

September 30, 2018

# Sunday News

Morning edition

**VIBRANT** **INCLUSIVE** **PROGRESSIVE**



I left my country fearing the death penalty. My name is Khalil and I am a refugee.

I come from a wealthy, powerful and very religious family where being gay, Muslim and Somali is not possible. I was subjected to daily physical abuse, and the abuse grew to the point where an honour killing was in my future.

My family wanted me to marry a woman of their choosing. Because I refused, they asked a religious scholar to carry out an honour killing after a three-year incarceration period. In the past, they've tried religious conversion

therapy to “take the gay out of me.” The therapist was a Sheik who had sexually abused me since I was 12.

I escaped to China, but I'm still afraid. My family is very resourceful. I think they can find me at anytime. There are no laws here that will protect me.

I have so many dreams about what my life would be like if I was loved and accepted for who I am. I dream of a loving family, of attending university, and of helping others who are going through similar hardships. Please help me.

*Khalil is one of the many people appealing to us for help from all over the world. Please donate or volunteer to support the work of the Refugee Ministry. You can also help us by attending Bridges to Hope & Freedom on October 10. Tickets are on sale this morning in the Social Hall for \$50 each.*

Help us save lives.

## Offertory Performer

The MCC Toronto Chancel Choir, affectionately known as The Choir, boasts an eclectic combination of singers, a true community of diverse individuals, whose love of music brings them together every week and is an integral part of Sunday morning worship at MCC Toronto. Members dedicate over a thousand volunteer hours in an average month, singing within and outside of the church walls. The Choir's three CDs, *House of Love*, *Connected: Songs for the Heart*, and *These Old Walls*, are available at the Information Centre and online on iTunes.

Music Director: Diane Leah



## Order of Service

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

*Welcome*

*Hand of Friendship*

*Prelude*

*Open The Door*

*Moment of Silence*

❖ *Processional Hymn*

*Morning Has Broken*

❖ *Opening Prayer Anthem*

*Voice Dance*

*Time of Reconciliation*

*Prayer of Reconciliation*

*Affirmation of Freedom*

*Invitation to Anointing*

*Wind Of The Spirit*

*Breathe On Me*

*Breath Of God*

*Sacred Readings*

Isiah 42:1-5

John 3:5-8

*Lesson for Life*

Air: Ruah-The Breath of Life - Rev. Rock

*Prayers of the People*

❖ ***Jesus' Prayer Offertory***

Life Is A Breath Of Fresh Air - The Choir

*Gathering Our Gifts*

Our Journey of Faith

*Blessing of Gifts*

*Holy Communion*

Give Us This Day

**There's A Spirit In The Air**

I Come With Joy

Breathe

❖ Alleluia (Traditional)

Because You Live

❖ *Benediction*

❖ *Closing Words*

*Closing Song*

Michael Row The

Boat Ashore

Questions? Email [office@mcctoronto.com](mailto:office@mcctoronto.com)



# SUNDAY

# Briefs

## Happening Today

Food For Friends

All day | Supporting PWA

Children & Family Ministry

11:00 a.m. | Rooms 109 & 111

Thrift Shop

All morning | Upstairs Social Hall

Anointers & Servers Training

12:30 p.m. | Triangle Rooms

Evening Service

7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

## Happening This Week

Refugee Orientation

1:00 p.m. | Room 109

Choir Rehearsal

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

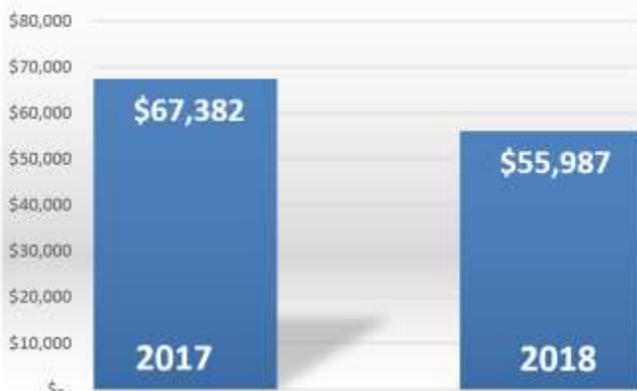
## Got A Spare Stove?

We're looking for a gently used oven/stove to replace one of our broken appliances in the kitchen. We will pick it up! Contact Ned: [nyuzefowich@mcctoronto.com](mailto:nyuzefowich@mcctoronto.com)

## A Peek in the Purse

Updated statistics as of September 15, 2018, January to August.

### Year-To-Date Plate Offerings



### Year-To-Date Automated Giving



Questions? Email [office@mcctoronto.com](mailto:office@mcctoronto.com)

# Sacred Readings

Isiah 42:1-5

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon you; you will bring forth justice to the nations. You do not cry out or raise your voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed you will not break, and a dimly burning wick you will not quench; faithfully you will bring forth true justice. You will not grow faint or be crushed until justice is established in the earth; and the coastlands await your teaching. Thus says our God, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

John 3:5-8

Jesus answered Nicodemus, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the dominion of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old?

Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the dominion of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

These are sacred readings.  
May they comfort us, inspire us, and challenge us.

# Thanks be to God!



# Sex-Ed Curriculum

Following last week's dramatic walk-out by Ontario high schools protesting the repeal of the 2015 Sexual Education curriculum, staff and volunteers here at the church announced a full day of sexual education, empathy, and diversity training on November 16 (9:00—3:00), a designated Professional Activity day for both the Toronto District and Catholic School Boards.

“Our program will focus on healthy relationships,” said Andrew Holmes, team leader for the Children and Families Ministry and a clergy candidate at MCC Toronto. “The modern curriculum is all about how we relate to our selves, our friends and our families in healthy and positive ways.”

With the assistance of qualified teaching volunteers, the church will provide a full-day program for children that explores consent, diversity of families, and respecting one another. The program is being offered free of charge.

“This isn't a partisan issue, this is a human rights issue,” said Senior Pastor Reverend Jeff Rock. “It is essential that our children are taught age-appropriate sexual education to keep them safe from predators and to ensure that the full diversity of families are represented in their learning.”

MCC Toronto's Sexual Education PA Day is November 16. Space is limited. To register or for more information, please email [office@mcctoronto.com](mailto:office@mcctoronto.com).



Delivered to your inbox  
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**eNews**

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Register at [www.mcctoronto.com/enews](http://www.mcctoronto.com/enews)

# Jazz Vespers

## Fall Edition

Sunday October 21, 4:00 p.m.

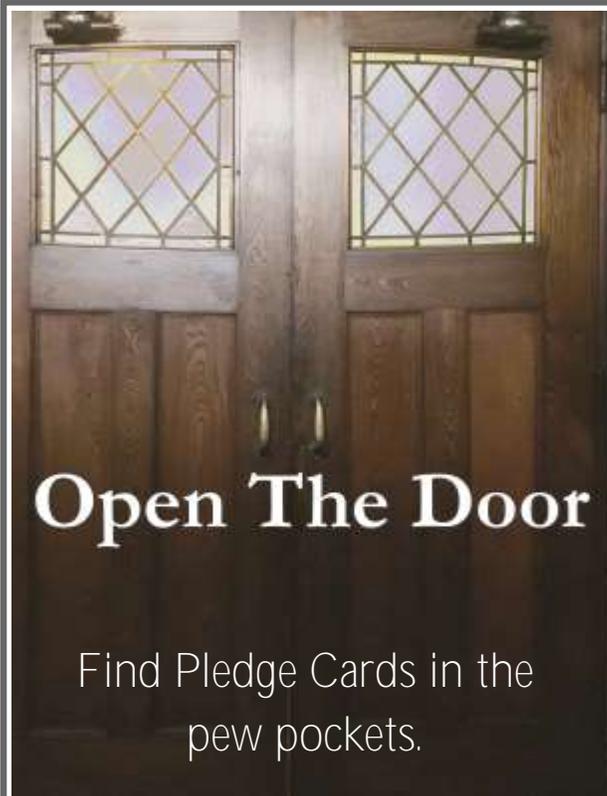
with

Julie Michels, Ted Quinlan

and Friends

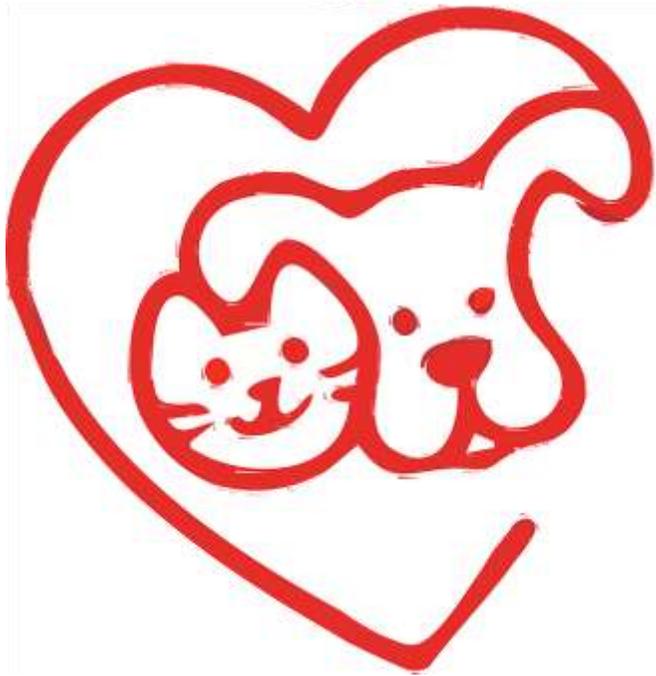
**Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto**

**115 Simpson Avenue M4K 1A1**



Our doors are powerful symbols. Some see our doors as a portal to great potential, others see them as a barrier. Life-changing decisions are made the first time someone enters through our doors. For some, this transition comes with fear, for others, joy. For all, the change is made easier by us, those who've passed through these doors before. We are called to welcome the searcher, assist the marginalized, celebrate with the joyful and encourage the fearful. We are called to steward over our sanctuary so others can experience God's love.

Pledge campaign ends on October 14



October 14, 3:00

You and your furred/  
feathered/scaled friends  
are invited to our Blessing  
of the Animals service!

On this special occasion, MCC Toronto  
is a house of prayer for all creatures  
great and small!

# Blessing of the Animals

**OCTOBER 8**

- CHURCH FAMILY -  
**THANKSGIVING**  
**DINNER**



**2:00 p.m.**

# Celebrating our Refugee Ministry

Our vision is to build bridges that transform lives and transform the world. Our refugee programs provide services and hope to LGBTQI+ people fleeing persecution due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. We receive hundreds of pleas for help from people all over the world seeking to be sponsored and resettled in Canada. Thousands of refugees have already made their way to Toronto and they need our help now. To date, we have sponsored 29 refugees from abroad and we have registered over 2,400 in-land refugees in our peer support program.

## Wednesday, October 10

6:00 p.m. Reception | 7:00 p.m. Program

2018

Bridges to

*Hope & Freedom*

in support of Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto

**Celebrating our refugee programs**

Tickets are \$50.00 each at [www.mcctoronto.com/bridges](http://www.mcctoronto.com/bridges)

2018 Event  
Sponsors



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Battista Smith Migration Law Group  
Monte-Lisi & Smith