

connections



MCC Toronto | Inspiration, News & Events | Print Edition

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

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Today in our Social Hall

Auction for Anthony
Palm Sunday Table

Meetings / Events Today

Golf Team Meeting
Room 109 / 10:00am to 11:00am
Program Development Information Session
Main Office / 12:30pm to 1:15pm
BEAT Meeting
Triangle Classroom / 12:45pm to 1:45pm
Happiness Now Group (ASE)
Sunday School Room / Soup 12:45pm / Dialogue 1:00pm to 3:00pm
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, March 17 / Social Hall / 6:45pm
Happiness Now Group (ASE)
Monday, March 17 / Main Office / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Attitude of Gratitude (ASE)
Tuesday, March 18 / Board Room / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Happiness Now Group (ASE)
Tuesday, March 18 / Room 109 / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Lector Ministry - Good Friday Rehearsal
Tuesday, March 18 / Sanctuary / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
A New Earth Book Club (ASE)
Thursday, March 20 / Room 109 / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
The Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 20 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Good Friday Service
Friday, March 21 / Sanctuary / 7:00pm

We LOVE our Volunteers!!

*and we'd like to thank all of you for
the work that you do here to make our
church such a wonderful place.*

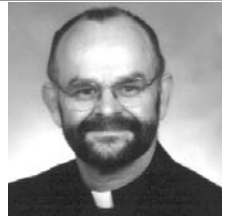
*Please join us this afternoon
in the social Hall from
4:30pm to 6:30pm
for a*

Spring Break Fun Fair!

Fun for the whole MCC Toronto Family

Activities, Games, Entertainment, Food, Licenced
- followed by our Palm Sunday Service at 7pm

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.

MCC Toronto is an eclectic community of people from many different Christian traditions, other faith backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles. We celebrate there are many paths to God and always affirm the unique path taken by each and every person.

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,

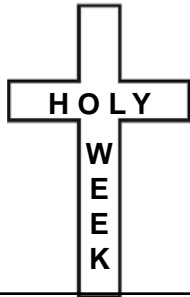
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Lessons for Life



March 2 *External Challenges*

March 9 *Internal Challenges*



March 16 (Palm Sunday)

What Did Jesus Do?

March 21 (Good Friday)

Putting It Down

March 23 (Easter)

Walk Into the Light

Morning Offertory

THE CHOIR

The MCC Toronto Music Ministry needs your help!

In preparation for a concert celebrating 35 years of music at MCC Toronto, we are in search of the following:

- > video footage of musical events (concerts, Christmas Eve, etc) prior to the year 2000
- > still photography of musical events (concerts, Christmas Eve, etc) prior to the year 2000
- > names and contact information of past music ministry folks, prior to 2000, including directors, instrumentalists, choir members

All video and photography submissions are required no later than Sunday, March 30th. All submissions will be returned upon completion of our project.

Please contact Heather Magee at info@mcctorontochoir.com if you can help with any video/photo submissions or contact information.

(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 (rentals)

David Sterritt x 101 / DSterritt@MCCToronto.com

JOB POSTING

Development Associate

MCC Toronto is currently seeking a Development Associate to support our fundraising efforts. Applications will be accepted through **March 31**.

For the full job posting and submission requirements, please see our listing at www.charityvillage.ca.

Social Hall / 10:00am to 1:00pm

AUCTION FOR ANTHONY (Silent Auction)

A fundraiser in support of your Action for Anthony Team, as we work towards getting the HIV/AIDS drugs flowing to Africa.

There are a total of 25 multi-colour reproduction prints, produced on 100 lb, acid-free, Lustro-dull art stock, in a limited edition of 395 excluding proofs. Each image, signed in the plate and numbered in pencil by the artist, 36 X 37 cm, (visible image).

These prints were valued individually at \$275.00. The starting bid on all prints is \$30.00. Subsequent Bids are MULTIPLES OF \$5.

Bidding starts at 10.00am and ends at 1pm on Sunday March 16th.

Contact: ActionForAnthony@MCCToronto.com

Sunday School Room / 12:45pm: Soup 1:00pm to 3:00pm Dialogue

HAPPINESS NOW! SERMON SERIES DIALOGUE GROUP (ASE)

During Lent MCC Toronto will be offering a sermon series based on the book by Robert Holden, which offers a message of profound hope and healing. As in the past, we'll offer a number of drop-in Dialogue Groups on various nights of the week, and one on Sunday afternoons! The Dialogue Groups will use the book, the Sunday Sermon, and supportive scripture readings and a few thought-provoking questions as they delve into conversation about the chapter topic. Lent runs from February 6th through March 23rd. Cost: \$5 /session

Contact: ASE@MCCToronto.com

Sunday, March 16 / Social Hall / 4:30pm to 6:30pm

MCC TORONTO VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Spring Fun Fair! ...fun for the whole MCC Toronto family

ACTIVITIES! / GAMES! / ENTERTAINMENT! / FOOD! / LICENCED!

RSVP: SFontenelle@MCCToronto.com

Sanctuary / 4:00 to 6:00pm

MUSIC REHEARSAL - Sunday Evening Worship Service

Newcomers welcome! The Sunday Evening Worship Team welcomes all voices, especially sopranos and altos. This is a fun, hard-working group that meets from 4-6:00pm each Sunday before the 7pm service. We perform a wide and ever-expanding repertoire of Praise Song, Gospel and World Music. We are looking for people who enjoy singing and like to harmonize, and who feel comfortable singing and leading a congregation in worship. If you are interested in finding out what we sound like, come to a service!

Contact: BStein@MCCToronto.com / (416) 406-6228 ext 215

Sanctuary / 7:00pm

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

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

A NOTE FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

"You enjoy as much happiness as you believe you're worthy of."
"Happiness Now" Robert Holden

In the chapter practicing acceptance, Robert Holden describes how he tried to lead a group to enjoy one day, one hour and then 60 seconds of happiness. He discovered, not one person was able to give themselves a scheduled time frame of letting happiness in. How often do you give yourself permission to simply be?

A two hour volunteer appreciation party has been planned for you, come as you are and be. If you don't think you need a thank you for the volunteering you do around the church. Great, then come simply, to enjoy yourself and socialize.

"Happiness is Made to be Shared" Robert Holden

Looking forward to seeing you today in the social hall from 4:30:6:30pm.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Golf Tournament Team

needs 10 volunteers to help with their registration event. The event will be held at the Waterside Sports Club on Sunday, April 20, from 2-4. There is no cost for anyone who Volunteers at this event.

If you are interested in helping at this event please visit the VIP desk at the information centre or speak with Sandra Fontenelle

There's a place for you here SFontenelle@mcctoronto.com / (416) 406-6228, ext126

Information Centre

Join the team that can lead you to the answers, sign you up with the Adult Spiritual Education Courses, purchase a weekly Sunday services on CD. Volunteers are needed after the 7pm services.

Please visit our VIP desk to start your Pay it Forward contribution or speak with Sandra Fontenelle.

There's a place for you here.

Sandra Fontenelle

SFontenelle@MCCToronto.com / (416) 406-6228 ext. 126

Coordinator of Volunteer and Engagement



Angels of the Week

Have you heard the Evening singing group?

Well, they are angels, not only in their singing as they lead us into worship each Sunday evening. Their high energy is inviting and uplifting!

We appreciate all that they offer us!

TODAY!!!! from 4:30pm to 6:30pm

**VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
PARTY**

SPRING BREAK FUN FAIR!

...fun for the whole MCC Toronto family



**ACTIVITIES!
GAMES!
ENTERTAINMENT!
FOOD!
LICENCED!**

*... followed by our
Palm Sunday Service
at 7pm*

RSVP: Volunteer@MCCToronto.com

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.

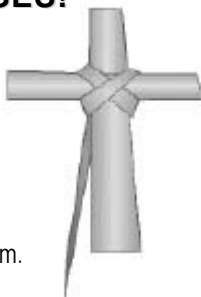
Almost 700 congregants have signed up! To receive your weekly E-Connections visit www.MCCToronto.com.

SPANISH CONNECTION

"Si hablas español y quieres hablar con alguien en tu mismo idioma, busca personas que lleven un pin o pegatina con la bandera española. Acércate a ellos, pues estamos aquí para conectar contigo."

HOW TO MAKE PALM CROSSES!

1. Take a palm that is about 2 feet long and 1/2" wide (if it tapers at the top, this is good!)
2. Hold the palm upright, so the tapered end points toward the ceiling. Then bend the top end down and toward you so that the bend is about 5 or 6 inches from the bottom of the palm.
3. About a third of the way from the bend you just made, twist the section you've pulled down to the right, forming a right angle.
4. About an inch or inch and a half away from the "stem" of the cross, bend this arm of the palm back behind the palm so that it is now facing to your left. Make the bend at a good length to form the right arm of the Cross.
5. Folding that same section at a point that equals the length on the right side, bend it on the left side and bring the end forward over what is now the front of the cross.
6. From the very center of the Cross, fold that arm up and to the upper right (in a "northeast" direction) so that it can wrap around where the upright post of the Cross and the right arm intersect.
7. Fold this down and to the left behind the Cross, and then fold it toward the right so that it is parallel and under the transverse arms of the Cross.
8. Bring it up behind the Cross again, this time folding it up toward the "northwest" direction.
9. Tuck the tapered end into the transverse section you made in step.
10. Turn the Cross over; this side will be the front. Trim the tapered end if necessary.



Let's Make "OUR HOUSE" a Home

Many projects around the building are getting closer to completion or are completed. Room #210 which was being restored from years of water damage and neglect has been completed. A small kitchenette for the staff's use and the computer systems for the operations of the church are now in a safe and workable space. Many thanks go to the OUR HOUSE Team and tech team leader, Bruce Davidson.

One major project is underway, led by OUR HOUSE Team member Brian Brenie. It is to clean-up and organise the attic of the church. Brian has sorted, moved and edited many items which had been stored in the attic. This has been no small task since this space has suffered from raccoon, squirrel and other critters making their home there over many years. The dynamic duo of Brian and Reception Team leader Darlene Morris edited, cleared out and shredded bags of material, making the attic an open and manageable space once again. The next phase will be to do some insulating and wall covering.

More projects are being planned for the future. If you would like to be an OUR HOUSE Team member please contact Roy Dean.

Thank you Mary Bartell and Moira Lee for the donation of a set of sturdy shelves and some lighting for the OUR HOUSE Team storage room.

The OUR HOUSE Team which manages the care for your church building is always looking for new or nearly new working tools and equipment to help us make this a safer and more welcoming place to worship. If you will be replacing tools or equipment for your business or home use and if they are in working order please contact Roy Dean.

If you see something or know of something that could use your talents please contact the OUR HOUSE Team through the Information Centre, Roy Dean (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 of Toronto.

Our FASHION CLEARANCE continues with many good values to be found on the west section of the balcony. This includes a great selection of sweaters and pants plus some cute Easter Bonnets and hat boxes. Among the merchandise of note is a Chinese hanging wall vase, hand-carved as a bearded face from a large bamboo root: a good punch bowl set, a bread making machine, some nice table lamps, individual bed sheets and sets, place mats and napkins, curtains, wine and liqueur glasses, wonderful books, and a great selection of bath and hand towels. 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 MARCH MESSAGE FROM ANNE BRAYLEY Chair of the Congregational Giving Committee

Perhaps being in a leap year has something to do with it. Do you feel that 2008 has started off in an unusual way? The weather is a good place to start - cold then warm, snow then rain, all within a few days. We're reminded daily of the volatile economic and investment climate. Maybe you are experiencing ups and downs in your own life, in relationships or at work. These things always seem to go in cycles, and as they do, we should take time to remember that one constant will always be our spiritual home at MCC Toronto. And if we nurture, care for, and invest in our relationship with the church, it will grow ever stronger, and help us weather whatever personal changes we may face. As you feel the last wind of March at your back, look forward to the renewal of Spring to come.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION FOR GIVING (Part 1)

Matthew 6:21

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Jesus' teaching is that your heart will follow your money. People's emotional and spiritual commitments follow the way they use their wealth. Therefore, one of the steps that facilitates spiritual growth is financial generosity and financial commitment to God's work. Because of this, the first priority in emphasizing the practice of giving is the spiritual growth of the individual rather than the financial needs of the Church.

Giving opportunities are provided to the congregation in order to encourage the individual's spiritual growth. Giving commitments are required of Members and Friends in order to ensure that this step on the spiritual journey is engaged. Higher standards of giving are required of leaders in order to ensure further spiritual growth of our spiritual leaders. All leaders in our Church are viewed with having a spiritual leadership role. Leaders in the Church are leaders of the Church.

A secondary purpose of providing giving opportunities is to ensure that MCC Toronto has all the resources possible to maximize our efforts to make the presence and love of God real to others.

We believe that all people are called to be good stewards of the resources God has given to each of us. This includes our time, talents and material goods/financial resources. Underlying the concept that everyone is a steward of these resources, is the belief that all that we have is a gift from God entrusted to our care for the good of all.

WANT TO HELP THE CHURCH RAISE FUNDS THROUGH YOUR COMPANY?

You can approach the organization you work for to help support MCC Toronto. If you believe your organization will support the spiritual or social causes of MCC Toronto, please call (416) 406-6228 ext 111 or email at Finance@MCCToronto.com. We'd like to discuss the possibilities and ways of asking your organization for that support with you.



Birthdays, anniversaries and other special events are excellent reasons to celebrate by sponsoring a day of MCC Toronto's mortgage.

Publish your celebration in Connections print and/or e-mail edition.

The church's mortgage payments are:
\$170 per day / \$1,190 per week / \$5,170 per month

Contact
Finance@MCCToronto.com, (416) 406-6228 x 111

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

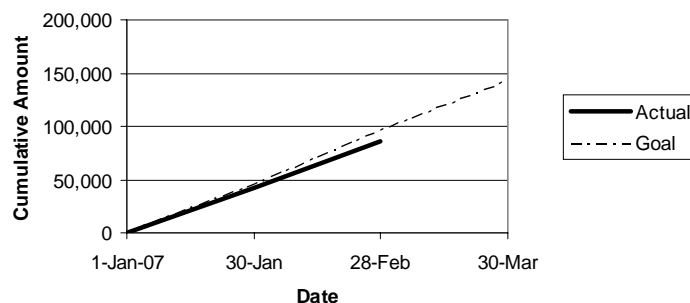
.. is an avenue for friends outside of the congregation to support us financially so that we may carry on the mission and values of MCC Toronto. These friends might not attend MCC Toronto regularly or at all, but they might believe strongly in the social aspects of our mission and thus want to help out 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: (416) 406-6228 x 111 or Finance@MCCToronto.com

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 February 29, you have given **\$85,890** through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is **\$95,085**.

2008 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!

Have you thought about
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Our print version is read by an average of 500 congregants each week, and almost 700 have subscribed to our e-mail version.

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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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S O U L G R O U N D

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



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HOLY WEEK

at MCC Toronto

During this special time, we also invite you to participate in our Easter offering. Your gift, in addition to your regular Sunday offering, allows us to be a voice of hope and new life throughout the year.

An Easter envelope has been provided within your order of service.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Palm Sunday

March 16

9:00am, 11:00am and 7:00pm Worship & Celebration

Good Friday

March 21

7:00pm Service

Easter Sunday

March 23

Sunrise Service

with MCC Christos
overlooking the lake on
Ashbridges Bay



Gather in parking lot by 5:45am

Walk to the Service at 6:00am

Maps are available at the Information Centre!

Do you need a ride, or can you offer a ride?

Please sign-up at the Information Centre

or e-mail SMillar@MCCToronto.com

MCC Toronto Easter Services

9:00am, 11:00am and 7:00pm Worship & Celebration

