

SUNDAY NEWS



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

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Today in our Social Hall

Visit of Thrift Shop on the second floor of the Social Hall

Meetings / Events Today

Black Education Awareness Team Meeting

Room 109 / 12:30pm to 1:30pm

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

Choir Rehearsal CANCELLED

Thursday, Jan. 1

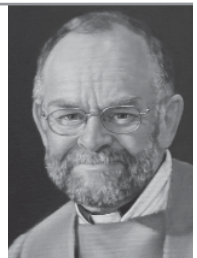
PARKING IS EASIER AT 9:00am and 7:00pm



**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.**

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,

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

Lessons for Life



In 2008 we focused on our 35th Anniversary
In 2009 we'll focus on moving ahead, and
"Taking Flight"

January 4 Taking Flight : "The Butterfly"
January 11 Taking Flight : "The Airplane"
January 18 Taking Flight : "The Sky Jumper"
January 25 Taking Flight : "The Eagle"

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



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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

HOLIDAY SEASON HOURS

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

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

THRIFT SHOP - OVERSTOCKED!

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.

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.)

VOLUNTEER CORNER

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 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."

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!

To get involved visit the **Volunteer Integration Partners (V.I.P.)** at the **Information Centre** on Sundays after any worship service to find more about volunteering. Carol Newman, Coordinator of Volunteers & Engagement, can be reached at extension 126 or cnewman@MCCToronto.com.

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



Angels of the Week

Our Angels this week are the families who took it upon themselves to anonymously donate food and gifts to families in or connected to our church community. All these people focused on the needs of others, but because the giving was anonymous, I believe that the biggest gift of all was their gift of Christmas to themselves. Blessings to the angels all around us!

Morning Offertory

KATIE WHYTE

Katie is a singer, actor, teacher, producer, and stage manager, in addition to being a proud member of The Choir, Pride and Joy, and Higher Praise here at MCC. Katie's performance highlights range from plays (Jojo in The Attic, The Pearls and Three Fine Girls) to musical theatre (Rebecca in Jasper Station) to opera (Miss Jessel in The Turn of the Screw). Katie has made concert appearances at many Toronto concert halls, including Roy Thompson Hall and Massey Hall, as well as in Hamilton, Uxbridge, Barrie, Oshawa, and Kingston, and on CBC Radio.

Katie is also Artistic Producer of Toronto-based theatre production company FlutterBy Productions, which has produced three highly successful cabaret benefits, raising thousands of dollars for the M. S. Society of Canada and the Toronto P.W.A. Foundation. As a stage manager, Katie's recent credits include the premiere of The Shift (WeFew Collective), The Secret Garden and Twelfth Night (Resurgence Theatre Company), Adam's Attic (Bespoke Theatre), Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet (Classical Theatre Project). Katie is a graduate of the Bachelor of Music programme at Queen's University, Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts, and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

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



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.

"Kwanzaa yenu iwe na heri"
**Welcome to a
Celebration of Kwanzaa**

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from December 26 through January 1st, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

The foundation of Kwanzaa are the Seven Principles, or Nguzo Saba. When Dr. Karenga created the celebration of Kwanzaa he wanted to reflect the best qualities and characteristics of the "first fruit" or harvest festivals that were celebrated throughout Africa. It was these qualities that established the Nguzo Saba, or Seven Principles of Kwanzaa. (Nguzo Saba is Kiswahili for Seven Principles).

Umoja (oo-MOH-jah): Unity

Success starts with Unity. Unity of family, community, nation and race.

**Kujichagulia (koo-jee-chah-goo-LEE-ah):
Self-Determination**

To be responsible for ourselves. To create your own destiny.

**Ujima (oo-JEE-mah):
Collective work and responsibility**

To build and maintain your community together. To work together to help one another within your community.

Ujamaa (oo-jah-MAH): Collective economics

To build, maintain, and support our own stores, establishments, and businesses.

Nia (NEE-ah): Purpose

To restore African-American people to their traditional greatness. To be responsible to Those Who Came Before (our ancestors) and to Those Who Will Follow (our descendants).

Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah): Creativity

Using creativity and imagination to make your communities better than what you inherited.

Imani (ee-MAH-nee): Faith

Believing in our people, our families, our educators, our leaders, and the righteousness of the African-American struggle.

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.

"DID YOU KNOW? 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.



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

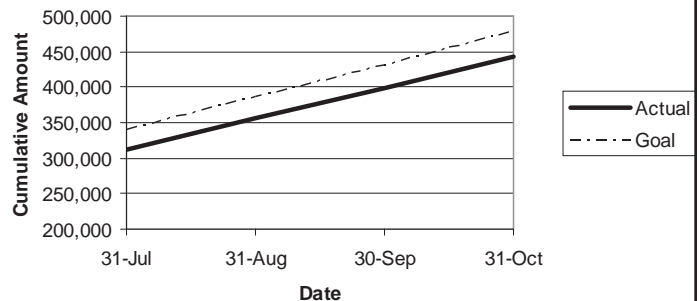
Contact
JConnor@MCCToronto.com, (416) 406-6228 x 111

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!



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.

(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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Pointsettia Dedications

Thank you to all who made dedications to support the purchase of flowers for our Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thomson Hall.



Andreas Bogojevic in honour of my loving mother who supports me unconditionally

Angela Abbatangeli in memory of Micheal Abbatangeli

Angelito Pena in celebration of continued good health

Bill Dennison & Ron Beben in loving memory of Leslie & Alice Denison and Frank & Mary Beben

Brian Rolfes & Brad Berg in memory of Merryl Berg, Auntie Ono & Bob Phillips

Carole Parriey & Karen Stanworth in honour of Sara, Clare & Tom

Charlotte Copeland in memory of Charles Copeland (husband)

Darlene J. Morris in memory of my mother, Geri

Doug Edgheill in memory of my mother, Patricia Edgheill

Doug Payne in honour of James W. Payne

Edna Romey Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All. You are all wonderful.

Gary Christie from Gary, Bill and Jasper in memory of James Armstrong

Gillian Minshall & Lynn Tennant in memory of Joan Mary Tempest

James Woodbridge in memory of Edwin Woodbridge (father)

John Vigna in memory of Lena Vigna

Ken Rose in celebration of those animals & pets who give us unconditional love

Lou Laurens in memory of my mother, Annette Archer

Maria Lau in memory of her beloved mother, the late Mrs. Rose Lau

Nanette Sanson & Anne Brayley in memory of Nancy & Aaron Sanson

Neil Mens in honour of Tim & Geoff

Susan Leslie-Berkis in memory of Davey-Prior

W. Bruce Munrow in memory of Matthew Hawthorne & Brian McCracken

