

July 16, 2017

# Sunday News

## Anniversary Edition

VIBRANT INCLUSIVE PROGRESSIVE



I raised the elements and consecrated them prior to serving Communion at Roy Thomson Hall on Christmas Eve. Only the audience members seated in the Mezzanine section were my witnesses, as I was simply mirroring what Rev. Brent Hawkes, other clergy, and deacons were doing behind the Altar on stage. Yet I would have never had this transformative experience if the worship co-ordinators hadn't grabbed me the moment I arrived for my scheduled greeter role. They were short on servers and believed I could just step into something I'd

never done before. That's the beauty and joy for me of volunteering at MCC Toronto. From one-time projects in the early years (collating materials for a sign-language class or providing child care to Easter palm-cross makers) to a decade of easy involvement in the social aspects of the community (welcoming newcomers, planning dances and trips, decorating the Sanctuary), I was eager to contribute, assured I'd found a place where I belonged.

I'd already taken my leap of faith by attending that first Christmas Eve service in 1990, but it was only after others placed their faith in me that I discovered an inner joy that's grown stronger with every passing year as I continue to Anoint and serve Communion. I hope that you, too, will seek similar opportunities to grow in faith and service, especially as we celebrate Anniversary Sunday.

**Helena Krasocka - MCC Toronto  
25 year medalist (2016)**

## Offertory

**Patti Jamieson** has been a member of The Choir for ten years, indulging her love of singing with friends. She was also a member of Pride and Joy, and was a featured performer at one of our Bridges to Hope and Freedom events, the 2009 Voices for Hospice Concert, our Arms Open Wide concert, at the Christmas Eve service at Roy Thomson Hall in 2011 and at The Choir's CD release concert for "These Old Walls."

Born and raised in Etobicoke, Patti attributes her musical talents to her mother, Bernice, who had a beautiful soprano voice and inspired Patti to keep singing. Patti is no stranger to choral singing: growing up, she sang in the choir at the Presbyterian Church alongside her mother. Patti's hobbies include traveling, music and a passion for golf.

**Music Director:** Diane Leah

## Order of Service

*At the ❖ symbol, please rise as you are able.*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

Gospel Welcome

**Call To Worship**

❖ **Processional**

River

❖ **Opening Prayer**

**Anniversary**

**Covenant**

**Anniversary**

**Awards/Medals**

**Anthem**

The Majesty and  
Glory of Your Name

**Prayers of the  
People**

**Sacred Readings**

**Lessons for Life**

Guiding Principles

Rev. Dr. Brent

Hawkes, CM

**Time of**

**Reconciliation**

Spirit of the Living God

**Prayer of**

**Reconciliation**

**Affirmation of  
Freedom**

**Invitation to  
Anointing**

Holy Ground Medley

Here I Am Lord

❖ **Jesus' Prayer**  
**Offertory**

These Old Walls by  
Patti Jamieson

**Gathering Our Gifts**

Our Journey of Faith

**Holy Communion**

Give Us This Day

I've Got Peace Like A River

When Peace Like A River

Hallelujah (Cohen)

❖ **Because You Live**

❖ **Benediction**

❖ **Closing Words**

**Closing Song**

Celebrate!

## MCC Toronto Clergy

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

**Assistant Pastor:** Rev. Deana Dudley

**Evening Worship Pastor:** Rev. Sandra Morris

**Hispanic Ministries Pastor:** Rev. Carmen Llanos

## First Reading

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### From The Christian Agnostic

I believe passionately that Christianity is a way of life, not a theological system with which one must be in intellectual agreement. I feel that Christ would admit into discipleship anyone who sincerely desired to follow him, and allow those disciples to make their creed out of their experience; to listen, to consider, to pray, to follow, and ultimately to believe only those convictions about which the experience of fellowship made them sure.

## For Your Smiling Spirit

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### Anniversary

On their 50th wedding anniversary and during the banquet celebrating it, Mary was asked to give her friends a brief account of the benefits of a marriage of such long duration. "Tell us Mary, just what is it you have learned from all those wonderful years with your wife?" Mary responds, "Well, I've learned that marriage is the best teacher of all. It teaches you loyalty, meekness, forbearance, self-restraint, forgiveness -- and a great many other qualities you wouldn't have needed if you'd stayed single."

## Second Reading

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### 1 Corinthians 13: 11-13

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.



## Homecoming Weekend

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September 17, 2017

### Celebrate The Past, Embrace The Future!

There's no place like home! Celebrate an incredible weekend with friends & family. Join us for exciting entertainment, family-friendly events and numerous other activities including Jazz Vespers on Sunday. To participate, please contact Annie at 416-406-6228 x107 or send an email to: [amenezes@mcctoronto.com](mailto:amenezes@mcctoronto.com)

## 44 Years of MCC Toronto

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- 1973 A petition is sent to Rev. Troy Perry in Los Angeles requesting a Metropolitan Community Church in Toronto.
- 1974 Rev. Bob Wolfe confronts Toronto City Council about the problem of homophobia in the city's newspapers and the challenges facing LGBTQ youth.
- 1975 MCC Toronto rents a home on Granby St. and sets up a counselling centre, The Gay Community Services.
- 1977 Rev. Brent Hawkes becomes Senior Pastor of MCC Toronto.
- 1978 MCC congregations hold services across Canada concurrent with and in opposition to anti-gay rallies that featured Anita Bryant.
- 1981 Toronto police raid 4 gay bathhouses and arrest over 300 men. Rev. Brent Hawkes begins a 25 day hunger strike on the steps of the Ontario Legislature calling for an inquiry.
- 1981 The Ontario Legislature considers a motion to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code to include sexual orientation as a protected category. When the debate was turning against LGBTQ rights, Rev. Hawkes led an act of civil disobedience, disrupting the legislature.
- 1986 Sexual orientation receives protection under the Ontario Human Rights Code. MCC Toronto obtains 25 signatures from religious leaders to support the amendment.
- 1990 MCC Toronto expands its AIDSCARE program to more than 100 individuals in homes served by 140 volunteers.
- 1991 MCC Toronto outgrows our Gerrard St. church and purchases our current church at 115 Simpson Ave.
- 1994 MCC Toronto begins a partnership with the TDSB to sponsor the Triangle Program, a safe learning space for LGBTQ youth.
- 1996 MCC Toronto intervenes in the case of Egan vs. Canada, seeking equality of same-sex rights under the Old Age Security Act.

Rev. Hawkes testifies in a landmark case, leading to a decision by the Supreme Court that affirms the rights of same-sex couples to equal treatment under the Constitution.	1999
Rev. Brent Hawkes reads the first “banns” for two same-sex couples. A bann is a notice read out on three successive Sundays in a church, announcing an intended marriage and giving the opportunity for objections.	2000
On January 14, two same-sex couples are wed in a double ceremony at MCC Toronto, eventually recognized as the first legal same-sex marriages anywhere in the world.	2001
Rev Hawkes is awarded a Doctorate of Ministry from Trinity College at the University of Toronto.	
Rev. Troy Perry (founder of MCC) and Phillip De Blicek are legally married at MCC Toronto.	2003
MCC Toronto develops a revolutionary adult spiritual education program that expands to MCC worldwide.	2005
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes is appointed to the Order of Canada by Governor General, The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean.	2007
MCC Toronto begins broadcasting on the internet, bringing our message of hope, love and acceptance to 147 countries.	2008
Renovations begin for the Triangle Program, improving the educational experience for LGBTQ youth.	2010
With support from Diane Leah and The Choir of MCC Toronto, Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M., officiates at the state funeral for Jack Layton.	2011
Brent is named Grand Marshall of the World Pride Parade.	2014
MCC Toronto develops programs and procedures to adapt to the changing Care needs of the community.	2016
Rev. Deana Dudley is appointed as our first Assistant Pastor.	2017
Rev. Jeff Rock is elected to succeed retiring Rev. Dr. Hawkes.	

## Happening Today

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### Thrift Shop

Social Hall | Upstairs | North Side

### Children & Family Ministry

11:00 a.m. | Rm 109 & Triangle A

### Social Justice Summer Picnic

1:00 p.m. | Riverdale Park East

### Evening Elevation Service

7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

## Grounded In Love!

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### August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>

Join us for the 9<sup>th</sup> MCC People of African Descent, Friends and Advocates Conference (PAD) in St. Louis! Share in the richness of African American culture, lift your hearts in powerful worship and explore what it means to be Grounded in Love. The MCC PAD Conference is a welcoming space to everyone.

[padconference.mcccchurch.org](http://padconference.mcccchurch.org)

## The Thrift Shop

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Direct your used items to people that need them. We help the environment, the church and the people we love.

[thriftshop@mcctoronto.com](mailto:thriftshop@mcctoronto.com)

## Happening This Week

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### Grace & Gratitude (AA)

Monday | 7:30 p.m. | Triangle B

### Life Long Learning

Tuesday | 10:30 a.m. | Rm. 109

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Tuesday | 7:00 p.m. | Rm. 109

### Expansive Spiritual Encounter

Thursday | 11:00 a.m. | Rm 109

### The Choir

Thursday | 7:00 p.m. | Social Hall



## Volunteer Opportunities

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### Online Ushers & Greeters

We've expanded our online reach with Facebook Live streaming of our Sunday morning worship service! We're looking for a few volunteers who may not be able to make it to the church on Sunday but would still like to watch and help with the service using Facebook. You need a Facebook account, a charming chat presence and a willingness to commit to one Sunday morning every month.

## Fun for Everyone!

Join the Refugee Ministry for a picnic at the Beach instead of our monthly Peer Support meeting. Share food and fun to celebrate our fabulousness! If you are a participant in our Refugee Ministry, this event will count as attendance to support your hearing application.

**Date:** Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Woodbine Beach

[adughman@mcctoronto.com](mailto:adughman@mcctoronto.com)

## Win a SJN Gift Basket!

Win a gift basket of decadent treats, Merci, Godiva and Lindt Chocolates, Licorice Allsorts and a \$25.00 gift certificate for the Rainbow Cinemas! Purchase a MCC Toronto water bottle for your chance to win! If you have previously bought a water bottle you can still be part of the draw — just come to our table in the Social Hall and fill out a free ticket. The draw will be in August.

## Give Us A Facebook Hug

Help us expand our online ministry. Like, share and review our Facebook page!

[facebook.com/MCCToronto](https://facebook.com/MCCToronto)

## Stop, Think, Recycle!

**You can't change the past but you can change the future!**

MCC Toronto has partnered with Think Recycle™ to provide a **FREE** and convenient way to recycle your unwanted electronics. Protect the environment by diverting harmful and toxic e-waste. [mcctoronto.com/recycle](http://mcctoronto.com/recycle)



## Potluck Party!

**Today!**

*Getting to Know You!*

Please join the Social Justice Network for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Picnic:

**Date:** Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

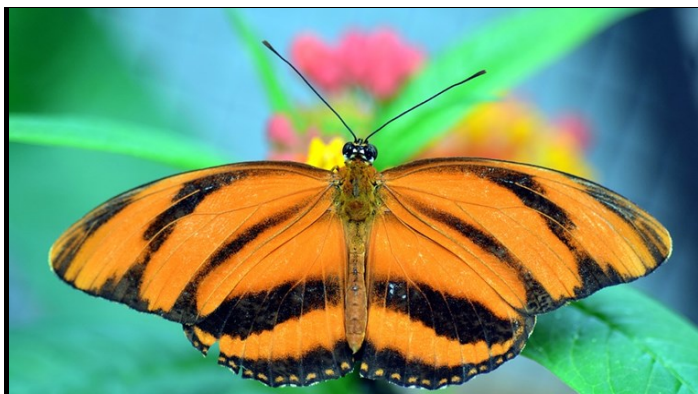
**Place:** St. Matthew's Club House in Riverdale Park East

(Just down the street at 450 Broadview Avenue) Join us for some good food and good fun as we all get to know each other better. See you there!

## Soulful Worship and Praise

SWAP incorporates the worship styles from the Caribbean and African Diaspora. Next service will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

# Life Long Learning - Summer Alive!



## **Meditation Practices for Spiritual Growth**

Tuesdays—July 11 to August 29  
10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. and  
7:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.  
Location: Social Hall  
Instructor: Barb McIntosh



## **City Labyrinth Journey**

Thursday August 17 at Trinity Square (Behind Eaton Center)  
Thursday Aug. 24 at High Park.  
Grenadier Café: 200 Parkside Dr.  
7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
Instructor: Katie Marshal Flaherty



## **Finding Our Center through Movement and Writing**

Monday August 21  
Monday August 28  
Location: Social Hall  
Instructor: Katie Marshall Flaherty



All classes only \$10 each. Register at [learning.mcctoronto.com](http://learning.mcctoronto.com)