

SUNDAY NEWS



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

INSIDE

June 22, 2008

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NO SERVICES
at 115 SIMPSON AVENUE
NEXT SUNDAY

Please join our
Pride Service on Church Street at 11:00am
- south stage (Church & Wood St.)
- seating begins at 10:30am.

(See our ad on the back page.)



Our 9:00am and 11:00am service today is being video taped for a promotional video. If you do not wish to be video taped, we invite you to sit in the BALCONY.

Today in our Social Hall

35th Anniversary Dinner Ticket Sales (*see insert*)
Mayor Millar Petition
Pride Parade - T-shirt sales / Sapling sales / register to walk

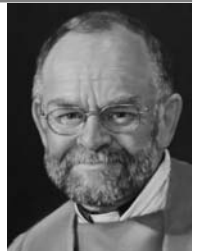
Meetings / Events Today

Deacon Meeting
Sanctuary / 12:30pm to 2:30pm
Pride Service Volunteer Meeting
Main Office / 12:30pm to 2:30pm
Women's Retreat Team Meeting
Room 109 / 12:30pm to 2:30pm
Refugee Peer Support Group
Triangle Classroom / 12:45pm to 1:45pm
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, June 16 / Social Hall / 6:45pm
A New Earth Book Club (ASE)
Tuesday, June 24 / Rainvow Room / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Pride Choir Rehearsal ONLY
Thursday, June 26 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 10:00pm

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 comfortable 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 invited to come forward to share Anointing and 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,

Brent

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Lessons for Life



Pride Series

9:00am, 11:00am & 7:00pm:

- June 1 *"All Are Welcome"*
Lessons from Pride (Past)
- June 8 *"All Are Welcome"*
Lessons from Pride (Religion - Race)
- June 15 *"All Are Welcome"*
Lessons from Pride (Interests)
- June 22 *"All Are Welcome"*
Lessons from Pride (Demons)

The Pride Lessons From Pride Series concludes at our Pride Service held on June 29, 11:00am, south stage (Church & Wood). (Please know that no services will be held at 115 Simpson on this date.)

June 29 Pride Service

11:00am, South Stage on Church Street:

"All Are Welcome"
Lessons from Pride (Energy)

Morning Offertory

JEANNIE WYSE & DAN RUTZEN

Dan Rutzen

Dan is currently a Doctoral student in Conducting at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music. His current research is developing a curriculum to train Musical Directors through literature that bridges the gap between High-Art Music and Musical Theatre.

Dan has had great experiences in both sides of performance from conducting at the International Bach Festival and choral performances with the TSO to his current project for the Toronto SummerWorks Festival - The Pastor Phelps Project: A Fundamentalist Cabaret - going up in August at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

Look for Dan conducting/accompanying around town or at his home studio where he works with young actors on vocal development and audition preparation.

Dan is continually thankful for the gift of singing with the MCC Choir and bows to the extraordinary talents within.

Read Jeannie's bio on page 4.

PRIDE PARADE FUNDRAISING

Plant a PRIDE TREE this year in support of MCC Toronto's Pride Parade Team. Saplings will be on sale for \$3 each - after our three services this Sunday. They are one year old locally grown evergreens.

'Plant a tree, watch it grow, help it grow'...

During service today

FOOD FOR FRIENDS ☩

A number of times throughout the year there are five Sundays in a month. MCC Toronto took the initiative to designate this fifth Sunday as Food Drive Day. We have two wonderful volunteers who donate their time to this initiative but they can't do it without you. Please keep your donation with you during service until you are invited to bring your items to the communion table during the 'Gathering of Gifts'. If you have not brought a non-perishable item, and would like to help, a box is provided where you can place a cash donation.

Contributions are donated to The Toronto People with AIDS Foundation Food Bank. The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation exists to promote the health and well-being of all people living with HIV/AIDS by providing accessible, direct, and practical support services. All cash donations are used to purchase much needed items like bread, milk or produce when the food bank runs short. All non-perishable items will be used in the weekly food bank.

Your support is greatly appreciated. A toonie or a non-perishable item is all it takes to help our volunteers provide a program of excellence.

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

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

Sundays 4:00pm to 6:00pm in our Sanctuary

HIGHER PRAISE MUSIC REHEARSAL Sunday Evening Worship Service

Do you love to sing gospel and praise music? The Sunday Evening Worship Team's musical ensemble "Higher Praise" welcomes all voices. This is a fun, hard-working group that meets from 4-6:00pm each Sunday before the 7pm service. 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! Talk to Ben after service. Voices Needed!!!

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, Rev. Jo Bell, Deacon Randi William and Rev. BK Hipsher.

A NOTE FROM OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, "I used everything you gave me." -Erma Bombeck

Have you had your summer check in? Thought about your goals, wishes and to lists for the next couple of months or have you been running on auto pilot? Life is so busy you're barely finding time for the simplicity of life. Get your calendar out and schedule your "me" days. This could involve time to do your hobby, get together with friends, meditate, and spend time in nature.

When we live a balanced life, we often have more energy for ourselves, our loved ones and can have a variety of activities in our lives. One way to balance things off is to give back with your time and talents.

Below are some areas you can devote your time and talents.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Morning Services | During the week | Evening Services |
| Information Centre | Administrative | Information Centre |
| Anointers, Servers | Photocopying | Ushers & Greeters |
| VIP Desk | Organizing | Anointers & Servers |
| Coffee Hour | Reception | Coffee Hour |
| Children's Ministry | Sermon Transcribers | Worship Coordinator |
| Multi-Media | Multi-Media Designer | |

Last chance to sign-up to walk with MCC Toronto in Toronto's Pride parade. Someone in a crowd may identify with you and you could be the reason someone decides to visit MCC Toronto. Never underestimate the Power of One.

Calling all who want to develop a space for youth in our church.

Calling all youth, we want to hear from you about ways we can hear your voice in our church. Please e-mail us at youth@mcctoronto.com .

Please visit the information desk today to start sharing your time and talents.

There is a place for you here.

Sandra Fontenelle

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



Angel of the Week

Ian Bowles

Ian is a valued member of the Worship Coordinator Team. Although many of you never see him, he is always there at the 7:00pm service to handle the logistics of setting up, coordinating and returning the sanctuary to its normal state at the end of service.

Unfortunately, Ian is the only Worship Coordinator we have for evening service at the moment but he is faithful and cheerful as he carries out his duties - he could use some help.

Please congratulate Ian the next time you see him for the wonderful donation of time and energy to the role of PM Worship Coordinator.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
www.mcctoronto.com

MCC YOUTH DOMINICAN TRIP UPDATE!

Many of you already know that we are sponsoring one of our youth, Rachel Meyer, on the first ever MCC Youth International Outreach Trip. Youth from the US, Canada, and Europe are traveling to the Dominican Republic at the end of this month (June 20-28) to help school-aged children by bringing much-needed school supplies and building them a chapel in their school, so they won't need to walk the miles they currently do to worship.

We Need Your Help Again - MCCs that are sending a youth from their congregation are asked to have congregants sign a giant card that will be given to the man who first began the school for the Dominican youth. His name is Rev. Berrara, and he not only runs the school, but also the meal program at the school, as well as church for the kids. The card will be available after all three services this Sunday - at the Information Centre - and ALL OF YOU are asked to sign it - offering prayers and thanks or notes to Rev. Berrara and the children at his school.

Rachel leaves for the Dominican next Saturday, and will carry this card, school supplies you have donated, a fabulous wasabi-green MCC Toronto Pride T-Shirt, and one of our choir's amazing CDs as gifts to Rev. Berrara and the kids of the Dominican. Her mothers, Rev. Jo Bell and Cheryl Meyer also ask for your prayers of safety and life-shaping experiences for Rachel and the other MCC youth who are soon to be building bridges we're still unable to imagine!

World Refugee Day, 20 June

For years, many countries and regions have been holding their own Refugee Days and even Weeks. One of the most widespread is Africa Refugee Day, which is celebrated on 20 June in several countries.

As an expression of solidarity with Africa, which hosts the most refugees, and which traditionally has shown them great generosity, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 55/76 on 4 December 2000. In this resolution, the General Assembly noted that 2001 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had agreed to have International Refugee Day coincide with Africa Refugee Day on 20 June. The Assembly therefore decided that, from 2001, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.

[Note: The OAU was replaced by the African Union on 9 July 2002.]

Morning Offertory

JEANNIE WYSE

Jeannie is the Associate Music Director of the MCC choir and she's been a member of the faculty at the Randolph Academy for nine years and is a former head of the RAPA music department. She is active as a vocal teacher, musical director and pianist. Jeannie toured North America with Riverdance - The Show and was musical director for the Georgian Theatre Festival for two seasons. She has toured and recorded extensively with the Elmer Iseler Singers with whom she was fortunate to work with John Williams on Schindler's List and perform at Carnegie Hall. Jeannie has also appeared as a soloist with the St. Lawrence Summer-in-the-Centre programme, Summer Opera Lab, Vocalpoint Chamber Choir and the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, with whom she was also a Vocal Coach for seven years. She holds Associateship Diplomas in Voice and Piano from the Western Conservatory of Music and completed the Opera Programme at the American Institute for Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, performing Beethoven's Mass in C.

Favourite shows include: Earnest - The Importance of Being (Jane Mallett Theatre), Lord of the Rings (Princess of Wales), Mamma Mia! (Royal Alexandra), Pelagie (St. Lawrence Centre), The Mystery of Edwin Drood, (Randolph Academy), Fireweeds - Women of the Yukon (Canadian Stage), and You're A Good Man Charlie Brown (Georgian Theatre Festival).

(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

Let's Make "OUR HOUSE" a Home

The garden work has come a long way this year thanks once again to the Garden Faeries. Special thank you goes to team leaders Bill Whitbread and Gary Christie along with the rest of the team Paul Lawson, Brian Birkby, Neil Mens, Roberto Mendoza Londono, Jean-aime Lalonde and Rowan.

Thanks to the generosity of Neil, Gary and Bill over two hundred ground covering Ivy as well as Hydrangea bushes and new grass has been added to the north side of the building. This has brought the restoration of the north lawn where the very successful foundation work was completed to a finish.

Adding to the upgrades we now have a retrievable non-kinking hose with pop on features for the various attachments for watering the grounds. Thanks Gary and Bill.

The care and maintenance of the grounds of the church is a team effort, accomplished by a great group of your congregation members. If you would like to add your talents or gifts to keeping our church a more welcome and safe place to worship, please contact Roy Dean at the contact information below.

The summer heat is on us now and it is very important to keep yourself hydrated. Please remember to carry water with you and to be sure put on sunscreen. The sanctuary gets a soothing cool cross breeze when the big doors are open and windows are open in the balcony. This is a very old structure and we don't have air conditioning so please keep in mind our ancestors and what they had to endure. It may help.

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, 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.

Many interesting items are available including: glassware, table lamps, candles, roller blades, several hot plates, framed pictures, some attractive small sets of dishes, a complete set of pyrex cookware, dinner table cloths, bath and hand towels, place mats and napkins, and several nifty kitchen clocks. At present, we have an extra large selection of compact disks at \$2.00 apiece. This includes a wide selection of Latin Music from Spain and other locales. Our new staff member, Gordon, is re-organizing the fashion section on the west side of the balcony where some great updates for your summer wardrobe are available.

Bring donations to the shop on Sundays or contact Louis Bodnar for pick-up of larger gifts (Tel. 416-929-9513). Donations may be left at the church during the week: please phone ahead to make certain someone is there to let you in and ring the bell to be admitted. All donations should be carried up the stairs on the north side of the stage and deposited safely behind the green velvet curtains in the Shop. (Please do not bring us any old computer equipment, computer books or televisions. We can't even get Goodwill to take them off our hands.) *Thank you for your support!*

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

We are well into the year and are already planning for the second annual "Bridges to Hope & Freedom" event this September. This is an important part of our outreach into the community beyond the core congregation. Last year's event was the springboard to introducing many new supporters to our church. Many of those have since become regular faces at Sunday service and within our volunteer ranks. If you would like to be involved in this year's event, as a table captain or volunteer, please let us know. As more people come to know about MCC Toronto through this event, our impact gets wider and we continue to strengthen our roots in the community.

"WHAT YOU WILL DO MATTERS. ALL YOU NEED IS TO DO IT."
- Judy Grahn, Another Mother Tongue

I'd like to start out by saying Happy Pride to everyone! It's been wonderful meeting so many people at MCC Toronto over the past month. For those of you who don't know me, I'm the new Development Associate, so I'm the person you speak with regarding Sustained Giving, Circle of Friends, the Legacy Circle and all other fundraising activities.

I'm also the person to contact regarding sponsorship of our Church on Church Street Pride Sunday Service. Anyone who has ever been to this event knows how impactful, inspiring and inclusive it is for the hundreds who join us every year. Once again, we can look forward to a powerful sermon and an inspiring performance by the MCC Toronto Choir, featuring exceptional guest performers.

Plans are well underway, and there's a long list of things that we have to rent and prepare including sound equipment, chairs, radios, banners, flowers and advertising. Our sponsors make this day possible.

I invite you to make a donation:

- In your own name,
- In memory of a loved one,
- To celebrate a special occasion/person,
- As a group (including non church going friends), or
- In the name of your business.

Please fill out the blue Pride Sponsorship card inserted in Sunday News today, or visit our web site, MCCToronto.com, to donate via CanadaHelps.org (the link is on our home page).

If you have any questions about donations, please contact me at (416) 406-6228 ext. 111 or JOConnor@MCCToronto.com.

I hope to see you all at Pride!

Sincerely,

Jennifer O'Connor
Development Associate



Sponsor - A - Day

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

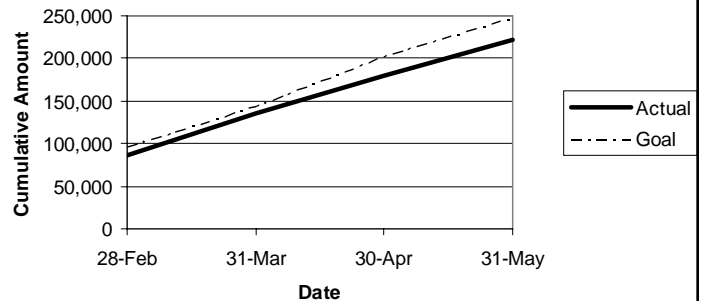
Contact
JOConnor@MCCToronto.com, (416) 406-6228 x 111

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 May 31, you have given **\$222,572** through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is **\$245,698**.

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 UPDATED YOUR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION
Have you been sent a new credit card, either with a new number or a new expiry date? Don't forget to **update your Sustained Giving information!** Please contact David Sterritt at (416) 406-6228 x 101 or dsterritt@mccutoronto.com with your new information.

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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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Sunday, June 29 at 11am
Pride Toronto South Stage
CHURCH
ON CHURCH STREET



ALL ARE WELCOME

Sermon
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes

Arrive early. Seating begins at 10:30am

featuring

The MCC Toronto Choir with special guest performers

Alana Bridgewater & Sterling Jarvis Stars of 'We Will Rock You'

Experience the Joy



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in the Pride Parade
with our **SPECTACULAR** float.
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Please sign-up
to walk in the
parade. Visit us in
the Social Hall after
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