

September 2023

# BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XLII Issue 4

## Minister's Message

### *Entering the Fall Season*

This is my first Minister's Message since my spring sabbatical, and I want to start by thanking Bloordale for the opportunity to take the time to refresh myself personally as well as renew my previous sabbatical writing project. I also want to thank Pat Conway-Willis and Beth Jazvac in particular, for taking care of office, rental and property matters on a daily basis as well as transitioning us to another capable Office Assistant in Tamil. Lastly I wish to thank the Rev. LeeAnn McKenna and the Rev. Robin Wardlaw, who admirably preached, cared and shepherded Bloordale, on Sundays and beyond, in my absence. Upon my return in the summer, there was a sense of relaxed pace that continued through to September, as I took a few holiday weeks and hosted 3 of our 9 shared summer worship Services with St. James and Richview United Churches. My hope is that your summer was equally refreshing, and that you had time to rejuvenate by reading, travelling, enjoying cottage time, or just relaxing and watching a Blue Jays game – as exasperating as they sometimes are for their fans!

It was good to enjoy some down time over the past few months, since with the arrival of September we've now entered what could be called a fall of discontent, as uncertainty about our future as a congregation grows, recognition of our decline increases, our leadership dwindles in both numbers and capacity, and our worship attendance remains small. Even as we can see the eventual writing on the wall for the congregation, as it were, we continue to gain new renters, our income is healthy in comparison to our operating costs, and we hear from all who use our building that we run a kind of unique ship here at Bloordale, welcoming various parts of our community into our space as an obviously large part of our ministry and mission. We've heard from many of them that our operation as a kind of community centre is special, that our relationships are both open and friendly, and that if they weren't able to use our space they would have a real challenge to find an equivalent alternative.

The great German poet Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote that, in the midst of challenges, we ought to "*be patient towards all that is unsolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves.*" Rilke then suggested that, gradually, we would "*live into the answers.*"

*(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 | Tamil Savurimalai      |
| 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    |

**IN THIS ISSUE**

| <i>Title</i>                                   | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| Minister's Message                             | 1           |
| Worship in the Weeks Ahead                     | 2           |
| Minister's Message - Continued                 | 3           |
| Brian's Sabbatical                             | 3           |
| Brian's Interfaith Award                       | 4           |
| Stewardship Spot                               | 4           |
| Oakville Choral Concert                        | 5           |
| The Kindest Person is the Smartest             | 5           |
| Broadview's Free Newsletter                    | 5           |
| Tales from a Quebec LFL                        | 6           |
| Update on Potential Amalgamation               | 7           |
| Youth Basketball Resumes                       | 8           |
| New Office Assistant- Tamil                    | 8           |
| Clothing Exchange of May 27                    | 8           |
| From Your Choir Director                       | 9           |
| Thanksgiving Cards for Sale                    | 9           |
| Children's Clothing Exchange Ad                | 9           |
| Calendars for Veterans                         | 9           |
| From your Chair of Council                     | 10          |
| Hi From Tamil                                  | 10          |
| Upcoming Event Summary                         | 10          |
| Outreach and Advocacy News                     | 11          |
| Silver Award for Lucy                          | 12          |
| Lunch Bunch News                               | 13          |
| Hats off to Ann Nutter                         | 14          |
| Congrats Art and Jean on your 70 <sup>th</sup> | 14          |
| In Memoriam – Oliver, Hercus                   | 14          |
| Births Announcement - Pauksens                 | 14          |
| Bayshore Home Health Ad                        | 14          |
| Bloorbeat Available by E-mail                  | 15          |
| Bloorbeat on the Internet                      | 15          |
| Bloorbeat Submission Guidelines                | 15          |
| Bloorbeat publication Schedule                 | 15          |
| Del Manor Advertisement                        | 16          |
| Planned Gift Invitation                        | 16          |
| St James Food Basket                           | 16          |
| Bloorbeat Advertising Rates                    | 16          |

**WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Sept 24 | Creation 4  |
| Oct. 1  | Worldwide Communion Sunday / COMMUNION                            |
| Oct. 8  | Thanksgiving Sunday   |
| Oct. 15 | 21 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           |
| Oct. 22 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Peace – Outreach Sunday |
| Oct. 29 | Reformation / All Saints Sunday / COMMUNION                       |
| Nov. 5  | Remembrance Sunday  |
| Nov. 12 | 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           |
| Nov. 19 | 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost                           |
| Nov. 26 | Reign of Christ Sunday / COMMUNION                                |
| Dec. 3  | Advent 1  |
| Dec. 10 | Advent 2  |
| Dec. 17 | Advent 3  |

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

## Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

It strikes me that the poet shares good advice for us as we live in the in-between of knowing where our trajectory is taking us, knowing there is a relatively short time-line to find an appropriate path beyond the looming ending, and yet not knowing yet what the eventual path looks like. Such a state of in-between could leave us anxious and even doubtful about God's leading, but if we collectively lean in to the questions that remain before us, and even into our doubts about finding an appropriate path beyond, it seems to me that perhaps we'll more likely be able to remain faithful to God's vision, with a resurrection promise, if not for our church than for our faith, on the unknown horizon. As another poet, Emily Dickinson, once wrote, *"The unknown is the mind's greatest need, and for it no one thinks to thank God."*

Going even further along these lines, may I encourage us to change our doubts into questions, so that we can live into them more faithfully? Leo Tolstoy once suggested that certain questions are put to humanity not so much that we should answer them, like problems to be solved, but that we should spend a lifetime wrestling with and exploring them, like mysteries to be lived into. In addition, each year, right after Easter Sunday, on the second Sunday of the Easter season, we hear the story of Thomas and his so-called doubt, recalling that he asked reasonable questions due to his lack of experience of the risen Christ alongside the other disciples, and we're reminded that a religious faith despite doubts is far stronger than one without doubts.

My last inquiry is this: in the midst of our obvious decline, some, myself included, might be inclined to lay blame upon ourselves, either personally or as a current leadership group, for our decline or perhaps eventual demise as a church. However, this is clearly not a narrative that fits with reality, as blaming ourselves for cross-Canada trends that far outreach our own particular church's situation is neither healthy nor true. Such self-blame is actually a form of continued self-

centeredness, as guilt is the last stronghold of pride, pride being that attitude that believes we can somehow "save" the church from a fate presumed to be worse than death, namely closure. But the only fate worse than death is being unable to bring ourselves to a faith that can see the reality of God's promise beyond death, for then all that looms ahead is the spectre of death, causing anxiety and anger alongside guilt, etc. People of faith know better, and know that death, our death as individuals or even the death of the church, is not the last word, for the last word to be uttered in all creation is life, new life for both us and for the life of the world, and the life of the church.

So let us enter this fall season, and beyond, with a sense of gratitude for our past, and for the refreshment we've known this past summer. Let us trust that we can live into the hard challenges we face by turning them into questions that we can live into as part of our reflection and faith practice. Let us embrace our doubts about the ability of the church to not only survive but thrive at some point in the future, and remember that our doubts somehow move us forward more faithfully when we ask ourselves the right questions. Let us see beyond even our possible death, and rest on the promises of God revealed in scripture and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, who, as God's Word of Life, is the rock upon which we can stand, faithfully and forever.

Blessings one and all this fall!

Brian

---

## Brian's Sabbatical

Brian is very grateful to have been given the time to have a sabbatical in May and June, and is grateful to the lay leaders and supply preachers, as well as the whole congregation, for the opportunity (see the beginning of his Minister's Message). Fortunately we had received a grant from Shining Waters Regional Council, which covered most or even all of the costs of the guests who, by all

accounts, the congregation thoroughly enjoyed.

This was Brian's second, and also his last sabbatical, and he pursued more reading and writing that he had begun in his previous sabbatical 8 years ago, namely to consider his passions of theology, social and ecological justice, and music, and how the three fit together in the life of the church and the world, under the theme of "The Creation of Harmony in History." His research and writing may end up in some form of a manuscript for publication in his retirement, a process to which he looks forward in 2024 and beyond.

---

## **Brian Named 2023 Community Interfaith Award Recipient!**

The Canadian Council of Imams (CCI) have named Brian as the Community Interfaith Award Recipient for 2023. He will be presented with his Award at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner, hosted by CCI at the Sayeda Khadija Centre in Mississauga, on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>. About 7 years ago a number of our congregation visited that Centre for Friday prayers, and were hosted warmly by their Mosque leadership.

---

## **Stewardship Spot**

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

### ***The Stewardship of the Climate***

Writing this column during the Season of Creation, I begin this reflection by pondering the traditional Christian meaning of the word "stewardship," as in we're to be stewards or caretakers of our finances and the earth, both of which have always been considered gifts from God and which call forth our gifting in return. It's the second care that I'm thinking about, as it's been a summer of no small amount of climate chaos – oppressive heat, punishing drought, destructive flooding, out of control fires. Hundreds have died or lost their homes, while tens of thousands have

had to flee for their lives. Multitudes more have breathed wildfire smoke under flaming skies that recall apocalyptic biblical scenes.

It's the young, of course, who will have to cope into the future with the consequences of our lack of climate stewardship, our lack of intentional caring. It's not a surprise to me that so many young people express a lack of hope for the future, and who seem to live under a cloud of looming depression or fear. Our governments have missed every greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, have virtually ignored the call of climate scientists for radical action, continue to support fossil fuel companies which only extend the crisis, and seem more fond of pointing fingers at each other rather than working together to engage in bold and coordinated policy solutions.

In a Toronto Star guest column on Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> City Councillor and Environmental Lawyer Dianne Saxe wrote: *"Our only home is on fire. Business as usual is a frog march (Brian – remember the frog in slowly boiling water story?) to massive misery and suffering. Time is running out."* It's partly out of this major concern that time is, indeed, running out, that has led me to be active for the past two-plus years with Etobicoke Climate Action, who are seeking to engage the Etobicoke public in an upcoming public forum on climate change. Keep an eye out in the bulletin for the details of the November Forum, as we together ponder what we can do to recapture our shared call to take care of this one creation, so that God's creation can continue to take care of us.

We undertake our work of care of the earth, our stewardship efforts, in trust that God will bless our work, as we gather on the Sabbath and step away from our relentless work to honour and deepen that trust on a weekly basis. It's a practice that can help us both face the anxiety about our future with some measure of hope restored, and can re-engage our call to trust that God will be with us along the way and in all ways, as we work toward becoming good stewards of the earth once again.

I close with this wonderful poem by eco-theologian and poet Wendell Berry:

*"Whatever is foreseen in joy  
must be lived out from day to day:  
Vision held open in the dark  
by our ten thousand days of work.  
Harvest will fill the barn; for that  
the hand must ache, the face must sweat.*

*And yet no leaf or grain is filled (Brian – or  
planet saved)*

*by work of ours; the field is tilled  
and left to grace. That we may reap,  
great work is done while we're asleep.*

*When we work well, a Sabbath mood  
Rests on our day and finds it good."*  
(“X” in *Sabbaths*, North Point Press, 1987)

Brian

---

## **Oakville Choral Society Concert Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3 pm**

Brian's Oakville Choral Society rehearsals start Tuesday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, as they prepare a Concert of some of George Frederick Handel's works, including parts of Judas Maccabaeus, the Messiah, and Zadok the Priest, to be performed at St. John's United Church at 3 pm on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. More about purchasing tickets in the next Bloorbeat.

---

## **"The Kindest Person is often the Smartest"**

Longtime Bloordale congregation member Nancy Harris was recently inspired by a commencement speech delivered by American Governor J.B. Pritzker, who is a businessman, venture capitalist, hotel magnate, philanthropist, attorney and politician. Nancy wishes to share Pritzker's positive message with Bloorbeat readers.

The transcript of the speech, which was delivered this June at Northwestern University, is as follows:

*"The best way to spot an idiot – look for the person who is cruel. Let me explain. When we see someone who doesn't look like us or sound like us, act like us, love like us or live like us, the first thought in everyone's brain is rooted in fear or judgment – or both.*

*That's evolution. We survived as a species by being suspicious of things we aren't familiar with. In order to be kind, we have to shut down that animal instinct and force our brains to travel a different pathway. Empathy and Compassion are evolved states of being. They require the mental capacity to step past our most primal urges. This may be a surprising assessment because somewhere along the way in the past few years, our society has come to believe that weaponized cruelty is part of some well-thought-out masterplan.*

*Cruelty is seen by some as an adroit cudgel to gain power. Empathy and Kindness are considered weak. Many important people look at the vulnerable only as rungs on a ladder to the top. I'm here to tell you that when someone's path through this world is marked with acts of cruelty, they have failed the first test of an advanced society. They never forced their animal brain to evolve past its first instinct.*

*They never forged new mental pathways to overcome their instinctual fears and so their thinking and problem-solving will lack the imagination and creativity that the kindest people have in spades. Over my many years in politics and business, I have found one thing to be universally true. The kindest person in the room is often the smartest."*

---

## **Broadview's Free Newsletters**

Did you know that because of Meta and Google's response to Bill C-18 you're being locked out of Canadian news on social media? That will likely include all of *Broadview's*



stories, too. In light of these drastic changes, the best way to ensure you can continue to access digital stories that nourish your mind and heart is to sign up for one or more of *Broadview's* free e-mailed newsletters..

Don't wait! Sign up at:

[Broadview.org/newsletter](https://Broadview.org/newsletter)

## **Tales from a Quebec LFL** **(Little Free Library near Pat's cottage)**

In the spring of 2022, I commissioned one of my retired cousins to build a Little Free Library at a three way fork on our gravel road in the Laurentians, north of Montreal. Last August, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Nelson cottage, we had a little party on the road and a ceremonial unveiling of the beautiful library, complete with painted ferns on the sides and back.



Another cousin gave me a rustic bench that she no longer wanted and it is now very close to the library. The occupants of eleven of the fifteen houses on our road have to drive by that corner, so it is sometimes like the village square. Going for a walk often isn't of any cardiovascular benefit as it turns into a social outing. As I had hoped, friends from other

local roads have donated and/or borrowed from this library.



This year at the request of some jigsaw puzzle enthusiasts, we have added one or two puzzles to the library.

Last month, when Doug, another of my cousins, arrived from New Zealand for his annual 2-3 month stay, he brought with him, for the library, an autographed copy of the book his then 9 year old granddaughter, Leela, and her father, Raj, had written during one of the COVID shutdowns. It is entitled "The Bad Smell Hotel", is well written and very amusing! It has been borrowed several times already. In Wellington, NZ the book was unveiled at the family's local library branch and later the authors were interviewed on the national broadcaster, New Zealand Radio. Doug has made a video of those events for use in one of next year's community Sunday Services.

Sometimes doing nothing ends up encouraging readers. At Labour Day this year, when my 21 year old granddaughter, Devon, a University of Guelph student, was at their house here with friends, she told me she had picked up a book from the library and had read two chapters the night before. I was pleasantly surprised as I have been sorry that my six grandchildren, at this stage anyway, don't seem to be readers. Fast forward to Caledon, ON where my daughter, Cathy, last week asked her family who owned the John Grisham book on the kitchen table. Devon explained that she had brought it back from

***HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!***

the LFL at the Lake. What was ironic about this story is that the book in question, Cath had given me earlier in the summer for the Lake library!! I guess our children will find their own way!

In Etobicoke, we all should be grateful for Ann Nutter's refurbishing of Bloordale's LFL this summer and fall.

I would like to appeal again for donations of books. The library seems to have many borrowers, but not many who donate or return books. I am always willing to pick up books from anyone who is culling from their home libraries.

Happy reading to all!!

Patricia Nelson  
416-622-5274

---

## **Update on Potential Amalgamation with St James Submitted by Paul Rose**

A team of five, selected by the Bloordale Council to explore the amalgamation/merger opportunity with St. James United Church, had an initial meeting with St James counterparts on July 24, 2023.

The Bloordale team members are:

1. Pat Conway-Willis
2. Julia Stavreft
3. Sol Kanjirthingal
4. Beth Jazvac
5. Paul Rose

The St. James team members are:

1. Marie Truelove
2. Mary Lou Martin
3. Mahairi Godley
4. Karen Munday
5. Barry Holt.

Both teams outlined their willingness to consider a merger/amalgamation and both

also highlighted the need for growth in members, volunteers and the ability to attract the younger demographic.

The recent union of Runnymede UC and Windermere UC was discussed, and their ability to consummate and arrange an agreement withing a few months was highlighted.

Bloordale expressed the need to be an equal partner in governance and decision making.

Bloordale team members highlighted their vision for the future, namely, that we would like to keep the Bloordale United Church building as an outreach / rental building. The hope is that it would pay for itself, with people hired to do the maintenance and manage the property. St. James members expressed concerns about the financial viability of this arrangement and questioned the willingness of the new congregation to take on this responsibility and provide oversight of the Bloordale building on a mid to long term basis.

The St. James team indicated that there are many similarities between the two congregations, including a shrinking congregation and an ongoing struggle to get volunteers. Joining together, we would hope to try new things to attract younger people. St. James does have some new families and a vibrant Sunday School. They want to continue to grow this aspect of their church. They also see potential for great opportunities in the prospect of joining the two congregations.

St.James expressed the desire to leverage the Phoenix Report from 8 years ago.

St. James also advised us that Rev. Maya Brigid is leaving St. James to pursue educational studies at the end of August, 2023. As a result, they are in the process of trying to secure a supply minister for the period September to December, 2023. In the New Year, the hope is for St. James to have an intentional interim minister assigned. This interim minister could help with the merger process. The new combined church would form a search committee to secure a new fulltime minister.

Following the BUC-St. James meeting held on July 24, 2023, Bloordale were advised by St. James that St. James would not meet for further discussions unless we agreed in advance that the Bloordale building will be sold, in the event of amalgamation.

However, after some sideline discussions, the BUC Amalgamation team received an email from the St. James team, stating that they were willing to meet to discuss the future of the Bloordale building, after all.

Our next meeting with St James is scheduled for September 25, 2023.



## Youth Basketball Resumes at Bloordale

Without advertising or reminders, our Youth Basketball resumed on September 8 at full capacity. We changed to two sessions last year. (6:30-8:00 for 10-13 year olds and 8:00-9:30 for 13-17 year olds) Basketball is a popular sport and provides an opportunity, in a pick-up situation, for the growth of skills and for personal growth. It is a privilege to watch participants grow and develop. Since the participants set up the games there is little pressure on individuals. This activity is free and we welcome their attendance. Playing a sport helps our youth to develop confidence, empathy, and to value the contributions of others. Programmes are needed where tweens and teens are welcomed and valued.

A feeling of belonging in a community setting helps with feelings of isolation.

Beth Jazvac

## New Office Assistant

Bloordale has a new member of our circle of friends. She has taken over from Mae

Herrera in the office. Mae has left us to pursue another position with the TDSB and we thank her for her excellent work and caring attitude.



Our new Office Assistant is **Tamil Savurimalai**. She also is a blessing for the Church. In her country of origin she was an engineer in a factory working to improve both product and procedures for workers. In Canada she wanted to work part time as she has a young son. Tamil also wanted to work in a helping environment. She feels that the church is a very worthwhile setting. Her computer skills are excellent and she has also worked with Quick Books. Terri McNeil is training Tamil on our unique Book Keeping system and in the near future Tamil will be saving the church money on our outside Book Keeper. Her work is professional and she displays a wish to learn her new job with meticulous attention to detail. Tamil's personality is warm and gentle which we appreciate every day! **Welcome Tamil!**

Beth Jazvac



## The Clothing Exchange of May 27, 2023

Bloordale held it's first clothing exchange on Saturday, May 27. Organizers wanted to provide a setting for donated clothing to be exchanged for other clothing to assist families. Our community was extremely generous with both children's clothing and adult clothing. Volunteers set up the tables around the top of the sanctuary circle in age groups for children and sizes for adults. No money was exchanged and even volunteers helping with the event left with treasures. Leftover items were donated to the Diabetes Association. We didn't have as many visitors as we would have liked but those who came were very happy with the event.



Bloordale was also asked by participants to consider a winter clothing exchange. Children's clothing for winter is expensive and they grow so quickly. The event was organized by Mae Herrera and Beth Jazvac and we want to thank the volunteers and the congregation members who donated clothing.

Special Thank you to volunteers Shirley Scott, Helen Hitchcock, Patsy Wisniewski, Pat Conway-Willis, Judith Morgan-Rea, Joan Hollowell, Alun Morgan, and Bev Morgan and donators Awaiz Dean, Barb Saunders, and Roy Harvey. If I have forgotten anyone please blame my 77 year old brain and the passage of time since May.

Beth Jazvac

## From Your Choir Director



At Bloordale we've been blessed with a rich and longstanding tradition of creating inspiring music.

We are a very welcoming community and invite those who are willing to contribute their time and talents to join us and continue to provide inspiration through music. You do not need to know how to read music, and both experienced and beginner singers are welcome.

Practices are held on Thursdays, beginning at 7:30 pm.

We look forward to welcoming more new members in the fall!

Paul Wisniewski

## Thanksgiving Cards for Sale!

September 24<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> during Coffee Time. A project of the Pastoral Care Committee and Nelsona. The 2022 fall colours were exceptional!

After making up cards for Bloordale's Special People, Nelsona decided to make some available to the congregation. Cards will be \$5 each with **all** proceeds going to the church.



## COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S WINTER CLOTHING EXCHANGE

***Saturday, October 28,  
9:00am-12:00pm***

***Sanctuary- Bloordale United Church***

***4258 Bloor Street West  
Etobicoke, ON  
M9C 1Z7 416 621-1710***

Children grow so quickly and clothing is expensive. Take this opportunity to trade gently used outerwear for larger sizes.

Bring jackets, snow pants, boots and snow suits to the church and trade them for a more useful size. For more information call the church at 416 621-1710 9:30 am -2:30 pm. Leftover clothing will be donated to a non-profit organization.

## Calendars for Veterans

Once again the Legion will be happy to get any unwanted calendars you receive for distribution to the Veterans at Sunnybrook. You may leave them on the table to the west of the sanctuary front doors for Nelsona to pick up. Or, towards the end

of November, let her know and she will pick them up directly from you. They are very much appreciated! Thank You!

---

## From Your Chair of Council



Summer is almost over, and Fall will be upon us soon. Hope that all of you have had an enjoyable summer in spite of heat, humidity, and rain.

You will notice that our holes with respect to our parking lot have been filled in with gravel. This will assist all of us when walking and driving. This was the best we could do, as resurfacing it with asphalt would have cost us in excess of \$ 100,000.

We also, had to replace our sanctuary building furnaces and air conditioning.

We had our meeting with St. James, as mentioned prior, and will be having another one on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Paul will elaborate further in his report.

After, our 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will call a council meeting to discuss the situation further and then a General Meeting.

June 4<sup>th</sup>, Music and Memories went very well, and thanks to all who participated.

We are still having many calls for the rental of space.

Kashi, many thanks for all you do for Bloordale United Church, it is very much appreciated. Also, to John for popping in when asked, again appreciated. Thanks to all of our volunteers who assist during coffee time and during the week. You know who you are.

Thanks to Julia and John for putting together the Bloorbeat five times a year, we enjoy reading it.

We look forward to seeing you at our services on Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

I know that we have had lots of rain this summer, so let's hope that fall will be dryer. Please continue to be very safe.

Pat Conway-Willis,  
Chair of Council

---

## Hello From Tamil Savurimalai

My name is Tamil and I am the new office Assistant at Bloordale. I want to say hello to you all in the Bloordale community and to tell you that I love working at Bloordale. My job has meaning in a caring helpful environment. Thank you for the opportunity to extend my skills, and I am looking forward to meet you all.

Thank you,

Tamil

---

## Upcoming Events Summary

**Monday, September 25**, 7 pm Meeting with St. James/BUC re possible amalgamation.

**Friday, September 29 to Thursday, October 5**, Dispossessed but Defiant photo exhibition

**Friday, September 29**, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Dispossessed, Speaker Session 1 (Palestinian Conflict)

**Fridays, September 29, October 6, October 13, October 20, October 27, November 3, November 10**; 6:30 - 9:30 pm free gym basketball for tweens and teens

**Saturday, September 30**, 1:00-2:30 pm  
Dispossessed, Speaker Session 2 (Indigenous led gathering for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)

**Thursday, October 5**, 7:00-8:30 pm  
Dispossessed, Speaker Session 3  
("Overcoming Colonialism")

**Monday, October 9,** Thanksgiving Day

**Sunday, October 22,** Lunch Bunch Lunch at  
The Olive on East Mall

**Saturday, October 28,** 9-12 pm, Community  
Children's Clothing Exchange

**Sunday, October 29,** Semi Annual Meeting  
(exact date TBD)

**Saturday, November 11,** Remembrance Day

## Education, Outreach and Advocacy News

### Coming to Etobicoke! International Photo Exhibit: *"Dispossessed But Defiant!"*

From **Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**, 2023 Etobicoke-based and regional church and labour groups are co-sponsoring an International Photo Exhibit entitled ***Dispossessed but Defiant***, an installation put together in 2014 by Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) Foundation.

Hosted in the gym at Bloordale United Church, the Exhibit, with over 160 photos, depicts Indigenous peoples' experiences of colonization and dispossession, and their struggles to resist. Public viewing times occur every day, and there is no cost to attend. Three indigenous groups are featured: Indigenous peoples in this part of Turtle Island, the Palestinians, and Black South Africans under apartheid, and three special events are associated with this Exhibit:

#### 1) *The Palestinian Struggle*

**Friday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 7 pm – 8:30 pm**

This Exhibition Opening Event will feature Kairos Canada's Palestinian partners, who are visiting Canada this week. We'll have two leaders in the non-violent struggle against the Israeli occupation with us to amplify the history and current situation of Israeli apartheid.

**DISPOSSESSED BUT DEFIANT**  
Indigenous Struggles from Around the World

**SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5, 2023**

An international photo exhibition that examines aspects of dispossession and inspirational indigenous efforts to transform its effects. The exhibition is open to the public and will feature three in-person speaker events. No registration required.

| Friday Sept 29   | Sat Sept 30   | Thursday Oct 5   |
|--|---|--|
| <b>7:00-8:30pm</b>   | <b>1:00-2:30pm</b>  | <b>7:00-8:30pm</b>   |
| Speakers from Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre in Bethlehem. | Indigenous-led gathering for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. | "Overcoming Colonialism" Panel Discussion with South African and Palestinian voices. |

**BLOODDALE UNITED CHURCH**  
4258 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke M9C1Z7  
**WEEKDAYS 12-9/SAT 10-5/SUN 12-5**  
cjpme.foundation.org/ kairostorontowest@gmail.com

CJPME SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL KAIROS U.S. Social Justice Fund FUNDOS de justice sociale ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR

Leaders: Two people from Wi'am Center for Conflict Transformation in Bethlehem

#### 2) *The Indigenous Struggle on Turtle Island*

**Saturday Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1 pm – 2:30 pm**

On National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day, we'll have Indigenous teacher Monica McKay with us to share some of the history and current continuing practices of colonization in this land settlers refer to as Canada.

Leader: Monica McKay, Toronto Metropolitan University

#### 3) *From Apartheid to Post-Colonialism: From Learning to Action*

**Thursday Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 7 pm – 8:30 pm**

This Exhibition Closing Event will feature guest panelists and a broader discussion, as we learn about how South Africa's black community overcame apartheid, how the Palestinian people continue to struggle against the illegal occupation, and what we can do to take steps to deepen our solidarity

with Palestinians and Indigenous people in Turtle Island.

Leaders: Staff from South African Consulate – Toronto, and Robert Massoud of Zatoun.

The first two of the events form the keynote parts of the Kairos Canada Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Regional Group Annual Conference, hosted by Kairos Toronto West, which runs from Friday evening through Saturday at 5 pm. Local church folks are invited to attend the entire Conference for a \$25 registration fee, which can be done at [tinyurl.com/KairosGLSL2023](http://tinyurl.com/KairosGLSL2023)

A brochure on the Outreach table in the sanctuary, or available from Brian electronically, outlines the entire lineup, or see the posted flyers at the church (or in this Bloorbeat).

Volunteers for portions of the seven days the Exhibit is open are also needed, so let Brian know if you're available.

Feel free to speak to Brian for more information about any of the above.

## Grassy Narrows Indigenous Community Land Protection

Prospectors have staked thousands of new claims on Grassy Narrows First Nations' territories since Ford came to power. They are exploiting Ontario's antiquated "free entry" mining system that allows companies and individuals to stake mining claims on First Nations lands from the comfort of their offices, without gaining the consent of the Indigenous people who live there.

Prospectors are not required by Ontario to give any notice to First Nations until after the claims have been registered and are in force. Conversely, Ontario does not inform prospectors which First Nation's land they are staking until after the claims are purchased. However, the areas that these prospectors are staking have been home to Indigenous people for countless generations and continue to provide the sources of life, culture, and livelihood for them. In spite of the well-known concerns of these First Nations, and

many attempts to bring the Ford government to the table, the free entry system remains in place and new claims continue to be registered in social conflict zones against the will of First Nations.

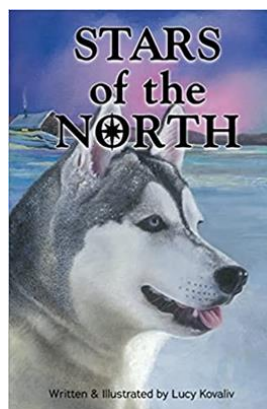
**Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon there's a rally at Grange Park in Toronto. See [www.freegrassy.net](http://www.freegrassy.net) for more information.**

Sign the Petition to say [No Mining On Anishinaabe Territory](#)

Brian

---

## Silver Award for "Stars of the North" by Lucy Kovaliv



We reported in the Spring/Summer issue of Bloorbeat that Lucy Kovaliv's novel "Stars of the North" was a finalist for Best Children's Book (for ages 8-12) in the Spring 2023 Readers' Choice Book Awards.

We are now pleased to announce that Lucy's book won the silver award for that category.

Congratulations, Lucy!

Lucy is a professional freelance graphic artist, and novice writer.

Even as a young girl, Lucy's imagination and her interest in art inspired short stories that she illustrated. In early adulthood, she studied art, and art history, and continued to write and illustrate short stories; she also read many books by authors of her favorite genre, murder mysteries.

On a vacation to Alaska, Lucy visited the Iditarod Museum where she learned about the annual Iditarod dog sledding race. She was so fascinated that she began researching the



race and learning more about the dogs that pull the sleds. Over the years, her art background, her love of animals, and her research became the focus of a story which became a book. *Stars of the North* is a dream come true, she says.

*Stars of the North* is filled with mystery, intrigue, and adventure—but there are no actual murders in this book. A “feel good” story, she hopes it will appeal to youngsters and adults alike.

Lucy lives and works out of her home. She spends her summers playing tennis, growing vegetables in the garden, and going on country drives with her dog, Cookie.

The book is available for purchase on Amazon.

## Lunch Bunch News

***Submitted by Julia Stavreff, with editorial assistance from Kristina Pauksens***

Our next Lunch Bunch event is Sunday, October 22, 2023 at The Olive, at 100 The East Mall, Unit 4, just south of North Queen Street. The Olive has been a Lunch Bunch destination in the past, and is much loved by our regular attendees. The Olive is a family owned and operated restaurant that's been serving Etobicoke since 2012. Their mouth-watering lunchtime offerings include baby back ribs, fish and chips, liver and onions, and hamburgers, as well as breakfast classics such as omelettes, BLTs, waffles, and bacon and eggs. There are many healthy options available including meal salads.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend, so we can provide numbers to the restaurant when I make the reservation. A few last-minute lunch-bunchers can also be accommodated; just tell me during coffee time that you are coming. To sign up, or for more information, talk to me, Julia, at

416-622-6309, or email me at: [stavreffj@stavreff.ca](mailto:stavreffj@stavreff.ca)

Everyone is welcome! Coffee time volunteers are encouraged to attend; we will save you a spot if you are on 'coffee duty' and will be a bit late. It is also ok to attend Lunch Bunch even if you happen to be unable to make it to church that day! We would love to see you!

Carpooling is provided, and a very enjoyable time is had by all.

The Bloordale United Church Lunch Bunch was the brain child of Gord Moore (who died February 2, 2021), who had the innovative idea of combining congregational fellowship with the joy of brunching. Lunch Bunch had a hiatus during the height of COVID times, but it's back in full swing, and it is the perfect 'cherry on top' to add a little bit of fun to your Sunday.

The Lunch Bunch organizers arrange for group lunches as a local restaurant, after the Sunday Church Service and Coffee Time. We usually go every 6-8 weeks. When we go, we typically sit at tables of 4, 6, or 8, and order from the menu (breakfast, lunch, or even dinner) and pay individually.

Do you have a favourite brunch time restaurant that you think would be perfect for Lunch Bunch? We are happy to receive your suggestions, and we will contact the restaurants to see if they are able to accommodate groups of 6-15 people during peak Sunday brunch hours.



Our last lunch bunch was at The Grille, on the Queensway, on June 11, 2023. We had a total of ten attendees, who enjoyed delicious meals including lasagne (vegetarian and regular), eggs benedict, strawberry pancakes and various omelettes. The Lunch Bunch group was happy to enjoy one last hurrah at The Grille, which is now closed permanently, as of July 2023

See you at The Olive on October 22<sup>nd</sup>!

## Hats Off! To Ann Nutter

Hats off to Ann Nutter, one of my kind neighbours on Clearside. She has always considered herself to be a "Friend of Bloordale" and has attended many of our social events, auctions, etc. She was a big, practical and creative help when we hosted Doors Open in May 2018.

Before I left for Quebec in June, Ann offered to keep an eye on our Little Free Library (LFL) at the front sidewalk of the church while I was away. Going above and beyond, Ann noticed that our LFL was looking a bit tired, and took it upon herself to paint the inside and stain the outside, leaving amusing notices during the work times. When Ann ran out of her leftover paint/stain she went to a Benjamin Moore store and talked them into making a donation of product to Bloordale – of course, a worthy cause.

Ann has continued to restock the books, as have others, and the LFL seems to be well patronized. Thanks Ann!

Pat Nelson



## Congratulations Art and Jean!



**Congratulations to  
Arthur and Jean  
Mosher on their  
70<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary,  
Sept 12th, 2023!**

## IN MEMORIAM

**Margaret Millicent Oliver**  
*(nee Kinsella, previously Chapman)*

October 2, 1926 - May 12, 2023

**John Hercus**

February 26, 1959 - July 16, 2023

## Birth Announcement

Congratulations to  
**Robert Pauksens and Antonella Mari**  
on the birth of  
**Madeleine Juliet Pauksens**  
On Tuesday June 20, 2023

A third grandchild for  
John Pauksens and Julia Stavreff



Call me for your home care needs

**Diana Reardon**  
Care Manager, Etobicoke  
dreardon@bayshore.ca

### Home Care Services:

- Complimentary in-home consultation
- Personal care • Home support
- Companionship • Respite • Nursing

CELL: 647.280.4595

OFFICE: 416.927.7850

www.bayshore.ca

**Bayshore**  
Home Health

## **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 Stavreffe, 416-622-6309,  
 stavreffj@stavreffe.ca

## **Bloorbeat Publication Schedule**

Following are tentative publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

| <b>Publication Date</b> | <b>Submission Deadline</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nov 12, 2023            | Nov 5, 2023                |
| Jan 14, 2024            | Jan 21, 2024               |





## A PLACE TO *live well.*

**CHOOSE YOUR LIFESTYLE. INDEPENDENT LIVING,  
SUPPORTIVE LIVING AND SHORT TERM STAYS**

**DELMANOR**

*Prince Edward*

*Inspired Retirement Living™*

4180 DUNDAS STREET WEST,  
ETOBICOKE

**416-233-0725**

**DelmanorPrinceEdward.com**

**Call today!  
Limited two  
bedroom suites  
available**

### 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.

### 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 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

Bloorbeat is published 5 times a year by

the Communications Committee of

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