

November 2023

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XLII Issue 5

Minister's Message

The In-between Time

I write this in the in-between time of our church life, as we not only transition soon to a new Christian year with Advent, but more directly live into a time of yet more discernment about the options for our future as a result of the discussion at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on October 29th. You can read more about what transpired in both the Minutes of the meeting, already distributed, or elsewhere in this Bloorbeat, but I want to write here about the emotional state we're going through as we face the decline of our church head on.

I've sensed for some time now a kind of grief that has filtered its way into our conversations. Grief, on an individual level, can be lethal, causing us to withdraw from activities, wallow in our own pain or loss, and negatively affecting both our mental and physical health. Survival typically requires the tender strokes of many comforters: hands in hands, around shoulders, or a full embrace; whispered encouragement in the wake of grief's first wave; assurance of the sun's resolve to arise despite the loneliness of long nights.

After a loss, or even processing an impending loss, requires some grief to be expressed, testimony to a reality check and a recognition of what is real rather than an emotional burial that is the result of denial. Grief does not always transition to grace, nor grace to newfound generosity and openness of spirit. Yet how is it that the heart, entrenched by sorrow, can, at the same time, be enlarged in its capacity for empathy and compassion? Recovering from grief, if care is taken, involves, among other things, the assurance that misery is not the last word, is not terminal, is not an irreducible fate, and is not beyond remembrance and requiem. The hallowing of grief can, like composted matter, create the kind of new fertility essential for life's regeneration.

Even beyond death, friends, there is One whose benevolence overpowers all pain, whose remembrance scoops up the abandoned, the forsaken, the suffering. There is a divine cherishing more resolute than death's grip. The presence of the Spirit to again open one's heart to a neighbour's pain beyond one's own, to find hope beyond despair or despondency, is a gift. It's this hopeful assurance of a surrounding presence that sustains us that is, in the

(Continued on p.3)

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Administrative Assistant	Tamil Savurimalai
Interim Musician	Lauren Eagleson
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	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

Nov.	19	26 th Sunday after Pentecost
	26	Reign of Christ / COMMUNION
Dec.	3	Advent 1
	10	Advent 2
	17	Advent 3
	24	Christmas Eve / COMMUNION (regular 10:30 am time)
	31	Christmas 2
Jan.	7	Baptism of Jesus
	14	Epiphany 2
	21	Epiphany 3 / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins / COMMUNION
	28	Epiphany 4 / Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
Feb.	4	Epiphany 5
	11	Transfiguration of Jesus / COMMUNION

All Services at 10:30 am except as indicated

Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

last appraisal, the way that joy transcends and amends grief's injury. The heart enlarges enough to faithfully abide in the midst of tragedy, sufficient to provide solace, to once again enable resolute companionship among the living.

How does this translate into our life as a church? Certainly the grief that we feel over the possible loss of our beloved church, especially the sanctuary, is palpable right now, as folks express sadness, a sense of loss, and no real hope of significant recovery. None of us, myself included, can helpfully ignore these feelings, which come especially to those of us who are charged with any leadership responsibility for the process which may lead to our eventual amalgamation or closure. Our lack of hope for Bloordale's future has caused some to withdraw, leaving others to pick up the pieces. Others can hardly describe how they're feeling, not yet naming it as grief but showing some symptoms of its early stages.

Friends, none of us are responsible for this – and it's not our job to ensure that history turns out right anyway, or in our church's favour, as the forces at work in this secular age are strong and alluring. Yet we each sing in a chorused cloud of witnesses – whether living, dead, or yet-to-be-born – accompanied by an orchestra of angels and directed by a Maestro whose true might is manifest in mercy and whose Spirit's strength is sufficient to defeat death's overarching grip upon our hearts. This may not mean the saving of our church, but it could mean the saving of our faith, and the opening of the heart to a new chapter on our collective journey.

Such are the terms of our continued calling, a summons from which we can learn, still, to be of good cheer despite the travails of time. We can yet linger in the soul's still point while around us howls the impending storm. Nothing of true value is to be lost save our dismay and sorrow's confounding by God's abiding grace. Though tracked by sorrow, know that the Spirit's life-giving joy is still

with us on the way, and offer prayers as flares to mark the rendezvous to come. May hope beyond present circumstances be both our watchword and our witness to the world, for such is the gift of God beyond present grief.

Blessings as we approach Advent!

Brian

Stewardship Spot

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

The Stewardship of Diversity

Back in the summer, on Canada Day in fact, I read something by former Toronto Star columnist Haroon Siddiqui that has stayed with me ever since. He wrote at a time when Canada's total population had just reached 40 million, and he said that *

"Canada is the only western nation with an overwhelming national consensus in favour of immigration. ... Canadians are also the only westerners to hold multiculturalism as the defining feature of our nationhood. ... This is a remarkable transformation within our lifetime."

I've been thinking about this recently, given the palpable divide between those who support the Palestinians unequivocally and those who support the Israeli government unequivocally. It's a divide that has crept into current affairs in Canada after the ramping up of the latest onslaught of carnage in the Middle East, though in a far different and far more muted way than in our neighbour to the south, for instance. Canadians, for the most part, have long ago let go of the historic assumption that Canada was a white Christian nation where people of other faiths and colour were expected to, and often did, assume a kind of second-class status in order to make their way here.

For the most part, though with some terrible exceptions – I write while the trial of a man who ran over a Muslim family in London a few years ago is taking place! – we're used to treating each other as equals. It was a

Canadian, John Humphrey, who was the author of the first draft of what became the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the history of our jurisprudence in Canada has been the protection of minority rights, especially since the groundbreaking Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. While the US has as their founding principles "*life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*," our equivalent founding motto is "*peace, order, and good government*." It is such communal, collective values that has enabled us to fund the social programs and a public education system that has cast a broad safety net to give people some security during hard times and has nurtured an awareness and respect of the "other" that has broken down barriers over time. While racial divides remain, especially regarding Black, Asian and Indigenous peoples, there are still far less violent incidents as a ratio of our population compared to the US – and Manitoba even recently elected Canada's first Indigenous Premier, Wab Kinew, something which still seems decades away from being possible in the US, given the mobilization of the far right under the twisted leadership of Donald Trump.

In the religious sphere, we're used to rallying around our different neighbour when something bad happens, surrounding mosques across the country when a London mosque was attacked a few years ago, for instance, or joining hands to express solidarity with one another when an anti-semitic attack on a synagogue occurs. We've nurtured long-standing interfaith relations in coalitions of like mind, the recognition of my efforts by the Canadian Council of Imams being only the latest small example. We live in the largest multicultural city in the world, and the religious representation of that multicultural reality is highly visible and embraced. The United Church has no doubt played a part in this history and continuing story, given that our motto from the very beginning, as a uniquely Canadian church, has been unity in diversity. We've worked hard to bring not only Christian denominations but all people of faith together

to work side by side on issues of common cause, whether it be poverty or climate.

All of this stands us in relatively good stead given the divisive potential of the seemingly intractable Middle East conflict, as Canadians pay more attention to moderate voices rather than allowing themselves to be polarized by extremism. For the most part we still talk to our neighbours, even if we know we disagree with one another, rather than extrapolate the entrenched demonization of the other that is at the root of the long-standing conflict. May we continue to be stewards of diversity as we live alongside and learn from our multicultural neighbours, may we continue to try and eliminate the causes of hatred and division – perhaps starting with controls on toxic social media?! – and may we never fail to recognize our common dignity and humanity even if our politics oppose one another.

Brian

*Siddiqui, "*We've achieved something remarkable*," Toronto Star, July 1, 2023.

Outreach News

International Photo Exhibit "Dispossessed but Defiant"

From **September 29th to October 5th** Etobicoke-based and regional church and labour groups co-sponsored 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 by our church, the Exhibit depicted indigenous peoples' experiences of colonization and dispossession, and their struggles to resist. Public viewing times occurred every day, and three special events were held, with special guest speakers. Three indigenous groups were featured: Indigenous peoples in this part of Turtle Island, the Palestinians, and Black South Africans under apartheid.

Our church was also the site of the adjacent Kairos Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Region

Annual Gathering September 29th and 30th, which brought together various representatives from local Kairos groups in our southern Ontario region as well as national staff and international partners from various countries. About 25 people attended the 2-day gathering September 29th and 30th, hosted by our local Kairos Toronto West group.

Lastly, Etobicoke Centre MP Yvan Baker was among the guests at the second of our three special events, held on September 30th. MP Baker shared something about this gathering in his regular e-news blast shortly after, and here's an extract of that:

“Commemorating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Bloordale United Church

On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I joined members of the Etobicoke Centre community at Bloordale United Church to listen and to learn from Monica McKay, Director of Indigenous Initiatives at Toronto Metropolitan University.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a day to reflect and learn and to commit to working together to understand and acknowledge these wrongs, to ensure these atrocities are never forgotten, and to take the steps needed on the path of truth and reconciliation. It was encouraging to see so many people coming together to reflect on our shared responsibility for reconciliation.

Thank you to Reverend Brian McIntosh and the team of volunteers who organized this important gathering.”

Statement on the Middle East Conflict

Faith-based Statements concerning the conflict in the Middle East have arrived over the past month, and have been made available in hardcopy on the Outreach table

in the sanctuary. These Statements have come from the following five sources:

- The United Church of Canada
- Palestine Network of Shining Waters Regional Council, The United Church of Canada
- Sabeel Ecumenical Palestinian Liberation Theology Centre
- Kairos Canada, and
- Project Ploughshares.

All of them call for a ceasefire, and urge a swift end to the conflict so that innocent civilian lives, mostly women and children, can be spared. Feel free to ask Brian for more information.

Support a Senate Bill on Guaranteed Livable Income

In October the Senate Finance Committee took the first step toward a guaranteed livable basic income on Bill S-233. <https://act.leadnow.ca/> has drafted a template letter to send to the Senators on the Finance Committee. You can add your own personalized comments as well. Consider signing as individuals and sharing widely in your networks:

[Call on Senators to support a guaranteed livable basic income | Leadnow.ca](https://act.leadnow.ca/GLBI-senate/)

<https://act.leadnow.ca/GLBI-senate/>

A Winter Clothing Drive for Unhoused Refugees

In late October a call went out from folks at Christ Church St. James Anglican Church in Etobicoke, a church in our area with members active in EcuLinks, to help with unhoused refugees who are currently at the Queensway Motel. With winter coming folks have been digging into their closets and checking the racks at places like *Value Village* and *Once Upon a Child* for winter wear for adults - both men and women as well as suitable snowsuits and coats for school aged children and teens.

There is also a need for sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves and boots, while long underwear and turtlenecks are in high demand. Please consider sharing some gently-used or new items as you are able, and bring them to the church by **November 14th** if at all possible. We'll look after getting them to where they're needed, and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Outreach Fund Donations

We also continue to collect your generous Outreach Fund donations so that we can support numerous organizations and charities locally, regionally, and nationally. We thank you for your generosity!

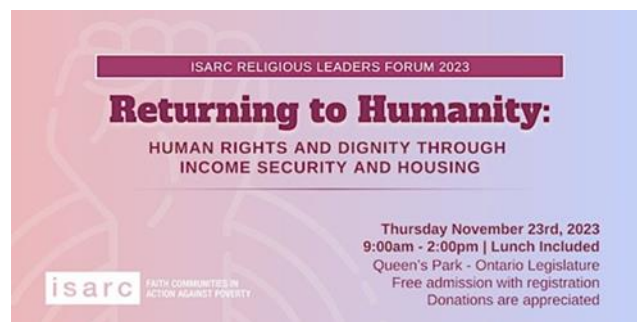
Advent Giving Tree Coming Up!



This year we're continuing with our simplified Outreach Advent Giving Tree collection, which starts on December 3rd. We're asking you to consider giving either gift cards or monetary donations (cheques should be made out to Bloordale United Church, with Advent Giving Tree on the memo line), or non-perishable food items, all to be divided between our three recipient agencies: Youth Without Shelter, Ernestine's Women's Shelter, and Women's Habitat. We've heard from all three that card values of \$25 for Walmart, Visa, Shoppers Drug Mart, No Frills, or Food Basics are best, while card values of \$10 for Tim Horton's, McDonald's, or other fast food chains are also welcome. Toys for children will also be gratefully received. If you would like a tax receipt for the gift cards you purchase, please put your name and church envelope # on the envelope, and your account will be credited (please try to ensure that a gift card that shows the amount is purchased). Please have your donations of gift cards or cheques, food or toys, in to us by Sunday Dec. 10th (yes, we know that only gives you two weeks, which is why we're sharing this heads up now!). We hope you will be able to support us with the Giving Tree

program this year, and thank you in advance for your gifts, which will surely brighten the lives of those who need these agency's services this Christmas!

ISARC Religious Leaders forum



An in-person event – register here: [ISARC Religious Leaders Forum 2023 Registration, Thu, 23 Nov 2023 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

You're Invited! All Welcome!

To Etobicoke's Public Forum on Climate Change



Friday, December 1st, 2023,
7:00-8:20 PM

Bloordale United Church
4258 Bloor St W, Etobicoke,
ON
M9C 1Z7

No Registration required, Scan the QR Code for clickable online copy



We'll focus on ways to reduce GHG emissions from our buildings and transportation in Etobicoke. We'll explore options, share our points of view with one another, promote advocacy, cooperation, and climate action among all levels of government, residents, and Etobicoke businesses.

Featuring speakers:

- Yvan Baker, M.P., Etobicoke Centre
- James Maloney, M.P., Etobicoke-Lakeshore
- Amber Morley, Councillor, Etobicoke-Lakeshore
- How-Sen Chong, Toronto Environment Alliance

Public Forum Co-sponsored by [Etobicoke Climate Action](#), Toronto West KAIROS, ECULINKS Etobicoke

For background information:

[Backgrounder- Etobicoke's Public Forum on Climate Change \(etobicokeclimateaction.ca\)](#)

Direct any questions to:

info@etobicokeclimateaction.ca

Public Meeting on New Civic Centre

CECHi
Central Etobicoke Community Hub Initiative

With
Deputy Mayor
Amber Morley
(Ward 3)
and
Councillor
Stephen Holyday
(Ward 2)

PUBLIC MEETING
New Six Points
Etobicoke Civic Centre

Tuesday
December 5
7:00PM

St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church Hall
3819 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke

Reception for Musician Paul on Thanksgiving Sunday Oct. 8th

On Thanksgiving Sunday October 8th we shared our gratitude for our Choir Director

and Musician Paul Wisniewski's wonderful ministry with us over the past five years by holding a reception at Coffee and Conversation time following worship. Paul left to pursue another music ministry opportunity, and the choir and congregation will miss him greatly. We wish him well in all his future endeavours, and blessings upon him and his entire family.



Brian's Retirement Notice to Bloordale UC

At the Council meeting in October Brian shared the following letter, which was addressed to the Council and the Ministry and Personnel Committee, regarding his impending retirement:

"Dear Bloordale UC leaders/friends –

While the last few years of my ministry with you has perhaps seemed like a mixed blessing at best, given all that has transpired to precipitate a decline in attendance and potentially hasten our amalgamation or closure – not the least of the various factors of which, namely COVID, was completely beyond our collective control! – I have truly been blessed over more than fifteen years to have worked with so many wonderful people

and lay leaders, staff and others as I served as your Minister. However, I was ordained in 1988, and this year is my 36th in ministry, so the time has come to formally give notice of my impending retirement in 2024.

Because of the precarious situation of the congregation, and my eligibility for retirement with a full pension as of the end of November, 2023, the actual date of my retirement could be flexible, however. I do envision an official retirement date sometime between the end of April and the end of October, and am prepared to be responsive to the need and desire of the congregation in this regard. But the ideal date is on the 30th of June, as any transitions in ministry personnel can be made over the summer months and a fresh start can be taken up in the fall, when church programming picks up steam again.

My gratitude for the congregation's support and accompaniment on this ministry journey with you is immeasurable, and as the last ministry of my career, it goes without saying that the 16 years I will have spent with Bloordale will hold a special place in my heart and memory for years to come. May God bless your continuing mission and ministry as we together discern God's call to Bloordale over the next number of months.

In Christ, and with deep gratitude,

Brian McIntosh"

Brian Given Interfaith Award by Canadian Council of Imams

On Saturday October 14th Brian attended the 5th Annual Awards Dinner of the Canadian Council of Imams at the Sayeda Khadija

Centre in Mississauga, which some people from our congregation visited a number of years ago, so that he could receive the Community Interfaith Award for this year. He was honoured to receive this recognition, and briefly expressed his thanks when given an opportunity to speak.

Here he is at home following his reception of the Award.



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!

**"Bloorbeat is a Seriously Impressive
Publication for Bloordale to Produce"**

from Cathy Plaskett (daughter of Pat Nelson)

From Your Chair of Council



It doesn't seem that long since our last Bloorbeat, but here I am again.

Hope that you have had an enjoyable summer, also that you were able to spend a lot of time with your family and friends. As fall is upon us, and winter is just around the corner.

We had our council meeting on October 16th and it was recommended that we put forth the following to the congregation: -

1. Continue with St. James negotiation and sell the building
2. Continue indefinitely with part-time Minister
3. Pursue amalgamation with another United Church (or other denomination)
4. Close as a congregation and sell the building

Our semi-annual meeting was held on Sunday, October 29th. For those who couldn't attend Brian provided his cell phone, we had a mic that you could hear what was going on, and if you had a question you could ask.

After a lot of discussions, it was decided that we would canvas other United churches to see if any of them are interested in amalgamation. Your committee will view and attend services at the interested church(s).

An email will be sent to St. James with the results of our council and congregation meetings.

I want to thank Julia for discussing with our congregation what went on at St James meetings. Thanks to all of our committee Sol, Paul, Beth, Julia, and myself for taking the time to discuss our future with St. James.

We will be holding a Wine and Cheese event in the near future, so please keep your eyes peeled for our Sunday bulletin.

Our recent lunch bunch at Olive Restaurant, went very well.

The Thanksgiving card sale went very well, and \$205 was given to Bloordale. Thanks to Nelsona Dundas.

Paul Wisniewski has resigned as our Choir Director and is missed very much. We have hired Lauren Eagleson as Interim Musician who is a joy to listen to.

I would like to thank Kashi for all he has done and continues to do for us, and also John for looking after our computers etc. Very much appreciated by all of us.

November 11th is Remembrance Day, please remember our Veterans, as if it wasn't for them, we would not be able to enjoy our lives as we do.

Many thanks to both Julia and John for putting together the Bloorbeat, as without this we could not keep up to date on what is going on at Bloordale.

I know that this is rather early, but I would like to wish you and all your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Look forward to seeing you at church on Sundays, service 10:30 PM.

Regards,
Patricia Conway-Willis,
Council Chair

Report re Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting October 29th

At the Semi-Annual Congregational meeting held after worship October 29th, Julia Stavreff made a report on behalf of the five people

from Bloordale who had been named in the spring to explore a potential amalgamation with St. James United Church. In summary (please see the Minutes sent by e-mail October 31st or available at the church in hardcopy for more detail) 4 of the 5 felt that we could go no further with St. James under the current mandate to seek to retain our building in an amalgamation with them, given their expression of disinterest in considering a retention of our building.

The congregation then took part in discussions regarding the four options outlined in a letter to the congregation which was sent before the meeting, as follows:

1. Continue with St James negotiations and sell the building.
2. Continue indefinitely with a part time minister
3. Pursue amalgamation with another united church (or other denomination)
4. Close as a congregation and sell the building.

After considerable thoughtful discussion and questions, the following motion was received:

It was moved by Joan Hollowell and seconded by Pat Conway-Willis that a letter be sent to nearby churches (United and perhaps others) to inquire about possible interest in amalgamation/merger with Bloordale United Church with a preference to keep the building. Carried.

It was agreed that Brian will draft and send the letter to local churches, in cooperation with our Council Executive, and once responses have been received we will determine next steps and follow up on promising responses.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, feel free to be in touch with either Brian or Pat Conway-Willis.

Brian

Basketball Continues

Free gym basketball for tweens and teens.

Fridays, 6:30-9:30 pm: November 17, November 24, December 1, December 8, December 15, December 22, December 29, January 5, 2024, January 12 and January 19

Upcoming Events Summary

Sunday, November 26, Lunch Bunch Lunch at Cora's on the Queensway

Sunday, December 3, 3pm, Oakville Choral presents "Sound the Trumpet"

Sunday, December 10, Markland Caravan

Sunday, December 17, Pre-Christmas Wine and Cheese

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am, Christmas Eve Morning Communion Service

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 1:30 pm outing to Mirvish's 42nd Street at the Princess of Wales Theatre

Finance Update

For the nine month period ended September 2023, the church reported a deficit of \$9,264. The annual deficit budgeted for 2023 is \$13,749. Overall revenues of \$235,078 were in line with expectations with income from rentals of \$135,988 showing better than expected results. Overall Operating Expenses for the period were \$244,342.

In addition, there were \$31,671 in Capital upgrades for the purchase and installation of a new dishwasher, air-conditioner and furnaces. (Not part of Operating Expenses).

As our year comes to a close please remember Bloordale in your Christmas Givings.

Sol Kanjirthingal,
Treasurer

Lunch Bunch News

Submitted by Julia Stavreff, with editorial assistance from Kristina Pauksens

Our next Lunch Bunch event is Sunday, November 26, 2023 at Cora's on the Queensway, located at 1555 The Queensway. Cora's is a Lunch Bunch favourite; we keep coming back for more! Cora's offers something delicious for lovers of both the sweet and the savoury. They offer six different varieties of eggs benedict, as well as *crêpomelettes* – delicious crêpes stuffed with omelettes and smothered in a rich, creamy hollandaise sauce. For a truly decadent experience, Lunch Bunchers may wish to try the Triple Chocolate Pancakes – chocolatey cocoa pancakes generously topped with chocolate chips, bananas and cocoa-hazelnut custard. From bagels and lox to a "Nice big plate of nicely cut fruit, served with toast" there is truly something for everyone.

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, contact me, Julia, at stavreffj@stavreff.ca or by phone at 416-622-6309.

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 tardy. It is also ok to attend Lunch Bunch even if you happen to be unable to make it to church that day! We would all love to see you!

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

The Bloordale United Church Lunch Bunch was founded by the Late Gord Moore, who had the innovative idea of combining congregational fellowship with the joy of brunching. Lunch Bunch is the perfect 'cherry on top' to add a little bit of fun to your Sunday.

The Lunch Bunch organizers arrange for group lunches at a local restaurant, after the Sunday Church Service and Coffee Time. We typically go every 6-8 weeks. When we go out for Lunch Bunch Lunches, 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.



As pictured above, our last lunch bunch was at The Olive, on the East Mall, on October 22, 2023. We had a total of eight attendees, who enjoyed delicious meals including fish and chips, omelets, pancakes with succulent bacon, garden fresh Greek salad, and eggs with cottage cheese, toast and fruit. Our happy diners were full of smiles showing how satisfied they were with both the food and the great company!

See you at Cora's on November 26!

Julia Stavreff

Best Wishes to our Music Minister- Paul Wisniewski

Saying Goodbye is never easy, but for the choir losing Paul Wisniewski made us cry! While we understand the need to secure a solid position

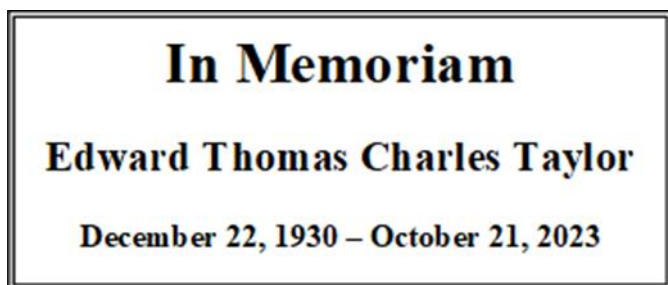


going forward, we will miss Paul and his wonderful family very much. Three lovely children, Emily, Walter and Kajetan were present at church singing, smiling and giving hugs to all. Patsy was ever supportive to events and we will miss her warmth.

As a Music Minister Paul is not replaceable. His skill, dedication and love of music rubbed off on us. He made us feel that we could "get this piece right". His gentle supportive teaching made us much better than the sum of the parts. We are a disparate group, some of us can read music and some cannot. Paul made us all feel welcome and contributing. Choir practice was fun and we grew as a friendly cohesive group.

Our Best Wishes Potluck Dinner for Paul and his family was attended by past and present choir members. We wish the whole family every good thing life has to offer. Thank you Paul. We love you!

Beth Jazvac



Bloordale Group AA Hosts 39th Annual Archives Breakfast

On the morning of Sunday November 5, 185 people attended a carefully planned and executed breakfast to honour members past and present. A large committee worked behind the scenes to make the event a success. Hats off to Chef Erin who organized and prepared the excellent breakfast of fresh fruit, eggs, bacon, home fries, sausages, and homemade banana bread.

AA continues to be the most successful programme assisting alcoholics and their families. People looking after people is the goal. Sponsors who have been through the

trials of alcoholism assist others on a one to one basis. Sponsors often give of themselves for many years. Gratitude takes the very real form of supporting others.

Our Bloordale group has been with the church for 37 years helping individuals and families. AA saves lives and Bloordale is privileged to help with a welcoming place to meet and hold events. If drinking is affecting your life call Gord H. 416 414-8374 or the Church 416 621-1710 to be connected with one of the helping people in our three AA groups.

Beth Jazvac

Thank you to Lauren Eagleson



Lauren has been filling in for Paul with music for our services. She will be with us until mid-November and we are thankful for her playing the hymns and providing beautiful music throughout the services. Lauren completed her Master's degree last year and currently teaches piano and supply teaches. Frequently she supply teaches with special needs children.

I had the honour of attending her piano student's recital in June and it was the best recital for children I have attended. Lauren was on stage with her students supporting, coaching and playing. They were happy to perform and were not frightened. Who knew that was even possible?

Lauren cannot help us with choir practice because she teaches piano in the evenings. We thank her and wish her well. We also hope that she will be able to lend her beautiful soprano voice to our Christmas music, perhaps with her mother playing the harp. Thank You Lauren!

Beth Jazvac.

Oakville Choral Concert December 3, 2023

Brian is a member of the Oakville Choral Society which will be presenting a concert on December 3, 2023, celebrating the music of

George Friedrich Handel, and entitled **"Sound the Trumpet"**.

OAKVILLE CHORAL
presents

SOUND THE TRUMPET

December 3, 2023, 3:00pm
St. John's United Church
262 Randall St., Oakville

Celebrating the music of G.F. Handel

Megan Miceli, soprano
David Walsh, tenor
Declan Scott, Brad Digel and Laura Kuri, trumpets
Stephen Boda, organ
David Bowser, conductor

Tickets: Adults \$25, Students \$15
Purchase online at: oakvillechoral.com

For more Information or ticket purchase visit the Oakville Choral Society website at: <https://oakvillechoral.com/>

Scouts Christmas Tree Sale begins Saturday December 2, 2023

The 401st Toronto Scout Group will once again be setting up a Christmas Tree Sales Lot behind Bloordale United Church (4258 Bloor St W). Our Scouts will be moving trees into the lot prior to the first sales shift set to begin on Saturday December 2nd at 12:00pm (noon). The lot will stay open until all trees are sold with the following schedule:

Monday **CLOSED**

Tuesday-Friday 6:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm-6:00pm

Due to overwhelming demand, we will once again be offering advanced tree orders online

at <https://401st-scouts-toronto.square.site> website. All advanced orders received before November 30th will be given VIP status for tree selection prior to the tree lot opening to the general public. We are offering delivery service this year courtesy of our Venturer & Rover Scouts.

Please drop by the lot to say hi to our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Venturers. We appreciate the support that the Bloordale United Church congregation has shown the 401st Scouts with the purchase of trees over the past 30+ years. There is a Christmas tree shortage again this year from all suppliers. We expect to sell out quickly. Last year we sold out of trees in 12 days!

Joe Fong, Group Commissioner
401st Toronto Scout Group

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Christmas Cards for Sale

Due to a misunderstanding with the print shop, Nelsona ended up with a duplicate order of photos for the Christmas cards she was preparing for Pastoral Care Committee and herself. She will be making them available at cost, i.e. \$3 each, to recoup unanticipated expenses. The cards feature Poinsettia flowers photographed at the Centennial Park Conservatory and once again, Pastoral Care had a hand in selecting the message and greeting inside. Watch for further updates in the Sunday bulletin mid-November.

Nelsona



Bloordale Outing to see the Mirvish Production of "42nd Street"

At the Princess of Wales Theatre
300 King Street West

<https://mirvish.com>

**Wednesday, January 17, 2024,
1:30 pm in the afternoon**

We have currently purchased 11 seats.
and can purchase additional seats with our
20% group discount.

Our current seats are:

Orchestra Right \$115

**Orchestra Centre and Right
(further back) \$100**

Orchestra Rear \$84

Carpooling Available

*For further information and tickets contact Julia at
416-622-6309 / stavreffj@stavreff.ca*

Job Posting

Musician, Bloordale United Church

Position Title: Musician (possible Choir Director also)

Job Type: Part Time, Semi-Permanent Position

Remuneration: \$200/Worship Service plus \$200 for Weddings, Funerals.
(Plus an additional \$200/Thursday choir rehearsal if possible)

Working Hours: 6 hrs. per week, including Sunday Service and rehearsal time
(Note: fees above cover additional rehearsal time for non-Sunday duties)

Resources: Grand Piano, Electronic Organ with Pedals, Extensive Music Library, Small Office

Brief Job Description Available Upon Request – call 416-621-1710 or e-mail bloordaleunited@gmail.com

To apply, please contact Brian McIntosh at minister.bloordaleunited@gmail.com

We'll be accepting applications on or before November 28th 2023.

United Church Gifts with Vision Catalogue Now Available!

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

Merry Christmas!

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

Publication Date	Submission Deadline
Jan 21, 2024	Jan 14, 2024
March 17, 2024	March 10, 2024



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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.

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

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Email: bloordaleunited@gmail.com

Website: www.bloordale.ca

Committee Chair
Editor

Julia Stavreffe
John Pauksens

Let's Get Together for a Bloordale Pre-Christmas Wine and Cheese!



as much fun as our last Wine and Cheese!

Sunday, December 17th
2:00 to 3:30 pm, in the Gym

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

All complimentary.

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

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