crossroads, and they were good places to make the sign of the cross on oneself, as a direction was decided upon. Our crossroad as a congregation will decide our fate, or destiny, depending on our individual and collective choices, fate being the perceived future we both dread and can't avoid and destiny being the future we long to embrace and to which we feel we belong.

At such a significant and critical crossroad, there is a choice to be made, by each of us who consider ourselves part of the Bloordale boat. But it's a choice to be made – or not! – only in the context of our encounter with the divine Spirit, who sometimes comes in both familiar and strange guises and who confronts us with the prospect of intense temptation, searing challenge, intense struggle, and even the potential, as yet unknown, of our demise or death. It's a crossroad not unlike the one Jesus faced in the Gethsemane garden, as he considered his prospects and had to choose, in the immediate spectre of the cross, whether to flee or have faith. If we pay little or no heed to that Spirit, our choice is already pre-ordained for us, and the path toward it is clear. Yet if we have faith even as small, perhaps, as a mustard seed, we may yet be able to move mountains, move earth with heaven's help, and nothing will be impossible for us. (Matthew 17: 20-21) May our choice be made in the company of God's Spirit, as we discern our way forward together.

Brian

Stewardship Spot

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

The Stewardship of Discomfort

It may be that these thoughts are due to my aging, my nearing retirement. After all, in any given season of life the disappointments and discouragements and challenges and fears are for the most part manageable. But the cumulative effect takes a toll. Over time the heart can shrink, the spine can weaken, the knees grow feeble.

This column comes just before February, which is Black History Month, and I write this the day before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s January 15th birth anniversary, observed each year in the United States on the closest Monday. I also write this with a month to go prior to the beginning of Lent, all three facts setting the stage for what follows.

Someone recently wrote that Dr. King is rightly remembered for his "Dream" but far too seldom remembered for the way he dealt with despair and doubt. There is too much revelry over his assuring cadences and lilting imagery, for as a result we have largely ignored the threats he faced and the hazards he navigated. The iconic stature we have bestowed on him has had the unintended consequence of hiding the unfulfilled elements of that dream, along with the unfortunately recuperated opposition that remains even today.

In 1966 Dr. King consciously chose to organize around fair housing in Chicago, his first major venture out of the South. His marches were met with violent counter-protesters, and Dr. King remarked that he had never seen this level of vitriolic hatred even in Mississippi and Alabama. White Northerners who had previously supported integration and voter registration efforts in the South drew back when the target switched to fair housing and labor markets in their neighborhoods. In addition fractures opened within King's own Southern Christian Leadership Conference over whether to stick with legal issues of segregation and voting rights, or expand to

matters pertaining to larger questions of economic injustice and of US foreign policy.

The major blow to the movement's unity came in the aftermath of King's historic address at The Riverside Church in New York City, on 4 April 1967, exactly one year to the day before his assassination in Memphis. In this speech King explicitly and passionately denounced the war. Life magazine called the sermon *"a demagogic slander that sounded like a script for radio Hanoi."* The Washington Post said, *"Many who have listened to [King] with respect will never again accord him with the same confidence. He has diminished his usefulness to his cause, his country and his people."*

If there's one lesson from King's legacy that's been underplayed since his murder, it's the gift of discomfort in spiritual formation. *"May God bless you with discomfort . . . so that you may live deep within your heart,"* begins "A Franciscan Blessing" a confessional prayer made for those of us living in consumer cultures which too easily confuse happiness with godliness, favouring the market's assurance of redemptive shopping. The function of Lent's penitential posture is to halt the momentum of this perspective, to demand more focused introspection, and to restore the bountiful, flourishing intention of Creation's promise.

In words uncommon for tourism journalists, a popular travel reporter testified that travel creates *"a creeping discomfort about my confidence in the way I've always viewed the world."* This is what Lenten practices are designed to do. Think detoxification. The rough work of being separated from illusion. The dismemberment of assumptions of privilege. The disassembling of structural injustice. Calling into question the national security state, along with the obsession with personal security needs. All of these, and more, are among the polytheistic pantheon of idols which occupy the throne in which only God should preside.

Since January 2021 in the US, 42 states have passed legislation limiting what school teachers can say about race (among other forms of structural injustice). A number of

these bills include language prohibiting teachers from introducing subjects that might make students feel "*discomfort, guilt or anguish*." There is a kind of discomfort that leads us to the precipice of godly grief, and thereby to the portal of repentance, which inclines us, in turn, to clarity and to communion with creation.

The world as it stands displays much sadness and grief. Yet often it is only beyond these that holiness and joy dwell. So go to the mountaintop with Dr. King, to the desert with Jesus. Hitch your faith to the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (*Hebrews 11:1*). As needed, bring your discouragements to God, for earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. Friends, the capacity for grace, when even solidarity comes up short, is the prize to which all eyes must arise, no matter our aging years. This, among many other things, is what Dr. King Jr. taught us, and what we might learn from him, especially during Lent.

Brian

Outreach News

Refugee Update

Since our last Bloorbeat in November there isn't much new to report regarding Outreach activity, the only exception being that we received the first level of approval from the Canadian government regarding the two refugee applications we'd submitted some time ago. This news means, as I understand it, that the Amman Foreign Affairs office is now authorized to process the applications, which could still take some time. Next steps, as I understand it at least, are now as follows:

1. Receipt of file by the overseas office (in our case Amman)
2. Call for interview
3. If interview is successful, the two will be sent to do their medical and security checks.
4. Once the security checks are ready a visa will be issued and the IOM (International Organization for Migration) will be informed to prepare applicants for travel including flight booking.

We have had the money waiting in the bank for the support of these two refugees for some time, thanks to the generosity of a donor beyond our congregation, and we live in hope that at some reasonable time in the near future we'll be able to receive these two refugees to Canada. Unfortunately, I have heard that the Amman office is particularly slow regarding processing times, so while I'd like to be optimistic that our applications will be processed and approved within 2-6 months, it could in fact be much longer than that.

Pulpit Exchange for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

A number of clergy active in the 427 Ministerial took part with their churches in an ecumenical pulpit exchange on Sunday Jan. 22nd to observe and celebrate the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Brian was preaching that day at St. James United Church, and The Rev. Vernal Savage, of Christ the King Anglican, was with us at Bloordale. The rest of our Service was ably delivered by our Worship & Music Cte. volunteers. This annual exchange on or near the fourth Sunday in January celebrates that all who follow Jesus, no matter what denomination, are brothers and sisters in and through Christ.

Broadview Magazine Subscriptions Due

Please note that your Offering Envelope boxes contain a Broadview Magazine subscription renewal envelope as well, so you can easily renew your yearly subscription. Please try to ensure, therefore, that we have yours before the end of January, as we don't want you to miss out on the opportunity to receive and read this excellent and Award-winning magazine rooted in the United Church ethos but which is broadly inclusive, as its name implies, in dealing with issues of spirituality, justice and ethical living.

Chats with Brian After Worship Started January 15th

Having had friendly, safe, and probing forums for free-wheeling discussion after worship in the past, Brian is going to do so again, perhaps every two or three weeks, and started on Jan. 15th. The next one will be Feb.

5th, so if you'd like to stay after the Service and gather in Room 15 to share what's on your heart and mind, about the world, the sermon, the state of the church, etc., or if you have a question that you think others would like to ponder alongside you, such as: what do we do after a devastating pandemic to forge a new future normal?, then we're all ears. Don't be shy, as no one will be put on the spot or forced to share.

Affordable Housing Presentation



Co-Sponsored by ECULINKS Etobicoke & KAIROS Toronto West

Love
Grow
Serve

Everybody needs a home

Understanding the lack of affordable housing in Etobicoke

Join us for a 90 minute in-person presentation on homelessness and the need for affordable housing. Let's make change together.

Wednesday February 1, 2023 at 7 pm
All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church
2850 Bloor St W, Toronto

For more information, contact:
 Cora at 416-894-6590, info@eculinks.ca

Sabbatical for May and June for Brian

Brian had been in ministry for 27 years prior to his first sabbatical in 2015, and is eligible to have a sabbatical every five years. Bloorbeat Council, at its November meeting, approved a two-month sabbatical for Brian, for May and June of this year. This application would have happened earlier, but Brian refrained from applying because of the pandemic, not wanting to add stress to the congregation. Arrangements will be made collaboratively by both the Ministry and

Personnel Cte. and the Worship and Music Cte., as well as Council, to cover Brian's duties, including preaching, pastoral care, administration, etc., likely through a combination of hiring and volunteering. The plan to cover his sabbatical will be shared with the congregation in the near future.

Annual Reports Due Early February

We just entered 2023, but we are giving you advance notice regarding the Annual Reports from our ministry staff, Council and Committees, which will be due sometime in early February. The date for the Annual General Meeting is tentatively March 12, but it has not yet been finalized by Council. Note that our office needs time to pull together the published Report two weeks prior to the AGM. Please try to submit your Reports in as timely a fashion as possible. We'll have more exact dates for you after the Council meeting on January 24th.

Our Keeper of the Membership

In all churches people are born, grow, partner, and fulfill their unique life cycle. In our church the person who with caring and accuracy keeps our membership list is Helen Hitchcock. For many years those records were kept with her husband Bob (greatly loved by all). Bob prepared our office policies and procedures instructions and our membership list with clear attention to detail. Bob and Helen got to know all of the families. Bob passed away a few years ago, but Helen still knows us every one. For her it is not just statistics but families and friends.

Helen can be found after coffee time washing dishes and cleaning up as she has done for many many years. She warmly welcomed me a new person in the congregation and introduced me to her long time friends. Recently I worked to update office statistics. And could not have done it without Helen. A warm and heartfelt "Thank You" to Helen!

Beth Jazvac

Anniversary Award Nominees are Needed!

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

2022 – Julia Stavreff
 2021 – Dana Bach 2020 – Shirley Jankus
 2019 – Shirley Scott 2018 – Pat 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

2022 – Nelsona Dundas
 2021 – Lynn Lawrence 2020 – Patricia Conway-Willis
 2019 – Diane Mulholland 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

2022 – Joan Hollowell
 2021 – Debbie Cauch-McIntosh 2020 – Beth Jazvac

2019 – Paul Rose 2018 – Pat Conway-Willis
 2017 – Roy Harvey 2016 – Jim Donaghy
 2015 – Bob Hitchcock 2014 – Norm Dundas
 2013 – Julia Stavreff 2012 – John Pauksens

We invite anyone within the congregation to anonymously nominate a potential worthy recipient for any of these three Awards by contacting Julia prior to March 1st at either stavreffj@stavreff.ca or 416-622-6309.

Friday Night Basketball for Youth



Friday night Basketball for youth continues to be a busy well attended programme. The action is enthusiastic and the regular participants enjoy playing with a variety of age groups. On any Friday there are at least 14 players enjoying the action. Last week two players from Michael Power and two from Western University played as well. The evening was a magical combination of young people enjoying a terrific set of games. Our younger players were well able to keep up with the “pros” and many made spectacular shots. This free activity run by the participants is a great place to develop skills in a low pressure setting. Friends are made and skills are honed with fellow basketball enthusiasts. Basketball is a game that develops creativity, team skills, self-worth and self-confidence. Watching the games is fun as well and parents have shared many positive remarks.

Beth Jazvac

Property Update

Status With UPRC/Kindred Works

Unfortunately, our efforts to enter into an agreement with UPRC/Kindred Works has been terminated as per the extract from an email received from Kris Tavella identified in bold below:

"When we initially pursued this opportunity together, the intent was to work cooperatively to find a mutual solution for the management of the building. Given this was a new process for both our groups, I know that it was difficult at times to navigate and there has been a lot of learnings for ourselves along the way.

Through recent conversations between TUCC, Shining Waters and more importantly our Board, it is currently not within Kindred Works mandate to take over management of church property where the congregation will continue to exist. Meaning that we will no longer be able pursue a management solution for the building together.

With that being said, we would be happy to continue to provide real estate advice and development services if there remains to be continued conversations with the Christian Reform Church."

The Executive Team would like to thank all those who contributed their time and effort over the past few years collecting the required information, creating strategies, and participating in many meetings. It is now time to turn the page and focus on strategies to keep Bloordale United Church operating as a viable entity.

Bloordale U.C.& Christian Reformed Church

This joint initiative of One Community Ministry, Two Congregations, has two components.

1. One community facing 'church', i.e. a shared community outreach ministry, and
2. Optimization & development of the two properties to support the two congregations and the joint community activities.

There is significant opportunities for both churches and a willingness of both Council's to proceed. We are however in danger of losing the initial momentum unless we,

Bloordale & CRC, find an avenue to engage more members of each other's congregation to move this forward.

UPRC/Kindred Works has committed to work with both churches to create and implement a development plan for the two properties. An MOU must be developed outlining the initial funding and sources of financing if we wish to make this a success.

Next step is for a joint Council Meeting to be established ASAP.

Pat, Brian, Paul & Julia.

From Your Chair of Council



Good day to all of you and your families, welcome to 2023, Very Happy New Year with good health.

Paul and the choir put on a great Christmas service, along with Brian's two daughters and his sister who was in from Norway.

Beth, Alun, and I have hired Mae Herrera as our Church Secretary she is working out very well. If you are in the area please drop in and say hello.

Thanks to all the bakers, and those who purchased the goodies, we did very well and I am sure that Debbie will enlighten you further.

Unfortunately, Rooks to Cook had to cancel their weekly classes, as they weren't able to have enough students. But they will continue to have the March break and of course their summer.

Our next Council meeting will be held on January 24th at 2:00 PM, this is the first time being held in the afternoon, hope to see all of you.

We are still receiving calls for rentals which is good.

Thanks to all the volunteers on Sundays, very much appreciated.

Thanks also to Julia and John for looking after

the Bloorbeat which we all enjoy reading and appreciate what they put into it.

Once again Happy New Year with continued good health and see you on Sundays.

Pat Conway-Willis, Chair of Council

From Your Choir Director



I would like to start by wishing all of you and your families a very Happy and Joyous year of 2023!

This past Christmas I was delighted and very privileged to lead our choir in a number of special services. We partook and sang for a service of lessons and carols at Richview United church, as well as an Ecumenical Christmas service of music at St. Timothy's Presbyterian church. This was in addition to our own music service which I felt was received very well by our congregation. I would like to take this opportunity and, on behalf our congregation, thank all the soloists, choir members, and all guest musicians that made these celebrations very special, for their time commitments, talents and their contributions.

Thank you all, I hope that your enthusiasm will continue to evolve as we start a new journey of music-making in 2023.

During Advent our music library has received a donation for an anthem called Use Me Lord, which was sponsored by Bob and Helen Hitchcock. If anyone has made a donation and is still awaiting for a selection, or is considering sponsoring an anthem, please let me know. I will be looking into new selections for our choir to perform during the season of Lent and Easter.

Thank you

Paul Wisniewski

A Bunch of Thanks

Thanks to Beth Jazvac and Pat Conway-Willis for covering office duties for two weeks in January, while Mae was on Holiday.

Thanks to Debbie Cauch-McIntosh and Linda Sakamoto for taking down all the Christmas decorations and putting them away in the relevant cupboards (with some help from Beth Jazvac and Reverend Brian McIntosh).

Thanks to Paul Wisniewski for directing and leading our choir through various Christmas services and concerts.

Thanks to Julia Stavreffe for procuring items to be placed in Bloorbeat, and to John Pauksens for putting Bloorbeat together.

Thanks to our Bloorbeat advertisers.

Lunch Bunch Returning

We have tentatively picked Sunday February 12th, 2023 for our **return** lunch bunch event at the Olive Restaurant, 100 The East Mall, access on East mall just south of North Queen. Please tell me if you are coming so that our reserve seating is not off. A few last minute eaters can also be accommodated; just tell us that you are coming during coffee time. To sign up, or for information, talk to me Julia at 416-622-6309 or email me at stavreffj@stavreff.ca

Everyone is welcome, and we will save you a spot if you are on 'coffee' duty and will be a bit late. Some have been known to come for lunch, not being able to attend church. This is OK too.

Carpooling is provided, and a good time is had by all.

The Bloordale Lunch Bunch was the brainchild of Gord Moore, (who died February 2, 2021), and it was going strong, for a number of years, before COVID put a stop to things.

The lunch bunch organizers arranged for group lunches after the church service and coffee time, at nearby restaurants, that can accommodate groups of 6 to 15 people at peak Sunday brunch time (usually around 12:15 or 12:30). Not everyone's favourite spot could accommodate us, but we did (and do) ask for suggestions, and try to accommodate.

When we went, (usually once every 6 to 8 weeks) we would sit together at tables of 4, 6, or 8, and order from the menu (breakfast, lunch, or even dinner) and pay individually.

If memory serves me, our last lunch bunch was at Cora's on the Queensway on January 26, 2020.

Several of our past favourite restaurants are no longer around (e.g. The Q on the Queensway, The Muddy Duck, The Montreal Deli, Bounty on Dundas), but there is a new restaurant opening up that says it will have all day breakfasts, The Fat Fork, in the former Muddy Duck location. I am looking forward to that one.

Julia Stavreff

Outing to see "Hamilton"



In our last issue of Bloorbeat, we toyed with the idea of seeing "Hamilton" at the Princess of Wales Theatre, this upcoming spring. You may recall that "Hamilton" was playing at one of

the Mirvish Theatres just before COVID cancelled it.

"Hamilton" is the story of American Founding father Alexander Hamilton; "featuring a score that blends hip hop, jazz, R&B and Broadway" (book, music and lyrics by Lin-Manuel – Miranda, he of "Encanto" fame).

"Hamilton" is very popular and unfortunately quite expensive! There is no group discount when we go to this show, and the tickets are

way more expensive before the discount. For your information here is a comparison of "Singin in the Rain" ticket prices that we paid, versus "Hamilton" prices to pay:

<u>Seats</u>	<u>Hamilton</u>	<u>Singin...</u>
Orchestra Lower back/sides	239	99
Orchestra second last row	179	83
Orchestra last row	149	75

So "Hamilton" is more than double "Singin in the Rain"! Nonetheless, Nancy H. and I are going: our date is Sunday, June 4, at 1:30pm.

Our tickets are in the last row of the Orchestra. Note that "Hamilton" has been extended for 4 weeks due to its popularity, and our tickets are part of that extension.

You can order your own tickets online, since there is absolutely no dollar savings available in asking us to buy your ticket.

Presently, we have room for two(2) to be carpoled with us. That is the main benefit.

If you need information, or want to go with us on the 4th of June 2023, please phone me at 416-622-6309 or email me at stavreffj@staveff.ca with your comments.

Julia Stavreff

Easter 2023

For those who plan ahead:

Shrove Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

Bloordale's 2022 Christmas Bake Sale.



On December 18th, we held our first congregation-only Christmas bake sale during our coffee hour and it was a huge success! We had three tables filled with delicious cookies, tarts, loaves, fudge and muffins. I personally would like to thank everyone, from those who baked and beautifully packaged their baked goods to those who bought these amazing baked goods to share perhaps with others or to just enjoy themselves. Our proceeds were just over \$800, all of which went to our operating account!. Special thanks to everyone who helped set up, clean up and all other aspects to make this an amazing fun event.

I would love to hear your thoughts about our bake sale and any suggestions possibly for this coming Christmas. One suggestion perhaps is to do a bake/craft sale. I know it's a year away but would love to save great ideas received as we leave last Christmas behind but it is still fresh in our thoughts. With my heartfelt appreciation I wish everyone blessings for a wonderful, safe and healthy 2023!

Debbie Cauch-McIntosh

Our New Staff Members

Bloordale's Circle of Friends has expanded in the past three months to include two new valued staff members.

Awaiz Dean has joined as Custodian and **Mae Herrera** has joined us as Office Assistant.

Awaiz Dean joined us in mid September 2022 and made Bloordale his working home very quickly. Awaiz is committed to keeping our building clean and organized. The Personnel Committee was initially very impressed with his helpful, willing and pleasant manner. That orientation has continued. He is interested in not only the building itself but the people that make up the busy day at Bloordale. Awaiz values connections with people. His former job, that he held for many years, had lost the people connection. He had passed our church on the way to his church each Sunday. He saw our sign and said to himself, "There is a place I would like to work". The Personnel Committee and now all of us agreed. Making a contribution is important to Awaiz and there are lots of opportunities at Bloordale. Awaiz's family includes his wife Sarah, a son in university, adult daughter and son in law. Welcome AWAIZ!

Mae Herrera joined us very recently but has already made many contributions to life at Bloordale. She jumped right into the recent Bake Sale and managed to save us a significant amount of money on our phone bill. There are already many reasons to be thankful to and for Mae. Her first long term job was with the Trillium Gift of Life Network working with Donor Families. Her many skills will be valuable to Bloordale! Those many skills include amazing people skills and computer software skills. Since she used to assist her father with the accounting part of his business, she will be able to handle our financial records. Mae is also a significant assistant for Brian, helping him with details and follow-up needed at Bloordale. Being proactive she has many ideas to help with organization and savings. Mae lives in our neighbourhood and her family includes husband Rob, two children and a puppy with allergies. Her outside work interests include baking, family activities, Sandwich Sisters (group that prepares sandwiches for needy people), organ donation, and her family of origin. Welcome MAE!

Remember to visit **beadonor.ca** to make your wishes known on organ/tissue Donation.

Beth Jazvac



Awaiz Dean and Mae Herrera

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Winnifred Ilkanic

December 31, 1951 - March 1, 2021

Lois Elizabeth Bobyk

February 5, 1931 - August 1, 2021

Catherine (Kathy)

Victoria Guest

April 18, 1966 - June 29, 2022

Lynette (Lyn) Gunther

August 29, 1932- November 4, 2022

Mona Blanche Murray

October 7, 1921 – November 15, 2022

Upcoming Events Summary

Sunday, January 22 Pulpit exchange at Bloordale

Tuesday, January 24, 2pm Council meeting

Fridays, January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 7pm to 9pm
free gym basketball for tweens and teens

Sunday, February 12, 12:30pm Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, February 14, Valentine's Day

Monday, February 20, Family Day Holiday

Tuesday, February 21, Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper

Sunday, March 5, Annual General Meeting after the church service

Sunday, March 12, 2 – 3:30pm 65th Anniversary Wine & Cheese

Everyday Heroes

Some of the people in our Circle of Friends who make a difference every day.

Gord Howe (Long time leader of our very large and successful AA group) He is a helpful, caring, gentle man whose conviction to help others in AA is an inspiration.

Joe Fong who leads all of our Scouting Groups is warm, dedicated, professional and organized. Leading by example is an important role to play for developing young men.

Pat Conway-Willis who daily contributes work and effort to the church's needs. She enjoys working with our renters and works at solving issues quickly in a caring manner.

Helen Hitchcock who has looked after membership files for many many years. She carefully keeps track of and knows everyone.

Pat Nelson who has worked so hard at Nomination and Congregational Life for so many years. She also knows everyone well and is able to identify skills in us toward committee leadership.

Sylvia Williams who continues to work on Pastoral Care. Her many skills and impressive background help us look after others.

Paul Rose who continues to work on liaison committees for Shining Waters and on committees which will help engineer the continuation of Bloordale in the long run.

John Pauksens who continues to help us technological Neanderthals with the issues that plague us.

Joan Hollowell who has maintained her shoulder to shoulder work and enthusiasm for the people at Bloordale for more than half a century.

Julia Stavreff who continues to give her knowledge and resources to Bloordale in the financial and social domain. How many events has she organized to take us to places we would have never gone? We can't forget the Craft Nights enjoyed by so many children and parents.

Debbie Cauch-McIntosh who works hard behind the scenes to foster Spirit and Goodwill.

The wonderful **teachers at Quo Vadis**, and **caregivers at Terry Tan** who guide the children before they enter our world as adults in such a loving and professional manner. There is no "yelling at children" at Bloordale.

Beth Jazvac

Call for Volunteers

Now that people are getting out a bit more, Bloordale is hoping to resume some of its activities and committee work. A few very special volunteers have been carrying the load for many months.

Some new volunteers would be much appreciated on Sunday mornings to greet, usher and take up the collection. And now that coffee and treats are again available down in the gym after service, new helpers would be welcomed there too.

Many of our committees are resuming their meetings and activities and it is hoped that helping in that way would be of interest and a good opportunity to renew friendships that have been on hold for too long. Some options

would be Communications; Finance, Stewardship, Planned Gift/Memorial; Ministry and Personnel; Nominations; Outreach, Education and Advocacy; Pastoral Care; Social & Fundraising and Worship and Music.

If you are willing to volunteer or would like more information about any of the committees, please call Pat Nelson at 416-622-5274.

Thanks in anticipation!

Pat Nelson

Plan to Attend our Annual General Meeting

Sunday , March 5, 2023, after the worship service

Let's Get Together for Bloordale's 65th Anniversary



A Wine and Cheese Reception.
as much fun as our last Wine and Cheese!

Sunday, March 12th
2:00 to 3:30 pm, in the Gym

Wine, Sparkling Water, Flat Water
Cheese, Crackers, Fruit, Sweets and more.

All complimentary.

For information contact Julia at
416-622-6309/stavreffj@stavreff.ca

Or Pat C-W at 416-695-3976
patriciaconwaywillis@sympatico.ca

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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.

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/>

Bloorbeat Available by e-mail

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

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, as you and others are comfortable.

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

Mar 26, 2023

Mar 19, 2023

May 26, 2023

May 19, 2023

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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.

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.

Also needed by the Food Basket are recyclable fibre bags.

BLOORBEAT ADVERTISING

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.ca

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