

September 2022

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XLI Issue 3

Minister's Message

The Company of Singers

Friends, as the fall church season has begun, and our choir has returned to regular Thursday rehearsals, I've been thinking about the gift of singing. I hadn't sung in a community choir since the pandemic began, that is for 2 ½ years, until I attended my first Oakville Choral practice on a recent Tuesday evening. What a joy singing is, a consistent source of positive energy for those of us who indulge ourselves in it, virtually non-stop sometimes – just ask my wife Debbie!

I've been thinking generally about the kind of people who don't sing very much:

- Angry people don't generally sing very much;
- Anxious people don't sing very much;
- Self-sufficient people don't feel compelled to sing much.

Indeed, people who run with the rats in order to win the economic rat race don't sing very much either. They tend not to have the energy or the freedom or the courage or the patience to raise their voices and reach beyond themselves toward that which is hidden and awesome and mysterious, for the divine in our very midst.

It strikes me, then, that our society, on the whole, is designed to keep people from singing. It does so by keeping us overfed and indulged, overworked and tired, and surely anxious. It does so by seducing us into thinking that shopping or television or professional sports are important, when in fact these things serve mostly as our narcotics of choice, keeping us from noticing what's going on in the real world. The outcome, predictably, is a society of one-dimensional people often focused on a particular ideology or cause, liberal or conservative, which suppresses our innate desire to reach toward that which is beyond ourselves, becoming wonderfully lost, as the old hymn says, *"in wonder, love, and praise."*

In the midst of that mostly anti-spiritual culture, God has set us down in the midst of a company of singers who refuse to give in to anger, anxiety, self-sufficiency, despair, or overindulgence. You know, of course, that I'm not just talking about any old singing, but rather about singing that testifies to and continues to imagine the reality of the *"God of grace and God of glory"* – another old hymn! – as the defining character in the world

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Administrative Assistant	Halyna Parypa
Music Director	Paul Wisniewski
Custodian	Awaiz Dean

Church Council

Chair	Pat Conway-Willis
Church Council Secretary	Beth Jazvac
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Beth Jazvac
Board of Trustees	Julia Stavreff
Ministry and Personnel Co-Chairs	Melody Klassen Pat Conway-Willis
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Finance Committee
Presbytery Representatives	Norman Dundas Paul Rose
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

Committee Chairs

Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Pat Nelson Pat Conway-Willis
Communications	Julia Stavreff
Finance, Stewardship, Planned Gift	Norm Dundas
Outreach and Christian Development	Lynn Lawrence
Pastoral Care	Sylvia Williams
Property	Pat Conway-Willis
Social and Fund Raising	Vacant
Worship	Melody Klassen
Member-at-Large	Joan Hollowell

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WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Oct. 2	Worldwide Communion Sunday / COMMUNION
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Sunday
Oct. 16	19 th Sunday after Pentecost / Outreach Sunday
Oct. 23	20 th Sunday after Pentecost
Oct. 30	Reformation / All Saints Sunday / COMMUNION
Nov. 6	Remembrance Sunday
Nov. 13	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost
Nov. 20	Reign of Christ Sunday
Nov. 27	Advent 1 / COMMUNION

All Services at 10:30 am

Minister's Message

(continued from Page 1)

I'm talking about our faith family, our Christian company, as faithful singers who give voice to both praise and lament before God – though mostly praise!

The silence of not singing was first broken by our sister Miriam, who took up the tambourine on the other side of the Red Sea, looked back at Egypt and its slave camps, and with other women sang defiantly, "*Sing to God, for God has triumphed gloriously.*" (Exodus 15: 21) They broke the silence of bondage and fear, gave witness to God's defeat of Pharaoh and the claims of empire, and lifted the lyric of liberation, singing that they were, in fact, free at last!

The song that ended the silence of oppression was picked up by mother Hannah, and, after her, mother Mary, as Luke records the song: "*God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich empty away.*" (Luke 1: 52-53) These mothers sang revolutionary songs, trusting that the world will, by the power of God, be healed and made right, even for the poor.

There are lots of ways to silence the singing church. Turn the church into entertainment, a popularity contest, and pretend there is little or nothing but amusement at stake. Turn the church into a place to quarrel about insubstantial side issues when death wanders through the streets freely. Turn the church into an echo of the consumer society. Have a conservative ideology as a one-truth mob, or have a liberal ideology with an uncompromising social agenda alone. Dumb down the church so that it gets stuck on automatic pilot and faith becomes just a sweet drug of serenity. Do anything to siphon off the courage and energy of the song.

But the company of singers who went before us weren't silenced, and kept singing. Why? Because they knew the old, old story and then gave it voice in new ways. That old, old story tells us:

- that the world is God's good creation and requires our care and attention;
- that freedom from the coercive claims of Pharaoh and empire is possible;
- that mountaintop moments are about making new covenant that redefines the world as a neighbourhood;
- that life is found in the world where gifts are given and neighbours are trusted and the poor are protected and given dignity, where power is kept under the discipline of truth, and where war isn't learned anymore.

It turns out, friends, that the old, old story becomes the new song. It's no wonder that the powers-that-be try to stop the singing, because it threatens the status quo, challenges the old economics of greed, exposes the politics of exploitation, and critiques the church as narcotic. The powers always want to encourage amnesia, because if we can't remember, we won't be able to sing, and if we can't sing, we'll wither and die. But if the church turns the old, old story into yet another new Easter song, all year round and even in this renewable fall, we gain energy for mission, generosity in stewardship, passion for social and ecological justice, and the essentials for a faithful life of glad obedience to God, lost, once again, in wonder, love and praise, and therefore found afresh.

May we never stop singing! Oh, and Paul would love to hear from you if you want to join us in making a joyful noise each Thursday and Sunday!

Brian

Stewardship Spot

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

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation in September, a relatively new addition to the liturgical landscape – the United Church passed a resolution to adopt the season in 2009, and

have developed resources for congregations each year ever since – is a time to focus on God as the Creator of this original gift of life, of Earth, of living breath and all living things. For centuries our theology and ethics, and therefore our worship, had primarily been oriented in two dimensions: our relationships with God and our human relationships with one another. The time is now, our time being a critical period in history in this regard, to turn our attention to God’s relationship with all creation and our relationship with creation and with the Creator of the cosmos.

The Season of Creation alone will not bring the transformation in consciousness we need to address the ecological problems we face today. Yet it is a Season in which we can devote more time and attention to the Creator of this magnificent, unique and utterly irreplaceable creation, as well as to our now essential care of this original gift and blessing. For four Sundays in the church year, and by extension more often, as a result, throughout the year, we can join in a wholehearted celebration of the mysteries and wonders of creation with God the Creator, with Christ the embodiment of God’s creational intent, and with the Spirit who pervades all of creation.

In a special way the Season of Creation follows the lead of the psalmists, who exhort us to celebrate with the forests, the rivers, the fields, with earth and sky and sea and all creatures who swim, crawl, or fly. We celebrate Earth and its biosphere, the garden planet God has chosen as sanctuary and as home. As we celebrate, we also confess the role we human beings have had in placing creation in a crisis due to excessive greed, exploitation and neglect, and feel afresh the Creator’s call to hear creation’s groaning and to rise up, with Christ, in working to reconcile and restore creation.

In response to the ecological crisis, congregations just prior to a decade ago celebrated secular occasions such as Earth Day in April or World Environment Day in June. This was, of course, well and good, bringing attention to a long-overlooked and

necessary focus. But the Season of Creation goes further, bringing the celebration of Earth fully into the orbit of annual Christian worship cycles. In addition, it reminds us, as people of faith, that we face, not just a climate crisis or an environmental crisis, but a crisis at the very heart of who we are ourselves as God’s creation, as the image of the Creator God. For the cosmos to be called a creation, after all, implies that there was an original Creator, One who longed for a relationship with all that was originally given by the divine hand and who invited us into partnership to see all of creation flourish.

In Genesis we hear of creation being born out of the abyss of nothingness that was prior to the Creator’s Word speaking it into existence, and while we are not crude creationists who reject mountains of biological and geographical evidence in severely underestimating the age of this primal and original gift, we do trust that this creation was no cosmic accident billions of years ago, that there is divine intention behind it and divine purpose within its complex evolutionary process, and that God has promised, and can be trusted, to bring creation to its completion in God’s grand plan in history. So the Season of Creation becomes central in our stewardship of the gospel of good news that has the Creator at its core, Christ at its centre, and the Spirit dispersed throughout creation to confirm us in faith as co-creators with God. May this Season that comes to a close in a few days serve to open us more fully to this good news, and embolden us to take passionate action as God’s stewards of creation as we nurture and protect God’s first, most wondrous mystery and miracle, this blue-green planet.

Brian

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Plan to Attend

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of Bloordale United Church



Sunday, November 13th, 2022 after the worship service. Come for an update on what's been happening at Bloordale, including news about our property discussions.

Thanks and Goodbye to Victor at Coffee Time!



At the end of August this year our longtime custodian Victor Nguyen retired, having given us notice at the beginning of the summer that he would be doing so. Victor was with us for 10 years, and as a small expression of our thanks we've invited Victor to join us for coffee and conversation after the worship service on September 25, so that we can say our personal thanks, and offer him a gift. Come join us downstairs on September 25th for this special recognition!

Outreach News

Outreach News

Outreach Sunday Oct. 16th

On Sunday Oct. 16th we'll highlight some of the work of our Education, Outreach and Advocacy Cte. at our special Outreach Sunday, with Committee members taking part in the liturgy. Following worship, we look forward to being your hosts for a special, if long delayed, welcome reception for refugee Ali Oubidin, who arrived in Canada under our church's sponsorship in September of 2021. We'll have special food, a gift for Ali, meet others who have helped him settle well in Canada, and hear from him as he expresses his thanks for our sponsorship. We hope that

many from the congregation will join us that day, as we celebrate our ministry for and with refugees!

Indigenous Right Relations Building

This spring, on the Saturday closest to National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21st), namely June 18th, local ecumenical justice organizations Kairos Toronto West and EcuLinks partnered to co-sponsor another Kairos Blanket Exercise (KBE) in Etobicoke. On Sept. 24th, only six days from the second annual observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Sept. 30th, those two organizations will be sponsoring a second KBE, this time to be held at Martin Luther Church in south Etobicoke.

In addition, on Friday Sept. 30th itself, those two sponsoring organizations will be hosting a public event to mark the day, the details as yet unavailable. Please contact Brian and/or keep an eye out for what the planning group has in store for all of us.

Lastly, Sept. 29th and 30th at Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre will host their 4th annual Legacy Celebration, as they highlight the coming installation of a multi-million dollar public memorial Spirit Garden, complete with large turtle sculpture and various other symbols and plants, for the victims and survivors of Residential Schools in the southwest corner of the Square. A multitude of faith groups, including us as a church, have contributed to the project, and these two days offer an opportunity to come and see the site, gather around the central sacred fire, learn from various education programs, enjoy Indigenous performances, take in the special foods on offer, etc. Ask Brian if you would like to know more about the plans for these two days.

Etobicoke Climate Action (ECA) Group Very Active

As part of the Etobicoke Climate Action Group's Core Leadership team, Brian moderated both federal and provincial election town hall online events with candidates in the past few years, and will again moderate the upcoming Municipal

Election Town Hall for Etobicoke Centre on Wednesday, Oct. 19th. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available. There have been numerous other activities that the ECA has undertaken, as they expand their activities, including deputations, webinars, etc. The ECA continues to lobby all levels of government for the undertaking of energetic and urgent climate action, and publishes a bi-monthly newsletter. Your Cte. recently voted to support the ECA with a modest donation from the Outreach Fund. Speak to Brian if you'd like to join the ECA, receive the newsletter, or become active in climate justice work.

Refugee Update

First, because of the pandemic restrictions, we've been unable thus far to have a gathering to welcome our refugee who arrived in September of 2021, Ali Oubidin, to Canada. But we now can do that, and plan to have a reception in Ali's honour following Outreach Sunday Oct. 16th during our coffee and conversation time after worship, as we belatedly offer Ali a gift, some special food and a hearty if delayed welcome to Canada at that time. Ali has, by the way, settled well into life in Canada, working at a bakery, working at his English language skills, and generally adjusting well to independent living.

Second, the United Church of Canada has submitted our sponsorship application for two Syrian refugee women to be admitted to Canada, and we await word regarding this application, which could be a long process.

Ecumenical Prayers for Peace for Ukraine Service Raises \$750

On Sunday May 15th we hosted an Ecumenical Prayers for Peace for Ukraine Service at Bloordale, enjoying the presence of a Ukrainian music group and the leadership of fellow local clergy. While the attendance was low, we managed to raise well over \$500, and the Education, Outreach and Advocacy Cte. topped it up with a donation from the Outreach Fund, to reach the total of \$750 for Ukrainian relief efforts, shared through the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.

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

This past spring Brian and the minister of FCRC, Mark Broadus, offered an online learning opportunity for our two congregations on the contemporary mission calling of the church. About 25 people attended, as we considered what the mission of the church has been in history, and what our call to mission may mean in our time, particularly as that call relates to how we use our buildings to fulfill God's missional purposes.

We also held a mutual Council meeting on Zoom in the spring, as our leaders met one another and discussed the Vision shared with them to form a mutual community vision, which is neither an amalgamation nor a merger but rather a way for the two churches to remain distinct yet share a building and foster a common desire to serve the community around us more effectively.

United Church Elects First Indigenous Female Leader of a Canadian Church

In early August, during the last days of a drawn out and online General Council meeting of the United Church with delegates from across the country, the assembly voted to elect the Rev. Carmen Lansdowne the first female Indigenous leader of a major Canadian church denomination when she became the Moderator of the United Church, 36 years after electing the first male Indigenous leader of a major denomination by choosing the Rev. Stan McKay as Moderator. Reconciliation continues to be near the top of the United Church's agenda at every level, and the Rev. Lansdowne will lead the United Church for the next 3 years.

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/>

Property Options Report

In the last Bloorbeat it was reported that for some time now we've held discussions with United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), and more recently with their partner/affiliate organization Kindred Works (KW), to work toward a property management agreement which would result in the following outcomes, subject to the approval of the congregation regarding any contractual agreement:

- a) Building will be handed over for property management purposes to UPRC/KW.
- b) Bloordale UC continues to worship and serve the community at this site.
- c) UPRC/KW will manage & maintain, and possibly redevelop, the property.
- d) UPRC/KW will administer & honour existing rental agreements.
- e) UPRCKW will provide a revenue flow back to Bloordale UC equal to and exceeding our stated mission and ministry needs and current net revenues from rentals.
- f) Bloordale will pay \$1 per year for the use of the property.

Your Executive leadership team of Pat Conway-Willis, Paul Rose, Julia Stavreff, and myself have kept our Council apprised of progress, and continue to participate in negotiations which will lead to an eventual agreement, which we hope will culminate within the next month to our approaching the congregation for final decision/approval. It is a key part of the negotiations toward an agreement that we are able to maintain (see the brief article elsewhere in the Bloorbeat about this). Keep an ear open for communication from us about this draft agreement, which we hope to share within the not-too-distant future so that it can be discussed, and decisions hopefully made, at our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, usually held at the end of October.

If you wish to provide input about this process, please reach out to any member of the Executive Team named above.

Brian

From Your Chair of Council



Good day to all, hope that you all had an enjoyable summer visiting with family and friends. The weather was very nice, in spite of the humidity.

Fall is now here, weather that I personally like, but then again some of you will say winter would not be far behind.

We started our Church services September 4th, so hope that we will be seeing you. I realize that the last few years have been trying on all of us. Also, we will be having coffee hour in the gym room after service so that we can catch up with our friends. Also, thanks to Paul, we have our music and choir. Please come to join us. Many thanks!

You will notice that our garden has been looking very good. Our thanks go to Grace and Jo Em. Thank you!

Beth and myself along with her granddaughter have spent the summer, cleaning up the office cupboards in Room 15, but there is still more to do. Beth's granddaughter needed credits for school, so that was good for us. Thanks, from all of us.

As most of you have heard Victor, our Custodian retired August 18th. We want to thank him for all he had done during his 10 years of employment, and wish him good luck with good health. Thanks Tom, who has stepped in to assist us. We hope to have a replacement for Victor soon.

Rooks to Cooks had a great year, in fact I had the good fortune to attend their Family get together, and was very impress that each of the campers received a certificate. Rooks to Cooks will be having their classes during the winter months, which is good.

Quo Vadis have increased space. They are now occupying rooms 24/25 and 14 for their classes and have replaced the flooring and painted in room 14.

We had our first Council Meeting September 19th, in person, in Room 15 at 7:00 PM. The Ministry and Personnel Committee is very

sorry to accept the resignation of Velene Rose from our committee. Thank you Velene for all you have done over the years!

Thanks once again to Julia and John for looking after the Bloorbeat very much appreciated. Also, all the other things they do for Bloordale.

Thanks again to our Sunday volunteers, Debbie, Joan and myself, Beth gets in to assist as well.

Till the next Bloorbeat, please all of you remain very safe and healthy.

Pat Conway-Willis, Chair of Council

Connecting with the Ill, Bereaved, and Shut-in

The Pastoral Care Committee connects with members who are ill, bereaved or are shut in. We are unable to make a connection if we are unaware. We are therefore appealing to members who may be aware of someone who might need a contact from us. Please obtain permission from that individual to contact a member of the committee. Thank you.

Sylvia Williams Chair,
Pastoral Care Committee

From Your Choir Director



I would like to take this opportunity and thank all of our choir members for their continued support of the music program here at BUC. For their time commitment and talents in enriching our services. After almost 2 years of not working together, we finally resumed singing earlier this year, paused for the summer, and have restarted our regular Thursday practices in September.

For the month of September I have placed a note in the bulletin inviting anyone from the congregation (and beyond) to consider joining our choir in the fall. Our calls were answered

when a new member, Diane, attended our first rehearsal in September. We hope that she will stay with us for good and that more possible new members will give us a chance, to sing praises and make a joyful noise to our Lord together.

Another reason you could consider joining our choir is that we will be partaking in a joint service of Lessons and Carols service with Richview United Church choir. I will be sharing more info once details are confirmed with their music director.

Lastly, I would like to extend our gratitude to Barb, Brian and Gary for sharing their talents in singing for joint services over the summer.

Thank you

Paul Wisniewski

IN MEMORIAM

William Ross Prout

October 12, 1930 – August 7, 2022

Joseph Cauch

October 30, 1922 – September 15, 2022

Financial Update

You may recall that 2020 was a very nice year for Bloordale, financially speaking. With special tenant donations, CEWS money, and generous congregational givings, we ended 2020 with a surplus of \$39,000.

We started 2021 not looking very good financially, but with rentals slowly coming back in the fall, and congregational contributions ramping up, we managed to finish 2021 with a \$2,400 surplus.

Numbers to the end of August 2022 show a deficit of \$24,000. Our rentals and expenditures are spot on; however congregational givings have dropped quite a bit, both from what was anticipated, and from last year.

Please help us recover, with any contributions that you can make.

Thank you,
From the Finance Committee

A Bunch of Thanks!

Thanks to Beth Jazvac and Pat Conway-Willis for covering office duties in July, during Halyna's summer vacation.

Thanks to Terry Tan, for donating their freezer to us.

Thanks to our M&P committee for looking after our new custodian hiring activities.

Thanks to Jo-Em Bettridge and Grace Evereth for looking after our gardens.

Custodial Tools Needed

We need tools to replenish our very limited caretaker's supply. If you have tools that are extra or that you are no longer using, please consider donating them to Bloordale. We are looking for home maintenance tools such as screw drivers, hammers, wrenches, vice grips, pliers, drill (plus bit set), levels, measuring tape, utility scissors, flashlight, goggles, sandpaper, nails, screws, nuts, bolts etc. Tools are heavy and if you would like your donations picked up, Pat C-W and Beth (416 558-5105) are happy to do this according to your schedule.

Upcoming Events Summary

Events are slowly starting to happen at Bloordale United Church:

Sunday, September 25, after the church service, retirement wishes for Victor Nguyen

Friday, September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Monday, October 10, Thanksgiving Day

Friday, October 14, 7-9pm, free gym basketball for Tweens and Teens

Sunday, October 16, Outreach Sunday, Welcome to Ali Oubidin, after the church service

Tuesday, October 18, 8pm, social outing to see the Mirvish production of Singin' In The Rain, at the Princess of Wales Theatre

Wednesday, October 19, Municipal Election Townhall for Etobicoke Centre

Friday, October 21, 28, Nov 4, 11, 7-9pm free gym basketball for Tweens and Teens

Monday, October 24, Municipal Elections

Sunday, October 30, Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 30, 2-3:30pm 'We Miss You Wine and Cheese'

Monday, October 31, Halloween night

Friday, November 11, Remembrance Day

Welcome Awaiz Dean!



Bloordale is very happy to welcome Awaiz Dean as our new Caretaker. The word CARETAKER implies that the work done to look after our spiritual home is accomplished with a love of service. The Ministry and Personnel Committee is confident that Awaiz views his new job with enthusiasm and respect. He is looking

forward to joining our circle of friends. As you see him working please say hello!



**Bloordale Outing to see the Mirvish
Production of "Singin' in the Rain"**

At the Princess of Wales Theatre
300 King Street West
<https://mirvish.com>

Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 8:00 pm

We have 18 people signed up already.
We can purchase additional seats with our 20%
group discount. Currently seats are available
near our existing ones in the following
price ranges:

Orchestra Left \$99

Orchestra Centre (further back) \$83

Orchestra Rear \$75

Carpooling Available

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

generally considered to have poor intellect many of the things that we use today, that are essential in our everyday lives, were invented by Slaves and freed Black individuals. The question then is "What does all this have to do with what is happening today?" The answer lies in the word "Racism" its roots and ideology.

Oxford Languages defines "Ideology" as a system of ideas and ideals which forms the basis of economic and political theory and policy.

Just thinking of this definition leads us to the realization that the political and economic structural systems of society do not benefit those who are regarded as being at the bottom of the totem pole.

The idea that non-whites are non-deserving or would not benefit from optimum social and economic structures, or even know how to benefit maximally, have led to the treatment we see meted out to people of colour and members of the Indigenous population and in turn, to the general and popular use of the word "Racism".

There are those of the privileged class who use the "I did not know" excuse, and those who *do* know, but deliberately hurt, harm, embarrass, or simply exert power over the disenfranchised. Such behaviours have led to their feeling that to be heard, or taken seriously, they must employ aggressive and sometimes very extreme actions or just placidly accept the status quo. Classic examples are slaves who just accepted their fates; Indigenous parents who impotently stood by as their children were taken from their homes and their love because it was mandated thinking the government knew best. Think, too, of the young man shot and killed because he dared to jog in a community where there are no people of colour or, parents unable to provide food for their children who in desperation rob a store; a surprising example comes from schoolgirls especially who complain of having non-Blacks touching their hair and commenting on the texture. I am sure we can all think of many more offensive examples some of which would be surprising. Laws and mandates were

The Ideology of Racism

We have looked at the enslavement and abuse of people of colour for economic and domestic purposes and sometimes just because they were Black. We have also looked at Canada's contribution to the practice as well as the help Canada provided to those who escaped slavery via the underground railroad. In addition, we have come to realize that, although Blacks are

not devised to be of benefit to non-whites which leads to a sense of entitlement and superiority by those who consider themselves "white" or what most people today call "Racism." Let us think of what first led to this. The answer lies in the belief of the superiority of one group over all others. In other words, entitled superiority vs disenfranchised inferiority or "Racism."

What is the origin of the word "Racism" and when did it creep into our vocabulary? Widespread use of the word is relatively recent. The first recorded use in the English language was in 1902 by Richard Henry Pratt, an American military officer. He was criticizing the racial segregation of Indians. Pratt believed that if native Americans were taught they could be absorbed into American society. (Google)while this was a noble thought, in today's world it is viewed with ambiguity. Pratt is quoted as saying "Kill the Indian in him and save the man." The idea was to strip the Indian of all his Indian identity and you have a man worthy of assimilation in American society. This thought was what led to the establishment of residential schools and eventually children being taken from their families. In fact, Pratt established and was the long-time superintendent of the first "off reservation" school. As time went on his methods were used to attempt to assimilate other non-Americans and have come to be likened to genocide because of the abuses which have come to light.

What is the meaning of the word Racism? It is the belief that people can be divided into separate and exclusive biological entities called race. This theory begs the question Do different human groups possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities which distinguish them as either superior or inferior to one another? I emphatically say 'NO'. We have different characteristics such as the hue of our skin, the colour of our eyes, different hair colour and texture, language structure depending on our place of origin and birth, coping strategies, etc. However, except having an accident with our DNA we are blest with the five senses of feeling, seeing, hearing, speaking, and tasting. Nothing here makes one person superior or inferior.

Historically, the idea of "Racism" goes as far back as biblical times: remember the Pharaohs and the slaves one the master the other serving him? Throughout millennia this power imbalance has been maintained and has been the crux of today's problem. When we discussed slavery previously, we learned that it was usual to assume that being black slaves had no feelings and were savages therefore inferior to the masters and their families. They were whipped, starved, raped, and killed with impunity. It is also known that members of Indigenous populations experienced similar treatment. This all started because one group believed themselves entitled to be served by another.

Where humans are concerned there is ONE Race - "homo sapiens." Scientists think we evolved from and mated with other species of "homo" genus in Africa some 300,000 years ago. ("Homo" meaning man.) Some theories argue that we all originated from one Black woman. Interesting, isn't it? (Google Jane Elliott.) In any case, original man evolved and migrated to different parts of the planet. Differences arise in cultural and climatic practices depending on where we landed. For example, the further away from the equator, the lighter the complexion becomes. Our hereditary genetic code and DNA are passed on. An interesting side note. DNA is present in all living and once living cells. A scientist looking at an intact DNA strand is unable to tell if it is human, animal, or plant without looking at cellular info or doing what is known as sequencing. We humans have genetic markers which are inherited and passed on. Back to race. The lack of colouring in the so called "White" man happened because the melanin which protects us against the sun's rays was lost as he migrated far north or south of the equator whereas those staying closer to the equator maintained melanin as protection and the genetic code is passed on. Scientifically in the case of humans there is no "white" colour. We are all a large group of humans classified in Latin as "homo sapiens" some with colouring agent and some a little. Our skin colour does not constitute race we are all a shade of brown. Some with a lot of

the colouring agent melanin and others with varying amounts.

So, knowing this, why did this persistent thought exist that some are superior to others? Many theories have been put forward, e.g. hatred, fear, ignorance and the list goes on. Whatever the reason, it is wrong morally and socially.

Empowered by the ideology that one set of individuals is more entitled and superior, politicians have enacted laws and policies which are disadvantageous to the Black and Indigenous populations. Often there are blocks deliberately preventing access by Blacks and Indigenous people to programs and services or they are viewed in a negative light when attempting to access services supposedly meant for them. They are often denied jobs or are employed in jobs for which they are overqualified. Sometimes they are turned away from renting or purchasing homes they can afford. If they try to access services designed to help them, they are sometimes ridiculed or denied. The list can go on, but let us *not sit idly by and be part of the problem. Let us be part of the solution!*

Sylvia Williams

New Rental Contracts

Quo Vadis Polish Private School Adds a Third Classroom!

We have housed Quo Vadis Polish Private School upstairs in Rooms 24/25 for the past 2 years. They've expanded their program and now have a third classroom in Room 14, giving us more weekly income! The added bonus is that the room was retiled and painted at their expense, so we're mutually benefitting from this expanding arrangement!

24 Spots in Parking Lot Rented!

In addition to the School we've also recently signed a contract with a corporate property management company to allow the use of 24 parking spots in our lot, likely for the next two years, while a local condominium undergoes major underground parking lot renovations.

This is also additional income, and we are free of any liability.

These two rental agreements combined will help us realize approx.. \$30,000 in additional income to help support our ministry and mission!

Debbie's Dad, Joe Cauch



It's with a heavy heart and sadness that I share the news of the passing of my Dad, Joe on September 15, 2022 after a long struggle with failing health. He was a very proud WW11 war veteran with a strong love for his family. He embraced our church and especially loved to hear his son-in-law, Brian sing. He was 99 years old and would have been 100 years old October 30th. He will be deeply missed, and we will carry our love for him close to our hearts forever. We pray that he is able to now rest in peace with my Mom.

Debbie Cauch-McIntosh.

Family Love and Joy



It's with great joy and love that we introduce our new beautiful granddaughter Luna, born to Sarah and Sharvi on June 23, 2022. She becomes a cousin to our first beautiful granddaughter Rowan, the daughter of parents Lydia and Adam, who will be 3 years old December 31, 2022. Rowan is Grampy and Baba's Sweet Pea and Luna is our Snuggle Bug.

We are truly blessed and thankful not only for our two granddaughters but also for our other 3 wonderful step grandchildren Mischa, Juliana and Elliot. Our home is filled with family love and joy.

Debbie and Brian

Forever Grateful



"Forever Grateful" is my memoir. It highlights the ups and downs of living with kidney disease. For instance: laying on the couch knowing that if I did not get up and do something about my health that I could die. And then being told at 17 that I might never have children due to the same kidney disease.

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

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

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

Thank you, in advance, for your support.
Melody Klassen

Calendars for Veterans

Once again, members of Maple Leaf-Swansea Legion Branch (266/46) will be collecting calendars to distribute to Veterans at Sunnybrook at Christmastime. Nelsona will be happy to pick them up mid-December, or you may leave them at the Church Office. The Legion continues to collect pop tabs as well. These may be left on the tables near the front door. Because of Covid, our Branch has not been able to entertain the Veterans with a Christmas and Easter Dinner. We're not sure whether that will happen this year either. The dinners were always a highlight for the Branch. Thank you for thinking of our Veterans! - Nelsona

Wedding

**Derek Brotton and
Sarah Isaacs**

July 2, 2022 at Bloordale United Church

presided by Rev. Brian McIntosh

Open Gym-Basketball



Bloordale is opening the gym for local youth to spend time playing basketball. There are few places for teens to spend healthy time with friends. The gym will be open from 7-9 pm on Fridays nights to provide the free activity. The Open Gym will start October 14, 2022. If you would be willing to help please call Beth Jazvac 416 558-5105. Two volunteers will be attending on each night on a rotating basis.

Giving time to our teens helps us all!

Brian Singing with Oakville Choral

Our minister Brian is continuing to sing with Oakville Choral. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings,

The first concert date for Oakville Choral will be on Sunday December 4, 2022, at 3:00 pm in St John's United Church in Oakville.

The concert title is "Heaven and Earth" consisting of Beethoven's Mass in C and Bowser's "The Earth Spins Her Eternal Force" (world premiere).

Mark this date in your calendars!

In Flanders Fields

By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae



In Flanders fields the
poppies blow
Between the crosses,
row on row,
That mark our place:
and in the sky
The larks still bravely
singing fly
Scarce heard amid the
guns below.

We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw

The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

**Submitted by Pat C-W
for Remembrance Day**

St. James Food Basket

When you go shopping, please pick up one extra item for our food box, if you are able. Please put items in Bloordale's food box, located in the sanctuary, and we shall take it to the St. James Food Basket. Suggested items include cereal, canned tuna, crackers, and soup.

WEEKLY FALL PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CURIOUS CHEF!

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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 Stavreff or Norm Dundas for further information.

Bloorbeat Submission Guidelines *(updated Jan. 2019)*

When you email items to Julia and myself for Bloorbeat, please include the word "Bloorbeat" and words about the specific content in your e-mail header and in any file names, e.g. "Bloorbeat Upcoming Events". This makes it much easier to locate the items in my rather busy e-mail inbox when putting the Bloorbeat together.

In general, for text-based submissions, please avoid use of fancy fonts, and fancy spacings or tab settings because these create more work for me and make it more difficult to maintain a consistent style in the newsletter. And please never use "All Caps" in headings or elsewhere .

Straight text, in 11 point font, with bold (but not underlined) headings in 14 point font, is best. Use word wrap within a paragraph and "Enter" key at end of paragraphs, but not at end of each line.

For photographs of church related items we can handle the standard graphics formats such as .tif .gif, .jpg, .png or .pdf. We print in black and white but post on the church website in colour.

For advertisements, PDF or uncompressed TIFF are the preferred formats. Please check picture clarity and text clarity of your ad printed in your chosen size in black and white on a laser printer and viewed in colour on a computer monitor.

Health Guidelines for In-Person Worship Attendees

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

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

Invitation for Submissions to Bloorbeat

Spiritual perspectives, committee news, community happenings, and ideas for changes and improvements to make Bloordale an even nicer place than it already is are all welcome.

Please submit or discuss your ideas with our Communications Committee chair

Julia Stavreff, 416-622-6309,
stavreffj@stavreff.ca

Bloorbeat Publication Schedule

Following are tentative publication dates and submission deadlines for upcoming issues

Publication Date

Nov 13, 2022
Jan 22, 2023

Submission Deadline

Nov 6, 2022
Jan 15, 2023

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- ½ page size \$ 70

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

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

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Committee Chair
Editor

Julia Stavreff
John Pauksens

Let's Get Together!



It's been 2 ½ long years, and many of us have not seen each other over that time.

We have become set in our ways, and have been somewhat reluctant to move out of our covid-related comfort zones.

Your friends at Bloordale **miss you!**
and I'm sure you **miss them too!**

Let's Get Together!
At a Wine and Cheese Reception.

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

Wine, Sparkling Water, Flat Water
Cheese, Crackers, Fruit, Sweets and maybe 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