

BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



Volume XXVIX, Issue 2

Minister's Message

The Lenten journey to Jerusalem stretches before us,
drawing us to Easter.

Most prefer the Advent journey to Bethlehem,
leading us to Christmas.

Kneeling before a baby in a manger
with angels singing and stars shining is easier than
kneeling before an empty burial tomb
with a lone angel saying, "Christ isn't here."

It's joyful to kneel in Bethlehem – to linger there!
Then God calls us, abruptly, to Jerusalem!

But we prefer Bethlehem and its birth
to Jerusalem and its death.

We understand birth, but not death.

In Jerusalem the sounds of weeping and wailing
hang heavy in the air.

Sharp contrast to the sounds of lullabies and sleeping
that float on the air in Bethlehem.

Are we really expected to leave Bethlehem
where the manger glimmers with light?

Are we really expected to go to Jerusalem
where the cross casts a shadow across our back?

The shepherds left. The magi too. Joseph fled to Egypt.

If we stay in Bethlehem, we stay alone.

God goes on to Jerusalem.

We are on our way following God's way.

There are times we must go headlong into the pain
knowing it is the only way we will get to Easter living.

There are times we must weep through the most shadowed days
and keep covenant under a cross

knowing it is the only way the stone will be rolled away.

The only road to Easter Sunday's dawn is kneeling
in the unrelenting denial, passion and pain of Friday.

In the shadowed, trembling silence,
the angels begin their alleluias.

The Bright and Morning Star begins to shine.

In the rumble of a stone rolled away
the voice of God is heard, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

We who were no people are now God's people.

Forgiven. Healed. Blessed.

We who kneel in Jerusalem will rise again,

for God has gone before us
and in Christ calls us to follow.

Brian

Bloordale United Church

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

Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh
Honorary Pastoral Associate	Rev. Robert G. Trimble
Pastoral Care Minister	Rev. Nelsona Dundas
Christian Development Co-ordinator	Lisa Mazzariol
Youth Leaders	Lydia McIntosh Sarah McIntosh
Administrative Assistant	Juanita Eldridge
Organist & Choir Director	Mervin Fick
Custodian	Jim Spalding

Church Council

Chair	Bruce Jackson
Church Council Secretary	Pat Nelson
Congregational Meeting Secretary	Pat Nelson
Board of Trustees	Julia Stavreff
Ministry and Personnel	Frank Sword
Nominations	Pat Nelson
Treasurer	Bob Hitchcock
Presbytery Representative	Norman Dundas
Minister	Rev. Brian W. McIntosh

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Communications	Jim Donaghy
Congregational Life (co-chairs)	Barbara Saunders Ameena Ramsahai
Finance	Jack Lovatt
Outreach (co-chairs)	Jill Donaghy Shirley Scott
Pastoral Care	Dana Bach
Planned Gift Fund	Bob Hitchcock
Property	Vacant
Stewardship	Vacant
Social and Fund Raising	Julia Stavreff
United Church Women	Jo-Em Bettridge
Worship	Sharron Le Blanc

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LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- **Wednesday, February 17** - Ash Wednesday—Tri-church service at Richview UC—7:30 pm
- **Sunday, February 21**
 - Lent 1
 - Annual General Meeting after Worship
- **Sunday, February 28**
 - Lent 2
- **Sunday March 7**
 - Lent 3, Anniversary Sunday
 - 52nd Anniversary Dinner - 4:30 pm
 - Astoria Greek Restaurant, 1970 Dundas St. E., Mississauga
- **Sunday, March 14**
 - Lent 4
 - Daylight Saving Time Begins**
- **Sunday, March 21**
 - Lent 5
- **Saturday, March 27**
 - Rummage Sale - 9:30 am-12:30 pm
- **Sunday, March 28**
 - Palm Sunday, Holy Communion
 - Passion Play after Worship

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT 10:30 A.M.

Anniversary Quilt Update

The 50th Anniversary quilt is now complete. It will be dedicated on March 7, Anniversary Sunday. Many thanks to Pat Fraser for getting us started, Beth McVean for all her embroidery and Joan Hollowell for assembly. To hang it, we are in need of a rod at least 64" long, plus end fixtures. If you have one you could donate, please call Joan Hollowell 416-621-3641.

Consider a Planned Gift to Bloordale United Church

A planned gift to Bloordale through your estate plan is a way of saying I care about my church and its future. It is a way of saying how much you appreciate the personal, family programs and religious and psychological benefits you derive from your church and the congregation

***A message from your Planned Gift Fund
Committee***

Secret Pals

Just a reminder to all those involved in the Secret Pals Program to continue to write their letters to each other. The program can only be successful if "Pals" are responding to one another. There is so much you can learn about each other before the "great reveal" so keep those letters coming!

Eatonville Outreach Program

Thank you to all those who agreed to volunteer at Eatonville Junior School. We have a wonderful array of talents being offered, such as, knitting, reading, cross-stitch, games and baking. I know the principal was thrilled with our response and is now busily arranging timeslots for these activities. What a wonderful way for Bloordale to actively reach out to the community. I'm sure it will be a heart warming experience for all involved. Stay tuned for updates on these events!

Just Announced

**The Climax Jazz Band is returning to
Bloordale for a repeat performance on
Friday, November 5, 2010.**

**Keep this date open - and tell your
friends and family.**

RUMMAGE SALE

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

9:30am - 12:30pm

Starting on Sunday, March 21, you are welcome to bring rummage sale items to the Stage in the Gym.

- *Good used clothing (on hangers please)*
- *Collectibles for Granny's Attic*
- *Books, games, toys, sports equipment*
- *Small appliances, small furniture, lamps*
- *Dollarama*

HOW ELSE CAN I HELP???

Please mark your calendar...and consider volunteering to assist in sorting and organizing on Friday and/or work and shop(!) on Saturday at the actual sale. See Sign-up sheet on the UCW bulletin board.

This project is big and the UCW appreciates and needs the help of many in the congregation to make it a huge success.

Learning Option

*Embracing Transformation: Congregational
Mission in a Changing Canada*

This **7 week Lenten Study** looks at the role of congregations in the total mission of the church in a changing Canadian cultural landscape. It takes account of the mission of the church in scripture, and looks at the church as evidence of God's mission and as agents of God's mission in the world. Refusing to equate mission with evangelism alone, it's definition of a holistic congregational mission is: *to proclaim the good news to all who will listen and to gather people into faith communities that worship, evangelize, educate, and serve in mission and justice-seeking in their communities.*

This study, to be led by Brian **Tuesday mornings** from **10:00–11:30 am** in **Room 15**, includes video segments and reflection/discussion exercises, and will begin **February 16th**.

Everyone who cares about the future work and witness of the church is welcome to attend. Feel free to speak to Brian if you would like to know more.

Bloordale United Church 52nd Anniversary Dinner

**Sunday March 7, 2010
Astoria Greek Restaurant**

1970 Dundas Street East, Mississauga
(near "Staples" a bit West of Highway 427)

**Reception at 4:30 pm
Sit-down 4-course Dinner starting at 5:00 pm**



Appetizers, Salad, Choice of Five Souvlaki Dinners,
Beverage, Baklava Dessert
Cash Bar

Friends and Family welcome

Tickets: \$25.00 (at cost, includes tax and gratuity)
Special rates available for children
Carpooling available.

Free Parking, Wheelchair Accessible

For tickets or information contact
Evelyn 416-622-6091 or
Julia 416-621-8050 (w) or 416-622-6309(h)

Confirmation Update

We started a new Confirmation program this past fall, with three young people being mentored by three active volunteers as together they work through a series of discussions on various topics and carry out various activities to help all participants grow in faith together. Supervised and given guidance by Brian, both confirmands and mentors have offered positive feedback and are happy to be learning together. Confirmation occurs on Pentecost Sunday this year, May 23rd, so mark your calendars now and come and give the participants your congratulations!

There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life - happiness, freedom and peace of mind - are always attained by giving them to someone else.

*Peyton Conway March
US Army Chief of Staff
during World War I*

Securing a Sound Future - Update

An update letter regarding our *Securing a Sound Future* campaign was recently sent. The target of \$100,000 was set by the Congregation at the last Annual General Meeting, in February of 2009, and we're beyond halfway toward meeting it.

The campaign closes at the end of June, and the Steering Group has a few small but innovative and exciting fundraising initiatives planned. These include:

- A **Community Wine and Cheese**, with auction and special speaker **Dr. Ron Taylor**, former major league baseball player (2 World Series rings!) and current medical doctor with the Toronto Blue Jays (2 more World Series rings!), on April 10th (details in the next Bloorbeat);
- A **Go for the Gold and Silver** initiative - in an Olympic year! - coordinated by Marjorie Jackson (see elsewhere in this Bloorbeat);
- A special **Golf Tournament** fundraiser on June 15th, again details of which will be given in an upcoming Bloorbeat.

In addition, the *Securing a Sound Future* team launched an **Investing In Us** initiative at worship on February 7th. Churches normally ask people to invest in their staff, programs, and building, but this initiative builds on the parable of the talents in Matthew 25: 14-30 and trusts that we have many talented people who are worthy of the church's investment. Here's how it works: Joan Hollowell will be available at coffee hour on Sundays (or by phone - 416-621-3641) and give you either \$50 or \$100 to invest in whatever way you see fit - within reason, of course!

We're hoping people who participate try to have fun at what you do! Your only limitation is your imagination - a bake sale, dinner extravaganza for friends, buy and sell, etc. - whatever! When you've finished using your investment (before June 15th please!) give Joan back the original investment and any proceeds that you've raised for the church, to benefit the *Securing a Sound Future* campaign. We hope we have to hand out a fair bit of money as we invest in our people, trusting God and your talents for the return to come. So why not speak to Joan and let the church invest in you!

If you have any questions about our campaign, speak to one of the Steering Group members - Julia Stavreff, John Pauksens, Jack Lovatt, Joan Hollowell, Bruce and Marjorie Jackson, or Brian.

Silent Auction Returning to Bloordale

In conjunction with our Wine & Cheese/Guest Speaker event on **April 10th**, we will be holding a repeat Silent Auction. Please think about what you would like to contribute. Some suggestions include:

- Theatre tickets
- Sports tickets
- Original artwork
- Baking
- Baby Sitting
- Cottage rentals
- Bed and Breakfast
- Gift certificates

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will go towards our Securing A Sound Future campaign.

For further information, please talk to Julia Stavreff or any other member of the Social and Fundraising Committee.

Go for the Gold and Silver

Everyone has old, broken or unwanted/unused gold; everyone has a few silver dollars or silver coins. The price of gold and silver is fairly high right now, but if you sold these items to a jeweler you would only receive 25% of their value. But we're starting a **Go for the Gold and Silver** drive at Bloordale, as part of the *Securing a Sound Future* campaign, and by donating your items to the church you will get a tax receipt that will be worth more to you than selling the items yourself!

Marjorie Jackson heads up a team of people who have checked out the process, and we'll be working with an individual appraiser who donates his time for churches to do this. He makes very little himself on the items, and gives the church 75% of its worth, while the remainder goes toward reselling and smelting costs. He's done this for a number of churches, including his own Anglican church in Burlington, and references have all been positive, so we're good to **Go for the Gold and Silver!** We'll be launching this drive on March 14th, so start looking for your items now!

Tea & Books

Tea and Books will start up on January 21 and run until March. The meetings are every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in Room 15.

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 14th

Before retiring on Saturday, March 13th don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour.



Stewardship Spot

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

Always Asking for Money!

Frequently we hear those words as an accusation against the church. On the contrary, in fact, those words can be a very high compliment!

I'm glad my church needs money. If it didn't, it would mean we weren't interested in spreading the message of God's good news and had no mission of hope.

I'm glad my church needs money. If it didn't, it would mean it wasn't interested in teaching children or youth, inviting those who don't yet have a faith community, or welcoming new people, and thus had no future.

Yes, I'm glad my church needs money!! The fact that it does need money means it has not forfeited its care, compassion, concern, energy, evangelism or commitment to justice and peace. The vision is still there to lean toward the paths and places God is calling us to walk and find.

My church needs my gifts, and I'm glad! I wouldn't want to be a member of a church that didn't need my help.

Stewardship is a joyful responsibility, and I'm ready for it! May God use my gifts, and the gifts of all in my church, that by the Spirit we may grow as disciples in the love and mission of Jesus!

- author unknown, slightly altered

"Don't be so humble - you are not that great."

*Golda Meir (1898-1978)
to a visiting diplomat*

Deadline for Next Issue

Articles for the next issue of Bloorbeat should be submitted no later than **March 12th**.

Send your articles directly to the Church Office at **office@bloordale.ca**.

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Bloordale United Church
4258 Bloor St. W.
Etobicoke ON M9C 1Z7
(416) 621-1710


Email: bloordale@bellnet.ca
Website: www.bloordale.ca

Committee Chair
Editor
Distribution Coordinators

Jim Donaghy
Norman Dundas
Joan Hollowell
Shirley Scott

2010

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY COMMUNION	15	16	17 ASH WEDNESDAY TRI-CHURCH SERVICE AT RICHVIEW UNITED CHURCH - 7:30 PM	18 TEA & BOOKS RM 15, 10:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	19	20
21 LENT 1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP	22 UCW UNIT 2 ROOM 15 7:15 PM	23 UCW UNIT 1 ROOM 15 1:15 PM	24	25 TEA & BOOKS RM 15, 10:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	26	27
28 LENT 2	March					
	1	2	3	4 TEA & BOOKS RM 15, 10:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	5	6
7 ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY 52 ND ANNIVERSARY DINNER - 4:30 PM ASTORIA RESTAURANT	8	9	10	11 TEA & BOOKS RM 15, 10:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	12	13 SET CLOCKS AHEAD 
14 LENT 4 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS 2:00 AM	15	16	17	18 TEA & BOOKS RM 15, 10:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	19	20
21 LENT 5	22	23	24	25 TEA & BOOKS RM 15, 10:00 AM CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	26	27 RUMMAGE SALE 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM