

SUNDAY NEWS



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

INSIDE

August 3, 2008

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

Today in our Social Hall

Women's Retreat Registration

Last Day For the Early Bird Price For the Women's Retreat!

Bridges to Hope & Freedom Fundraising Event

Table Captain Sign-Up Table

Meetings / Events Today

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

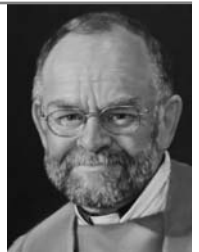
A New Earth Book Club (ASE)

Tuesday, July 29 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 8:30p

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 31 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Hello and welcome to MCC Toronto!



If you are visiting us for the very first time, we extend a special invitation 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent".

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Lessons for Life



August 10 / 9:00am & 11:00am

What Drives Your Life?

August 10 PM

What a Privilege

August 17 / 9:00am & 11:00am

Unlikely Leaders

August 24 AM / 9:00am & 11:00am

What I Have Found

August 31 AM / 9:00am & 11:00am

Conflict - A Way Through

*Lessons for Life are available on CD.
Please order at our Information Centre.*

MEETINGS & EVENTS TODAY

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.

(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

Morning Offertory

ADRIAN LUCES

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteers are welcome at MCC Toronto with over 40 Ministries and Programs to get involved from social justice, children's ministry, choirs, refugee support, women and men's retreats to name a few. There are no specifications or time limitations required to become a volunteer. Please e-mail us at Volunteer@MCCToronto.com to discuss your involvement.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Evening Service

- Q) What is the benefit of doing your volunteer role for the evening service???
- A) Being able to sit in your pew in the morning, secure in the knowledge that you have done your part for your church. Come out and be on the team putting on the service...the needs of this service are:

- Coffee set up and clean up - 2 weeks are available
- Info Centre - 2 weeks are available
- Assist in setting up the sanctuary - 3 weeks are available
- Altar Guild - 2 weeks are available
- Worship Coordinators - 3 weeks are available

Training is given for each position.

HIGHER PRAISE

Music Rehearsal - Sunday Evening Worship Service

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

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

ENQUIRE ABOUT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

Morning Services

Information Centre
Anointers, Servers
VIP Desk
Coffee Hour
Children's Ministry
Multi-Media

During the week

Administrative
Photocopying
Organizing
Reception
Sermon Transcribers
Multi-Media Designer

Evening Service

Information Centre
Ushers & Greeters
Anointers & Servers
Coffee Hour
Worship Coordinator



Angels of the Week

**ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SPONSORED
RACHEL MYER'S TRIP TO THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:**

Ann :: Anne :: Anonymous X 3 :: Barbara :: Ben
Beth :: Bob :: Brent :: Carol :: Carole :: Cherrie
Cheryl :: Chris :: Damien :: David :: Deb :: Diane
Doreen :: Ed :: Elgin :: Erin :: Ernie :: Franze
Gary :: Gee :: George :: Hannah :: Heather :: Helen
James :: Janet :: Jennifer :: Jo :: Karen :: Kevin
Linda :: Liz :: Loretta :: Lorette :: Lori :: Lou
Marcia :: Margi :: Melee :: Omo :: Peter :: Robert
Roy :: Russell :: Sandra :: Sherrill :: Stephanie
Susan :: Suzanne :: Vicki :: Wanda :: Wray

Volunteer Coordinator

MCC Toronto welcomes Carol Newman as our new Coordinator of Volunteers and Engagement.



Carol brings 14 years experience in volunteer management, where she has planned, budgeted, recruited, trained - both staff and volunteers - regarding their respective roles, responsibilities and ongoing contacts, evaluated programs and volunteers to meet the needs of the assignment. Some of the organizations Carol has worked with include: Meals on Wheels and More, Girl Guides of Canada, COTA Health, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, National office and others.

Carol also is affiliated with Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources, North York Association of Volunteer Administrators, and others; and she has volunteered with other agencies: MADD, Canadian Red Cross, Toronto Branch, United Way, Heart and Stroke and others.

Please make her welcome and please become (or continue as) one of the fabulous volunteers of MCC Toronto.

www.mcctoronto.com



Thank You, Roy!

After more than three years on the staff of MCC Toronto, Roy Dean has resigned his position of Facilities Manager, effective July 31. Roy has decided to devote his time to his jewellery business, Roy Dean Designs.

Since joining the staff of MCC Toronto, Roy has made it his mission to ensure that our church home is a safe, secure, and welcoming space - and he succeeded! We have all benefited from his devotion to the maintenance and repair of this building, in projects large and small. We have also enjoyed his creativity in rethinking and designing new spaces for us. His devotion to MCC Toronto beyond the facilities has been evident from his volunteer roles in the Children's Ministry, the Triangle Program, and other ministries.

Roy has always been, and will continue to be, a dedicated member, volunteer, and supporter of MCC Toronto.

Please join us in thanking Roy for his time on the MCC Toronto staff!

Recycle Your 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

Let's Make "OUR HOUSE" a Home

This will be the last OUR HOUSE segment by Roy Dean, please join me in welcoming my replacement Brian Woodlock and offer him your support in keeping your church home a more welcoming and safe place to worship.

Brian will be continuing to oversee the current project which is the repair and restoration of the roof dormer over the north 115 Simpson Ave. entrance as well as it's opposite roof dormer on the south side of the building. Over the last few years the water has been leaking through these areas due to weathering and age of the roof. It has gone from a trickle during heavy rain to severe and damaging leaking during even light rain. Once this work has been completed there will be two other phases to begin before the winter months set in. Your contributions are making this church home a safer and more welcoming place to worship. The Sunday school classroom has been seeing a lot more than usual water seepage due to the unusually high rain we have been experiencing. A trough and sump pump was installed a few months ago and has been working to allow the water which naturally seeps in from the ground to be directed out of the building. We continue to celebrate that the north side of Simpson Ave. where water leaked heavily into the rainbow room has not leaked since last winter after it was repaired and brought up to requirement.

Now with new grass and ground covering ivy the garden faeries have transformed the area into a beautiful space especially with the hydrangea bushes adding a profusion of colour.

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.

During June, the Thrift Shop raised \$775.00 for the Church, an average of \$188.75 for each of the four Sundays that we were open. Sales to date have been better than in 2007. 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, bathroom scales, and several nifty kitchen clocks. Gordon is busy 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

For those of us who stay in the city during July and August it is often a perfect time to enjoy a quieter pace. Even coming to church seems more relaxed. Don't forget about our 7 p.m. service, which can be an ideal way to have a full weekend of other activities and still not miss your Sunday worship. And while MCC Toronto may seem quiet, our activities are ongoing, as are our financial requirements. Summer can often stretch our resources if attendance is lower at our services. An important way for the church to even out its cash flow through the year is through our monthly sustainers program. We encourage you to participate in this program if you are not already. It's easy for you and makes a big difference to the church.

A NOTE FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

A belated Happy Anniversary to everyone! I hope that you enjoyed last week's 35th anniversary activities. Don't forget: in addition to last week-end and our June concert, we have Homecoming Weekend coming up in September.

Over the past 35 years, MCC Toronto has reached out to communities in this city and around the world, advocating for social justice for all people. For instance:

- :: Our volunteers offer nearly 50,000 hours of work each year. Additionally, tens of thousands more hours are volunteered through over 50 other community agencies and groups.
- :: We provide classroom space for the Triangle Program of the Toronto District School Board (Canada's only GLBT-accredited high school program), Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and others.
- :: In 2004 MCC Toronto and Wellspring, a network of centres that provide emotional and psychological support to those living with cancer, formed the first support group for lesbians and their partners. In 2005, a group was formed for gay men.

Likewise, we have received generous support from many people who do not attend our worship and celebration services. Our Circle of Friends program was created to recognize the gifts that we receive from our colleagues, allies, and neighbours. Our Friends are vital to the well-being and growth of our church.

For a minimum monthly donation of \$10 (payable via automatic debit or credit card), you can join the Circle of Friends. Members of the Circle of Friends can choose to receive updates about MCC Toronto and be acknowledged as Friends of the church.

If you would like to support the work of MCC Toronto, please consider joining our Circle of Friends. Please contact me at 416-406-6228 x111 or JOConnor@MCCToronto.com

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

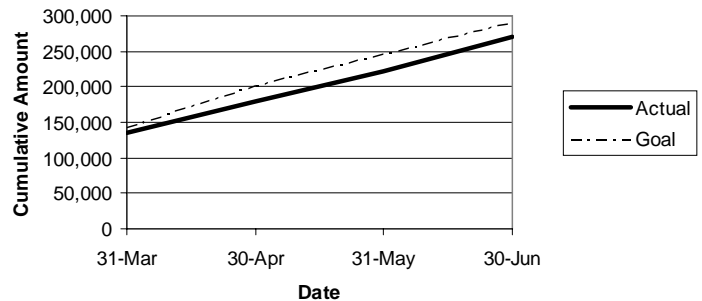
Contact
JOConnor@MCCToronto.com, (416) 406-6228 x 111

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 June 30, you have given **\$269,575** through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is **\$288,920**.

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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11am - 3pm

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Presentation of our
ANNIVERSARY AWARDS
last Sunday

This Year's Recipient of our Beloved Disciple Award is:

Ira Carmichael

(Altar Guild)

The Beloved Disciple Award is given for long-term, distinguished service to the church. The award may only be bestowed once to an individual, who must have been a member for 10 years.

This Year's Recipient of our Community Service Award is:

Edward Healy

(Volunteering at the ROM, Gardner Museum, ACT & Prime Timers)

The Community Service Award is given to remarkable people who have made a significant contribution to our community, outside of MCC Toronto.

This award may only be bestowed once to an individual.

This Year's Recipient of our Vision Alive Award is:

Helen Wiber

(MCC Toronto Golf Tournament)

John Vespa

(Fundraising for the Triangle School)

The Vision Alive award is given to an individual(s) who have taken part of the vision for our church and made it happen. The award may only be bestowed once per project.