

SUNDAY NEWS



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

INSIDE

November 23, 2008

Today in our Social Hall

Visit our Thrift Shop located on the second floor
Sign-up for MCC Toronto's Christmas Choir (*see insert*)
'Santa vs Clause' Ticket Sales (*see page 2*)
Women's Health Issues Information

Meetings / Events Today

Anointer/Server Potluck Lunch
Room 109 / 12:30pm to 2:00pm
Refugee Peer Support Group
Triangle Classroom / 12:45pm to 1:45pm
Santa vs Clause Benefit Fundraiser
Sanctuary / 1:00pm (*see ad on page 2*)
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

Rainbow Toastmasters
Monday, Nov. 24 / Social Hall / 6:45pm
A New Earth, Level II (ASE)
Monday, Nov. 24 / Sanctuary / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Healing Your Inner Child (ASE)
Monday, Nov. 24 / Board Room / 6:45pm to 8:45pm
Creating a Life That Matters (ASE)
Wednesday, Nov. 26 / Room 109 & Rainbow Room / 6:45pm to 8:45pm
A New Earth, Level I (ASE)
Wednesday, Nov. 26 / Social Hall & Sanctuary / 7:00pm to 8:30pm
Dedicated Christmas Choir Registration & Rehearsal
Thursday, Nov. 27 / Social Hall & Sanctuary / 6:30pm to 9:30pm
Rediscovering Genesis
Thursday, Nov. 27 / Room 109 / 6:45pm to 8:45pm
Mission, Vision, Values and Beliefs (ASE)
Thursday, Nov. 27 / Rainbow Room / 7:00pm to 9:30pm

REMEMBER: Next week is FOOD for FRIENDS SUNDAY
Parking is easier at 9:00am and 7:00pm



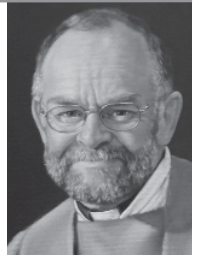
MITTENS 'N MATCH THE MITTEN TREE IS BACK!

Once again, our children from Children's Church are collecting new mittens, scarves and hats this year for their Mitten Tree during Advent!

(*see ad on page 5*)

Tickets for our
Christmas Eve Service
at Roy Thomson Hall are now on sale.
(*See the back page for details.*)

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Brent'.

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Lessons for Life



November 23 / 9:00am, 11:00am
"Women's Health Issues"

November 23 / 7:00pm
"God is a Many Gendered Thing"

November 30 / 9:00am, 11:00am
"Preparation for the Work Before Us"

November 30 / 7:00pm
"Hope"

Children's Ministry Monthly Corner

November 2008

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

We had 13 kids join us this first Sunday of November, and yes, some were still hyper from all their Hallowe'en candy!

Did you know we do our own One Minute Celebrations at Children's Church? Here are some of the things our children at MCC Toronto celebrated this past week:

"I'm taking ballet classes now, and I'm going to be reading in church at Christmas time." Emma

"I made the soccer team." Leah

"Our house is full of candy!" Rowan

"I had a Hallowe'en party at school and got this ball." Jonah

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



Children's Christmas

December 14

The children are practicing a special song to perform in the 11:00am service on December 14th. All children will meet at 10:30am in the Sunday School room to prepare for our special presentation. Right after the children sing there will be a special guest to greet them in the sanctuary ;) After our presentation, we'll be having a Christmas party in the Sunday School room. All children are welcome!

Also on December 14 ...The annual Children's Christmas Bake Sale

On December 14th in the Social Hall the children's ministry is holding a blow out of a sale. There will be items for decorating your home there will be scarves and hats created by Bill and Gary as well as Christmas ornaments from the Object collection from the Thrift shop. We are also asking people to "bring your change" to church for this event. We will have a station set up to empty your pockets and bagged change to help our kids programs. This will all happen in partnership with the annual bake sale. Goodies of all description will be for sale at our Christmas bake sale tables.

TREATING ONE OTHER WITH RESPECT

Life at MCC Toronto can be gratifying, energizing, and, yes, challenging.

The places we come from and the ways we grow once we're here can lead to friction between ourselves and others. This isn't necessarily an unhealthy thing. We value our diversity, and varying opinions that contribute towards our depth.

Everyone at MCC Toronto has the right to be treated with respect and dignity ...including staff.

If you experience any inappropriate behaviour, please speak with a staff member immediately so that we can respond. Intimidation, harassment and similar conduct will not be tolerated.

All are welcome at MCC Toronto, and we wish to make sure that everyone who comes here experiences our joy and inclusiveness.

Sincerely,
 The Staff of MCC Toronto

UPDATE on REV. PAUL FAIRLEY

Paul is no longer able to accept visitors, and we have committed to him and to his family to notify you of this. We know you will support them in this way. They are grateful for our prayers.

Sunday, November 23 / Sanctuary / 1:00 to 2:30pm / \$10.00 includes milk and cookies after the movie

A benefit fundraiser showing of "SANTA VS CLAUS"

Christmas is in trouble! Santa has been bitten by the fame bug and is focused solely on his new purpose in life - fun, fun, fun for himself. Enter, Vladimir Dragonoff, owner of Vladex, a package delivery company, who was chosen by Santa to take over the giving out of Christmas presents. Vladimir, of course has far greater plans than this...what will happen to the presents and the spirit of Christmas? *The showing of this movie has been generously donated by Comet Entertainment. Proceeds will be donated to the MCC Toronto Drag'N Angels and the MCC Toronto Children's Ministry.*

Sunday, November 23 / Triangle Classroom / 12:45pm to 1:45pm

REFUGEE PEER SUPPORT GROUP ☩

If you are a refugee or know of a refugee please join us starting promptly at 12:45pm.

Contact: RefugeeTeam@MCCToronto.com

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Christmas Eve Service

Join in the fun of attending our 19th Annual Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thompson Hall and volunteer at the same time. Volunteer as a Greeter, Usher, or Serve Communion. No experience is necessary and training will be provided. Time commitment is 7:30pm to midnight or 12:30-1:00am. You will be given two complimentary tickets for the service that are within the section that you will be volunteering in. Sign-up today at the Information Centre.

Christmas Eve Preparation

Each year, just before Christmas, volunteers gather at the church, to prepare our Christmas orders of service with inserts. As we gather in service there is no mistaking the friendships that begin. On December 22nd from 11:00am to 4:00pm, join us for the day, lunch will be provided. Sign-up at the Information Centre.

Distribution Team

Be part of a team to distribute posters and postcards to blitz downtown Toronto establishments and spread the word about our amazing Christmas Eve service

Worship Coordinator

You might have wondered why there's a person with a clipboard in the back of the church. You may have seen them checking in with key people. The worship coordinator is the stage manager of worship. Jeff Mount, team leader is committed to making your experience on the team a pleasurable and comfortable one. Jeff will pair a new volunteer with an experienced worship coordinator until they feel prepared to manage on their own. If you want to know the inner workings of service and volunteer at the same time this team is for you!

Golf Planning Team

Volunteer with an enthusiastic team to organize and oversee the 4th Annual Golf Tournament on May 30, 2009. Choose one or more roles to assist the team by obtaining sponsors, seek donated articles for prizes and the auction, organize publicity such as Sunday commercials and Power Point ads, or work the registration tables on Sundays in April and May.

To get involved visit the Volunteer Integration Partners (V.I.P.) at the Information Desk on Sundays after any worship service to find more about volunteering.

Carol Newman, Coordinator of Volunteers & Engagement, is available to provide information about volunteering and assist you with choosing a meaningful position. Carol can be reached at extension 126 or CNewman@MCCToronto.com on Sundays from 8:00am to 4:00pm as well as Monday to Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

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



Angels of the Week

The Angels this week are all those who work or volunteer in fields related to Women's Health.

We are grateful for the gifts you give others
...and for the gift you are to our world!

Morning Offertory

Julie Michels
www.juliemichels.com

Julie Michels is, quite simply, a woman with a beautiful voice. She sings everything and anything that catches her ear: jazz standards, rhythm and blues, Brazilian sambas, African chanting - in a world full of music, it's a banquet of sound just too delicious to pass up! She has played with George Koller, Ottawa's Chelsea Bridge, Kevin Barrett and her bands Sutra and The Parley at many popular jazz venues including the Montreal Bistro, Top of the Senator, the Rex, Hugh's Room, Ottawa's National Arts Centre, Toronto's own Statler's and Canadian and European festivals.

Julie's CDs include Singing Naked (duets with bassist George Koller), Live at Statler's (with guitarist Kevin Barrett), the soundtrack for Pivoting Echoes (debuted with one of Canada's premier dance companies, the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks) and Seriously Happy with the Royal Jelly Orchestra.

Julie is also a featured artist on The Choir's second CD, Connected: Songs for the Heart, which is available for sale at our Information Centre.

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

(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)

Brian Woodlock x 179 / BWoodlock@MCCToronto.com

Webcasting

The webcasting team has been very busy over the last several months getting ready for live webcasting of our 11:00am service starting late November. 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.

We have started filming for practice purposes only. Filming may happen at any of our three services until we go live. Please be assured that this footage is not going to be distributed publicly during the testing period.

Here are a couple of the questions that you have asked:

1. Can we have a copy of the filming of one of the services?
Once we go live, you can download an archived service for the previous 2 months for free.
2. Will you be filming the congregation?
Anyone sitting on the main level of the church could be filmed at any point during the service. It will not be our common practice to focus our filming of individuals seated in the pews, however there will be filming of the front during healing, communion, new member ceremony and family blessings. There will be NO filming of the upper balcony areas during any part of the service.

We are all very excited about this opportunity to broadcast and share 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

A Note from our Music Ministry

November is here already and the choir is going to have a very busy month. You may have noticed that we have added drums and saxophone every week at the 11 a.m. service. We are having a blast, but welcome your feedback. Any requests?

Soloists this month will include Gilles Charette and Jonathan Kropf; Valerie Stanois (Oz in We Will Rock You); East Coast Recording Artists Edie Carey and Rose Cousins; and Julie Michels.

The Choir will be performing at City Hall on Saturday November 29th at the Cavalcade of Lights ceremony as part of a massed choir under the direction of Andrew Craig. If you are out and about that night, the event will start at 7pm.

Plans for Christmas Eve at Roy Thomson Hall are under way and we are hoping to have a much larger choir this year. If you are interested in singing with us, please look for "An Invitation to Sing on Christmas Eve" in your order of service. Special Guests this year are: Alana Bridgewater, Marcus Nance, and Julie Michels.

If you enjoy singing, we welcome you to attend choir rehearsal which starts at 7pm in the Social Hall every Thursday night.

Have a great month,

Diane Leah

Director of Music

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.

At present, there is a good selection of kitchen tools and small appliances, glassware, dishes, small plastic cartoon/ movie characters, and jewellery. There is also a good range of mainly men's clothes in the fashion section. Again, this year, we are scheduling sales of Christmas decorations and holiday accessories on the main floor of the Social Hall on November 30 and December 7. Plan to check out our extensive selection before going to the big retailers.

Our Thrift Shop is OVERSTOCKED!

We are asking that no additional items be left at the church. To help lower our inventories Louie, John & Peter are in a haggling mood. If you see something you like make them an offer.

We ask that at this time you take any merchandise to other locations as we lower our inventory.

CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

"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.

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.

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

I'm not sure why the Fall is my favourite season. Perhaps because my birthday is this month?! Speaking of birthdays, if you have shared your birth date information with us you will have received mail that invited you to reflect on the gifts you have received through MCC Toronto and to renew your commitments for the coming year. We all have an opportunity to both give and receive at MCC Toronto, and it is this sharing that enables us to continue our journey of building bridges. We welcome your feedback on our birthday celebration letters and encourage you to join us at service the first Sunday of each month to celebrate together!

Mitten's 'n Match...

THE MITTEN TREE IS BACK!

Once again, our children from Children's Church are collecting new mittens, scarves and hats this year for their Mitten Tree during Advent!

The Mitten Tree is where they hang mittens, scarves and hats that people donate, and then give them to organizations that help families in need.

Please bring in some new mittens, or a new scarf or hat on Nov. 30th, Dec. 7th, Dec. 14th or Dec. 21st and put them in the basket at the back of the church. Each week the children will take them from the basket and hang them up on the Christmas Mitten Tree.

PLEASE help us to help others!

Thanks from the kids in Children's Church here at MCC Toronto

YEAR END MATCH

As in years past, we have had several donors step forward with the challenge of asking the congregation to match their donations. We will announce the 2008 target on November 30th. More details to come on both of these exciting holiday programs.

A NOTE FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

As the holiday season approaches, all of us at MCC Toronto are busy preparing for our annual Christmas Eve Service & Celebration at Roy Thomson Hall.

Since 1990, we have welcomed more than 2,000 people to the city's largest Christmas Eve service. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of the joy of MCC Toronto and welcome your family and friends- as well as those who are joining us for the first time- to the church.

This year, we can not only look forward to a powerful and moving sermon, but also the Christmas Choir will be joined by special guests Alana Bridgewater, Marcus Nance, Julie Michels and Noella Huet.

Please consider being part of this amazing evening by becoming a sponsor. A range of donor levels (from \$100-\$3,000+) is available. All gifts are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged.

An insert explaining donor opportunities in more detail is included in today's Sunday News. Of course, you can also contact me at 416-406-6228 x111 or JOConnor@MCCToronto.com to make a donation.

Happy Holidays!

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

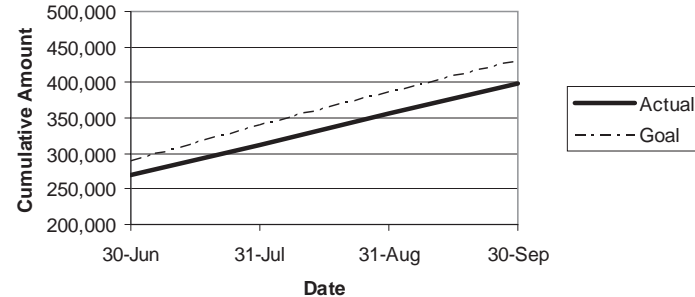
Contact
 JOConnor@MCCToronto.com, (416) 406-6228 x 111

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 September 30, you have given **\$399,349** through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is **\$431,312**.

2008 Offerings



Date	Actual	Goal
30-Jun	~270,000	~290,000
31-Jul	~310,000	~340,000
31-Aug	~350,000	~390,000
30-Sep	~399,349	~431,312

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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CHRISTMAS EVE

Service



December 24, 10:30pm

*Join MCC Toronto and Toronto's diverse communities for our annual Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thomson Hall featuring traditional Christmas Carols and special guest performances by **Alana Bridgewater, Marcus Nance, Julie Michels and Noella Huet** (Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*).*



FOR TICKETS call the Roy Thomson Hall Box Office
(416) 872-4255 or visit www.roythomson.com

Child Care Provided / Wheelchair Accessible / Signed for the hearing impaired

Share the greatest outreach opportunity of the year

Volunteer This Christmas Eve

Distribution Team of posters & postcards

Prepare the Orders of Service with inserts on December 22, 11:00am to 4pm (*Lunch provided.*)

Greet, Usher and Serve Communion (*all elements*)

No experience is necessary, and training will be provided!

PLEASE SIGN-UP TODAY

at the Information Centre or e-mail Volunteer@MCCToronto.com