

Spring-Summer  
2023

# BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XLII Issue 3

## About Bloordale's Future

### Bloordale United Church Congregational Meeting – April 30, 2023

*[A special Congregational meeting was called for April 30, 2023. The purpose was to present and discuss information that had been gathered pertaining to future directions of Bloordale United Church. Brian was present at the meeting, but is currently on Sabbatical, so there is no Minister's message in this issue of Bloorbeat. We are providing the minutes of this meeting here, in place of the usual Minister's Message.]*

*The meeting was attended by 29 people in-person and two additional people by Zoom Video Link. A list of the meeting participant names was included in the original minutes, but we are not reproducing it here in the interest of safeguarding congregant privacy. Since we publish Bloorbeat on the Bloordale United Church website, inclusion of the participant names would expose them to anyone with internet access. Ed.]*

**Welcome-** by Brian who asked Pat Conway-Willis to call for a motion to name Pat as Chair of the meeting and Beth Jazvac to be secretary. **Moved by Dana B and Seconded by Doug B. Carried.**

Pat welcomed everyone and asked Julia Stavreffe to be the director of the meeting.

Julia reminded those present that we need 20 people for a quorum. Since we had more than 20 present we could continue the meeting.

At the Church Council Meeting of March 27, it was decided that more information needed to be gathered about the future of Bloordale and that a further letter needed to be sent to the congregation to consider before today's meeting. A Congregational Meeting date was set of April 30 to come together and discuss the gathered information. Council hoped that a decision could be reached at that meeting to give future direction.

Julia said that three people would be reporting on aspects of information gathering: Brian, Pat and Paul.

*(Continued on p.3)*

**Bloordale United Church**  
**4258 Bloor Street West**  
**Etobicoke, ON M9C 1Z7**  
**(416) 621-1710**  
**www.bloordale.ca**

Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh
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	Sol Kanjirthingal
Presbytery Representatives	Norman Dundas
	Paul Rose
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

**Committee Chairs**

Congregational Life (co-chairs)	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**

*(Note: Brian is on Sabbatical for May/June)*

May	28	Pentecost / Communion (Robin Wardlaw)
June	4	Trinity Sunday - Lay Leaders Offering Worship
	11	2nd after Pentecost / United Church 98th Anniv. Sunday (Robin Wardlaw)
	18	3rd after Pentecost / Indigenous Right Relations Sunday? (LeeAnn McKenna)
	25	4th after Pentecost (LeeAnn McKenna)

*(Brian ends sabbatical June 30th)*

**Summer Worship Schedule**

July	2, 9, 16	St. James UC hosting
July	23, 30, Aug. 6	Bloordale UC hosting
Aug.	13, 20, 27	Richview UC hosting

**All Services at 10:30 am except as indicated**

## Pastoral Coverage May-June

**May 24<sup>th</sup> - June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Robin Wardlaw

**June 17<sup>th</sup> -June 30<sup>th</sup>** – LeeAnn McKenna

**June 30<sup>th</sup>:** Brian's Sabbatical ends

## Minutes of Congregational Meeting

*(continued from Page 1)*

### Possibility of the City of Toronto taking over the building to continue services and activities- Brian

**Brian** reported on his meeting with Stephen Holyday concerning the possibility of the city taking over the building as a central Etobicoke community hub or a satellite community hub in light of all of the community activities that take place at Bloordale. Our long standing Day Care, Terry Tan, has upgraded their facilities at Bloordale (most recently an entirely new kitchen). We have a school Quo Vadis in the building and a myriad of community services. Brian stated that it was a good meeting and that Stephen was well aware of all the activities that take place. He is open to discussions about how he might be able to help to keep the building and its services for the community.

If we were to amalgamate with St James the new blended group of Bloordale and St James would have to be part of the discussion to keep the building. The rentals do generate a good income and the building could be run on that income with some left over to contribute to the St James/Bloordale amalgamation. Most importantly Mr. Holyday was understanding and is prepared to speak to the city and it's agencies about retaining the building. The congregation has a very strong desire to keep the building as a service to the community.

### Possible Amalgamation with St James United Church-Pat CW

**Pat Conway-Willis** reported on the meeting held at St James to ascertain their attitude toward a possible amalgamation.

Pat, Brian and Joan attended a meeting with representatives of St James Church Council on April 14 to see if they would be receptive to amalgamation. Pat stated that those representatives were very welcoming and had in fact talked about approaching Bloordale at their AGM to ask if we would be interested in amalgamation. They also have tired volunteers and not enough of them. They do have a Sunday school in their building. The building is in decent shape. They have between 50 and 70 attendees at Sunday services. They also have a parking lot in need of repaving and are without the needed funds.

If the decision of the amalgamated group were to sell the Bloordale site it would mean that almost all the proceeds could go with us to St James.

### Update from Shining Waters Meeting- Paul Rose

**Paul Rose** reported on information given by Shining Waters and amalgamation between Windermere and Runnymede United Churches. If we close, the building would be returned to Shining Waters Region. While they would try to retain the building, the possible outcomes would be to develop the property, or to sell the property and full market value. If the property were sold the congregation would receive 10% of the value as a legacy to be chosen by the congregation.

If we choose to amalgamate the choices to be made would need to be made with the amalgamated church. If we amalgamate it is possible through discussion that the Bloordale site could be kept as an outreach ministry for use by the community.

Discussion ensued around the congregation's fervent desire to see our renters and the community remain able to use the property.

### Research into Amalgamations of Other Churches - Paul Rose

**Paul and Brian** investigated experiences of amalgamation with Windemere and Runnymede United Churches. This is a very current merge with the last service at Windemere being held as our meeting today

was going on. Helen Hitchcock grew up at Windemere and was in attendance at that final service.

Paul and Brian heard from David Allen that the process began about 10 years ago. Two years ago they brought in an external consultant to help with exploration. They had similar concerns to Bloordale. Windemere's volunteer base was not strong and the building was sound but needed repairs.

The amalgamation group decided to retain both buildings with one building with a part time outreach minister and a property manager. Services would be at Runnymede United Church. Once those decisions were reached the process moved very quickly.

A great deal of work by a joint committee of Bloordale and St James went on 8 years ago and the recommendation brought back to Bloordale was that we merge with St James with worship services at St James. The congregation turned down the recommendation at that time. The decision now could occur very quickly with our current urgent needs. St James views our approach favourably.

### **Discussion Points at Meeting**

Could councils get together to discuss without direction from the congregation?  
- **No:** Congregation has to give direction.

The decision would be brought back to the congregations in terms of a recommendation.

Every effort would be made by the Bloordale section of the amalgamation group to maintain the building services currently at Bloordale which may include:

- The city taking over the building as a community hub or satellite community hub
- The amalgamated church keeping both buildings and using the rent to provide community services

The concerns of the congregation were discussed again in terms of retaining Terry Tan and other renters.

The congregation was reminded that we should decide to preserve the beautiful contribution Bloordale has made over 65 years. Celebrate what the church is and has been in this community.

Bloordale has been a significant force in this community. We need to celebrate this building in this community.

Think positively.

It would take the city considerable time to find a way to take over the building. The committee may decide to keep the Bloordale building until we know about this possibility.

Eight years ago the joint committee decided after a property analysis that St James was the better building. Ours needs a great deal of money invested in repairs.

The food bank is at St James and plays a vital role in stop gap food insecurity for a large number of people.

Questions on the past committee feelings that their work was not validated by the congregation. Comment that we need to bury the past and go forward. We can validate their work at the present time.

- We need to keep Paul and the other choir director.
- Need to feel as welcome at St James as we do at Bloordale.
- Farther for travel.
- There was a question around the work done with Fellowship Christian Reformed Church when we were exploring Two Congregations, one building, one community ministry. A great many meetings took place and preliminary joint work was done. Brian stated that the energy seemed to dwindle for the project in both churches. It would take a great deal of committee work going forward and it may not come to fruition. We don't have the volunteers to continue that work for the 5-7 years that would be needed.

What if we do join together with St James?

Building future – Who is going to maintain this building especially the sanctuary?

Our minister is retiring so no one would lose their job.

Does Shining Waters have the money to repair our building? (Inference that we have sent a lot of money to the central church)

**It was moved by Roy H: Are we ready to make a decision on the course of action for Bloordale? Seconded by Pat Conway-Willis. Carried (19 in favour, 3 opposed, 1 abstention)**

**Moved by Roy H after discussion: That we proceed toward amalgamation with St James. Seconded by Pat. Carried ( 17 in favour, 5 opposed, 3 abstentions)**

Further discussion –

If more volunteers are needed to follow through on the motion,- put out the call to the whole congregation.

Bring the conditions of the merger back to the congregation.

Thanks were given to the volunteers who have been working on the future of Bloordale.

**Moved by Alun M, seconded by Diane K that the meeting be adjourned. Carried (23 in favour)**

**After the meeting Julia Stavreff was thanked for her excellent handling of the meeting.**

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## About Bloordale's Contributions to the Community

*submitted by Patricia Nelson*

As we all deal with the uncertainty of the future of our much loved Bloordale United Church, it might be helpful to review and be proud of all that Bloordale has contributed to the community over its 65 years.

## **Contributions to the Community:**

### **Place of Worship for Additional Congregations:**

Yebon Korean Church; Agape Church; Shiloh Church (Seventh Day Adventists); Church of God

### **Educational Tenants:**

Terry Tan Child Centre; Quo Vadis School

### **Rental Location for Summer Camps:**

Rooks to Cooks; Creative Dance Camp

### **Ongoing Community Activities:**

Weekly Seniors' Cards;  
Scouts/Guides/Christmas Tree Sale;  
AA & AL-Anon Meeting Space;  
Volunteers for Out of the Cold

### **Periodic Seminars for the Community:**

Dementia; Falls Prevention; Fraud;  
Technology

### **Social Events:**

Congregants' & Tenants' Potluck Dinners;  
Pancake Suppers  
Holly Teas and Cookie Corners;  
Periodic Concerts; Author Events

### **Reaching out to the Community:**

Friday Night Drop-in Basketball for Youth;  
Children's Craft Nights;  
Lunch Stop for Markland Christmas Caravan;  
Little Free Library; Battery Collection Jar;  
Collecting used Stamps for the Canadian Bible Society; Collecting Used Eye Glasses for Doctors without Borders; Diabetes Clothing Box;  
Food Collection for St. James Food Basket;  
Rummage Sales

## Charitable Donations:

Bloordale has long contributed to 16 local charities.

## Providing Convenient Rental Space for:

Yoga; Walima (Arab) Kitchen;  
Two Osteopaths; Adult Volleyball;  
Piano, Flute & Violin Lessons;  
Adult Basketball

## Ongoing Research:

Becoming a Community Hub

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## Bloordale United Church - 50 Years

*Written by Roy Nakagawa, P. Eng., in March 2005, for Bloordale's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

It's been nearly fifty years since Reverend Tom Head came from the Maritimes to become Bloordale United Church's first full time minister. His family, including wife Betty and sons John and David, moved into the manse on Bloor Street just east of the current church driveway. At that time, the church property extended eastward, encompassing the lots occupied by the two houses on Bloor Street, immediately east of the driveway, and the four houses immediately behind them. The manse was a tiny wooden house with white siding.

Worship services were held in a portable wooden church located at the foot of the driveway in the area currently occupied by the minister's reserved parking space. The basement of the tiny manse was finished to provide a facility for Sunday School.

In the early days at Bloordale United Church, members dressed up to attend church. Men wore suits and ladies generally wore dresses and hats to church. It was a sign of spring to see all the young girls wearing their festive Easter bonnets at Easter service.

The area that is currently occupied by the church was covered with grass and weeds. On Victoria Day, residents and

congregation families would come and sit on this plot of land to observe fireworks displayed on the parking lot.

Bloor Street ended at the church, thus the bridge that now crosses Renforth Creek did not exist. Markland Wood was yet to be developed, but Mill Road did exist. Access was only via Burnhamthorpe Road and it cut through a wooded area. One of the last original pieces of that wooded area still exists just west of Millwood Public School.

At the south end of Mill Road was a farmhouse and the area now occupied by Markland Golf Club and some of the adjacent land was used for mixed farming. It was ideal for farming because water for irrigation was readily available from Etobicoke Creek. The area south of Dundas Street now occupied by Dominion (Metro) Food warehouse was similarly utilized for mixed farming.

Residents of Bloordale on the north side of Bloor Street were well established and houses on the south side were just occupied when the church was being built. The market value for houses in the area was about \$17,000. The houses immediately south of the church were yet to be built as well as the dwellings and the strip mall on The West Mall, south of Bloor Street.

In the 1950's, Highway 27 was widened to become the multi-lane Highway 427, and construction was still on-going at the intersection north of Eglinton Avenue, which was then known as Richview Side Road; where it crossed Highway 27, there were only stop signs.

A new bridge on Bloor Street spanned Highway 427, but the TTC service terminated at The East Mall. Although Bloordale was primarily comprised of relatively young families, there were a few high school students from Bloordale who were faced with a long commute to Burnhamthorpe Collegiate by foot.

Cloverdale Mall did exist, anchored by Morgans, a department store at the north end of an open-air mall. The south end of the mall was anchored by a Dominion supermarket. Stores only reached halfway to

Dominion from Morgans. During the summer sidewalk sale, stores had to be prepared to protect their merchandise from the occasional shower. Although it was touted as a modern shopping centre in the 1950's, it would be many years before Cloverdale Mall was converted to a fully enclosed mall.

Mail delivery for homes in Bloordale south of Bloor Street was not available in the 1950's. Residents had to go to the Islington Postal Station on Dundas Street just west of Islington Avenue to pick up the mail. On the way to the post office, the intersection at Six Points was yet to be improved where Bloor and Dundas Streets crossed over at Kipling Avenue. At that intersection, there used to be a tiny Esso gas station with kiosk and a tiny Heather Hill Appliance store. Because of the long commute and barely one car per family, neighbours would take turns going to the post office.

A church building, followed by the Christian Education Building was to become a reality. Training was given by professional fund raiders and flip charts were provided for each team to be used for the presentations. The men of the congregation took part in the "every-member-visitation-day" each fall on a Sunday afternoon to obtain pledges. A large board would be displayed in the church to chart the total amount of the pledges on that day. The church had to assume a mortgage to finance the church buildings. Many young families at the time, with substantial mortgages of their own, signed on as guarantors for the church's.

Bloordale United Church was to take on a distinctive round shape. The round church meant that the devil could not hide in the corner. It also meant that occupants at one end couldn't see those at the other end when a congregation dinner was held in the new basement.

The Annual church picnic was a major event and families packed their lunches and headed for Cedar Glen, a picnic area owned by the United Church of Canada. Families would enjoy a day of fun and games.

Markland Wood was coming into existence. A bridge was built on Bloor Street to span Renforth Creek. The first house to be completed was located on the northwest corner of Bloor Street and Markland Drive, not far from the bridge. It was used as a sales office for lots and homes. A construction shed occupied the northeast corner at the intersection. It would be many years later before the densely wooded area on the southeast corner of Bloor Street and Markland Drive would become the home for St. Clements Church.

Some of the noteworthy events that shaped the Bloordale United Church building are:

- Soon after the church was occupied, vanity panels were installed in the front of the first Row seats in consideration of the women in skirts.
- When the tiny blue hymnary was replaced with larger red ones, the wooden racks glued to the back of the chairs were replaced with the metal wire design units.
- The congregation was dominated by young families. Hence the Sunday School overflowed with many children. At Christmas and Easter Sundays in particular, extra chairs had to be brought in to seat those who attended the services.
- The tall, elegant, metal structure atop the church dome with a cross had a short life due to metal fatigue from apparent resonance created by the wind and was replaced with a more modest structure.
- The east wall of the Christian Education Building was not able to sustain the external pressure of the backfill and had to be reinforced with external concrete pillars and retaining plates. These plates are quite visible along the wall.
- The wooden window frames around the exterior wall of the church started to rot prematurely due to moisture. These were replaced with a different design with proper venting at the top, thus rectifying the original problem.
- The original manse was sold and relocated. The lot now occupied by the six

houses adjacent to the church property on the east side was sold. The funds were used to purchase a manse in Markland Wood, which also would be eventually sold.

- The first wedding in our present church was conducted by Reverend Head. The newlyweds were Doreen Ball and Ken Whyte.
- Luxuries like a central air conditioning system and elevator were installed. As a sign of the times, a security system covering both buildings was also deemed necessary.
- Speakers were arrayed in a unique circular framework and hung from the ceiling in the Sanctuary to enhance the organ music.
- Reverend Harold Burgess was to follow Reverend Head, who moved on to serve a congregation in the east end of the city. Reverend Burgess had an early Sunday morning program on CTV, so on at least two occasions, the Christmas morning service at Bloordale United Church was broadcast on CTV television.
- Upon the retirement of Reverend Burgess, the Reverend Stephen Mabee was to follow and remained at Bloordale United Church for over 20 years. During those years a transformation took place - whereby the congregation was made up of many older and retired members, with a decreasing number of young families. The change in the make-up of the congregation was quite different from the pioneering days. All across the country, it seemed that with the advent of Sunday shopping and professional Sunday sports events, church attendance was on a decline.
- However, the use of the church property by Terry Tan Day Care, the Korean Congregation and others, ensured that the church property was being fully utilized.
- Reverend Mabee was to earn his Doctorate during his stay. He was to be succeeded by the late Reverend Jesse

Doyan. Reverend Allan Baker filled in during a short transition period until the arrival of Reverend Stephen Iverson in 2004. Under his leadership, a generation of new enthusiasm was apparent. Reverend Iverson expanded on the introduction of the contemporary musical style of Reverend Doyan. Reverend Iverson's young enthusiasm also brought about increasing numbers of Sunday School children and their parents. It is a far cry from the Sundays when services were begun with the singing of "Holy, Holy, Holy."

- Looking back 50 years doesn't appear to be such a long time ago. About 50 years ago, Ontario was just emerging from a 25 cycle electrical system, associated with noticeable flickering light bulbs, to the present 60 cycle system.
- At Malton Airport, now Pearson Airport, an all-weather supersonic fighter jet capable of flying faster than the speed of sound, was being developed, but airport travel was still with propeller driven aircraft. Television was still in its infancy with black and white screens. Can you imagine 50 years ago, the Red Maple Leaf flag was yet to be chosen as the Canadian flag?
- During those same years, my father would act as night watchman for a construction company tasked with converting the woods and farm land into our surrounding community. My three children were baptized in the church. They would attend Sunday School each week in their Sunday best. My son attended Cubs and Scouts in the basement. My daughters participated in Sunbeams, Explorers and ballet. Each was to grow up in the neighbourhood and walk down the aisle to be married in the center of the round church. Just a few short years ago, my grandson, the next generation, attended preschool in the Christian Education Building classrooms.
- In this modern age, new technology, such as laptop computers, cell phones, digital cameras and DVD's are emerging at an increasingly faster



rate. While continuous change in the world is inevitable, it is comforting to know that predictably the sanctuary will generally remain as it is today. Bloordale United Church, the round church, will still be serving the community over the next 50 years.

*N.B. Roy Nakagawa and his late wife Anne were founding members of BUC in 1957*

*Patricia Nelson, May 2023*

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## Friday Basketball Continues



Basketball at Bloordale on Friday Evenings 6:30-8:00 (10-12yrs) and 8:00-9:30 (13-16) yrs continues to be very well attended.

Basketball is:

- creative,
  - open ended,
  - great for learning problem solving skills,
  - excellent for learning to think on your feet,
  - terrific for confidence building,
  - AND best of all, in pick up games, there is no pressure while you learn.
- 

## From Your Chair of Council



Hope all has been going very well for all of you. Spring hasn't been all that great with lots of rain, but it has been good for our lawns.

By the time you receive your Bloorbeat, summer will be upon us, and let's hope that it's not too hot nor the humidity too high.

As you are aware we had a congregational meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss our next steps. You gave your council permission to go ahead with discussions with St. James. So, on

May 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a council meeting to form a committee to proceed with discussions and our next step.

Brian is on his Sabbatical in May and June; we wish him well in his studying. His replacements have been LeeAnn McKenna and Robin Wardlaw who are friends of Brian's. Please come out on Sunday mornings.

Also, on June 4<sup>th</sup> our service will include old favourite anthems with a light lunch, so mark your calendar and join us to share our memories. It will be nice to see all of you.

We are still having many calls for rentals, which is a good thing.

Please pray for our sick members wishing them well.

Many thanks to Kashi and John for dropping in from time to time to fix things. Also, to all of our volunteers on Sundays.

Many thanks to Julia and John for putting our Bloorbeat together it is very much appreciated by all.

Have a great summer and continue to be very safe.

**Pat Conway-Willis,**  
**Chair of Council**

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## Music and Memories, June 4 Service

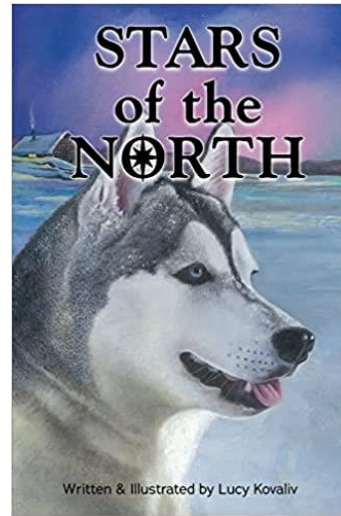
The service for June 4 will include old favourite hymns and anthems. If you have a particular hymn that you would love to hear, please let Mae know and she will pass the title on to Paul. There will be a light lunch served after the service so that we are able to continue to share our memories. Please call Beth if you have any questions (416-558-5105).



**HAPPY SUMMER!**

## Congratulations to Lucy Kovaliv

*Submitted by Nelsona Dundas*



Lucy has just learned that her recently published book, **"Stars of the North"**, was chosen as a finalist in the 2023 Readers' Choice Book Awards for best middle-grade book! Read the 5 star review.

"A race across Alaska, and a hunt for priceless treasure.

"Ten-year-old Patricia "Puck" O'Malley lives with her brother, dad, Bill and grandparents in Moose Ridge, Yukon, Canada. Her mom, Cindy, died of leukemia when she was just seven years old. Puck's dad, Bill, owns and trains twenty-four working sled dogs, and prior to his wife's death, he was a dog-sled racer. Bill had to abandon his last race, the Iditarod, when Cindy became seriously ill.

The Iditarod is a dog sled race across Alaska, from Anchorage to Nome. Bill promised Cindy that one day he would finish the Iditarod and signs up for the next race. As Bill prepares for the race, Puck is curious to know what is in an old, abandoned house in their neighbourhood. She persuades her friend, Mary, to explore the spooky house and they take the sled dogs along for the ride. As they search the house, the girls find a painting of a mysterious man, with the name Romanov scribed on the plaque. They find a number of other paintings, locked doors and cabinets, weapons, hidden keys and secret trap doors, which further sparks their curiosity. As the girls investigate further, they discover that the paintings and artefacts could be worth millions of dollars.

"Bill sets off for his race in Alaska. He has a slow start and faces a number of obstacles along the way, including a severe snowstorm, a treacherous icy lake, and a devious competitor determined to

**Bloordale United Church's**  
**Community Clothing Exchange**

Sat, May 27, 9 am to 12 noon  
Church Sanctuary

Bring gently used clothing in exchange for ones that are "new-to-you"  
Parent and caregivers can exchange clothes the kids have outgrown for a larger size

Call 416-621-1710 for details

\*excellent way to clean out closets  
\*save money  
\*do a good deed for the community  
\*help the environment

**Bloordale United Church's**  
**Community Clothing Exchange**

Sat, May 27, 9 am to 12 noon  
Church Sanctuary

- we are looking for volunteers
- volunteer hours for high school students available
- rain or shine event (will take place in Church Sanctuary)
- bring new and clean, gently used clothing
- swap with other parents and caregivers
- adult clothing welcome
- ticket system will be in effect
- no monies necessary, tickets will be handed out as "currency"
- monetary donations also accepted

Please call the Church Office at 416-621-1710  
Mon to Fri, 1-4 p.m.

interfere with the race. Meanwhile, the girls go back to the house to find Mary's lost scarf, but they are apprehended by an intruder. No-one knows their whereabouts and the girls are in serious danger. Puck's grandparents report the girls missing and have no choice but to call her dad in Alaska. How will the girls escape? Will the thief find the priceless treasures? And will Bill have to abandon the race again to find his daughter?

*"Stars of the North"* is a thrilling, action-packed, mystery novel for middle grade readers by author Lucy Kovaliv. The author has seamlessly woven two parallel stories into one, which makes this an exciting and captivating read.

"This is a fabulous read for middle grade readers and young adult readers alike.

**Star rating:** 5 Stars

**Summary:** A thrilling, action-packed, mystery novel for middle-grade readers set in Yukon and Alaska



Runnymede United Church



Windermere United Church

## Runnymede - Windermere Merger - effective June 1, 2023

The circumstances underlying the recently announced Merger of Runnymede and Windermere United Churches have many similarities to the potential amalgamation with St James United Church that we are presently contemplating at Bloordale United Church.

The Runnymede-Windermere merger has recently been approved by both congregations and by the Communities of Faith Commission of Shining Waters Region. The merger moved along quite quickly and comes into effect on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

The following is a summary of the activities involved in the merger, as published on the Runnymede website.

- At the invitation of Windermere United Church, a group from Runnymede met with their Amalgamation Steering Group on February 9th. Representing Runnymede were Robin Pilkey, Brian Traquair, Rev. Ted Grady and Laura Gallagher-Doucette. This meeting was an opportunity for Windermere to describe their goals in an amalgamation and for Runnymede to ask questions.
- On February 14th, Windermere sent us a letter to say they had narrowed down their potential church partners to Runnymede and Islington, and asked to meet again.
- On February 23rd, we met with Windermere again, with Alex Cruickshank also on the team. Windermere provided us with a list of questions in advance, which we answered in a presentation and Q&A format. We also posed questions of our own. It was a productive and positive meeting for both teams.



- On February 27th, Windermere sent us a letter saying that their preferred choice was Runnymede.
- On February 28th, the Runnymede Board met and received a briefing and a recommendation to enter into formal dialogue with Windermere on a merger. This motion was passed unanimously. We added Brenda Lien and Debra Horsfield to the Merger Working Group.
- On March 5th, on behalf of the Board and the group, Brian Traquair announced the decision of the Board to formally explore a merger with Windermere United Church. Brian described the likely structure and benefits of a merger for both churches. It was also conveyed clearly that the decision can only be made by the congregational votes meetings called for that purpose by each church, on a date to be determined. Members of the working group answered questions during coffee hour.
- On March 23rd, the Windermere and Runnymede Working Groups met at Windermere United Church to have a tour, review a draft agreement, firm up a timeline, answer questions and plan next steps. It was a positive meeting.
- On March 28th, the Runnymede Church Board reviewed the proposed terms of the merger and were unanimous in voting to continue the process and to provide the draft agreement to Windermere for their review.
- On March 30th, the Windermere Working Group said that after review of the draft agreement, they supported proceeding to a joint review with Shining Waters Region staff.
- On April 4th, representatives of both church Working Groups reviewed the proposed agreement with staff representatives of Shining Water Region. This was not an approval but a step to make sure that the form and substance of the proposed agreement are in accordance with United Church of Canada policy and process. The review went well.
- On April 10th, the draft Amalgamation Agreement was sent to the Communities of Faith Commission of the Shining Waters Region for their initial review on Wednesday April 19th.
- On April 13th, we held a Town Hall information meeting by Zoom. We had 18 participants plus the Working Group, and we received a number of good questions, and answered them with the information we have at the moment.
- On April 15th, a Runnymede team did a technical tour of the Windermere church building conducted by their chair of Trustees. The tour was very useful and the conclusion was that the building is in comparable condition to the Runnymede building, which is important context for us in our decision making.
- On April 16th we held our second of two Town Halls. The event was held in-person after church and was well attended with over 60 people present. There was a wide range of questions and good discussion. Here is a link to the slide presentation: **Town Hall Presentation (16 Apr 2023)**. We also assembled written answers to the questions raised in the Town Halls. The link is below.
- On April 19th, the Communities of Faith Commission of the Shining Waters Region approved the proposed Amalgamation Agreement between Runnymede and Windermere. If both congregations vote "Yes", then the Commission will give formal approval in their next meeting on May 17.
- **On April 23, Windermere United held its Congregational Meeting, where it voted on and approved the Amalgamation Agreement via the motions within it.**
- On April 23, the Amalgamation Agreement was made available to members of Runnymede for their review prior to the vote on May 14. [Amalgamation Agreement](#)
- On April 30, the Amalgamation Agreement is available in printed form for pick-up in the Narthex.

- On April 30, Windermere United held its last service on Windermere Avenue. There was a good crowd and much celebration and reminiscing. The folks at Windermere have made a series of short videos of their memories, and posted them to their [YouTube channel](#). This collection of memories is a great way to get to know our neighbours at Windermere United Church and their history, culture, and community. One video is an inspiring vignette on the history behind [Windermere's sign ministry](#). Another is about how Windermere's tenants add to the life of the community by illustrating the [outreach and connection](#) provided by the Swansea School of Dance. And enjoy this beautiful rendition of "[Lift Every Voice and Sing](#)" that was part of a special service for Windermere during the pandemic.
- **On May 14, Runnymede United held its Congregational Meeting, where it voted on and approved the Amalgamation Agreement via the motions within it.**
- **On May 17, the Communities of Faith Commission of The Shining Waters Region approved the amalgamation of Runnymede United and Windermere United.** [Approval Letter from Shining Waters](#)

*This Summary, as well as additional information about the Runnymede-Windermere Merger, can be found on the Runnymede United Church website [www.runnymedeunited.org](http://www.runnymedeunited.org).*

## Michael Reaume - Second Harvest Award

Michael Reaume, a Bloordale adherent who attended Bloordale's Annual General Meeting recently, was honoured in February of this year as a finalist in the Essential Harvester Category at the first Food Rescue Awards at Second Harvest. This event was to honour the groups and individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to

rescuing surplus edible food all across Canada.

For the past year, Michael has been volunteering for three daytime hours each Tuesday at the Second Harvest facility on The East Mall in Etobicoke. He facilitates those volunteers coming in from different corporate groups to sort food.

Hats Off to Michael!

Patricia Nelson

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## Lunch Bunch News

Our next lunch bunch event is Sunday, June 11, 2023 at The Grille on the Queensway, 1596 The Queensway, north side, east of East Mall. The lunch bunch has never eaten at The Grille, but there is always a first time. 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 [stavrefffj@stavrefff.ca](mailto:stavrefffj@stavrefff.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 brain child of Gord Moore, (who died February 2, 2021), and had been around, going strong, for a number of years, before COVID put a stop to things.

The lunch bunch organizers arrange 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 can accommodate us, but we ask for suggestions, and try to accommodate.

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

Our last lunch bunch was at Cora's on the Queensway on April 2nd. Twelve Bloordalians went, some for the very first time. Mary M. took a few pictures to share with our Bloorbeat friends. See how happy everyone is!

See you at The Grille on June 11th.

Julia Stavreff



## IN MEMORIAM

**Ila Barnes**

February 22, 1936-April 21, 2023

**Rev. Dr. Neil Ronald Parker**

February 16, 1948-April 21, 2023

## Upcoming Events Summary

**Fridays, May 26, June 2, 7, 16 and 23;**  
6:30 – 9:30 free gym basketball for tweens and teens

**Monday, May 29,** 7pm Council Meeting

**Sunday, June 4,** 10:30am Music and Memories Church Service, followed by a light congregational lunch

**Sunday, June 11,** Lunch Bunch Lunch at The Grille on the Queensway

**Monday, June 26,** Voting Day for Toronto Mayor

**Friday, June 30,** Last day of Brian's Sabbatical

**Saturday, July 1,** Canada Day



### Celebrating Senior's Month

**June 21**

**Let's Move!**

185 The West Mall, Etobicoke  
Suite 115 (beside Goodlife Fitness)

Join us at Bayshore Home Health for a FREE wellness program! A Kinesiologist will be leading a low impact exercise class for seniors. Light refreshments and giveaways included!

Wednesday, June 21  
from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM.

For registration contact Diana Reardon at  
647. 280. 4595 or dreardon@bayshore.ca

Bayshore Home Health is one of the most trusted names in home care, delivering high-quality care to Canadians for more than 55 years. Our team of experts allow clients to remain in the comfort and safety of their own home, ensuring quality of life and independence for aging seniors.

## **Bloorbeat Submission Guidelines (updated May 2023)**

When you email your submissions to us, please include the word "Bloorbeat" and some words about your specific content in both your e-mail header and in any attachment file names, e.g. "Bloorbeat Upcoming Events". This makes it much easier to locate the items in our busy e-mail inbox when putting Bloorbeat together.

For text-based Bloorbeat articles, avoid use of fancy fonts, and fancy spacings or tab settings because these require alteration by the editor in order to maintain a consistent style in the newsletter. For the same reason, avoid use of "All Caps" in your section headings or elsewhere.

If possible, please use plain 11 point Verdana for body text and 14 point bold Verdana for headings. Use word wrap within a paragraph and use the "Enter" key only at the end of a paragraph.

For photographs 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 .tif are the preferred file formats. We require ½ page and 1/8 page ads to be submitted in landscape orientation and ¼ page ads to be submitted in portrait orientation in order to be compatible with our newsletter's column settings.

We can shrink and stretch ads or photographs by small amounts in both vertical and horizontal directions as required to fit in the newsletter. However, we will not shrink/stretch submissions to the extent of converting between landscape and portrait orientation, since that invariably results in unacceptable distortion of text and images. And please do check your ad submission for picture clarity and text clarity when printed in your chosen size in black and white on a laser printer and when 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 Stavreff, 416-622-6309,  
stavreffj@stavreff.ca

## **Bloorbeat Publication Schedule**

Following are tentative publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
Sept 24, 2023	Sept 17, 2023
Nov 12, 2023	Nov 5, 2023



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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 ADVERTISING

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

1/8 page size	\$ 20
1/4 page size	\$ 40
1/2 page size	\$ 70

Our printed pages size is 8 1/2" x 11"

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

### St. James Food Basket

When you go shopping, please pick up extra items 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.

Or use our new Drive-up Drop-Off service during Bloordale office hours on weekdays.

Bloorbeat is published 5 times a year by

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Bloordale United Church

4258 Bloor St. W.

Etobicoke ON M9C 1Z7

(416) 621-1710

Email: bloordaleunited@gmail.com

Website: www.bloordale.ca

Committee Chair  
Editor

Julia Stavreffe  
John Pauksens