



RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



November 15, 2015

An Advent Creed

This season let's take the opportunity to focus on the promises of Advent. What we believe is going on in our heart and soul as we prepare for Christmas. After almost a year we know it's time to regroup and rediscover the source of our *hope*. We know we need to seek out that peaceful place where we encounter the *peace* that passes all understanding. It's time to regain the freedom to jump for *joy* at new possibilities and new beginnings. Finally we can commit once more to allowing *love* to freely flow through us. This is how we get ready for the birth of the Christ Child who can be born anew in us each Christmas.

Let's begin our focus on the promises of Advent by reciting this Advent Creed each day of the season.

I believe in the promise of Advent
and the importance of celebrating it in the church.
I believe in the God at the centre of Advent,
whose hope for the world
was imagined by the prophets.



I believe in Mary,
who sang of turning the world upside down
and who allowed her life to be disrupted by God.
I believe in Joseph,
whose broken heart
broke the rules to do the right thing.
I believe in Jesus,
the babe of God's blessing
soon to be born in Bethlehem.

continued on page 7

"A Christmas Celebration of Music"




sous la direction / directed by
Margaret de Castro

avec / with
Rafael de Castro, orgue / organ

et / and
Caroline Derome, flûte / flute

Dimanche, 6 décembre 2015 à 15h
Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 3 p.m.

Église Mountainside United Church
687 ave. Roslyn, Westmount 
offrande / offering

Refugee Sponsorship Evening at Mountainside United Church

Rev Paula Klein, director of Montreal City Mission, organized an ecumenical information meeting at Mountainside on Wednesday evening October 14, 2015. The principal speaker, Lauren Lallemond from Action Réfugiés Montréal (ARM), led about 64 United, Unitarian and Anglican participants through a six step document to aid congregations who are looking into the sponsorship of Syrian refugees. Afterwards there were formal and informal question



above: (l-r) Rev. Paula Klein, Laura Lallemond and guest

right: Ramon Vicente, Chair of Session, Mountainside and Paul Clark



United Church "Syria Relief"

Thanks to the generosity of those who responded to the church's initial appeal, as of September 2015 the United Church has contributed more than \$400,000 to support partners responding to this crisis.

Please provide your support today. All donations received and designated for "Syria Relief" will be applied directly to support United Church partners in this work. **The Canadian government will match individual donations** made between September 12 and December 31, 2015.

If you would like to contribute, please make a cheque to Mountainside United Church specifying it is for "**Syria Relief**".

We will send a cheque for the total and add the amount to your church receipt.

periods. Paul Clark, director of ARM, was also present to give information. He led a service at Mountainside last June while our minister was recovering from hip surgery. According to the 2011 census there were 40,840 Canadians who claimed Syrian ancestry. Almost half of them live in Quebec. Frances Sault from our Outreach Committee is coordinating research into how members of Mountainside can help Syrian refugees coming to Montreal.

– Nancy Walking,
Outreach Committee

One Child, One Chair Aid for a School in the Philippines

After Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda struck the Philippines in November 2013, Mountainside United Church sent money to a Filipino organization to help build sturdy homes for families.



When Ester and Ramon Vicente and I visited the Philippines last winter we met with Ester's niece Betty Romero. She told us about a project she is very involved with through the local organization Lifeline

Foundation Support Team Inc. called One Child, One Chair. Estancia Central Elementary School, where more than 3000 children study, was severely damaged during the typhoon. The school has been rebuilt but needed refurnishing. We decided to help. Last spring Mountainside raised \$1000 to buy 48 chairs.

Betty wrote: Our deepest thanks to Mountainside United Church for your donation. The teachers and students at Estancia Central Elementary School are so grateful that other people from halfway around the world care about their learning conditions.

– Nancy Walking, Outreach Committee



Outreach Sunday October 18, 2015



Royal Orr, Chair of the Board of Montreal City Mission (MCM), was our guest speaker for Outreach Sunday. This past August he was awarded the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award for his volunteer work over the years. He has had many experiences during his communications career, including being host and producer for several years for *Spirit Connection*, an award-winning United Church program on Vision TV.

Towards the end of his talk, Royal reminded us of how Mountainside helps others through our financial support of MCM. Their day camp, Camp Cosmos, had 76 participants last summer, including 15 children with special needs who were provided with aides. Through MCM's *Just Solutions Clinic* legal advice is provided to refugees, those who face deportation and those who seek to bring their families to Canada. MCM's newly named Roger Snelling Clinic provides mobile legal service for seniors.



Outreach Committee with Royal Orr and his wife Louise Caron (centre)

These days when we are called to do more to help refugees, he encouraged us to celebrate what we have done in the past and do what we can now, educating ourselves on the situation, aiding others in their work in this area and looking for opportunities to serve.

– Nancy Walking, Outreach Committee



Building and Property Report

A leak in the ceiling late last spring at the east end of the second floor corridor near the Lansdowne stairs motivated Session to request a new roof for Leslie Hall. Work was begun mid-summer and completed a few weeks later. There were associated repairs inside, which together with general maintenance, were competently handled by Neil MacKinnon and his crew.

You may have noticed the removal of a large tree near the Roman property. This tree had been deemed unsafe. The rest of the Norwegian maples along that property were trimmed.

I take this opportunity to mention the special attention given to our building inside by Vincent Tan, and outside by Sandy Chisholm. His great work on the grounds is essential to the beauty of our church property in the summer.

– Alan Greig



Evaluation of Alternate Uses for the Mountainside Site

At the congregational meeting concerning the potential sub-division of the church property to create a new building lot and subsequent sale of that lot, held on May 25, 2014, some alternate uses of our site were suggested. Two of them were:

1. Conversion to a palliative care centre.
2. Building of a retirement home and incorporating the church building into that facility.

These options were investigated with the City of Westmount and Presbytery. As part of that investigation, at the suggestion of the City, we engaged an urban planner from Groupe BC2 to prepare an urban planning report for our property. The conclusion from these discussions and this report is that it is extremely unlikely that either of these options could succeed, for the reasons outlined below:

1. Our site is currently zoned residential with exception granted for religious use. The site also has a height restriction related to protection of views from the Roslyn lookout. It is very unlikely that Westmount would grant the rezoning necessary for either of the above two uses.
2. It is also very unlikely that Presbytery would allow the conversion to either of these uses since it has already closed the Griffith McConnell seniors' residence/nursing home.
3. Even if both those bodies agreed, the cost to convert our building would likely be well beyond our financial resources. As well, it would require substantial time and effort, also likely well beyond what our congregation could support.

Consequently, the Trustees are no longer considering either of these two alternate uses for the Mountainside site.

The sale of the property to the Montreal Korean Methodist Church was the other alternative proposed at that meeting. This option was discussed with the Montreal Korean Methodist Church who indicated that they are raising funds to build a new church, more suited to their needs, at a better location for their congregation. Therefore they are not interested in purchasing our property.

The Session has now asked Trustees to look at other redevelopment options for our site. The congregation will be kept informed as we proceed and any major changes being proposed will be presented to the congregation for approval. However, viable options are probably very limited. It will take time, effort and funding for Trustees to develop these plans to a stage where the Congregation, Presbytery and Westmount can properly evaluate their implications.

Over the first 9 months of 2015 the endowment fund has declined by \$209,000, reflecting the difficult market conditions of the past few months plus our substantial operating deficit. While the fund is still strong at over \$1.9 million, as our operating deficit continues to increase, the fund will decline at a faster and faster pace. Therefore, it is important to develop "ready for implementation plans" over the next 3 to 5 years for the future of the congregation and of our property. Otherwise, someone else will likely make the plans for us, probably with a less desirable outcome.

– Don McLeod, Chair, Trustees

2015 Financial Campaign for Mountainside

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

– Winston Churchill

Let's ask the question, what is important about Mountainside United Church, both for us individually and for the community?

For you, is it the fellowship and friends you have made here?

Is it the worship service and the message we hear from Rev. John?

Is it the music we enjoy listening to and participating in? For Margaret and the choir is it making that wonderful music?

Is it the programs we attend — Tuesday group, meditation, bible study?

Perhaps it is the satisfaction of contributing as a volunteer at mini-prix, the shut-in dinner or preparing food for Birthday Sundays.

Why is Mountainside United Church important to the community?

Again, we provide:

a place for worship, enjoying fellowship and music; the contributions of our programs such as the

– Community Dinner for shut-ins

- worship services at seniors' homes including carols at Christmas
- outreach projects – mini-prix, Fair Trade Coffee, refugee support
- St. Columba House
- Pancake Supper
- Pastoral Care Visitation Team

How about the space we make available to organizations like the cubs, brownies and scouts.

Meditation is popular among young people. A group of us meets weekly for meditation with Linda Mount and another group will soon be starting on the Lakeshore.

Maybe it is all of the above.

What we do know is that the future of our church depends on what we give — our time, our talent and our treasure.

Thank you for returning your campaign response promptly.

– Julie Dawson, Treasurer

2nd Westmount Scouts Christmas Tree & Wreaths Sale

Once again Scouts will be offering Christmas tree & wreaths as part of their Annual Fund raising. Please give your support!

Trees 6-9ft \$45.00

Balsam wreath \$25.00

Christmas trees and wreaths are available for pick-up:

- Friday, December 4th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm
- Saturday, December 5th from 10:00am – noon

If you live in Westmount and prefer to have your tree delivered:

Please come on Friday night to pick out your tree.

Westmount delivery \$10.00

To place your order, please call the church office, 514-486-1165, before November 27th. Please note, there will be no trees available for sale on pick-up days.



Meals on Wheels

After more than 40 years of service to the community, the Mountainside Meals on Wheels group announced in May that they would be closing in June. It was a decision that was reluctantly made. As you will remember the MOW program closed for the first time five years ago because of the difficulty in finding volunteers to staff it.

However, a new, enthusiastic team — Judy Clark, Kay Robb, Sandra Baines and Susan Purcell — recruited new members, many from the community at large, to relaunch. It worked successfully, although always with challenges, for the past few years. Now, once again the team has run out of steam.

Many of the clients had been with Mountainside for years but they will be taken care of by New Hope and Santropol Roulant which are large government-subsidized meal services.

Susan Purcell, Coordinator, said in a letter to her volunteers, “We are so grateful to all of you for the hard work and love you put into your tasks. Thank you.” The group met for a final coffee party on June 17th.

Thanks to all of the MOW participants over the years who maintained this service on behalf of Mountainside United Church.

It was decided that the balance in the bank account of MOW, approximately \$1200, will be donated to the Syrian Relief Fund.



*above: Meals on Wheel volunteers
below: Judy Clark (l) and Susan Purcell, coordinators*

Mountainside Choir Welcomes New Lead



The choir welcomes a new soprano lead, Magdalena How. Magdalena is currently a second-year student at McGill University's Schulich School of Music studying Performance Voice. Magda was born in Victoria, British Columbia, and grew up in Stouffville, Ontario, and in Victoria, BC. Singing has always been one of her joys, and she has participated in numerous choirs and musical theatre productions throughout her school years. This year she is very much looking forward to participating in her first opera with Opera McGill. Magdalena was a choral scholar at Ryerson United Church in Vancouver and her grandfather is a retired United Church minister, so she is very excited to be building upon these experiences here at Mountainside.

Christmas Gifts for those who have Everything?

How About a Living Gift from St. Columba House!



A living gift honours someone you care about by giving a gift that makes a social contribution. They will receive a beautiful card and a certificate showing what that gift will make possible. The gift package options are:

- \$30 for six Christmas dinners for a low-income family,
- \$45 for an outing for 10 children in the Alternate School, which offers children a head-start and promotes parental involvement in their child's education
- \$60 for five hours of one-on-one tutoring in the Saint Columba House After-School

Program for students struggling with reading and mathematics.

- \$100 will sponsor an intellectually-challenged adult in the Saint Columba House Hand-in-Hand day program promoting autonomy and skills through stimulating recreational and educational activities.



You will receive a tax receipt for the full value of your gift.

Please contact Julie Dawson (514-489-7925) for information and purchase of living gift.



Frances Lamb

I recently had a long chat with Frances Lamb. You will remember that

Frances was a very supportive member of the congregation for a very long time. When she moved to the Maritimes and then out West to be near her son, she continued to keep in touch.

She reports that she lives in a nice residence in Nelson, B.C. She belongs to a local church where she is as active as she can be. She sends her love and best wishes to all her friends at Mountainside.

– Julie Dawson

An Advent Creed... continued from page 1

I commit to use this Advent season
to seek out the Holy
both in God among us,
and in God beyond us.

I open myself to an Advent journey
of hope, peace, joy and love
that will change my life.

Adapted from Barb Janes

– Rev. John

RAPPORT

Rapport is published by
Mountainside United
Church Communications
Committee.

Please send articles and
announcements to the church office:

687 Roslyn Avenue
Westmount, QC H3Y 2V1
514-486-1165
www.mountainsideunited.ca



NOVEMBER 2015 – FEBRUARY 2016

NOVEMBER		
Nov. 15	25th after Pentecost	November Birthday Celebration, Service at 10:30am
		Rapport distribution
Nov. 17		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Nov. 19		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Nov. 22	Christ the King	Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary
		Congregational Meeting immediately following the service
Nov. 24		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Nov. 28		Community Christmas Dinner, 4:00pm
Nov. 29	1st in Advent	Communion Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
DECEMBER		
Dec. 1		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Dec. 3		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Dec. 6	2nd in Advent	White Gift Sunday, Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		A Christmas Celebration Carol Concert, 3:00pm
Dec. 8		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Dec. 10		Christmas Carolling at Westmount Senior Residences, 6:15pm
Dec. 12		EMSB Concert, 4:00pm
Dec. 13	3rd in Advent	Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary
Dec. 15		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Dec. 20	4th in Advent	December Birthday Celebration, Service at 10:30am
		Pageant rehearsal 11:30am
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Family Service	Pageant / Communion, 8:00pm
Dec. 27	1st after Christmas	Service at 10:30am, in the Chapel
JANUARY		
Jan. 3	Epiphany	Communion service, 10:30am in Chapel
Jan. 10	First Sunday after Epiphany	Baptism of Jesus, 10:30am in the Chapel
Jan. 12		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Jan. 17	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	January Birthday Celebration, service 10:30am in the Chapel
Jan. 19		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Jan. 21		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Jan. 24	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	Service 10:30am in in the Chapel
Jan. 26		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Jan. 31	4th Sunday after Epiphany	Service 10:30am in in the Chapel
FEBRUARY		
Feb. 2		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Feb. 4		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Feb. 7	Transfiguration Sunday	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Feb. 9	Shrove Tuesday	Pancake Supper, 6:30pm
Feb. 11		Session, 7:00pm
Feb. 14	1st in Lent	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Feb. 16		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Feb. 18		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Feb. 21	2nd in Lent	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		February Birthday Celebration
Feb. 23		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Feb. 28	3rd of Lent	Communion service, 10:30am in the Sanctuary