

SUNDAY NEWS



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

INSIDE

December 21, 2008

*Merry
Christmas*

Today in our Social Hall

Thrift Shop Christmas Decoration Sale

Scarf and Toque Sale

Ticket Sales for our Christmas Eve Service

Meetings / Events Today

Anointer/Server Training

Nursery / 12:30pm to 2:00pm

Music Rehearsal - Sunday Evening Worship Service

Sanctuary / 4:00 to 6:00pm (*Newcomers welcome.*)

Sunday Evening Worship Service

Join us Sunday evenings at 7:00pm to experience the sacred touch of the holy through high energy worship. Raise your hands in praise or open your arms to God's presence.

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.

All in a community that welcomes you no matter who you are.

Meetings / Events This Week

Rainbow Toastmasters

Monday, Dec. 22 / Social Hall / 6:45pm

Pride & Joy Rehearsal

Monday, Dec. 22 / room 109 / 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Choir Rehearsals CANCELLED

Thursday, Dec. 25 and Thursday, Jan. 1

PARKING IS EASIER AT 9:00am and 7:00pm



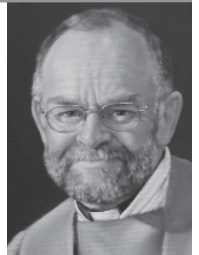
MITTENS 'N MATCH

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)

Select seats for our
Christmas Eve Service
at Roy Thomson Hall are available for sale
today in our Social Hall after the AM services.

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



Advent 1 / November 30
Preparing For The Work Before Us

Advent 2 / December 7
Preparing for Jesus

Advent 3 / December 14
Preparing For Your Own Calling

Advent 4 / December 21
Preparing for New Life

Lessons for Life are available on CD. Please order at our Information Centre, or listen to the series on-line www.mcctoronto.com

SURVEY RESULTS regarding the service on December 28

Thank you to those people who responded to our quick questionnaire taken at the 9:00am service Sunday November 30th, regarding your preferences for December 28th. Based on your feedback we will follow the majority's agreement to combine the 9:00am service with the 11:00am service on December 28th.

A Note from our Music Ministry

Can you believe that it is December? We can! During our first rehearsal of the Christmas Choir at Roy Thomson Hall, 105 singers sang for three hours in a somewhat chilly sanctuary and social hall. We had a wonderful time and this year's service promises to be one of the best yet. Thanks to all of those new singers who joined us. We are thrilled to have you with us.

On December 6, The Choir sang at the Cavalcade of Lights at City Hall and earned a \$2000.00 honorarium which we are putting towards the Mittens and Match campaign. Our choir was the best one (am I biased?). They sang great, they smiled and they made us very proud!

Soloists this month will include Andrew Stelmack (Lion King), Dan Rutzen, Katie White and Jeannie Wyse. John and Colleen will be playing some special duets prior to service and you might hear a bit of Charlie Brown's Christmas...The service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 14th at 7 p.m was an exciting amalgamation of Sunday morning worship and Evening worship style. Mary McCandless (would it be Christmas without her?) was our very special guest.

There will be no rehearsals on December 25th or Jan. 1st.

Merry Christmas and all of the very best for 2009 from the Music Ministry.

Have a great month,
Diane Leah
Director of Music



The staff at MCC Toronto wish you peace and happiness over the holiday season.

Thank you for being part of MCC Toronto and all that we have to offer.

Holiday Season Hours

December 22 & 23	Open 9:00am - 5:00 pm
December 24	Senior Pastor's Office Open 10:00am - 2:00pm Reception and Administration Closed
December 25 - 27	Closed
December 28	Morning Service 11:00am Evening Service 7:00pm
December 29 - January 3	Closed
January 4	Services: 9:00am, 11:00am and 7:00pm
January 5 & 6	Senior Pastor's Office Closed Reception and Administration Office 9:00am - 5:00 pm

Regular hours resume on January 7, 2009.

Thank You Thank You Thank You

The Children's Ministry held a Bake & Craft Sale last Sunday, and would like to thank so many of our generous supporters here at MCC Toronto:

- > Bill & Gary, who donated ALL of their proceeds from their scarf and hat sale.
- > Roy Dean Design, who made 15 sterling silver teddy bear pins to sell at our sale with quotes from our children at Children's Church.
- > The Thrift Shop, who generously donated all of their proceeds from their sales of Dec. 14th.
- > The Drag'N Angels dragon boat team, who generously donated part of their proceeds generated by their showing of the film "Santa Vs Claus".
- > Choir members, families and all other bakers who brought in baked goods for us to sell.
- > You, our congregation, who supported us with your purchases!

Our Children's Ministry has grown substantially in the past year, with us averaging 20 children per week. As a result, we are encountering unanticipated financial needs that we are hoping to cover to accommodate our growth. If you would like to help either financially or through volunteering please contact Carol Newman at cnewman@mcctoronto.com or (416) 406-6228 x 126.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

The Children's Ministry Team

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Nursery Assistant for Christmas Eve

Assist our 2 Nannies to care for the children during the worship service at Roy Thomson Hall. Commitment is 10:30pm to 12 midnight.

Data Entry for Congregational Survey

Computer skill with Excel spreadsheets is needed to enter data from the congregational survey. This is done in the comfort of your home. A template will be provided to collate information on about 20 questionnaires per volunteer. Time commitment is about 5 hours.

Nursery Assistant

Do you enjoy interacting with infants and toddlers under age 3? Our Nanny needs an assistant during the 11 am morning service. Commitment is 10:30am to noon one or more Sundays per month.

On-Call Receptionist

Occasionally our weekday reception volunteers need to be absent. At MCC Toronto we prefer to have a live voice answer calls to provide a personal touch. If you enjoy customer service and have excellent communication skills this position is for you. The role involves answering and directing phone calls to appropriate staff members plus light administrative tasks.

Hours are flexible depending on the day of the week. Henry Wright, who volunteers on Tuesday shares *"I like the interaction with the calls and members of the staff. It makes me feel a part of the operation of the church."*

Golf Planning Team

Join an enthusiastic team to organize and oversee the Annual Golf Tournament. They are working to reach \$12,000 in profits for 2009's tournament Saturday, May 30. Assist the team by obtaining sponsors, donated articles for prizes and the auction, organizing publicity, like Sunday Commercials, Power Point Ads, and working the registration table Sundays, April and May preceding the tournament.

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

Blessings are all around us and this week we thank everyone who contributed to the success of the Children's Christmas.

All the regular volunteers within the Children's Ministry, our own Santa, all the bakers, donors and those who helped with all the moving pieces on the day
- you are all our Angels this Sunday!

Morning Offertory

DAN RUTZEN

Dan Rutzen is a conductor, pianist, and vocal coach who regularly performs around Toronto. He just finished a workshop of Pastor Phelps Project: a Fundamentalist Cabaret for the Summerworks theatre festival which gained media attention due to the alleged protest planned by the Westboro Baptist Church. Though the Phelps family was thankfully stopped at the border, it did not stop the people of Toronto from demonstrating outside the Cameron House with costumes and signs that reinforced God's eternal LOVE and beautifully re-affirmed the extraordinary support we have in Toronto's GLBT community. Look for Dan this fall in the University of Toronto Wind Ensemble and conducting with the North York Concert Orchestra.

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

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

WEBCASTING

A Message from Lisa Landrey, Webcasting Ministry

We are LIVE! On Tuesday December 16th, we were honored by webcasting live for the first time at the Memorial service for Rev. Paul Fairley. I think it's quite appropriate that our first Live webcast was for Paul. Webcasting was one of the many initiatives Paul wanted to see happen here at MCC Toronto. And we had the very special privilege of filming it.

Sunday December 21st, 2008 will be our very first live Sunday service. We want to take this time to tell you a little about the project and the amazing team that put this all together for your viewing pleasure. There were many steps involved to make this happen. There is the obvious technical solution implementation, the cameras, computer and software, and the new sound board. A new fibre optic high speed line was also installed to deliver the required speed to our hosting provider who in return provides the bandwidth for all global users to watch live. We had legal documents, release forms, and copyright laws to comply with for the musical performances. And a whole lot of new administrative procedures implemented at the church to make it happen each week as well as the training and volunteers to do the actual filming.

A promotional video was filmed, scripted, edited, and reworked many times to deliver a remarkable ten minute video to introduce the world to our extraordinary experience of MCC Toronto and welcome them to share weekly through the webcast. This film was shared with many at the Bridges of Hope Fundraiser event and it is also available on the webcasting page to view at your leisure. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful volunteers who were interviewed for the video. It brought real life to it. We're sure you will recognize many. *And yes I was interviewed and NO you won't see me; someone cut me on the second editing.*

Now let me introduce you to the amazing team and please give them a big thank you:

Mark Warren, Co-chair with Lisa Landrey

Kevin Coutu, Nanette Sanson, Jean Carter, Myra Dziama
Christine Chevalier, Robert Dykeman, Suzanne Christie, Brian Gillis

The team did a good job keeping it to a tight schedule and delivering it within budget. Everyone put a lot of heart and soul into delivering a solution that we hope will build many bridges around the world for many years to come.

We would like to remind you the upper balcony is a camera free zone and we do our best to avoid any filming in those areas. We encourage you to email webcasting@mcctoronto.com with any questions, concerns and or interest in volunteering for the webcasting team.

You will be able to **watch live every Sunday at 11:00am** and it will be available for viewing later the same day. And we look forward to all the new opportunities this solution will provide to the church and congregation in 2009.

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.

Our Thrift Shop is OVERSTOCKED!

As there is no space for all of our current stock, **PLEASE DO NOT BRING US ANY MORE DONATIONS.** However, we can recycle used ink cartridges to benefit MCC Toronto.) Your continued support is appreciated! (P.S. We could use some strong people with cars to take excess or tired merchandise to a Goodwill store on Sundays.)

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.



MCC Toronto's Weekly e-newsletter **Sign up here:**

E-MAIL:

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE

www.mcctoronto.com

NANNY FOR NURSERY

Do you enjoy infants and toddlers? Do you have experience caring for children? We are seeking the right individual in the Nursery to provide care for children age 3 and under during Sunday services. Your commitment would be every Sunday morning from 8:30am to 12:00pm. ECE diploma (or equivalent) or extensive childcare experience is required as well as CPR certification. Access to CPR training is available. Honorarium will be provided. Contact Carol Newman for more details. CNewman@MCCToronto.com / (416) 406-6228 x 126

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

We celebrate the holidays in many ways during December. It is a time for friends, family and reflection on all that has happened over the year. Whether we have been blessed with great fortune, challenged with troubling times, or experienced some of both, it is important to know that MCC Toronto remains a constant and guiding force for us all. There is an abundance of spirit, caring and love in our church home. Each one of us is responsible for creating and nurturing it at all times. This year is unique, as we are in an unprecedented economic environment. Yet we know the church's financial needs remain the same. As you think about year end giving in these times, we are grateful for your support, and hope you find joy in knowing that your gifts allow us to continue bringing MCC Toronto into the lives of those who need it most. Thank you, and blessings for a happy, healthy season.

- M is for *Mittens*
- M is for *Match*
- M is for *Merry Christmas!*

On the Advent Sunday we launched our annual Mittens and Match program. Until December 21st, we'll be asking you to bring your donations for the Mitten Tree and the Year End Match.

These are challenging times, but when we experience difficulties, giving our time, talents and treasure becomes more important.

Please remember to bring your new mittens, scarves and hats to service. The Sunday School children will use them to decorate the Mitten Tree and distribute them to families in need through organizations such as the Red Door Shelter and the 519 Church Street Community Centre. Donations can be left in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

Also, please consider donating to the Year End match. Several donors have generously pledged more than \$50,000. Thank you *John Dow Douglas Elliott & Greg Lawrence, Fusion Strategic, The Honourable Bill Graham, Darrell Jensen & Dan McHenry, Brian Rolfes & Brad Berg, Ray Snell, John Tory, Jamie Watt, The Samuel Family and an anonymous donor.* Now, we are asking the congregation to match these gifts with \$25,000. A yellow envelop for special offerings is in this issue of Sunday News; please use this envelop and place your gift in the offering plate. Envelopes are also available at the information centre.

If you have any questions about the Mittens and Match program, please do not hesitate to contact me at 416-406-6228 x 111 or JOConnor@MCCToronto.com.

Thank you for your support of Mittens and Match.

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

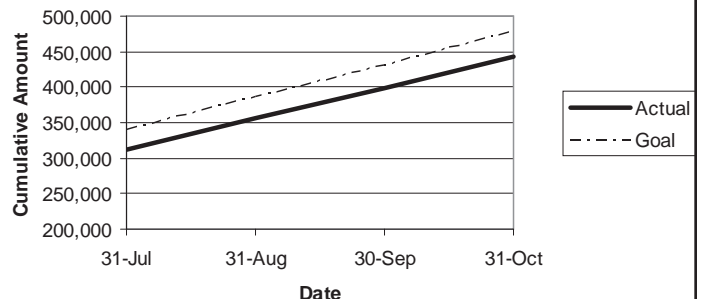
Contact
JOConnor@MCCToronto.com, (416) 406-6228 x 111

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 October 31, you have given **\$443,903** through your regular offerings. Our year-to-date goal is **\$477,8302**.

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!

(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



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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).



TICKETS

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today in our Social Hall after the AM services

OR

call the Roy Thomson Hall Box Office
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