

connections



MCC Toronto | Inspiration, News & Events | Print Edition

2008 35th Anniversary of MCC Toronto ...Celebrating our Past & Securing Our Future

INSIDE

January 27, 2008

Events Today	2
Lessons for Life	2
Morning Offertory Performer	2
Volunteering at MCC Toronto	3
Angel of the Week	3
Program Updates	4
Congregational Giving	5
Advertisements	6 - 7

Today in our Social Hall

Adult Spiritual Education (ASE) Registration
MCC Toronto Men's Retreat
2007 Tax Receipts are available for pick-up this week and next.
Remaining receipts will be mailed.

Meetings / Events Today

Legacy Circle Seminar: Wills & Estates
Room 109 / 12:30pm to 2:00pm
BEAT Meeting
Rainbow Room / 12:30pm to 2:00pm
Refugee Peer Support Group
Triangle Classroom / 12:45pm to 1:45pm
Pride & Joy Rehearsal
Sanctuary / 1:30pm to 2:30pm
Music Rehearsal - Sunday Evening Worship Service
Sanctuary / 4:00 to 6:00pm (*Newcomers welcome.*)
Sunday Evening Worship Service
Sanctuary / 7:00pm (*Band kicks off at 6:45pm.*)

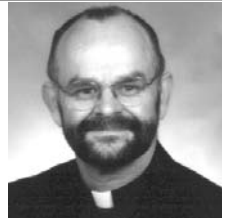
Meetings / Events This Week

Rainbow Toastmasters
Monday, Jan. 28 / Social Hall / 6:45pm
Climbing Deeper: The Spiritual Practice of Generosity (ASE)
Tuesday, Jan. 29 / Room 109 / 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Creating a Life that Matters (ASE)
Wednesday, Jan. 30 / Room 109 / 6:45pm to 9:00pm
Creating a Life You Desire
Thursday, Jan. 31 / Board Room / 6:00pm to 9:00pm
The Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 31 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Creating a Life that Matters (ASE)
Friday, Feb. 1 / Room 109 / 6:45pm to 9:00pm
Healing Touch (ASE)
Saturday, Feb. 2 / Social Hall / 9:00am to 6:00pm
Leadership 101 (ASE) Session 1 & 2
Saturday, Feb. 2 / Room 109 / 10:00am to 2:45pm

Try our
Sunday Evening Service
at 7:00pm

Progressive worship
with great music,
anointing for healing,
communion,
prayer partners.
Team Preaching with
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes,
and Rev. Jo Bell.

Hello and welcome to MCC Toronto!



If you are visiting us for the very first time, we extend a special welcome to you. Please feel welcome to participate as fully as you like in our service today. Even if you have never been to MCC Toronto - or to any church - before, you are welcome to come forward to share Communion. Please join us after the service today in the Social Hall for a time of refreshment.

One of our bedrock beliefs is that: "All life is a gift, and each life has a purpose." All kinds of people come to MCC Toronto, and we look at each person as a unique gift. We hope that through our worship and celebration, adult spiritual education programs and other opportunities, MCC Toronto can be a place where you deepen your sense of your life's purpose as you continue on your spiritual journey.

And whether your journey brings you back to MCC Toronto next week or sometime in the future, know that we are grateful you have joined us today.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

**January Lessons for Life
Sermon Series
(9:00am & 11:00am)**



Celebrating our Past and Securing our Future

January is RSVP Month

January 6

R -- Recognizing our Past and our Potential

January 13

S --- Stewardship

January 20

V --- Volunteering

January 27

P --- Practices (Spiritual Practices)

UN Holocaust Remembrance Day

(January 27)

Morning Offertory Performer

THERESA ROWLAND

Theresa is from Peterborough Ontario and she has been passionately involved with theatre since she can remember. She graduated from Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, and would like to further her career as an artist in Film/TV as well as musical theatre. The sky is the limit!

Some of her more recent productions include; "The Crucible" playing Ruth Putnam and Sarah Good, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" playing Philia at the Theatre Guild in Peterborough, and at P.C.V.S; "The Threepenny Opera" playing Polly Peachum. Theresa also played the part of Mae in "The Pajama Game" at the Bathurst St. Theatre, directed by Liza Balkan and Jeannie Wyse.

Upcoming Morning Offertory Performances:

February 3 **Thom Allison**

NEW ARTICLE FEATURING REV. HAWKES

Rev. Brent Hawkes was featured in the Toronto Star regarding his speech last Friday at the Canadian Urban Institute breakfast. Visit our new and improved community bulletin board in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Social Hall to read the article.

ORDER OF CANADA

We are pleased to inform you that Brent's investiture for the Order of Canada will take place in Rideau Hall on Feb. 22. More details will follow.

A LETTER FROM HANNAH KIM

"Thank you for donating ALL the mittens for people who need them! When I thought of the mitten tree, I was inspired by what my school had done, but we never got nearly as many mittens at school as what MCC Toronto gave! Our little mitten tree at Sunday School was actually too small to handle ALL the mittens you donated! I was really happy that my church was very, very supportive of the mitten tree drive. I want to let you know that I dropped off the mittens at four different places, 'Spare the Cold', 'Red Door Shelter', '416 Drop-In Centre' and the '519'. Thanks again!"

TODAY / Rainbow Room / 12:30pm to 2:00pm

BLACK EDUCATION AWARENESS TEAM (BEAT)

BEAT is preparing offerings for our congregation each Sunday in February, when we celebrate Black History Month.

All are welcome to attend, and to participate!

Contact: BEAT@MCCToronto.com

TODAY / Room 109 / 12:30pm to 2:00pm

LEGACY CIRCLE:

WILLS and ESTATES FREE Information Session

presented by Diane Dickson-Kailan, ScotiaBank

Contact: JFoo@MCCToronto.com

TODAY / 12:45pm to 1:45pm / Triangle Classroom

GLBT REFUGEE PEER SUPPORT GROUP

If you are a refugee or know of a GLBT refugee please join us starting promptly at 12:45pm.

Contact: RefugeeTeam@MCCToronto.com

TODAY / 1:30pm to 2:30pm / Sanctuary

PRIDE & JOY REHEARSAL

Pride and Joy are members of the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto Choir who also take their music ministry outside the walls of MCC Toronto and into the community.

Contact: PrideandJoy@MCCToronto.com

A NOTE FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Intention. With each footstep you take, there is an intention. You might be intending to rush to avoid the line up in the Coffee shop, to meet a friend, to get somewhere warm. In every action, we have an intention yet how purposeful do we make our daily, monthly, or yearly intentions?

Are you intending to help us build a bridge this year? We offer an opportunity for you to do this intentionally, daily, weekly, monthly or with one-time opportunities. What is your intention in volunteering at MCC Toronto?

There is a place here for you, will you step into it? Be intentional, help us build more bridges.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Morning Service

Information Centre
Anointers and Servers
VIP Desk
Coffee Hour
Children's Ministry

During the Week

Administrative
Odd jobs
Organizing
Reception
Sermon Transcribers

Evening Services

Information Centre
Ushers and greeters
Anointers and Servers
Coffee Hour
Worship Coordinator

If any of these volunteer opportunities interest you, please visit the Information desk and speak with a Volunteer Interview and Placement volunteer, staff or speak with myself during the week. I can be reached at (416) 406-6228, ext 126 SFontenelle@MCCToronto.com

Sandra Fontenelle

SFontenelle@MCCToronto.com / (416) 406-6228 ext. 126
Coordinator of Volunteer and Engagement

There is a place for you here.



Angels of the Week

The Angels this week are some of our Triangle Students who recently started volunteering.

- o Kareem who is working each Wednesday on our Reception desk, answering the phones.
- o Jonathon who is now on the Sound schedule each month
- o Louise who has been a Teacher's Assistant in the children's ministry is now stepping into a leadership role there.

They RSVP'd and are making a difference here at MCC Toronto.

Orange Card in the Pews?

"I think that when you invite people to your home, you invite them to yourself." Oprah Winfrey

Last week Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes announced that the church body was commencing a new project: **The Home Team Project**. Rev. Hawkes encouraged newcomers to fill out an orange card found in the pew pocket and to meet him at the side of the sanctuary.

The **Home Team Project** will help the community grow locally and globally. This project focuses on engaging newcomers into the MCC Toronto church community.

Once the orange welcome card is signed, newcomers are encouraged to meet Brent or a representative from the Home Team. They will be given a welcome package that will give a history of the church, a map of the building, contact numbers for staff and much more.

Once a month, the newcomers will be invited to a small reception where they will get additional information about the church and ways they could get involved at MCC Toronto.

We encourage you to invite your family and friends to experience how we welcome them home.

...a house of prayer for ALL people.

We Care at MCC Toronto

Are you interested in being part of a team of people who visit members of our congregation unable to attend church for a period of time? Training is available. Police checks may be required. To find out more, please contact Sandra Millar, Coordinator of Worship and Pastoral Care
SMillar@MCCToronto.com

connections
MCC Toronto's Weekly e-newsletter Sign up here:

E-MAIL:

GO

E-Connections has been a huge success.

Almost 700 congregants have signed up! To receive your weekly E-Connections visit www.MCCToronto.com.

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges!

MCC Toronto has a Mission team that will sponsor refugees wishing to immigrate to Canada. To sponsor these refugees the Mission Team must raise funds in case the refugee needs help during their first year here.

RWorld is teaming up with this Mission Team to help raise some of these needed funds and you can help. Collect empty inkjet and toner cartridges and place them in the donation box at/near the Information Centre. Please place used cartridges into the packaging that is provided with your new supply.

Cartridges that are of interest to RWorld are original manufacturer cartridges. For each usable cartridge collected, RWorld will donate \$1.00 and for each usable toner cartridge RWorld will donate \$1.50 to the Refugee Sponsorship Mission Team.

RWorld Toronto Centre

T.416.607.6351 email brian.brenie@rworld.ca

**Have you thought about
ADVERTISING IN CONNECTIONS
(print and/or e-mail versions)?**

**Our print version is read by an average of
500 congregants each week, and over 600
have subscribed to our e-mail version.**

**For advertising details, please contact Suzanne Christie
(416) 406-6228 x 103 / SChristie@MCCToronto.com**

(416) 406-6228

MCC Toronto ...for ALL people.

WEDDINGS

Bill Estey x 170 / BEstey@MCCToronto.com

FUNERALS

Sandra Millar x 114 / SMillar@MCCToronto.com

OCCASIONS

David Sterritt x 101 / DSterritt@MCCToronto.com

Let's Make "OUR HOUSE" a Home

The heat in the building is now starting to balance out. A chemical treatment has been introduced to eliminate the years of plaque built up in the system. This treatment is also responsible for eliminating the noise that occurs when the heat is coming on. A pump will continuously regulate the treatment so that our system will function at peak performance. There will be a few more corrections made to the boiler over time so that we may enjoy years of uninterrupted service.

The second floor office known as #210 has been repaired and renovated to accommodate the servers for the church's computer service. It will also provide a space for restoring and repairing systems for the IT Team.

Thank you to the choir's contributions to the vision begun by John Wright... a renovated choir room has been completed. Many thanks go to **Bill Kudla, Brian Brenie and Jaro** of the OUR HOUSE team for their efforts in the renovation. The choir now has a space to change and gather.

If you see something or know of something that could use your talents please contact the OUR HOUSE Team through the Information Centre, or Roy Dean at: OurHouseTeam@MCCToronto.com, or call (416) 406-6228 ext. 179.

THRIFT SHOP

The MCC Toronto Thrift shop is located on the balcony of the Social Hall is open Sundays between 10:00am and 1:00pm. All proceeds from the donated merchandise go to support Metropolitan Community Church Toronto. Today, we announce our fabulous FASHION CLEARANCE. The fashion section at the west end of the balcony is bursting at the seams. Jeans, shorts, and casual unisex pants (sweat and wind pants) are priced at \$2.00 a pair: dress pants, dresses and skirts are \$5.00. T-shirts, short sleeve shirts and blouses, vests, hats, gloves, scarves, shoulder bags, and belts are \$2.00. All styles of sweaters, long sleeve shirts, sport jackets and shoes/boots are priced at \$5.00. Men's suits and spring weight outerwear are priced at \$10.00. Winter-weight coats and jackets cost \$20.00. Ties and socks are \$1.00. Fashion selections may be taken on approval or tried on in the washrooms. Bring donations to the shop on Sundays or contact Louis Bodnar for pick-up of larger gifts (Tel. 416-929-9513). Weekday donations should be carried up to the top of the stairs to the left of the stage in the Social Hall and deposited behind the green velvet curtains. Call reception at side door to check whether staff are available to admit you. Please call in advance if you are dropping off larger items or a large quantity.

**A JANUARY MESSAGE FROM ANNE BRAYLEY
Chair of the Congregational Giving Committee**

2008 promises to be an eventful year for MCC Toronto. The celebration of the church's 35th anniversary is a milestone we are all proud to share. There will be opportunities throughout the year to recognize the many aspects of MCC Toronto that have created such a special spiritual home. Each of us contributes meaningful energy to MCC Toronto just by being here. The more we get actively involved in the life of our church, the greater that collective energy becomes. I encourage you to think about how you want to continue or grow your engagement at MCC Toronto. As we were reminded at the Christmas Eve service, "Giving Feels Good" so lets explore every chance to feel fantastic over the next twelve months! *Happy New Year to all!*

The LEGACY CIRCLE

The Legacy Circle was officially established only in 2006, and already we have over 80 members to date.

The Legacy Circle is a way to thank, and recognize those who have planned their future, and have generously included MCC Toronto in that plan. By making a planned gift to MCC Toronto, you join a group of people who want to ensure that the spiritual sanctuary and the important community work of this church continues on for many generations to come. By informing us of your intention to bestow a planned gift, we can thank you and could recognize you for your generosity by name, or anonymously, if you prefer.

A brochure about the Legacy Circle can be picked up at the Information Centre anytime. It is an introduction to Planned Giving and also contains a detachable form that you can fill out to either find out more or to inform us of your intent to make a planned gift.

Diane Dickson-Kailan from ScotiaBank Wealth Management will be here today to present a free information session on **Wills and Estates after the 11am service**. Please join us in Room 109.

STOCKS & SECURITIES

Donate stocks/securities to the church and cut down on your income tax!


A gift of publicly traded securities can help you make a significant contribution to MCC Toronto at a relatively low cost to you. Changes in the 2006 federal budget mean that by making a gift of securities to the church, your taxable capital gain is eliminated.

For example, the privatization of BCE Inc., Canada's most widely held stock, in 2008 means that shareholders will be required to sell their shares. If you hold BCE shares, you can eliminate some or all capital gain taxes on this buyout by donating those shares-in-kind to MCC Toronto prior to the buyout.

We recommend you discuss your gift intentions with your own financial, legal, or tax advisor. To make your gift of securities or for more information, call Jong Foo at (416) 406-6228 x 111 or email jfoo@mcctoronto.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UPDOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Last year, over 120 people attended the Golf Tournament and had a great time; most left with a prize in hand in addition to wonderful memories. We need your help in making this happen again. We need people to solicit prizes and sponsorships for the tournament. If you are interested in helping make the tournament successful and fun again, please contact jfoo@mcctoronto.com.



**Sponsor
- A - Day**

Bruce Maloney
has sponsored January 27, 2008

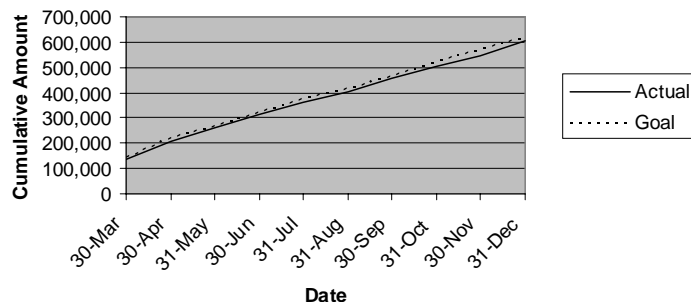
*..to thank the congregation for their
patronage of his mortgage
consulting business.*

Building Bridges

MCC Toronto has become a very important part of the lives of many people. We are able to play that role through the generosity of your financial support.

As of December 31, you have given **\$603,426** through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is **\$616,278**.

2007 Offerings



Thank you for being part of MCC Toronto, and sharing your resources so that we may continue to build the souls of people by meeting their needs, and to heal real human hurts through the many ministries of our church. Your abundant giving is making a difference in peoples' lives!

Circle of Friends is an avenue for friends outside of the congregation to support us financially so that we may carry on the mission and values of MCC Toronto. These friends might not attend MCC Toronto regularly or at all, but they might believe strongly in the social aspects of our mission and thus want to help out and be kept informed of what we do. Brochures may be found at the Information Centre or in the pews. So get a few, pass them on to friends and family that you think may be interested in what we do!

**Contact: Jong Foo at (416) 406-6228 x 111
or jfoo@MCCToronto.com**

Story Bowl

A Writing Workshop for LGBT Women


Monday evenings 7-9:30

Jan 28 - March 24

\$250, sliding scale available.

Held right here at MCC

Chris Kay Fraser - (647) 436-1761 - www.footprintmemoirs.com



Dr. Martin Sterling
Dr. Stephen Forgacs
Dr. Sherman Ki
Dr. Renata Durkot

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For every mortgage originated from this congregation, I will sponsor the church's mortgage for a day.

Bruce Maloney

Mortgage Consultant

T 416.466.2077

E maloney.b@mortgageintelligence.ca



MORTGAGE INTELLIGENCE

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Rainbow Toastmasters

Do you get "butterflies" in your stomach when you have to speak in public? **Rainbow Toastmasters** helps you get the butterflies in formation. Members learn by speaking to groups and working with others in a fun and supportive environment.

www.rainbow.toastmastersclub.org



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Before our traditional
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

*on February 6 at 7pm in our Sanctuary,
please join in community to relish abundance
before we enter Lent together.*

Seating for our
PANCAKE SUPPER

*will be open 5:30pm through 6:45pm
(pancakes, butter, syrup, bacon and fruit
will be served by volunteers)*

Suggested min. \$5.00 donation to cover costs



Men's Retreat

Mansfield Outdoor Centre
Friday April 18 to Sunday April 10

Register in the Social Hall after service
today, February 3 and 10.

Getting Ready..

Sunday, February 24 / 12:30 to 3:00pm / Sunday School Room

Warm-Up Mini-Retreat:

We decided to move ahead with this mini-retreat "warm-up event" for the men of MCC Toronto to gather, learn more about the retreat and "break the ice" before committing to the retreat.

Please try to be present for this ...a simple way to connect and begin to build community among possible retreat attendees. We may ask some people to make chili and ask a \$5 donation to pay for pizza.

Curriculum: We already have some good ideas started for the actual Retreat outline/curriculum but will discuss more ideas when we gather.

Contact: MensRetreat@MCCToronto.com