

# BLOORBEAT

The Newsletter of



September 2010

Volume XXIX, Issue 5

## Minister's Message

*"There is a tide in the affairs of men (sic), which, taken at the flood, lead on to fortune."* So said Shakespeare, and right he was. He was a genius at capturing the currents of history and translating them into the drama of those caught up in the swirl of events. It's a gift to be able to feel the cultural current and have some notion of where it's headed. The Hebrew prophets, Jeremiah throughout this early fall season for instance, are good examples. They read the signs of the times, and knew that if people did not change their ways there would be dire results.

There is another saying that expresses a similar truth. *"There is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come."* We like to think that we're in control, or that God is in control. True, there is an unseen Spirit at work in the world. What goes on inside our heads, or wherever consciousness and thought reside, is surely somehow connected to a whole ocean of mind, or what ThichNhatHanh has called *"the mindful universe."* Carl Jung called it the *"collective unconscious,"* and clearly we are all part of it, though it is much greater than any one of us.

We affirm as Christians that this is the realm where the Spirit works. There is a Spirit of life that is always urging us to become more human, to push on toward the possibilities of what life can be. All religions have a vision, and a way of life that helps people move toward it. Visions are powerful tools for developing affirming practices and resisting fads. We note *"movements of history"* happening among us, and we discern a way forward at the call of God.

This is true, by the way, at the macro level as well as the micro level. Religions across the globe, for instance, are going through a tough transformation as we learn that no single one has the whole answer and we're all part of an evolving humanity. This is a hard transformation because clarity about the church's vision and mission had seemed to prevail for centuries, until about 30 years ago, but that clarity has now given way to what some have called *"holy chaos."* Anxiety about the future is widespread, and ministers and laity aren't sure what their roles in the transformation are, fulfilling wonderful writer Annie Dillard's assertion that *"expectations (especially unspoken ones) are conflicts under construction."* This unfinished and difficult transition is causing a revolution in how we understand and live our faith in the church and the world, and it's well underway.

This makes it all the more important that at the micro level, in the local congregation, we speak of these things together, so that common discernment about our witness and action can be understood and held by leaders and followers alike. Council Chair Julia Stavreff, your staff and Bloordale's Mission and Vision Task Group would all like to foster conversation about the specifics that grow from our mission and vision statements this fall, and will be seeking your input and participation. Our hope is that together we can name our desired future as a United Church in Markland and Etobicoke, and make some plans to take some risks to get there!

*Continued on page 6*

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

### Committee Chairs

Communications John Pauksens  
Congregational Life (co-chairs) Shirley Scott  
Ameena Ramsahai  
Finance & Stewardship Jack Lovatt  
Outreach (co-chairs) Jill Donaghy  
Shirley Scott  
Pastoral Care Sylvia Williams  
Planned Gift Fund Bob Hitchcock  
Property Bruce Jackson  
Social and Fund Raising Vanessa Ramsahai  
United Church Women Jo-Em Bettridge  
Worship Sharron Le Blanc  
Member-at-Large Joan Hollowell

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## LOOKING AT THE WEEKS AHEAD

- **Sunday, September 12** - 16th Sunday after Pentecost
- **Wednesday, September 15** - Registration for **Sparks, Brownies and Guides** - 6:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, September 19** - 17th Sunday after Pentecost  
- **Bloordale Youth Group** - 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, September 26** - 18th Sunday after Pentecost
- **Sunday, October 3** - 19th Sunday after Pentecost
- **Sunday, October 10** - 20th Sunday after Pentecost
- **Sunday, October 19** - **Semi-annual Congregational Meeting**
- **Friday, October 22** - **Dalai Lama Public Talk** - Rogers Centre - 2:00 p.m.

**WORSHIP SERVICES ARE AT 10:30 A.M.**

Come with us to see and hear  
**HIS HOLINESS THE 14th**  
**DALAI LAMA**  
**PUBLIC TALK:**  
**“Human Approaches to World Peace”**



[www.dalailamatoronto2010.org](http://www.dalailamatoronto2010.org)

### **At the Rogers Centre**

Friday, Oct 22, 2010 at 2:00 pm

Gates open at 12:30 ;  
 please arrive early to go through security

*Tickets \$32 per person*  
*Our group seats are at the central 200 level*  
*Take the TTC, or Carpooling can be arranged*

### **A Bloordale and Friends Event**

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

[www.bloordale.ca](http://www.bloordale.ca)

### **Should Bloordale Have a Men's Club?**

A few men – Frank Sword, Bruce Jackson, and Brian, to name a few – have discussed the idea of forming a Men's Club here at Bloordale. The idea would be to have a breakfast or lunch group with rotating preparation/leadership and guest speakers, perhaps once/month or more often depending on interest. It could be a weekday or a Saturday morning. The United Church has a network of men's groups, and there is an annual conference for men in Toronto Conference, so there's lots of possibilities for fellowship, learning, service, and fun. Any men interested?

Let Brian (416-621-1710 or [rev.mcintosh@bellnet.ca](mailto:rev.mcintosh@bellnet.ca)) and/or Frank Sword (416-621-1047 or [fbsword@rogers.com](mailto:fbsword@rogers.com)) know, and we'll get started soon.

### **Friday Evening Craft Night**

We want to organize a Craft Night for the children in our community. The intent is to run the event Friday evenings for 4 to 6 weeks, 6:30 to 8:00 p. m., starting approximately January 21<sup>st</sup>. Cost to the participant will be minimal.

We are seeking a volunteer to co-ordinate this event; including planning of craft activities, and co-ordinating both with the volunteers and the children. Publicity and Administrative support will be provided so you are not alone.

For information, to offer suggestions, or to volunteer either as the co-ordinator or to teach some craft activities, please talk to Julia Stavreff, or call 416-622-6309 (H) or 416-621-8050 (W).

### **Pastoral Care Committee**

Membership of the Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) consists of a chair and at least 6 other members, one of whom is the part time visiting minister. The committee has been charged with ensuring that members and adherents receive appropriate pastoral care.

Some of the activities to support this mandate include but are not limited to: recognizing births through the rose ministry, acknowledging female attendants with a carnation and males and youth with cookies on "family Sunday", recognizing special birthdays and anniversaries by sending cards to the celebrants and visiting and or sending cards or flowers to the sick, the shut-in or the bereaved. All activities, which do not take place during the church service, are kept confidential but, on occasion we depend on being notified by a member of the congregation that another is in need of contact from the committee. To this end we ask that if anyone is aware of a member needing support or is celebrating a special event (e.g. an 80<sup>th</sup> or subsequent birthday and that individual agrees to let the PCC have that information), please let a member of the committee know.

Members are: Frank Aghulas, Marg Cloke, Rev. Nelsona Dundas, Helen Hitchcock, Bob Hitchcock, Joan Hollowell, Gladys Lewis, Rev. Brian McIntosh and Sylvia Williams.

We would like to express appreciation for the additional caring support given to our work by others in the congregation.

Registration for **Sparks, Brownies and Guides** is Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the gym.

## Finest Kind Concert



It was a wonderful folk concert! On Friday evening, June 4<sup>th</sup>, Grammy nominated folk trio, Finest Kind, consisting of Ian Robb, Ann Downey and Shelley Posen performed a concert at Bloordale United Church.

The trio discovered their collective sound in 1991, when, sitting together at a song swap, they began to sing a chorus together. They have been performing together ever since.

For over 2 hours, Ian, Ann and Shelley sang traditional folk ballads, sea shanties, and pop oldies interspersed with interesting stories and song histories. A favorite ballad described the sailor who goes away to sea for years. Upon his return his wife can only identify him by matching broken heart pieces which both have continued to wear around their necks.

The evening's MC was Sharron Le Blanc, who is good friends with Shelley Posen, and was instrumental in bringing the group to Bloordale.

After the performance, we all went to the gym for homemade goodies and juice.

In total 114 audience members came, resulting in a profit of \$1,200 for Bloordale programmes.

Many thanks to Finest Kind, Sharron Le Blanc, the attendees, the bakers, and the organizers for such a wonderful evening.

*A Great Time Was Had By All!*

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## Invest In Us

Following a reading of the parable of the talents it was decided to try a fundraiser as part of Securing A Sound Future by making \$50 or \$100 to anyone who wished to use their talents to make a profit.

About 20 people took part in the effort and turned in over \$3,000 in profits. Many ingenious schemes were implemented. Inez Bettinson raised the most at \$700 by selling, at a penny auction in her condo, many of her paintings. Pat McDermott and Laura Mazarriol were next highest, selling Pat's watercolours and Laura's photographs as greeting cards.

It wasn't a contest for highest, so no prize, but a great effort much appreciated.

Some other ways of raising money included "dollars instead of gifts" for birthday presents, luncheons and dinners hosted with a price tag, home baking, singing telegrams, wine making and plant sales. and donations of income tax client fees.

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All who participated felt they'd done a good thing \_\_\_\_\_ and they had.

The Committee thanks you!!!!

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## Ideas for Community Enrichment

In late August, four Bloordale friends got together, inspired by The United Church Workshop: More Franchises than Second Cup, held last June.

Our purpose was to come up with ideas for additional enrichment of programmes for both our Bloordale Church community and for others in our area.

Some ideas that were discussed:

- Special annual service honouring our community policy force
- Formation of a Men's Club
- A Friday evening Children's Craft Night programme
- Continuation/revival of community events such as Haunted House, Palmfest, Pancake Supper and Easter Breakfast
- Welcome Wagon visits for new neighbours in the community
- Invitations to Scout families and others at Bloordale to join us in our annual golf tournament
- Free monthly community dinners for people in our catchment area experiencing financial hardship
- Formation of a Community Children's/Youth Choir
- Fairs/table rentals for home based businesses

Some of these ideas are already being acted upon (see separate ads in this issue of Bloorbeat). Some need further discussion and/or development.

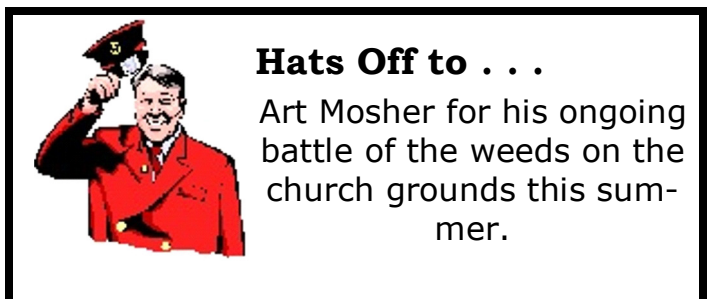
We invite you to tell us your ideas for enrichment in how we reach out to others in our community.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Community Enrichment

Lisa Mazzariol Julia Stavreff

Brian McIntosh Frank Sword

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## Hats Off to . . .

Art Mosher for his ongoing battle of the weeds on the church grounds this summer.

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**Canada's Traditional Jazz Ambassadors**  
**CLIMAX JAZZ BAND**  
**Return to Bloordale, November 5, 2010**



[www.climaxjazz.com](http://www.climaxjazz.com)

***Wear a fine Southern Chapeau and you might win a prize!***

Friday Evening , November 5, 2010 , 8:00 pm  
 at Bloordale United Church  
 4258 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke

[www.bloordale.ca](http://www.bloordale.ca)

***Tickets: \$25, includes refreshments after performance***

*Call Nancy 416-620-5377 or Vanessa 416-358-4504*

### **Bloordale Youth Group**

Hi Everyone!

Hopefully you have all had a great summer and are looking forward to starting up the church fall season at Bloordale! Just a quick message to remind all youth that the Bloordale Youth Group will be kicking off our regular weekly meetings on September 19th.

The invitation is open to all youth who are returning as well as any interested newcomers to come join us every Sunday morning during the regular church service hours. We'll also plan a few special events this fall, so come and help decide what you want to do. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Sarah McIntosh  
 Youth Leader

### **Changes to Telephone/E-Tree**

The Telephone Tree was initially set up to notify members of the Congregation of the passing and funeral of a member of the Congregation when an announcement could not be made at Sunday worship.

With the development of an e-mail data base, members of the Congregation who have e-mail, will be notified of the passing and funeral of a member of the Congregation, *as well as upcoming events at Bloordale*. These notifications will come from the office.

The Telephone Tree will be activated to notify only those members of the Congregation who do not have e-mail, of the passing and funeral of a member of the Congregation.

Please check with Juanita to ensure that we have your correct e-mail address or phone number.

Continued from page 1

There is a tide in human affairs. Elsewhere Shakespeare wrote, "On such a full sea we are now afloat; and we must take the current where it serves, or lose our ventures." (Julius Caesar, IV, iii) Or, as Christopher Fry put it in a wonderful poem called A Sleep of Prisoners:

*"The human heart can go to the lengths of God,  
Dark and cold we may be, but this  
Is no winter now. The frozen misery  
Of centuries' breaks, cracks, begins to move;  
The thunder is the thunder of the floes,  
The thaw, the flood, the upstart Spring.  
Thank God our time is now when wrong  
Comes up to face us everywhere,  
Never to leave us till we take  
The longest stride of soul (we) ever took.  
Affairs are now soul size.  
The enterprise  
Is exploration into God."*

May God bless us in our discernment and visioning, mission and ministry this beautiful autumn and beyond.

Brian

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## South Pacific

On Wednesday evening, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 21 Bloordale family and friends went to see Rogers & Hammerstein's **SOUTH PACIFIC** at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. It truly was an enchanted evening.

The show is based on James Michener's book *Tales of the South Pacific*: set on a tropical island in the Pacific Ocean in the closing months of World War II. It is the story of two couples whose lives and romances are threatened by racial prejudice and war.

Songs included classics as *Some Enchanted Evening*, *I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair* and *Bali Ha'i*.

Many in the audience remembered going to the movie *South Pacific*, which came out in 1958, while others just wanted to be part of a great show. The performers were excellent with Toronto-born Jason Howard being a perfect Emile DeBecque. We could have listened to his baritone voice all night.

The Bloordale group sat all together in rows T and U; the very best seats in our price range. Many of us had never been to the Four Seasons Centre, and it is beautiful: all glass and wood. We parked underground, and the elevator took us up to the main lobby in no time.

Thanks to all who attended, and special thanks to the drivers.

*A wonderful time was had by all.*

## Stewardship Spot

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

### Consumerism Symptoms and Christian Cures

Some call it consumerism, others materialism or "affluenza." Here's a top-ten list of symptoms that may afflict your spiritual life and limit your stewardship of faith. Maybe you could follow the suggested Christian course of treatment.

1. Commodification – everything and everyone can be bought and sold at a price. *Hope, happiness and virtue don't have price tags.*
2. Insatiability – enough is never enough. Bigger is better and more is magnificent. *Discipline and moderation are words to live by everyday.*
3. Winner Take All – competitive achievers receive and deserve more. *Compassion, cooperation and care imprint the Christian lifestyle.*
4. Hectic Makes Human – multiple jobs, overtime busyness and restlessness characterize a frenzied life. *God is graceful, and time is a gift to be savored, not spent quickly.*
5. Instant Gratification – "fast" and "now" are the watchwords of our technology-driven culture. *The best things in life take time, and God's time isn't always now.*
6. Debt – something owned is often something owed. *Give a 10% tithe to God's work, save 10%, and learn to live on 80%.*
7. Deprivation – something is always missing, and fulfillment is elusive. *God satisfies our deepest needs, offering contentment with self, partner, children and resources.*
8. Self-Absorption – "What's in it for me?" becomes the central question, and we become the sun, the world revolving around us. *Things money can't buy outshine things it can.*
9. Devalued Vocation – "How much will I make?" is more important than "What does God call me to do?" *Our talents are for the furthering of God's reign of justice and compassion.*
10. Escalation of Needs – salaries and desires increase, luxuries become necessities, and possessions possess us. *God provides for our needs, not our luxuries, and the good life is found with enough, not more.*

Brian

## Faith Discovery Options for the Fall

- 1) *We Have This Vision* - An 8-week study to deepen our vision for mission and ministry, using environics research done for the United Church. Monday nights from 7 - 8:30 pm beginning Sept. 13th in Room 15 (excluding Thanksgiving Oct. 11th). This study will supplement and support what the Mission & Vision Task Group has been doing..
- 2) *Movie Nights* - 3rd Friday every month at 7 pm beginning Sept. 17th in Room 15. Watch a movie with friends, popcorn and goodies provided. Brief discussion following, led by Brian. Suggestions for movies welcome!
- 3) *Jesus: His Life, Teachings, and Relevance* - A 10-week book study Tuesdays from 9:30 - 11 am beginning Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> in Room 15. Purchase of a book by Marcus Borg will be necessary, so let Brian know whether you're interested by Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. DVD clips of Borg himself will be included, and the study comes complete with a participant's guide.

Ask or call Brian for more information.

Please be in touch with the Chairperson, Sharron LeBlanc (905-602-9823), or with Brian (416-621-1710 in the office) if you have any interest, so that together we can broaden the participation in worship of our whole faith community, and be inspired to live our faith from Monday to Saturday, returning each Sunday for refreshment and renewal. May our worship be blessed this fall!

See you on Sundays!

The Worship Committee

### NEW BLOORBEAT PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Beginning with this issue, Bloorbeat will be published 7 times a year. Following is the revised publication schedule and the deadlines for submissions from October 2010 through June 2011.

#### Publication Submission Date Deadline

#### 2010

October 16th    October 8th  
November 28th    November 19th

#### 2011

January 16th    January 7th  
February 13th    February 4th  
March 20th    March 11th .  
May 22nd    May 13th

## Worship Update

Once again we gather in the fall to worship God and rekindle our hopes for the congregation's future. Your Worship Committee has plans to coordinate, alongside our dedicated and gifted staff Brian and Mervin, the schedule and people that go into our offering of weekly worship here at Bloordale.

We continue to deepen our understanding of Christian worship, and have a few representatives on the Sanctuary Dreams Task Group, a separate group (with a written report that was made to the Annual Meeting in February, and is available) who have sorted priorities for updating our sanctuary lighting, sound, and furniture needs, and are seeking to get estimates gathered this fall for the consideration of our Council and congregation.

There are a number of people beyond our ministers who participate in weekly worship, and you are invited to let us know of your interests. Whether it's somewhat behind the scenes such as ushering, arranging flowers or banners, or hosting coffee and conversation after worship; up front through doing a Minute for Mission, the scripture readings for the day, helping Lisa or Brian with a sharing time for the children, participating in a drama presentation or taking a turn running the powerpoint projector; or as mundane as monitoring the sound system or folding the bulletins, we could use any help you wish to provide.

## Semi-annual Congregational Meeting

Our Semi-annual congregational meeting is slated for Sunday, after the church service, on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please join us.

*All are welcome.*

Bloorbeat is published 7 times a year by the Communications Committee of

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

Email: [bloodale@bellnet.ca](mailto:bloodale@bellnet.ca)  
Website: [www.bloodale.ca](http://www.bloodale.ca)

Committee Chair John Pauksens  
Editor Norman Dundas  
Distribution Coordinators Joan Hollowell  
Shirley Scott