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Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,  
for by doing that some have entertained angels without  
knowing it.

— Hebrews 13:2

## Opening our Doors & Hearts for LGBTQ+ Refugees

Last week, MCC Toronto received an urgent appeal from the People With AIDS (PWA) Foundation. Following a World's AIDS Conference hosted in Montreal, 15 participants from African countries - all of whom identify as LGBTQ+ and 12 of whom are living with HIV/AIDS - made the brave decision to seek refuge in Canada. In the space of only a few days, our friends at the PWA needed to find shelter and life-saving meds for these refugee claimants. Thanks to a rallying of community support - including from our MCC Toronto family - the PWA was able to find accommodation for all. While longer term housing solutions are still needed in some cases, MCC Toronto is enormously proud of the way our communities came together in time of great need for others.

One couple that put up their hand to help was our very own Rev. Deana Dudley and Janet Fitzsimmons. We asked Janet to share her thoughts!

*"To call Deana and I homebodies would be putting it very mildly. I work from home and take it as a personal challenge to leave as little as possible. And my sense of home in our space is deep: I grew up in the house we are now living in. When Deana called to say that a number of folks connected to the recent World AIDS Conference were seeking asylum, and that they would need housing, at least temporarily while they applied for formal refugee status, two things went through my mind at the exact same time: the first was how fortunate I am to have such a deep sense of belonging in the place I call home. And the second was how much that good fortune comes with a responsibility. I am so glad we said yes to this opportunity to live into our faith in God and in people. We have a new roommate, and she is a delight. We laugh a lot. We spend time on the internet searching out African food. And in between, she prepares for her hearing and volunteers with PWA, an agency that has gone out of its way to help folks in her position. We are so grateful!"*

Janet Fitzsimmons

If you believe you can provide additional supports to these folks, please contact Dave Kerr, our Director of LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs, at [dkerr@mcctoronto.com](mailto:dkerr@mcctoronto.com).

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## Musical Guest



**Billy Newton-Davis** is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Billy is a singer/songwriter/recording artist and four-time Juno Award winner. He has performed in venues across Europe and North America and has sung with artists such as Celine Dion, and is perhaps best known for his extensive work with The Nylons.

Billy also donates his talent towards numerous humanitarian causes including AIDS awareness, Actors Equity, and housing for people living with mental illness.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THIS SERVICE ONLINE](#)

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**On the Road | Friends for Life Bike Rally**



By some point this afternoon, 250 exhausted and exhilarated riders and dozens of road crew and volunteers will be arriving in Montreal, concluding their remarkable 600 km journey from Toronto as part of the Friends for Life Bike Rally in support of the PWA Foundation.

Congratulations to Rev. Jeff Rock, our Facilities Manager Mark Asselin, and to all the participants and volunteers who took part.

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## Birthday-O-Gram

Does someone in your life have a birthday coming up? Or some other special milestone? Consider sending them a Birthday-O-Gram!

For a gift of \$150, your special greeting will be delivered by a quartet from The Choir of MCC Toronto singing a dedicated song to your recipient! You will also receive a charitable tax receipt for your gift.

All proceeds go in support of MCC Toronto's Music Ministry. Please email Timothy Oakes at [Toakes52@gmail.com](mailto:Toakes52@gmail.com) to make a request.



\*\*\*Please note, a minimum of 3 weeks is needed to create, record, and deliver Birthday-O-Grams. The more advanced notice the better!

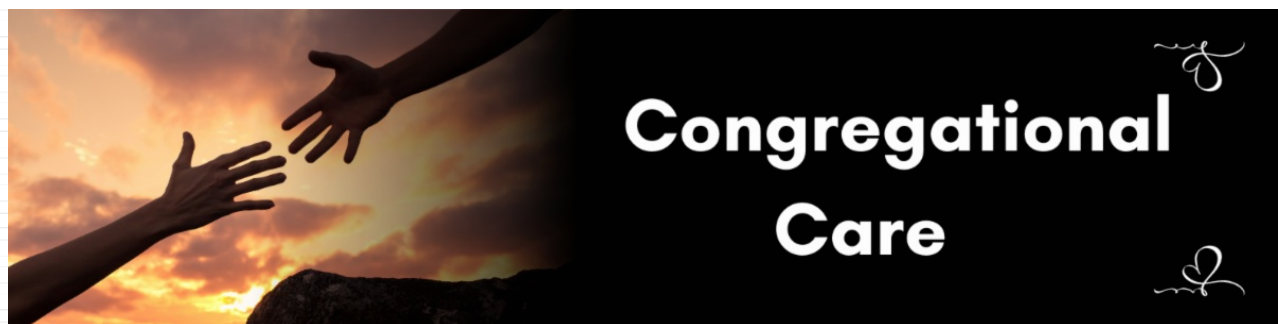


Volunteers have always been at the heart of MCC Toronto. We would not be the strong, inclusive and welcoming community we are, without the support and dedication of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and our other public programs.

Right now we urgently need volunteers familiar with **webcasting, sound operation multimedia**.

To sign up for these or other opportunities, please click the link below.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)



Taking care of each other is more important than ever these days, and if you are in need of some care we are here for you. Just hop on the link below and fill out the form to let one of our pastors know about your needs.

Want to learn more? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

[REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE](#)

Every Gift is a Blessing. Please consider making a gift to MCC Toronto today.

[DONATE](#)

**Online and In-Person Programming  
August 14-20**

**AUGUST  
14-20**

**SUNDAY**

**14**

**11 AM** - Online and In-Person  
Sunday Service

**MONDAY**

**15**

**TUESDAY**

**16**

**WEDNESDAY**

**17**

**THURSDAY**

**18**

**10:30 AM** - Ever Wonder  
Group Discussion  
(ZOOM)

**FRIDAY**

**19**

**SATURDAY**

**20**

**Sunday:**

**11 AM** - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

**Thursday:**

**10:30 AM** - Ever Wonder Group Discussion  
(Email: [everwonder@mcctoronto.com](mailto:everwonder@mcctoronto.com))



**Sunday Digital Coffee Hour**

**There will be no Digital Coffee Hour in August**



**Sunday Service Worship**

Online | 11 AM | In-person | MCC Toronto YouTube

## Share Us Digitally!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in anything we're doing at MCC Toronto please invite them to join us digitally via the button below.

[SHARE THE QUERY HERE](#)



Questions? Comments? Inquires?  
We'd love to hear from you!

Connect with us at  
[communications@mcctoronto.com](mailto:communications@mcctoronto.com)



*Sent with love* 