

SUNDAY NEWS



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

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September 14, 2008

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Today in our Social Hall

Visit our Thrift Shop located on the second floor
Volunteer Fair
Adult Spiritual Education (ASE) Registration

Meetings / Events Today

Women's Retreat Team Meeting
Triangle Classroom / 12:30pm to 2:00pm
Lector Auditions
Sanctuary / 1:00pm
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

Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 18 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 7:00pm to 9:00pm

ARE YOU GOING INTO HOSPITAL IN SEPTEMBER?

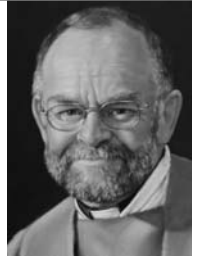
Let the deacons of your church know.
(416) 406-6228 x 114 or Deacons@MCCToronto.com

Homecoming Sunday

Welcome Home!

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

Hello and welcome to MCC Toronto!



This weekend marks our homecoming celebrations. Whether you are coming home to MCC Toronto for the first time or the thirty-fifth time know that we welcome you unconditionally just as God loves you unconditionally.

We are honoured to have both our founder, Rev. Elder Troy Perry and current moderator, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson attend and participate in our Sunday services.

I invite you to attend the evening service tonight in order to hear Rev. Wilson preach.

Out-of town guests will have been here for the celebration of life for the Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey on Saturday and we expect many will attend Sunday service as well. Please make them feel welcomed.

There are many exciting things happening this weekend including our Volunteer Fair, fall course registrations and the audition for lectors...all ways to offer you a unique opportunity to make your church home a more inviting and welcoming church home.

I look forward to the another great year of celebration and sharing this journey with you as we gather each week in worship, while continuing to be a Bridge of Hope and Faith to our world.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Lessons for Life



~ September 21 ~

"God's Choice - Our Choice"

~ September 28 ~

"Putting on the Brakes, Shift Gears!!!"

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

Morning Offertory

ALANA BRIDGEWATER is one of Toronto's quintessential performers. Her ranges of musical works extend from classical to jazz to soul music. She was recently featured in CBC's Gospel Christmas Special for which she received a Gemini nomination. Alana has toured the East coast with jazz great Joe Sealy and his quartet as a member of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale. In October, Alana will be embarking on a new project with Colm Wilkinson in New York City and will be featured in this year's Womens Blues Revue.

Alana has performed for Quincy Jones and Peter Gabriel tributes in the World Leaders Festival. She was the voice for the 2008 Olympic Bid Song. Recent credits include Menopause Out Loud, Smokey Joe's Café in Toronto and Calgary; In A Jam- CBC Television; Little Shop of Horrors- Womens Blues Revue- Toronto Best Little Whorehouse in Texas- Stage West; Menopause Out Loud in Toronto.

The MCC Choir is very pleased to have her as a featured performer on their CD "Connected: Songs for the Heart". She is also featured on "CBC's Gospel Christmas Project" and her debut album "Horizon".

Alana is currently playing the role of "Killer Queen" in "We Will Rock You" which is enjoying an extended run in Toronto.

(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

ALTAR GUILD THANK YOU

The Altar Guild and Anointer / Servers would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous donation of 100 new anointing oils by Earl Murphy. Thanks Earl.

Sanctuary / 1:00pm

LECTOR AUDITIONS

A Lector you say?

Sounds formal...but interesting - what is it?

A Lector is someone who reads the Scriptures during services.

We certainly do not require you to be professionally trained.

Having clear diction and being open to occasional training is preferred.

To audition we ask you to read a couple of passages! Easy?

Sure!...so come on back into the Sanctuary by 1:00pm.

BRIDGES to HOPE & FREEDOM FUNDRAISING EVENT

September 28 / Arcadian Court / 3:00pm (doors open at 2:45)

You are invited to High Tea to celebrate our 35th anniversary. Learn more about MCC Toronto, listen to great music, and mingle with over 400 like-minded people.

We welcome our host, Rita Deverell, as well as our guest speakers, Glen Murray, Sandra Fontenelle, Rachel Meyer, Brian Rolfes, and the Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.. Our talented Choir will be joined by Stephanie Martin; Higher Praise and Pride & Joy (featuring Patti Jamieson) will also perform.

The event is free to attend, and there will be an opportunity during the agenda for guests to make a donation. These gifts are vital to the financial health of MCC Toronto. Last year, this fundraiser provided almost 10 per cent of the church's total revenue. These donations were used to cover general operating expenses, including our mortgage payment and our core programs (weddings, music, funerals, etc.).

MCC Toronto is completely funded through the generous support of our congregation and other fundraising activities. Our regular offerings cover about 55 per cent of our annual operating expenses. Hosting Bridges to Hope & Freedom will be an ongoing and important way to help us meet our budget for overall expenses. As important, it is an opportunity to continue introducing MCC Toronto to an expanding community of supporters.

Kindly RSVP to Jennifer O'Connor, Development Associate, at JOConnor@MCCToronto.com or (416) 406-6228 ext.111.

POLICE RECRUITMENT

The Toronto Police Service Employment Unit in partnership with Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto is hosting a Recruiting Event. This event will be held at the Metropolitan Community Church located at 115 Simpson Avenue on Saturday, October 4, 2008 starting at 1:00pm and ending at 3:00pm.

The purpose of this Recruiting Event is to promote policing as a viable and rewarding career for members of our L.G.B.T. Community.

For further information please contact Police Constable Mulham Tayara #8480 at 416-808-7982 of the Toronto Police Service Recruiting Team or 416-808-JOIN.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Last week, Volunteer Corner listed positions which support our worship services. Other positions available for you to volunteer within MCC are:

- :: **Administrative:** contribute your clerical and computer office skills to assist staff weekly or for projects from Monday to Friday.
- :: **Coffee Hour Ministry:** Use your hospitality skills once a month to prepare, host and clean-up for either the 9am, 11am or 7pm service.
- :: **Garden Fairies:** Create and maintain our church gardens on Saturday mornings from May to September.
- :: **Information Centre:** Provide assistance to congregants and staff once a month during and following one worship service.
- :: **Reception Team:** Help keep the lines of communication open for four hours a week with Thursdays currently available.
- :: **Thrift Store:** Sort incoming donations to assist the team on Sundays.
- :: **Volunteer Integration Partners (VIP):** Assist congregants once a month during a social hour to select a meaningful volunteer position.

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

Carol Newman, Coordinator of Volunteers & Engagement, will be present at the Administration table during today's Volunteer Fair. She is available Sundays as well as Monday to Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. to provide information about volunteering and assist you with choosing a meaningful position. Carol can be reached at extension 126 or CNewman@MCCToronto.com.

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

There is a place for you to volunteer at MCC!



Angels of the Week

This week we want to acknowledge everyone who worked to support the **Celebration of Life for Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey.** The gifts shared were generous and very appreciated - you truly are angels.



E-MAIL:

GO

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
www.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. To find out more, please contact Sandra Millar, Coordinator of Worship and Pastoral Care
SMillar@MCCToronto.com

MCC Toronto

Children's Ministry Monthly Corner

September 2008

Welcome to our new monthly update about the future of MCC Toronto: our children!

On September 7th we held our first Sunday School of this season and had 12 wonderful children join us.

The older children wrote down and discussed what they would ask Jesus if they were one of the kids who came to him when Jesus said, "*Let the little children come to me*". (Matthew 19:13-14). Here's what they said:

"I would ask Jesus, is there a heaven after your life?" and

"What happens after you die?" Rowan

"I would ask Jesus, how long ago did the world begin?" Hannah

"I would ask Jesus, can you come to the future?" Jonah

"I would ask Jesus, where do you live?" Tiffany

"I would ask Jesus, what's your favourite thing in life?" Leah

Being able to see our world through a child's eyes is such a gift.

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 may be 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

Sunday, September 14
has been sponsored on behalf of
Jennifer Alexander and Lori Boyce
in celebration of their special birthdays
and five years married

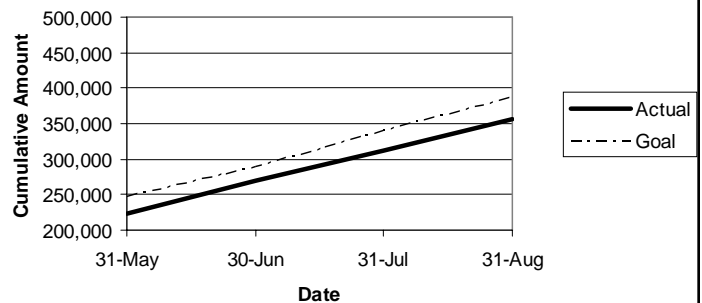
Congratulations from you golf and bridge friends.

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.

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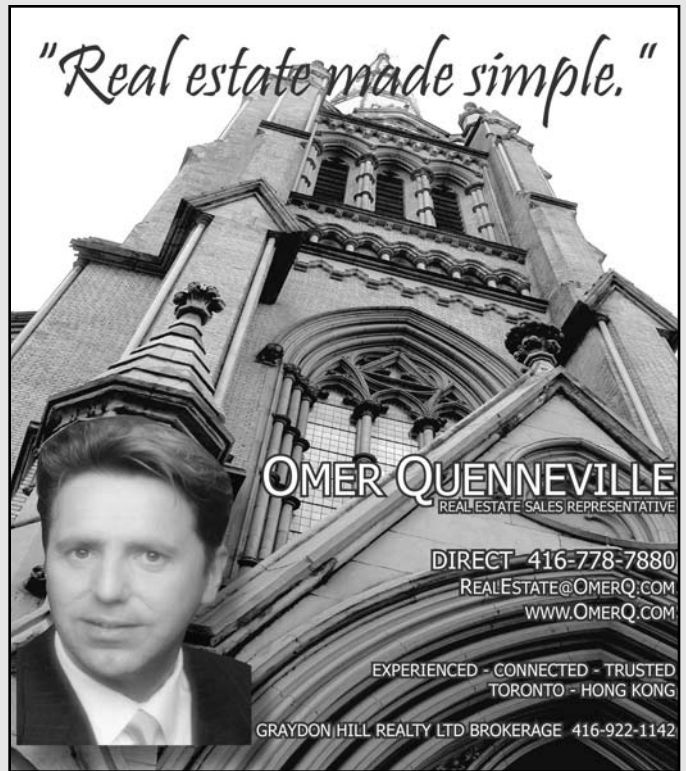


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COME HOME TO THE MCC TORONTO VOLUNTEER FAIR

----- TODAY -----



MCC Toronto volunteer teams are participating in a Volunteer Fair, in our Social Hall TODAY from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

After the summer we typically get revved up in September to get involved in a new and meaningful activity. Get on board and don't miss this exciting event!

Our friendly Team Leaders will be present to greet you and provide information to help you choose where you want to offer your time to MCC volunteer ministries. Sign-up today or take away information while giving yourself time to decide - it is your choice.

Carol Newman, Coordinator of Volunteers & Engagement, will be on hand should you need assistance to decide where you fit as a volunteer. There are so many wonderful choices.

To contact Carol call (416) 406-6228 x 126 or email
CNewman@MCCToronto.com

There is a place for you at MCC Toronto.