

The Query

eNews for the MCC Toronto community



"Two is better than one ... A threefold cord is not easily broken."

- Ecclesiastes 4

**Happy Pride! Join us for our Pride Celebration Service on
June 25 at 10:30 AM**



Dear MCC Toronto family and friends,

Happy Pride!

However you plan on spending your Toronto Pride weekend, we hope you might consider joining MCC Toronto as we celebrate the joy and resilience of our 2SLGBTQ+ communities!

- Join us at **10:30 AM** for our 31st annual **Church on Church at Church Pride Celebration Service** being hosted in our beloved Sanctuary at 115 Simpson Ave. [Please download our Virtual Pride Celebration Service Program here!](#) Or watch the Service live by clicking [here](#).

[Watch Rev. Deana Dudley's Invitation](#)

- Stop by and say hello to our staff and volunteer team at our Community Booth, located on Church Street between Dundas and Gould Streets.
- Catch one of our largest contingent of Parade volunteers ever as MCC Toronto proudly marches in the Pride Parade.

And however you spend your time this weekend, we hope you feel the love of family and chosen family.

-Rev. Deana Dudley,
Acting Senior Pastor

MAKE A PRIDE OFFERING

MCC Toronto is enormously grateful to members and congregants who made very kind donations in support of our Pride 2023 activities. Thank you for helping us spread a message of love and acceptance this Pride.

\$250+

Ron Beben
Brad Berg & Brian Rolfes in memory of Merrelyn and Deanie, proud mothers
Lisa Jane Bone In Honour of Patti Gray
Anne Brayley & Nanette Sanson
Cathy Brown & Patti Gray
Brian Cartwright
Glenn Gebhardt
André Goh
Robert Graham
Catherine Meade

Other donations

Abiodun Oluwasola Adebisi
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Andrew Fleming & Roger Keglovich
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Kenneth Graham
Paul Korn
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Barrie
Joan Lowden & Susan Maddick
David Manion
Barbara A. Morten
Gideon Kuhordu Okagwu
Emmanuel Bamidele Okorie
John Ershell Plumadore & Brian Henry
Sheryl Pollock
David Rodrigues
Michael Sinclair
Ona Vincent-Efevwia
Debra Williams

Proud Voices | Tonight at 7 PM



Join us tonight (**June 23**) at **7 PM** (no registration required!) for the kick-off of a new speaker series bringing together influential queer leaders from various fields for insightful interviews and engaging Q&A sessions at the intersection of queerness, faith, and education.

Our guest tonight will be Steph Chandler Burns (they/them). Steph is a bisexual, genderqueer, nonbinary pastor living in Kitchener, ON, on the traditional territory of the Anishnawbe, Haudenosaunee and Neutral peoples. Steph loves thinking and talking about the ways the Bible tells stories of people who broke with social norms, and believes God's pronouns are (among others) they/them. Steph lives with their partner, Greg, and cat, Lulu. Together, they play many board games, eat many snacks, and dream about an inclusive future for the church.

Steph has published *Poetic Reflections on Being Queer and Mennonite in Resistance: Confronting Violence, Power and Abuse Within Peace Churches* edited by C. Altaras and C. Penner, *Queering Anabaptist Theology: An Endeavor in Breaking Binaries as Hermeneutical Community in Recovering from the Anabaptist Vision: New Essays in Anabaptist Identity and Theological Method* edited by L. Schmidt Roberts, P. Martens, M. A. Penner, and *Nonbinary Identity in Ruth and the Restructuring of Power in I've Got the Power!: Naming and Reclaiming Power as a Force for Good*, edited by J. Castro and contributed to the *Queerly Faithful* Zine self-published by Eric Van Giessen.



As MCC Toronto celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2023, we are launching 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 LGBTQ+ hang-outs in 1973!

LGBTQ+ social life in Toronto was, needless to say, very different 50 years ago. There was no "gay village" as we understand it today – instead Yonge St. was the main artery of LGBTQ+ social life. It seemed less about establishments welcoming the LGBTQ+ community, but merely tolerating them. But as you've read in our columns over the past two months, by 1973, we were making some progress: the very first Toronto Pride event was hosted, homosexuality was finally removed from the list of mental illnesses, and the Canadian LGBTQ+ liberation movement was taking shape thanks in part to the activism of publications like [The Body Politic](#).

So as we head into our Toronto Pride 2023 celebrations, I was wondering – where were the LGBTQ+ hangouts back in 1973? Not being intimately aware myself, I turned to my good

friend Dennis Findlay, a long-time gay activist, and one of the driving forces of The ArQuives (formerly the Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives). While Dennis didn't himself arrive in Toronto until 1975 (he does, however, recall attending some unofficial "queer" dances at UofT prior to his arrival) I was grateful for his help in directing me to a few resources about the Toronto LGBTQ+ scene in 1973.

- In 1973, The Club opened on Mutual Street south of Carleton – this steam bath was later named The Toronto Club before closing in 2017; The Roman Sauna Baths, another bathhouse, was located on Bay Street, just north of Gerrard
- A popular late-night spot for the LGBTQ+ community was Fran's (on College Street, west of Yonge)
- The Manatee on St Joseph Street, west of Yonge, was the hottest dance spot in town; this was, however, not a licensed establishment
- CHAT (Community Homophile Association Toronto) would host dances in a variety of downtown locations
- In the late 60s/early 70s the Charles Street Tavern, the Parkside Tavern and The Quest were popular LGBTQ+ hang-outs, as was The Carriage House on Jarvis Street
- On Bloor Street, The Brunswick House was also a popular spot, though its owners would later famously (infamously?) bring charges against a group of women for singing "I Enjoy Being a Dyke" instead of "I Enjoy Being a Girl"

Did you visit any of these hangouts in 1973? Let me [know](#). And happy Pride!

PS: In my research, I came across this ad for MCC Toronto in a 1973 edition of *The Body Politic*. It may very well be MCC Toronto's first paid ad!



- John R. Farrell
Senior Director of Development & Communication

SAVE THE DATE | 2023 ACBM | July 9

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM) 2023 will be held on **Sunday, July 9**, after the Worship Service. All members, congregants and interested parties are welcome to join us.

Please click [here](#) to access the pre-read documents in advance of the ACBM.

Anniversary Awards | Nominations Open

As announced last week, MCC Toronto will be presenting our Annual Anniversary Awards and membership medallions a week earlier (**Sunday, July 9**) before our 50th Anniversary Sunday Service on **July 16**.

Members and congregants are now invited to make their nominations for MCC Toronto's Anniversary Awards: The Blessed Disciple Award, The Community Service Award, and The

Vision Alive Award. Nominations will close on **June 30 at 5 PM**. Please link below to read the criteria and to put your nominations forward today!

[SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS TODAY](#)



50th Anniversary Celebration Service

Community Picnic



SAVE THE DATE! On **July 16**, MCC Toronto will host a celebratory 50th Anniversary Service with a Community Picnic to follow. All are invited!

[READ MORE](#)

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 demands due to a high volume of interest. Please click on the link below for other volunteer opportunities.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

Become a Monthly Donor



It is always a pleasure to 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 giving@mcctoronto.com for more information.



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 June 25 - July 1

Sunday:

11 AM - Church on Church at Church Pride Celebration Service

Thursday:

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





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

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 

