

SUNDAY NEWS



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

INSIDE

September 7, 2008

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

Today in our Social Hall

Celebration of Birthdays & Anniversaries
Visit our Thrift Shop located on the second floor
Bridges to Hope & Freedom Fundraising Event
Sign-Up to be a Table Captain, a guest, or to be an event volunteer
Women's Retreat Registration Table
Adult Spiritual Education (ASE) Registration

Meetings / Events Today

Deacon Meeting
Room 109 / 12:30pm 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.*)
High Energy worship with great music, anointing for healing, communion, prayer partners. Team Preaching with *Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, Rev. Jo Bell, Deacon Randi Williams and Rev. BK Hipsher.*

Meetings / Events This Week

Dances of Universal Peace
Tuesday, September 9 / Social Hall / 7:00pm to 9:30pm
Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 11 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Saturday, September 13 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 9:00am to noon
Jeri Ann Harvey Memorial Service
Saturday, September 13 / Sanctuary / 1:30pm

September 19-20 / Cedar Glen, near Nobleton

WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND

Enjoy friendships and personal growth as we learn about
Coming Home to ourselves and to our community.

Scholarship funds are available if needed.

Carpools will be arranged.

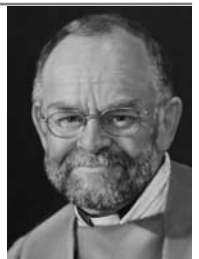
*"I loved how casual it felt: how easy it was to
do exactly what I wanted."*

To register contact WomensRetreat@MCCToronto.com

You'll be glad you did!

--- LAST DAY TO REGISTER! ---

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.

MCC Toronto is a vibrant community, and we hope you'll experience that today. Our vision is to be a bridge, between people and God and each other. Inside this edition of Sunday News you'll find information about the life and work of our community.

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



September 14

Homecoming Sunday

Our guest preacher at the 9:00am and 11:00am services will be **Rev. Elder Troy Perry**, and **Rev. Nancy Wilson** at our 7:00pm service.

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

Morning Offertory

ADRIAN LUCES



As a singer/songwriter Adrian performs around the GTA singing jazz, pop and inspirational music. Away from the musical and theatrical stage, Adrian has appeared before the public as a spokesperson for a variety of groups. Mr. Luces has been a regular guest speaker for several companies and organizations discussing the fascinating subject of the voice and how it relates to one's overall performance and image. He has also appeared before the public as a freelance writer with the Toronto Sun Newspaper, and as a guest host and guest commentator on CFRB AM 1010 in Toronto.

Adrian is the president of Vocal Impression, an image and presentation skills coaching service for executives and professionals whose slogan is, "It's Not Just About What You Say ... It's About How You Sound When You Say It!". His coaching website is www.vocalimpression.com.

Adrian is always thrilled to share his gift of song with the MCC community. His website is www.adrianluc.es.com.

(416) 406-6228

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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

ARE YOU GOING INTO HOSPITAL IN SEPTEMBER?

Let the deacons of your church know.
(416) 406-6228 x 114 or Deacons@MCCToronto.com

LESBIAN ACTIVIST DEL MARTIN DIES AT 87

"Pioneering lesbian rights activist Del Martin, who married her longtime partner in June on the first day that California's same-sex couples gained that right, died Wednesday. She was 87.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said Martin died at a hospital, two weeks after a broken arm exacerbated existing health problems.

Her wife, Phyllis Lyon, was with her.

"Ever since I met Del 55 years ago, I could never imagine a day would come when she wouldn't be by my side," Lyon, 83, said in a statement."

Read full story at www.theadvocate.com

INDIAN TRIBE RECOGNIZES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

"The Coquille Indian Tribe, based on the southern Oregon coast, recently adopted a law recognizing same-sex marriage, and its first such wedding is set for next spring.

Oregon voters amended the state constitution in 2004 to prohibit gay marriage. But as a federally recognized sovereign nation, the tribe is not bound by the Oregon Constitution."

Read the full story: News Releases at www.MCCToronto.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS TODAY

Registration and a special Welcoming Ceremony will mark our first Sunday of this 2008-09 Season.

If you have children aged 3 to 12, meet us at our Sunday School Sign at the front of the church so they can enjoy a structured time of prayer, bible stories, songs, crafts and activities with our amazing teachers of the Children's Ministry Team!

A NOTE FROM WANDA BUSSIÈRE, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hi everyone! This is the first year we offered summer programming - Sunday School during the month of July - and we had a wonderful turnout with children enjoying themselves with singing, bible stories, prayers, and craft activities.

For September, WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS! We have our teachers lined up, but are in dire need of TEACHER ASSISTANTS. No prep work is involved, and we only require a once a month commitment. If you've been thinking about volunteering with our ministry, love to work with children, and are willing to make a once a month commitment for this coming year, please email our Volunteer Fractal Leader, Jules Chiasson, at Children@MCCToronto.com

Thanks so much! Looking forward to hearing from you.

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 Williams and Rev. BK Hipsher.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Do you remember the first time that you attended a worship service at MCC Toronto?

How about the great feeling of being welcomed by a caring volunteer who greeted you or gave you information?

Have you thought of paying this feeling forward and giving back to our newcomers?

Well, there are many volunteer roles for you to choose from directly supporting worship and get involved typically once a month to 'make all feel welcome':

- :: **Worship Coordinators** are the 'stage managers' for each worship service
- :: **Greet people** as they enter the church and usher to their seats before and during services. Collect tithes and offerings.
- :: Join the **Altar Guild** to assist during the service and maintain materials between services
- :: Be an **Anointer for Healing and Communion Server** to convey God's message of unconditional love
- :: Greet newcomers as a **Home Team member** in the sanctuary with an information package after the service ends and assist at the monthly Welcome Home reception
- :: Join the **Children's Ministry** to teach Sunday School, act as an assistant, or escort the children from the sanctuary to the Sunday School room
- :: Lead the congregation in singing music and singing anthems with the **morning or evening choirs**
- :: Be a **Sanctuary Saint** to maintain the sanctuary in a state of cleanliness
- :: **Transcribe the sermons** which are then placed on the MCC Toronto web page
- :: **Multimedia Team** volunteers operate the PowerPoint slides during the services with the option to assist with design
- :: Assist the **Technical Ministry** with the operation of a sound board during services. Also do the recording of each service.
- :: Audition as a **Lector** to read the sacred readings during services and special events on September 14 at 1:00pm.

To get involved visit the Volunteer Integration Partners (V.I.P.) at the Information Desk and pick up program panels in the Social Hall or attend the Volunteer Fair on September 14 from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Carol Newman, Coordinator of Volunteers & Engagement, is available to provide information about volunteering and assist you with choosing a meaningful position. She can be reached at extension 126 or CNewman@MCCToronto.com.

Carol is present to speak with you during Coffee Hours after the morning services except for the 3rd Sunday of each month of which she attends the evening service.

There is a place for you to volunteer at MCC Toronto.



Angels of the Week

Our Angels of the Week are
ALL CHILDREN AND TEACHERS
as they go back to school!

This also includes all our precious children who attend Children's Church and their escorts, teacher assistants, the teachers and all others involved in this ministry that gives us all so much! Thank you for being a part of our church!



Our continuing relationship with Alliance offers those in our community the chance to die at home with dignity - and with care and respect for our relationships and families. Alliance shares MCC Toronto's value of diversity, and is committed to providing compassionate hospice and palliative care to the GLBT community. www.alliancehospice.com / (416) 385-8885

MCC TORONTO PARTNERS

In collaboration with the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, Wellspring hosts two cancer support groups at their Coach House:

- Support for Lesbians (and partners) Coping with a Diagnosis of Cancer**
..a drop-in program on the first Thursday of every month, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, and;
- Gay Men's Cancer (and partners) Information and Networking Group**
..a drop-in program on Mondays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. No registration required.



For more information, please visit Wellspring between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday at 81 Wellesley Street E., Toronto. (416) 961-1928 www.Wellspring.ca



E-MAIL:

GO

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
www.mcctoronto.com

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

"Did YOU know? ...because I didn't!"

That we have a jar at the Info Centre where YOU can place your **Canadian Tire money!**

Clear out your pockets, purses (no smirking, please!) and check your house for these pieces of paper that do nothing more than sit in a drawer taking space.

This is an on-going way to assist with the upkeep of the building!
What a win-win thing to do!

We Are Doing Our Part!

In our continuing efforts to bring MCC Toronto into the new eco friendly world strides have been made to reduce our consumption of paper. Over the last year the volume of paper being disposed of through recycling has decreased by approx. two thirds. Where it was once necessary to have two large bins of paper products collected every week there is now a single bin which may take two to three weeks to fill for the city's recycling pick up once a week. These amounts are based on standard daily business practices and do not include special events.

Watch for more updates as things improve here at MCC Toronto to reduce our carbon footprint: what is a carbon footprint you may ask?

Carbon footprint:

Many of your actions generate carbon emissions, which contribute to accelerating global warming and climate change. This is called your carbon footprint an indication of the effect you have on the climate in terms of the total amount of greenhouse gases you produce (measured in units of carbon dioxide). The first step to taking effective action is to reduce your carbon footprint. By reducing waste materials that require energy to recycle or to produce we decrease our carbon footprint.

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 July, the Thrift Shop raised \$679.00 for the Church, an average of \$169.75 for each of the four Sundays that we were open.

Interesting items include: glassware, table lamps, candles, kitchen wares, framed pictures, small sets of dishes, dinner table cloths, bath and hand towels, bathroom scales, place mats and napkins. NEWS FLASH: we have just received an exceptional collection of costume jewellery (mainly brooches and necklaces) from an estate. The fashion section on the west side of the balcony is completely full, mainly with a good variety of mainly men's clothing. We do not have the space to take any more clothes or shoes. The fashion section is scheduled to close for renovations in October, and the selection of clothing will be drastically reduced.

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!*

WEBCASTING

We are excited to be announcing the launching of MCC Toronto's Webcasting for the fall 2008. The webcasting team has been very busy over the last several months getting ready for live webcasting starting this October for the 11:00am service. Some changes you will notice around the church are: new camera equipment installed on the balconies; new computer screens in the control area; new signage going up regarding the live broadcasting and some changes will be happening to the slides to adhere to copyright laws.

Filming the service has started for practice purposes only. Filming maybe happening at any of the services, 9:00am, 11:00am or 7:00pm thru till the end of September. Please be assured that this footage is not going to be distributed publicly during the testing period.

We are all very excited about this opportunity to be broadcasting and sharing our experience live. It truly helps us build more bridges and reach out to others around the globe. We encourage you to email webcasting@mcctoronto.com with any questions, concerns and or interest in volunteering for the webcasting team.

Continue to look at this space for weekly updates and answers to your questions.

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.

A NOTE FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

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 x 111 or JOConnor@MCCToronto.com

Jennifer O'Connor
Development Associate



**Sponsor
- A - Day**

Carole Parriey and Karen Stanworth
have sponsored a day of MCC Toronto's mortgage.

"In celebration of our 5th wedding anniversary, September 6, 2003!"

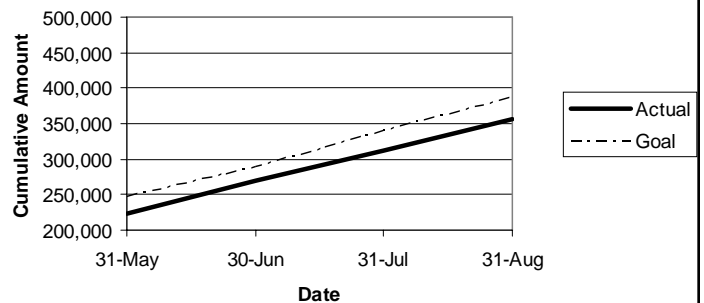
Thank you.

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 August 31, you have given **\$356,618** through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is **\$385,231**.

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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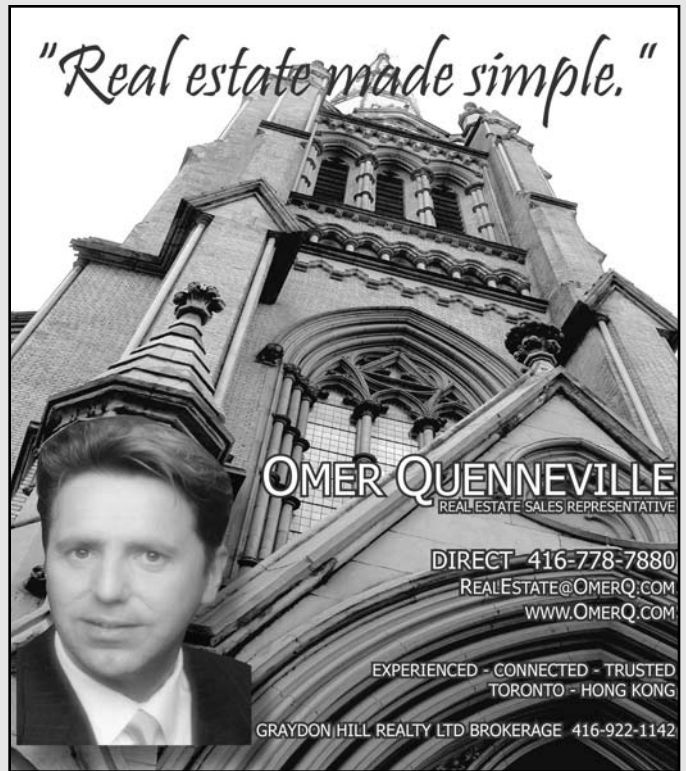


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Homecoming Weekend

Welcome Home! MCC Toronto always celebrates all who "Come Home" in September, even if you're "coming home" to us for the first time!



~ Saturday, September 13 at 1:30pm ~

Jeri Ann Memorial Service

MCC Leader and Pioneer Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey was many things to many people – Pastor, Healer, Friend, Sister, Lover, Mother, Elder. She defined "butch" for many in her generation. She broke down barriers of gender and race.

She was the first woman pastor of MCC Los Angeles; she was the first Native American MCC Elder.

<http://rememberingjeriann.com>

~ Sunday, September 14 ~

Our guest preacher at the 9:00am and 11:00am services will be **Rev. Elder Troy Perry**, and **Rev. Nancy Wilson** at our 7:00pm service.

~ Sunday, September 14 ~

Volunteer Fair

Be sure to join us in the Social Hall after service on September 14 to learn about the various programs offered by our ministries here at MCC Toronto.

Mission Teams do amazing work, all of which help build bridges within our own community, and within the many diverse communities we call home. These teams are developed out of the energy and passions of members and friends of MCC Toronto.

(see insert)