



RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



June 2, 2013

Alberto “Gramps” Santos’ Easter Eggs

It all started with a simple hand out. Ramon Vicente — I think he is my brother-in-law — gave me \$20 for...I don't know what — April Fools' Day was a month away. I know a thousand and one ways to spend this kind of windfall, but he gave it to me inside the church.

The money bought a lot of stickers instead. That hatched once again the Easter egg fundraising. The challenge this time was to hit the \$100 mark.

It took one email to people whose email addresses are in my computer to raise nine dozen eggs for a total of 108 eggs to be sold at a dollar each. Julie Dawson spearheaded the response, followed by the Mount family



and the McLeod family. Betsy Zukow followed with a dozen. My wife Minerva took pledges from the kitchen and enlisted Nancy Walkling, Margot Tessler, and Kerine Moore.

When March 17th came I had enough with eight eggs to spare for breakage. Psst!!! I intentionally broke some for my egg salad sandwich.

Thanks to the Neufelds for asking if I needed more. My reply? No more eggs but I will



be needing 100 buyers. Selling them this time around was a lot easier and faster by making most of the eggs personalized with a name on it. John Forster is on the top of the list.

Gramps

Earth Day 2013

Earth Day: reflections from the past that still ring true today

During a visit to Germany's Rhine Valley two summers ago, I was reminded of Hildegard de Bingen, a 'rebel' nun of the 12th century and her stunning visionary gifts. She was a prolific writer of musical and lyrical compositions. She was extremely knowledgeable and enlightened. She wrote of the spiritual journey, women's health, and herbal medicine. She was long forgotten and ignored, but her writings have seen a recent revival of interest. She demonstrated great courage by speaking out to world leaders of her time, urging them through her letters to choose peace over war. Hildegard speaks to us through the ages with a timelessness and radiance.

Monday, April 22nd was Earth Day. I would like to share with you one of her prayers to contemplate and use at this time of year when we celebrate the earth, the mother of us all. Earth Day is a day for us to give thanks for this earth whose beauty and goodness have been so very long in the making. It is also a day to ponder the Earth's fragility and vulnerability under the threat of human encroachment and abuse. I have taken this prayer from a book of selected writings by Hildegard, edited by Mirabai Starr and published in 2008 by Sounds True, Inc. — *Debbie Moffard*

God loans
all creation
to humankind
for our use:

The high,
The low
Everything.

If we misuse
This privilege,
God's Justice
Gives creation permission
to offer Humankind
a reminder.

— Hildegard de Bingen



Our 2nd Westmount Cub pack participates in Earth Day at Mountainside. They did a "clean up" which turned up a treasure trove of things. In addition to helping clean up, they were working on their Community Service and Protecting the Environment badge. Good work and thanks!

Earth Day Benediction

Let us be aware of the Mystery in the midst of life,
the source of life common to us all and to all creation.
Receive the gifts that are given to you,
to bless our precious earth.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
of water flowing, rising and falling,
sometimes advancing, sometimes receding...
May the stream of your life flow unimpeded!
Deep peace of the running wave to you, to bless all!

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
which fans your face on a sultry day,
the air which you breathe deeply, rhythmically,
which imparts to you energy, consciousness, life.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you to bless all!

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Truth and Reconciliation

PURPOSE: The truth of our common experiences will help set our spirits free and pave the way to reconciliation.

MANDATE: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada will examine the little known history of residential schools in Canada. Academics, members of First Nations' and Inuit communities, and survivors are invited to participate. The conference will emphasize the sharing of knowledge between all participants and no one form of knowledge will be prioritized.

TRC's first national event was in Winnipeg in June 2010. In June/July 2011 the event was held in Inuvik, North West Territories; Halifax in October 2011; and then Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in June 2012. After Montreal, April 2013, the next event will take place in Vancouver in September 2013, and finally Edmonton in 2014.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission event in Montreal — April 24 to 27, 2013

I want to tell you about the TRC event that Elva Crawford, Nancy Walkling and I attended.

Wednesday: Dozens of school buses were parked outside the Queen E and 250 young teenagers were in the grand salon listening to stories and songs. Most impressively they were quiet, respectful and interested.

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Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
who, herself unmoving, harbours the movements
and facilitates the life of the ten thousand creatures,
while resting contented, stable, tranquil.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you to bless all!

Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
which stay invisible till darkness falls
and discloses their pure and shining presence,
compass and calendar for our turning world.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you to bless all!

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you,
who, swift as the wave and pervasive as the air,
quiet as the earth and shining like a star,
breathes into us His Peace and His Spirit.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you,
To bless our precious earth!

(Taken from Rev John's Earth Day Service)



Afterwards, their reaction was "Why haven't we learned about this in school?"

Thursday: Nancy and I sat close to the front of the packed room with over a thousand others listening to survivors tell their stories. Men and women in their 50's having trouble reading their documents for the tears running down their faces and blurring their glasses. Volunteers, like my daughter-in-law Livia, carried Kleenex boxes aisles for the listeners. One native man remarked that watching the respect by the children the day before gave him for the future.

Friday: Livia, Michel and I attended free concert — a rousing evening of bands and singers culminating in Florent who had half the huge room on its feet and dancing to the beat of the drums. were the majority, we were the minority. morning I listened to CBC FM and Johnston highlighted Elisapie Issac and one of her songs. She is the daughter of mother and Newfoundland father, raised Saluit, Nunavik. She is a well-know film producer as well as a singer and performer. I had never heard of her, but evening's crowd greeted her like a star.

continued on page 6

What!

No Bazaar at Mountainside United Church this year?

Don't shoot the messenger over this news, it was the consensus of the congregation and vote of the Session Executive to take a year off from this Autumn Annual Event and re-evaluate how we as a church would like to participate in an event community outreach.

We have plans for more community events. First coming up will be Mountainside Scoop on Music by our youth group TM2 on May 30th. Rally Day will start the fall season in September, and November 30th is scheduled for our beloved senior community and special guests invitation for an early Christmas Dinner. Other events will be a work in progress during the year, so watch for news in later *Rapport* Issues.

Many hands and many hearts over many years have made our Annual Fall Bazaar a huge success for our church and the community. We thank each and every one who worked tirelessly over the years in all these capacities:

The Chairpersons running the fair each year

The Bakery, Jam & Jelly ladies

Antique & Unique Fine Things sales

Linenware workers

Café Mountainside for your delicious lunches!

Knitted Goods sales ladies

Jewelery sales

Purses, Goves, and Hattery Table ladies

Art, Prints and Frames department

Used Books sellers

New Cards & Calendars sales

Toyland sales people

Trash & Treasure

Mountainside Youth Group (MYG) — Thank you for your church service!!!

And a most special thank you to John Meteica helping us set up and take down the bazaar. You have always been there to support our events and we so appreciate all the hard work you have given to your church.

Susan Salvati



Linda and Bal Mount with Colin



Colin Spencer, our “Greeter Emeritus,” has moved to Ottawa to be closer to his children. We said adieu to him and wished him well at the coffee hour on May 5th. He has assured us that he will be back to worship with us at Mountainside regularly.



Colin, Lib Neufeld, Ester Vicente

❖ Music Report ❖

KIDS 4 KIDS CONCERT 2013

For the second year in a row, Mountainside organized the *Kids 4 Kids* concert to raise funds for Sun Youth's children's programs. The concert was held on Saturday, April 13th, and brought together performers from Mountainside Choir, FACE School Chamber Orchestra, the Junior Chorale of the English Montreal School Board, le Petit Choeur de Rosemère, the Montessori School of Montreal Choir and the Montreal Chinese Children's Choir. In front of a packed house, these ensembles presented a



On Youtube: EMSB Mountainside



Ester Vicente, Margaret De Castro, Sid Stevens of Sun Youth, Rafael de Castro

varied program of choral and instrumental music, all for the benefit of Montreal's underprivileged children. The concert was a resounding success, generating close to \$6200, an increase of close to \$1700 from 2012.

Sun Youth and Mountainside United Church would like to thank everyone who attended and sponsored the concert, all the volunteers who gave their time to ensure the smooth running of the event and, most of all, all the children who performed so magnificently for the enjoyment of the crowd.

Concert News

Margaret de Castro will be performing in the summer recital series at St. James United Church on Tuesday, August 6th, at 12:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. A freewill offering will be received.

On Sunday, August 11th, at 4 p.m., Margaret de Castro and Caroline Derome will present a concert of music for flute and keyboard at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Knowlton, Qc. Friends from Montreal would be most welcome. A freewill offering will be received.

Margaret de Castro
Director of Music

Gordon White

Many congregational members will remember organist Gordon White, music director of St. Andrew's United Church for many years and a former music master at Lower Canada College. Gordon passed away peacefully on the evening of May 2nd. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on July 6th at St. George's Anglican Church, Place du Canada, preceded by a visitation at the church.

Saturday: Following more stories of individual survivors, there was a birthday party. Every one of the national TRC events ends with a birthday party because the survivors never had one in the schools. One commissioner revealed that he was 28 at his first birthday party. Some do not even know their exact age. The party had all the fixings of a home-made birthday party: iced and decorated cup cakes, home-made cards, birthday candles and singing Happy Birthday. The differences were that the cupcakes and cards were made by churches up and down the Ottawa Valley and Montreal region and the song was sung by groups which each in turn sang in one of the seven languages of the event. This part of the proceedings was very uplifting with everyone participating in a party atmosphere.

What were some of the stories?

- Two Brothers, aged five and six, were sent to residential school — one was taught in *French* at Amos, Quebec, on the border with Ontario, and one in *English* in Chapleau, Northern Ontario. They returned home as teenagers and couldn't communicate with their family in Iroquoian (it had been beaten out of them) and couldn't communicate with each other because of the language differences at their respective residential schools.
- As a boy of five years old, he was standing at the train with his mother watching the children going off to residential school when a "southerner" picked him up and said, "you're coming with us, we have room for one more." When he returned home years later his mother was dead. To this day he doesn't know if she knew what would happen. Why had she dressed him in his best clothes that morning?
- Sent to residential school as a girl of six, one of 12 children, she returned home to a single mum. She regrets that she has never known the love of a mother.
- A man in his 50's who, after years of therapy, can finally tell his children that he loves them. He tearfully apologized to his wife in front of us all for the abuse he had caused her.
- They were taught to hide their feelings. Years later his father, upon hearing the stories, wept. They wept together. Father had thought he was doing the best for his son.
- In school a priest "examined" the boys on the way

out of the showers. The last boy out of the room was detained by the priest. They made sure the smallest and weakest boy was at the end of the line. Now, as a man, he continues to feel guilty for allowing that little boy to take the brunt of abuse.

- Finally, at the concert I sat beside Inuk Rebekah Uqi Williams, a commissioner, who said she had been grateful for her residential school experience in Moose Factory and that many of her classmates were now leaders in their communities. BUT, she went to school when she was 14, not 5. Martha Nell made that distinction between Canada's residential students and her recollection of some of the American schools where the students were teenagers.

There were 12,000 visits to the Queen Elizabeth Hotel over the four days. One-hundred-and-ninety-three witnesses told their stories, 60 before a silent crowd of thousands, the rest at small tables scattered in the lobby and in various rooms.

Many thousands from 30 countries streamed on-line to view the events.

Was it a worthwhile effort or a waste of time? Well, it wasn't about us southerners. It was about the thousands of native people who are survivors of the residential schools, plus their families. They must have found it one of the most empowering experiences of their lives. Commissioner Chief Littlechild, in his closing remarks, said, "We are so proud of you. The ancestors are dancing, so proud that you survived and had the strength and courage to come and tell your stories."

Julie Dawson

RAPPORT

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announcements to the church office:

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Meals on Wheels



Meals on Wheels volunteers Lorna Bracegirdle and Sandra Baines get ready to assemble chicken dinners for clients of MOW. The Mountainside team prepares and delivers meals on Monday and Thursday for 15 to 20 clients. Chairperson Susan Purcell organized a coffee party for the MOW team. Ideas were shared about how to encourage new volunteers and help the program work smoothly. They always welcome new helpers. If you are available to cook, serve or drive please call the church office. If you know of a member of the congregation who needs meals for a short period during an illness or recovery from hospital, please let the office know.



Mountainside Outreach News

On February 17th ten Mountainside volunteers served 549 meals at the Old Brewery Mission. We were shown their internet café, the renovated cafeteria and the Annex for men who are in crisis, newly on the streets. These men are helped to put their lives back together and avoid getting into the cycle of homelessness. A medical clinic is to be opened this spring.

This spring the Montreal and Ottawa Conference collected donations to help defray the travel expenses for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Montreal. One hundred dollars was sent from Mountainside. (See article by Julie Dawson on page 3.)

Thank you to all the summer camp appeal donors. One thousand dollar cheques have been issued for Saint Columba House Literacy Camp, Montreal City Mission's Camp Cosmos and the Cote des Neiges Council of Churches' support of four local area camps.

The AGM of the UCW was held on April 30th. They received a letter from Pathways Health Centre thanking the UCW coordinators and all of the individuals who collect Campbell soup labels. They are very grateful that we have continued to support the purchase of equipment and supplies for children enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Service at Pathways. This year they plan to purchase games for the children aged 6 to 12 who participate in their new summer program. In particular they are looking to obtain items for outdoor fitness activities.

Outreach Sunday will be October 20, 2013. Mark it on your calendar. We will welcome Rev Patricia Lisson, director of St. Columba House.

*Nancy Walkling
Outreach Committee*

JUNE – OCTOBER 2013

| JUNE | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| June 2 | 2nd after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary |
| | | Rapport distribution |
| | | Infant baptism: Rocco Malcolm Lorenzetti |
| June 4 | | Meditation Group, 7:00pm |
| June 9 | 3rd after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary |
| June 11 | | Meditation Group, 7:00pm |
| June 13 | | Session Executive Meeting, 5:30pm |
| June 16 | 4th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary |
| | | Church Picnic / Children & Youth Programs closing |
| | | June Birthday Celebration |
| June 23 | 5th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| June 24 | | Church office closed for St. Jean Baptist |
| June 30 | 6th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| JULY / AUGUST | | |
| <i>July 1–29</i> | | <i>Church building closed except on Sundays</i> |
| July 7 | 7th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| July 14 | 8th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| July 21 | 9th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| July 28 | 10th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| July 30 | | Church office re-open |
| Aug. 4 | 11th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| Aug. 11 | 12th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| Aug. 18 | 13th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| Aug. 25 | 14th after Pentecost | Worship at 10:30am in the Chapel |
| SEPTEMBER | | |
| Sept. 1 | 15th after Pentecost | Service at 10:30am in Chapel |
| Sept. 2 | Labour Day | Church building closed |
| Sept. 5 | | Choir practice, 7:30pm |
| Sept. 8 | 16th after Pentecost | Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary |
| Sept. 10 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |
| Sept. 12 | | Session Executive Meeting, 5:30pm |
| Sept. 15 | 17th after Pentecost | Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary |
| Sept. 17 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |
| Sept. 19 | | Choir practice, 7:30pm |
| Sept. 22 | 18th after Pentecost | Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary |
| | | August & September Birthday Celebration |
| Sept. 24 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |
| Sept. 26 | | Session meeting, 7:30pm |
| Sept. 29 | 19th after Pentecost | Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary |
| OCTOBER | | |
| Oct. 1 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |
| Oct. 3 | | Choir practice, 7:30pm |
| Oct. 5 | | Wedding celebration of Monika Sharma & Angus Wakeman |
| Oct. 6 | 20th after Pentecost | World Wide Communion / Stewardship Sunday |
| | | Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary |
| Oct. 8 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |
| Oct. 10 | | Session Executive Meeting, 5:30pm |
| Oct. 13 | Thanksgiving Sunday | Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary |
| Oct. 14 | Thanksgiving Monday | church building closed |
| Oct. 15 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |
| Oct. 17 | | Choir practice, 7:30pm |
| Oct. 20 | 22nd after Pentecost | Outreach Sunday, Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary |
| | | October Birthday Celebration |
| Oct. 22 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |
| Oct. 27 | 23rd after Pentecost | Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary |
| Oct. 29 | | Meditation Group, 7:30pm |