

SUNDAY NEWS



2009

36th Anniversary of MCC Toronto ...Moving Ahead and Taking Flight!

November 29, 2009

Today we recognize...

November 29: **First Day of Advent**

December 1: **World AIDS Day**

Nursery (3 yrs and under) during our 9:00am and 11:00am Services
(located across from the Main Office) ...follow the signs.

Children's Church (4 to 12 yrs) during our 11:00am Service

On Sunday, December 13th: **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS!**

ALL children, visitors included, are welcome to join us downstairs in the Children's Church room for our Christmas Party.

Today in our Social Hall

Thrift Shop Christmas Decor Sale

Tote Bag, Scarf & Toque Sale

Christmas Eve Service Sponsorship & Ticket Sales

Drag'n Angels Christmas Cake Sale

Sign-up to deliver Toronto Star Gift Boxes

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

Meetings / Events Today

Welcome Home Reception

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

Men's Retreat Committee Meeting

Children's Church Room / 12:30pm to 2:30pm

Drag'n Angels Team Meeting

Main Office / 12:30pm to 1:30pm

Music Rehearsal - Sunday Evening Worship Service

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

Sunday Evening ELEVATION Service

Sanctuary / 7:00pm

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.

Meetings / Events This Week

Dances of Universal Peace

Tuesday, December 1 / Social Hall / 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Healing Your Inner Child

Tuesday, December 1 / Room 109 / 6:45pm to 8:45pm

A New Earth (ASE)

Tuesday, December 1 / Social Hall / 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Creating a Life That Matters (ASE)

Wednesday, December 2 / Social Hall / 6:45pm to 8:45pm

Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 3 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / **6:30pm** to 9:30pm

Energy FLOW (ASE)

Thursday, December 3 / Children's Church Room / 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Progressive Christianity (ASE)

Thursday, December 3 / Room 109 / 6:45pm to 8:45pm

Christmas Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 5 / Sanctuary & Social Hall / 9:00am to noon

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

WELCOME HOME RECEPTION

The Home Team cordially invites you to find out more about MCC Toronto, ask questions, be greeted by Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes C.M., Staff and Board members.

Whether you're new to the church or want to introduce MCC Toronto to someone else, please join us.

Light snacks and beverages will be served.

Christmas Eve Service Tickets

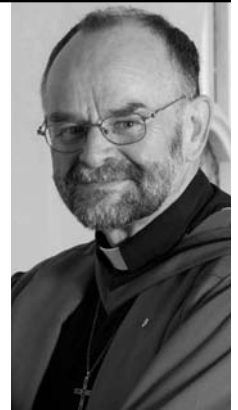
Our Christmas Eve **Sponsors** may pick-up their tickets in the Social Hall today after morning services.

Selected tickets are also available for sale.

Volunteer tickets will be available to pick-up on Sunday, December 13 & 20

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.



One of our bedrock beliefs is that: "All life is a gift, and each life has a purpose." All kinds of people come to MCC Toronto, and we look at each person as a unique gift. We hope that through our worship and celebration, adult spiritual education programs and other opportunities, MCC Toronto can be a place where you deepen your sense of your life's purpose as you continue on your spiritual journey.

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



WHAT TIME IS IT? SERIES

November 29

Part I: Is it the End of Times?

December 6

Part II: When is it Time?

December 13

Part III: Is it Time to Share?

December 20

Part IV: Is it Time to Believe?

December 24

Part V: It's Time!

(Christmas Eve at Roy Thomson Hall)

Lessons for Life are available to view on-line at
www.MCCToronto.com/video.

They are also available on CD. Please order at our
Information Centre, or listen on-line. 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

Offertory

JULIAN MOLNAR

Julain is a singer/actor/teacher/stable girl based in Prince Edward Island. Theatre adventures include The House of Martin Guerre - Canstage (Dora Award) and the Goodman Theatre Chicago; The Phantom of the Opera, Ragtime, Into the Woods - Livent; The Sound of Music (Merritt Award); Oliver! - Neptune Theatre; two seasons at the Stratford Festival and ten seasons at the Charlottetown Festival where she heads the voice department for the Young Company. Julain is presently and happily performing in The Princess and the Handmaiden at LKTYP with the lovely and talented Diane Leah. Her CD, "Lullabies for a Sleepless World," will be available after the service.

TODAY

DRAG 'N ANGELS CHRISTMAS CAKE SALE

Back by popular demand, Jane and Elaine have **Christmas cakes and cookies** for sale. These are high quality products made by Grant's Bakery in Montreal. It is a family run Scottish bakery.

To be prepared here is what we have:

Fruit cake in decorator tin \$17

Cherry Pound cake in decorator tin \$17

Shortbread Cookies \$ 6

TODAY during both morning services

FOOD FOR FRIENDS

A number of times throughout the year there are five Sundays in a month. MCC Toronto took the initiative to designate this fifth Sunday as Food Drive Day. If you have forgotten to bring a non-perishable item, and would like to help, a box is provided where you can place a cash donation.

Contributions are donated to The Toronto People with AIDS Foundation Food Bank. The Toronto People With AIDS Foundation exists to promote the health and well-being of all people living with HIV/AIDS by providing accessible, direct, and practical support services. All cash donations are used to purchase much needed items like bread, milk or produce when the food bank runs short. All non perishable items will be used in the weekly food bank.

Your support is greatly appreciated. A toonie or a non-perishable item is all it takes to help our volunteers provide a program of excellence.

Tuesday, December 1/ Sunday School Room / 7:30pm - 9:00pm

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE

The Dances of Universal Peace are simple, joyous, circle dances that honour the sacred traditions of the world-bringing us closer to the Divine, touching the spiritual essence within ourselves and others. All are welcome!



Contact: DUP@MCCToronto.com

SUNDAY EVENING ELEVATION 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 and Deacon Randi Williams.**

H1N1

Protecting ourselves and our community from the flu given international concerns over the H1N1 flu, we want to ensure that MCC Toronto is a safe and healthy place to worship and meet. Please read our postings at the entrances to our Sanctuary.

VOLUNTEERING at MCC TORONTO

We commit to excellence and teamwork with a code of conduct that promotes a warm and loving environment.

Angel of the Week



In honour of World AIDS Day

All people who work or volunteer in fields related to HIV/AIDS are our Angels this week.

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

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

75 ELVES WANTED FOR DELIVERY

ON DEC 6TH OVER 1500 TORONTO STAR SANTA CLAUS FUND BOXES NEED TO BE DELIVERED TO **NEEDY KIDS** IN OUR COMMUNITY

PLEASE HELP SANTA - BE AN ELF

Sign Up to Deliver Boxes: In The Social Hall After 9 & 11 Services or email us at: starboxsanta@rogers.com

Mrs. & Mrs. Claus
aka Romelda & Heather

Chimney experience not required...
Elves use the front door.

VOLUNTEER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

at Roy Thomson Hall

Join in the fun of attending our 20th Annual Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thomson Hall and volunteer at the same time. Volunteering includes all 3 elements as a Greeter, Usher and serving Communion. No experience is necessary and training will be provided. Time commitment is 8:00pm to midnight. You will be given two complimentary tickets for yourself and a guest that are within the section that you will be volunteering in. Sign-up today at the Information Centre.

MARKETING & PUBLICITY SPECIALIST

Plan, develop and implement marketing strategies to promote and publicize "The Choir: Arms Open Wide" Concert Series (March 2010) and third CD release. Position is from January 4 - March 27, 2010 reporting to the Concert Producer.

COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

If you want to meet some wonderful people and be part of a diverse and friendly team, this is the ministry for you. Volunteers enhance the experience of fellowship at MCC Toronto by providing coffee, tea, and cookies for social hour once a month in the social hall.

Arrive 30 minutes before the service to set up, plus assist and clean up during the social hour. New team members are invited to assist for the 9am service for the 1st, 2nd, 4th or 5th Sunday of each month or the 11am service for the 5th Sunday. You will be scheduled by the Team Leader according to your availability.

ANOINTING & COMMUNION SERVING MINISTRY

Anointing and Communion are an integral part of every worship service at MCC Toronto. What is Anointing? Those who come forward may come in search of personal healing, or for strength to bring healing to someone else - or for a world in need of healing. Communion, or the Eucharist, is the ceremony that commemorates the Last Supper. We celebrate an open communion; you don't have to be a member of MCC Toronto or any other church to receive.

Who are these volunteers? These are the people who have been trained in how to serve the Communion. They are not standing behind the altar but have elements in the vessels being held and share of this food with all who come forward. At the same time they share a brief blessing with the recipients.

What special skills should volunteers need to share in these areas of service? None really - except that they will have such gifts of the Spirit as healing and discernment.

The next training is December 20 in Room 109 from 12:30pm to 2:00pm.

MCC TORONTO DEACONS**A Note from Deacon Sandra Millar**

Coordinator of Worship, Pastoral Care and Funerals

I would like to introduce our Deacons serving in worship so that you may know them better - to see the different gifts and life experience they offer, and to know that we are here to serve you and join you on your deepest life journeys, as you invite us in.

We now have the largest number of deacons MCC Toronto has ever had and therefore the greatest pool of gifts to offer. We stand poised for expanded ministry, new communal endeavours, and even greater support of you, our congregation.

To access support from a deacon, here are the ways:

- 1) speak directly to the deacon on duty, Sundays
- 2) email Deacons@MCCToronto.com
- 3) email Care@MCCToronto.com

Deacon DARLENE MORRIS

Darlene Morris was born in 1936 in small town USA. I am a retired nurse, mother of six and grandmother of 12. I moved to Toronto in 1967 and started my search for a church. It took me 29 years to find MCC Toronto but when I did I knew that I was home. I have been a member of MCC Toronto for over 14 years, volunteering in many jobs. I have fought my demons with alcohol, cigarettes and a relationship break-up ...and won. May this be of use to someone else? The more that I participate in the activities in my church, the more I have loved every moment. I truly feel blessed to be a Deacon; may I serve you well.

Deacon KEVIN WILLCOCK

Kevin's first introduction to MCC Toronto was when he attended the 1993 Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thomson Hall. His first volunteer role was Ushering at the Pride service the following year. After that Kevin regularly ushered at Sunday Services and in no time he was the Usher team captain. Kevin has lent his talents to several committees, including the DNA team, the Hero's Gala organizing committee, and the 2006 & 2007 men's retreat. He has led relationship break-up groups as well as several of our conversation circles. In 1999 Kevin joined our team of Deacons and has been offering pastoral care and assisting in Sunday Worship ever since. Kevin is a graduate of the CLM program.

Faith Joy Leadership

LOST & FOUND

Items in our Lost & Found box at the Information Centre will now be kept for 30 days and then donated for sale at the Thrift Store. Check with a VIP volunteer at the Information Centre for any items which you have lost.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE of

Lessons & Carols

Familiar Carols surround the ever told story of the birth of a child.

Sunday, December 13

Sanctuary doors open at 6:45pm.

Service starts at 7:00pm followed by a social hour with Christmas goodies.

Do you have a garden lantern?

We invite you to bring it and place it on the perimeter of the church grounds. We will have a tea light or a pillar for your lantern. Light it as you go in to enjoy this wonderful Christmas celebration. As you leave, take your lantern home with you - leaving it lit as you walk to your car or home - carrying the intent to light your world.



A NOTE FROM NANETTE SANSON

Interim Development Officer
 NSanson@MCCToronto.com
 (416) 406-6228 x 111

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YEAR END GIVING

The wonderful thing about the Holiday Season is the many opportunities we have to express our appreciation to our friends, family and work associates, and to give our support whether in time or money to others and those community organizations with whom we partner throughout the year to realise our common goals and mission.

We are proud and very thankful that you have chosen to make MCC Toronto your spiritual home and consider it a place where you can share your time with friends, acquaintances and MCC Toronto staff and volunteers.

As you consider your year end giving, let me share the many ways you could participate in MCC Toronto's year end fundraising goals and events:

Meals & Match Campaign

Become a Match Donor and join the challenge to help MCC Toronto fulfil its 2009 Congregational Giving Goal and bring lots of non-perishable food to fill the bins for our food drive in support of the Daily Food Bank.

Sponsor the Christmas Eve Service

This is the 20th Anniversary of our Christmas Eve Service at Roy Thomson Hall. Each year we welcome more than 2,000 people, making it the largest Christmas Eve Service in the city. You can support this 20th Anniversary Service in the following ways:

1. Be an Individual or Business Sponsor
2. Buy tickets for you, your family and friends
3. If you cannot attend, consider mailing a donation for the Offertory, or
4. Make a Christmas Poinsettia Dedication donation.

Volunteer to deliver Star Santa Boxes

Play a role in the delivery of more than 1600 Star Santa Boxes to needy families in the community by volunteering to be one of our 75 Santa Elves (you will need to provide your own sleigh).

If you have any questions regarding any of these Giving Opportunities, please contact Nanette Sanson at 416-406-6228, ext 111 or NSanson@mccutoronto.com.

Thank you for your support. We couldn't do it without you!

REGISTERED CHARITY

MCC Toronto is registered as a charitable organization with the Government of Canada, and its charitable registration number is 130353469RR0001. MCC Toronto issues tax receipts every January for eligible contributions received during the previous year.



**Sponsor
- A - Day**

The mortgage payment for
Sunday, October 29, 2009

has been donated by
Bill Denison and Ron Beben
*..in Celebration of the Life of Wally Hamilton,
 a man who was an example - Honourable,
 Loving, Compassionate and Giving*

**Annual Year End MEALS and MATCH
Fundraising Campaign!**

\$45,000 Match Challenge
 450+ non-perishable food donations

This year, the following donors have agreed to provide a match of \$45,000 and to challenge the congregation and friends of the church to match these pledges 1:1. They are anxious to provide this funding so let's meet their challenge over the next few weeks to guarantee the financial well-being of our spiritual home. And, our Meals Drive will benefit needy families in our community through the Daily Food Bank:

2009 Match Donors

- Brad Berg and Brian Rolfes**
John Dow
Douglas Elliott & Greg Lawrence
William Graham
William (Bill) Graham
Teresa Harvey & Janet Ridley
Lee Hill & Walter Donovan
Darrell Jensen & Dan McHenry
Gillian Minshall & Lynn Tennant
"in loving memory of Joan Tempest"
Ray Snell
Bill Whitbread & Gary Christie
Anonymous

Thank you for your generosity and support in making this campaign a success. A Merry Holiday Season to ALL!

If you would like to make your contribution by phone or mail, please contact Nanette Sanson, Development Officer (416) 406-6228 x 111.



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A Holiday Assortment

December 12, 2009
2pm and 8pm

Riverdale Presbyterian Church
662 Pape Avenue.
(South of Danforth / Pape Station)

Tickets: \$15 Advance, \$20 Door, \$10 Stu./Sen.
From www.singingout.com,
Rev. Deana Dudley 416-406-6228 x130
or Out On The Street 551 Church St.



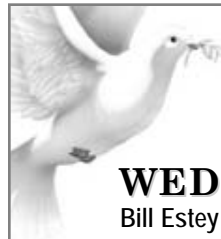
RECYCLE YOUR CARTRIDGES!

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@RWorldToronto.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

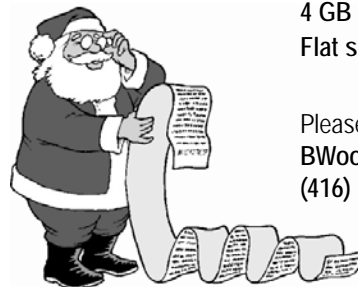
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Christmas Wish List

MCC Toronto would be grateful for the following donations:

- > 15 new folding tables
- > Computer
 - Min. specs: Pentium 4 / Windows XP
 - 2.8 GHz Processor
 - 4 GB RAM
 - Flat screen monitor



Please contact Brian Woodlock
BWoodlock@MCCToronto.com
(416) 406-6228 x 179

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTRY

The choir, as has become the norm, has had a very busy month with rehearsals and outreach event preparation. On Thursday Nov. 19th, The Choir and Julie Michels performed at The Liberty Grand at The Head Wraps Fashion Show and Concert. This was a fundraiser for the Princess Margaret Hospital to provide wigs and scarves to those undergoing treatment for cancer. It is a great cause, and very close to our hearts. For more information, please see the poster on the bulletin board.

Soloists this month have included Julie Michels, Stephanie Martin, Pride & Joy, Adrian Lucas and today, Julain Molnar.

Plans for Christmas Eve at Roy Thomson Hall are under way and we are hoping to have as big a choir as last year - 107 voices strong. 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: Jeigh Madjus, Stephanie Martin and Jackie Richardson.

If you are interested in singing with the Choir,
please come to rehearsals in November.
December gets very busy!
(Thursday - 7:00pm to 9:00pm)

Have a great month,

Diane Leah
Director of Music

Advocacy Caring Celebration

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop is located on the balcony on the north side of the Social Hall. It is open on Sundays between 10:00am and 1:00pm and offers a wide range of household and kitchen items, dishes, glassware, candles, BOOKS, small appliances, lamps, DVDS, games and occasionally small pieces of furniture. **AT PRESENT WE HAVE A LARGE SELECTION OF POPULAR AND CLASSICAL CDs AT \$2.00 APIECE AND A BETTER THAN USUAL SELECTION OF BOOKS.** All of the merchandise is donated by members of the congregation and their friends, and shopping bags are free. Proceeds from all of the sales go to support the Metropolitan Community Church Toronto. You may bring us small donations on Sundays. If you are delivering during the week, phone the church to make certain that there is someone there to receive you and carry your donations up to the balcony and place them behind the velvet draperies. Contact Louis Bodnar (416-929-9513) for the pick-up of larger donations. Currently, we are in need of Christmas items for our annual sale in late November. Please take clothes or computer items to Goodwill, Value Village, the Salvation Army or St. Vincent de Paul.

WE ARE URGENTLY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WITH CARS OR A VAN TO TAKE SOME OF OUR EXCESS OLD STOCK TO GOODWILL.

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Offer review Monday, Nov. 30th.



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MCC Toronto

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

November 2009

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

Children's Church

Thanks to the many hours of hard work on renovations, Children's Church is now being held in our new and improved room! Thank you to Cheryl and Jean-Aimé Lalonde as well for the donation of a keyboard: we are now going to start integrating music routinely into our children's worship services.

The children are continuing to learn about the story of Moses, and have been busy making baskets and doing other craft-related activities.

We are now starting to prepare for our December 13th song presentation in the 11am worship service. The song the children will be singing has been recorded on a CD for each child to take home to learn along with the lyrics. Our Teacher Dwight will be practicing a bit each Sunday with the children. If you have a child that attends Children's Church, or would like to, and you haven't received the CD, please speak with Dwight to receive one. Our Children's Christmas on December 13th will be a very special day!

A Special Thank You

Our Children's Ministry Team would like to thank Jo Bell, our Staff Liaison who is now moving on, for all her dedication, passion, vision, and care of our team and our children. She has helped us create a strong, dedicated, committed and caring team over the last few years, and her work with us has been invaluable. She will be dearly missed as our Liaison, but we are happy that she will still be a part of MCC Toronto and as such can come and visit us at Children's Church anytime. We love you Jo!

Children's Ministry Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 13th: ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS at MCC Toronto! The children will be presenting a special song in the 11am service, after which we will be having our fundraiser in the social hall, including a bake sale - feel free to contribute to our baked goods table, or come and support us by purchasing some yummy treats!

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

Blessings for this month!

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 **THIS THURSDAY**

...a drop-in program on the first Thursday of every month,
7:00pm to 9:00pm.

See Jennifer Alexander or Sandra Millar for more info.

Gay Men's Cancer (and partners) Information and Networking Group

...a drop-in program on Mondays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

No registration required. See Bill Wade for more info.

MCC TORONTO

115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1A1

Ph: (416) 406-6228 Fx: (416) 466-5207

E-Mail: Info@MCCToronto.com

www.MCCToronto.com

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for confidential prayer requests and spiritual care.

ASE Line x 112 ASE@MCCToronto.com

Church Life (excluding CARE and ASE) x 114 Life@MCCToronto.com

For a full listing of our staff, their roles and responsibilities, see the back page of our Meetings & Event insert, or visit our website at www.MCCToronto.com.

MCC Toronto embraces a set of core values and bedrock beliefs that shape what we do - that means we live our doctrine in our daily life as a spiritual community. Our motivating vision is to be a bridge.



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COMING SOON

A Third CD from the MCCToronto Choir

The Choir is recording a new CD!

The Choir: *Arms Open Wide* will be recorded during three concerts to be performed on March 18, 19 and 20, 2010.

Featuring special guests Thom Allison, Stephanie Martin and Jackie Richardson, this CD will visit various musical genres including Gospel, Pop, Theatre and Jazz, as well as exciting new music from Canadian composers written specifically for this project.

Tickets are available now! To get yours, please visit the Choir website at www.mcctorontochoir.com.





20th
Annual
CHRISTMAS EVE
Service

December 24, 10:30 PM
Doors Open at 9:30 pm

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