

The Query

eNews for the MCC Toronto community



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"I would always rather be happy than dignified."

– Charlotte Bronte

MCC Toronto's Pride Celebration Plans

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

MCC TORONTO'S

CHURCH *on* CHURCH

AT CHURCH
(115 SIMPSON AVE.)

JUNE 25, 2023 • 10:30 AM



Pride has always been as much a protest as it is a celebration. 50 years ago, folks who were looking for a safe space to be their authentic selves before God came together above a gay bar to worship, and MCC Toronto was born. 50 years later, MCC Toronto continues to stand proudly as a 2SLGBTQ+ organization committed to building community and fighting for human rights for all.

The theme of this year's Toronto Pride is *Here, There and Everywhere* – and that describes us perfectly because MCC Toronto is a part of our community, wherever we are. And we invite our members, congregants and communities to join us!

Read full details on our Pride plans [here](#).

- Rev. Deana Dudley, Acting Senior Pastor

Pride Month Worship Service Kick-off | June 4 | 11 AM

An official Pride Toronto event, this special Pride Month Service will feature guest preacher Sherwin Modeste, Executive Director of Pride Toronto.

Church on Church at Church Pride Celebration Service June 25 | 10:30 AM | MCC Toronto Church

Rev. Deana Dudley, Acting Senior Pastor, and Jason Jestadt, are hard at work preparing an amazing Pride Celebration Service. With The Choir of MCC Toronto, Alana Bridgewater, Gavin Hope, Shannon McCracken, Genevieve Trudel and drag queen Messy Margaret!

JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP

Pride Parade June 25 | 12:30 – 4:30 PM

Show your pride in celebrating 50 years of MCC Toronto! Sign up today to join the MCC Toronto team marching in this year's Pride Parade

LINK TO SIGN UP

Make a Pride Donation

MCC Toronto's ability to host Pride activities is truly dependent on the support of congregants and friends who share our belief in the importance of bringing our message of love and hope to our broader communities during Pride.

MAKE A PRIDE DONATION TODAY



Don't forget to pre-order our fabulous 50th Anniversary T Shirts!



ORDER YOUR T SHIRT TODAY



BACK IN 1973 MOVIES

As MCC Toronto celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2023, we have launched a new weekly column looking back at the year 1973 to identify the news, happenings and trends that defined the year of MCC Toronto's founding. This week we look at movies!

So writing a story for a church e-newsletter about the top films of 1973 gets interesting when one of the top-grossing films turns out to be.....*The Exorcist*!

It is hard to explain the popularity of *The Exorcist*, based on a William Blatty novel that came out a few years earlier. It is a horror film that takes its time getting to the "good parts." And while people may find some of the possession scenes funny now, at the time, they were shocking (and I think many of those scenes still are!). For anyone unfamiliar with the movie, it is about a single mother noticing her daughter doing uncharacteristic things that progressively get worse and worse. When medical science offers no answers (after some graphic showing of tests that are almost as disturbing as the possession scenes), she turns to the Catholic Church and opens herself to the idea that her daughter may be possessed by an evil spirit.

The other top-grossing film of 1973 was much more traditional: *The Sting*, starring the very handsome duo of Paul Newman and Robert Redford. It was the second pairing of these two movie superstars, after *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* four years earlier. This film ended up winning the Academy Award for Best Picture at the 1974 Academy Awards, beating out the head-turning *The Exorcist*.

So, what was everyone checking out to see at the movie theatres on July 16, 1973 when

MCC Toronto formed? Well, they were going to see someone who we are still keen to see even now. Prepare to be shaken and stirred. His name is Bond. James Bond!

Yes, *Live and Let Die*, the eighth film in the Bond franchise was number one at the box office on July 16, 1973. In this outing, Roger Moore was playing the super spy, his first time taking on the role. He had a few other familiar names co-starring with him: Jane Seymour as Solitaire, the "Bond Girl", and Yaphet Kotto as the villain, Mr. Big. I don't think this movie is on anyone's list as "Best Bond Film", but on the plus side, it does have a great theme song by Paul McCartney and Wings and the ridiculous scene of Bond running across the backs of crocodiles.

There is no denying that 1973 was an interesting time for the movies. What were your favourite films of 1973? [Let us know](#).

- Trevor Scanlan
(movie-loving partner of John R. Farrell)

Drag Bingo in Support of The Choir | June 15 @ 7 PM



MCC Toronto invites you to join us for *Drag Bingo Extravaganza*, a special one-night fundraising event in support of The Choir of MCC Toronto.

Hosted by the fabulous Messy Margaret, with an assist from the delightful Hillary Yaas, *Drag Bingo Extravaganza* is being hosted in the McCain Family Social Hall on **Thursday, June 15 at 7 PM**. Tickets cost \$15 and are available now via the link below. Tickets will also be sold from the Info Desk during our Sunday Worship Services, and at the door on the night of the event.

[LEARN MORE AND BUY TICKETS](#)

Musical Guest



Andrew Prashad is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Andrew is a solidly trained and versatile dancer, musician, singer, composer, writer and actor. He is one of the leading tap dance artists in Canada, teaching and choreographing around the world.

His self-produced *2: A Short Film* was officially selected to show in 12 festivals around the world and has won four awards, including Best Short Film.

He was a featured singer and dancer on the 20th Anniversary World Tour of *Riverdance*, and has played Cogsworth in Young People's Theatre's *Beauty and the Beast*, Billy in *Once* at Theatre St John's in Newfoundland, and Boutons in Neptune Theatre's *Cinderella* (Merritt Award, *Outstanding Supporting Actor*). He also originated the role of Jonas in *Jukebox Hero* at the Ed Mirvish Theatre.

He recently finished doing *Holiday Inn* at the Shaw Festival and is preparing to tour his multi-medium one-person show *One Step at a Time*, which chronicles his family's journey with spina bifida and hydrocephalus. It has been presented by numerous schools and theatres, raising \$11,500 (to date) for SickKids Hospital and ErinOak Kids.

Andrew is a graduate of the University of Toronto at Mississauga, with Honours Bachelor of Arts degrees in Theatre and Performance as well as French Literature.

MAY 21 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

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



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

MCC TORONTO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Call for Nominations | MCC Toronto's Board of Directors

REMINDER: The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors invites all members and congregants to consider the opportunity to put their names forward for consideration to join the MCC Toronto Board of Directors.

The Committee is seeking up to two candidates who will be presented to members, and voted upon, at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM) on Sunday, June 11 following the Worship Service. The application portal, which is now open, will close on **May 29, 2023**, at **5 PM**.

LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY

Men's Retreat 2023 | Registration Closes May 22



REMINDER: The deadline for registering for the **2023 Men's Retreat** is this **Monday, May 22** at **5 PM**.

Taking place **May 26 – 28** at **Jericho House** in beautiful Niagara Region. the Men's Retreat all-in registration fee is \$260, which covers accommodation, food, and participation costs. Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. Please reach out [here](#) to request a Scholarship Fund Application form.

REGISTER NOW

To make the Retreat available and accessible to folks who might not otherwise be able to afford the full registration fee, please consider making a charitable tax receiptable gift below.

MAKE A SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION

Children's Church | Returns May 28

Bi-weekly Children's Church returns **Sunday (May 28)** for kids from kindergarten to grade five. No registration is required, but please click [here](#) to tell us about your child/children

should you be interested in having them take part!



TIME CAPSULE



MCC Toronto has launched a Time Capsule Project for its 50th Anniversary, and we invite our entire MCC Toronto family to take part!

[LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED!](#)

Volunteer with us!



MCC Toronto is incredibly grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and other public programs. Please note at this time we are unable to accept new applications for Worship Team volunteer roles due to a high volume of interest.

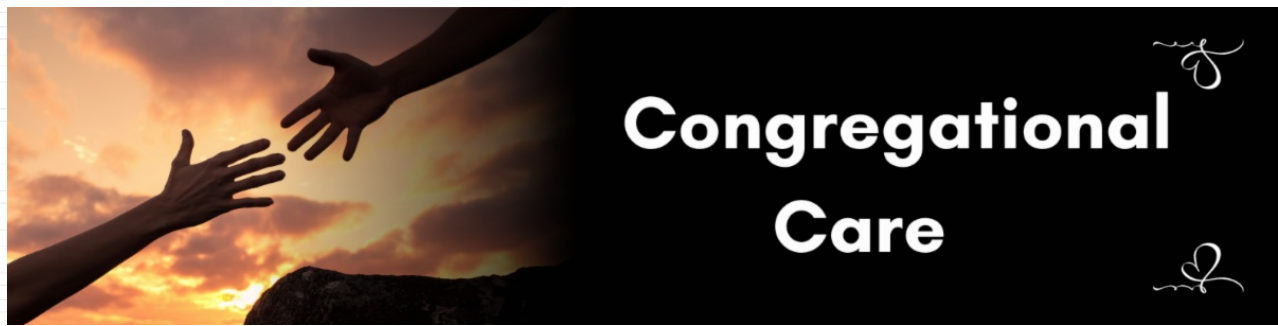
Please click on the link below for available opportunities:

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Become a Monthly Donor



It is always a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate members and congregants enrolled in our weekly and monthly giving program! The on-going support of our 300+ sustaining donors is so critical to the work MCC Toronto does everyday, and we are extremely grateful for your gifts. However, like a lot of churches, MCC Toronto has seen our weekly and monthly contributions decline over the past two years. Today, we invite you to consider joining our family of weekly or monthly donors. Whether your gift is \$5 a week, or \$25 a month, every bit helps support our operations. You can sign up on our [website](#) or contact



Taking care of ourselves or others is always important. 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 about our Congregational Care program? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

[REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE](#)

This Week at a Glance May 21 - 27

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

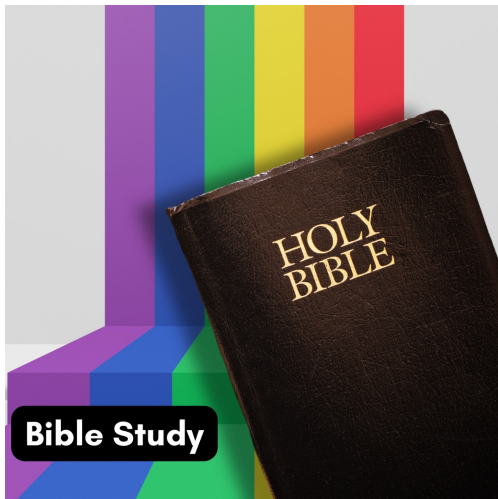
Tuesday:

7 PM - [Bible Study](#)

Thursday:

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

3 PM - [Digital Fellowship Hall](#)



Bible Study

Bible Study

Tuesday | 7:00 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 897 1945 8479

Password: 559690



Digital Fellowship Hall

Digital Fellowship Hall

Thursday | 3:00 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 889 7843 8853

Password: 560461



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

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 