

RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



May 1, 2016



Easter at Mountainside

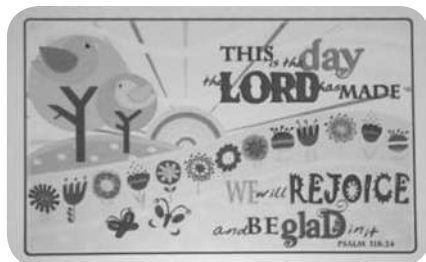
Easter Sunday began with a sunrise service at 6am which was organized by the Filipino Canadian Christian Fellowship and Mountainside United Church. Over 150 attended the service which was

followed by a delicious breakfast. Minerva Santos served as the worship leader. The other participants were Pastor Rod Tenorio, Pastora Mercy Galera and Rev John Forster. The sun did rise before the end of the service!

At 10:30am the

Mountainside congregation gathered for Easter Communion celebration. The glorious Easter music provided by our Mountainside Choir was

enhanced by guest trumpeter Fernando Anaya Meza. The beautifully decorated sanctuary was filled with our members, their families and many visitors.



Easter is here, a little early and a little cold, but Easter is here all the same. It is nice, helpful even, when springtime cooperates and reinforces the message of new life, but this year it hasn't. However, one look at our church activities in this issue of Rapport reveals a lot of life and new beginnings. You see Easter Sunday services with all their enthusiasm celebrate the promise of resurrection living, whereas the Season of Easter is an attitude of the heart. It is the sight and insight of uncontroled love. It is the opening up to heaven on earth. The Season of Easter is NOW or never.

What are the *now or never* challenges in your life? What are the *heaven on earth* opportunities before you right now? What new risk or accommodation or level of coping is God's uncontroled love urging you toward this Easter season?

Thoughtful, daily Christian practice grows out of responding creatively to these questions. We don't have to wait for "*a new heaven and a new earth*," they are with us now just waiting to be filled out by our faithfulness.

Welcome to the Season of Easter at Mountainside United where *heaven and earth* and thoughtful, daily Christian practice meet. See for yourself in the pages that follow.

– Rev. John

End of Year Outreach in 2015

We'd like to update Rapport readers who did not have the opportunity to read our Outreach annual report in March.

Syrian Refugee Relief – In 2015 Mountainside donated \$2233.44, matched by the Canadian government, to the United Church Syria Refugee Appeal to help displaced Syrians overseas. As of February 2016 the United Church of Canada received over \$900,000 to support partners responding to this crisis. Check out the United Church of Canada website: www.united-church.ca/syria. A \$1000 donation was also made from Mountainside to Action Réfugiés Montréal thanks to a cheque provided by one of our members.

The United Church supports refugees who need protection regardless of religious affiliation. Read more about Mountainside's contributions locally in a separate article of this Rapport.

The Minstrels of Hope – These talented touring singers came to present a pre-service concert for us on Sunday, October 25th. This fundraising choir was formed to help alleviate poverty in the Philippines and empower disadvantaged people.

Winter Coats Appeal – In November a carload of warm winter coats, boots, hats, mitts and scarves from our congregation was delivered to McGill, for their international students.

Christmas Appeal and White Gift Sunday – \$2200 cheques were given to Montreal City Mission and St Columba House. A carload of gifts for distribution at Saint Columba House's annual children's Christmas party was gratefully received.

Thank you to all who participated in making these events happen!
– The Outreach Committee

The Kiese Family Visits Mountainside

On Sunday, April 17th the Kiese family joined us for Birthday Sunday lunch. Paul arrived as a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in October 2008. He attended Mountainside ESL classes. The rest of the family weren't able to join him until May 2015. He stayed in touch with Nancy Walkling and the Outreach Committee during this time and we were able to help him as he worked to assemble the financial resources to make this happen.

The family lives in St. Leonard. His wife, Martine, is studying and is in a job training program. The children — Jeremie, Prince, Emeraude, Aurore and Kitsia — are in local schools.

Paul thanked the members of Mountainside for all of the prayers and support that they have given him and his family over the past eight years.



Got a bike to give away?

Do you have a bicycle that you are no longer using? Saint Columba House now has a bicycle workshop in their basement. Workshops are being given on how to do tune-ups and repairs to prepare individuals for the workforce.
– Outreach

Syrian Refugee Project

In the spring of 2015 a sub-committee of Outreach was formed to look into ways that Mountainside might be involved with the Syrian refugees who would be coming to Canada. It was decided that the best course of action for our Congregation was to help another sponsor with material goods that would be needed to settle a family or individual. This would include clothing, and household items such as linens and kitchen items, and even toys for the children.

By the fall of 2015 we had connected with the Dorval Mosque who had been advertising that they were sponsoring a number of families as well as helping other sponsors with material goods. A campaign was launched and goods collected, including clothing at first and, later, linens and household items and toys.

Most of the things collected were sorted and repacked by category. We were pleased that everything was in good condition. The first load of items was delivered before Christmas and subsequently seven more carloads were delivered in the New Year. In all, we feel that this project was very successful and thank everyone who participated.

– Frances Sault, Outreach

Report from Session

Our Annual Celebration of Ministry was held on Sunday, March 6th, following Sunday Worship. Committee convenors were invited to highlight one or two items from their annual reports for which they were particularly proud or thankful. Julie Dawson, Treasurer, went over the financial statements from the financial review (formerly audit) explaining our operating deficit of \$160,000 and overall deficit of \$230,000.

Ramon Vicente was thanked for his two years as Chair and Rev. John Matheson's associate minister privileges were renewed. A motion was received from Session (see Trustees' report) regarding the possibility of looking into selling the Mountainside property. After a discussion period, the vote was unanimous to allow the Trustees to proceed with their research and commence discussions with Presbytery. We will be hearing more on this subject in the coming weeks and months.

– Lynne Dawson, Chair of Session



Montreal City Mission

Montreal City Mission has established a branch of their Camp Cosmos in the West Island for this coming summer. Space is being reserved for several Syrian refugee children. Frances Sault has informed Mr. Deger, her contact at the Dorval mosque, and told him how to contact Rev Paula Kline, director of MCM. You are encouraged to support our Summer Day Camp appeal to help sponsor children so they can participate in these programs.

– Outreach Committee

Trustees Report

Last Fall Session asked Trustees to look at redevelopment options for our site. The Trustees received the report on this subject on February 11, 2016. It indicated that redevelopment options for our site are very limited due to zoning restrictions and the heritage status applied to our building by Westmount. The best and only realistic option would be to sell to another religious institution since the site is already zoned for that use and there seems to be a potential buyer(s). Sale to a developer is very unlikely to succeed since a condominium project would not be financially viable. Sale of part of the land would be time-consuming, uncertain of success, and only provide a short term reprieve for our financial difficulties.

The report was reviewed during the Session meeting held later on that same day. After discussion, Session passed the following motion: **“that the Session recommend to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on March 6, 2016 that we (through the Trustees) investigate the possibility of selling the property as a whole”.**

At the March 6th meeting the congregation unanimously accepted that recommendation. The Montreal Presbytery has since granted approval for the Trustees in the first instance to sell the church building and land, conditional upon the approval of the Montreal Presbytery and on an “as is where is” basis. If the Trustees are able to arrive at a reasonable agreement with a potential buyer, it will then need to be approved at duly called special congregational meeting and subsequently be approved by Presbytery. The Trustees will keep the congregation apprised of progress as we proceed with the potential sale.

– Don McLeod, Chair, Trustees

Saint Lambert United Church Blessing Bag Project

Blessing Bags are being given out to street people and specifically in the area of the Native Friendship Centre. If you would like to help with the donation of items or money, you may do so through Saint Lambert United Church — 415, av Mercille, Saint-Lambert, QC, J4P 2L6. Checks should be identified as for “Blessing Bags.” Alternatively, donate through Mountainside and we will redirect.

Items needed: socks, Kleenex (small packs), toothbrushes, combs, soap, granola bars, hot chocolate packs, crackers, band-aids, handiwipes, mints, deodorant, hand lotion, conditioner, coins, underwear, chapstick, toothpaste, shampoo, trail mix, Cup-a-Soup, teabags, gum, mouthwash, rain ponchos, candles, tampons for women, face cloths, dog biscuits, winter gloves.

– Frances Sault, Outreach Committee

“En Harmonie 4 Kids” Celebrates its 5th Edition

The 5th edition of “En Harmonie 4 Kids” was held on Saturday, April 16th, at Mountainside United Church. Nine ensembles including six childrens’ choirs, Con Brio wind ensemble from F.A.C.E. school, and our own Mountainside Choir joined forces for a fund raiser to benefit Sun Youth’s Children’s Programs.

It was a record attendance.



The church was FULL and the music was amazing. Two hundred voices and instruments made a joyful noise. Thanks to all participants and the dedicated leadership of Margaret de Castro who made it all happen. This year we will be able to make a contribution to Sun Youth which will exceed last years’.

Announcement

There will be an information meeting Sunday, May 15th, after church in the Sunshine room to bring folks up to date with the proposed sale of our church building. Please come and keep informed.

Music Notes

At the moment of writing, the choir at Mountainside is preparing to finish the season with the 2016 edition of “En harmonie 4 Kids” on April 16th. This year we will host eight other musical groups — a record number — to raise funds for Sun Youth’s children’s programs.

This spring we bid farewell to two of our choir soloists, Emma Bonanno and Bruno Roy who will be graduating with Master’s degrees from McGill University. Emma has spent two years with us as alto lead and plans to live in New York City and pursue career opportunities. Bruno has sung with us for four years during his undergraduate and graduate studies and will be joining the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto in the autumn. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

Margaret de Castro Celebrates 35 years of service



Margaret de Castro, Director of Music, celebrated 35 years of continuous service to Mountainside United Church on January 8, 2016. She began her career at St. Andrews Church and moved up the hill at the amalgamation with Dominion-Douglas.

On behalf of the congregation, a beautiful coffee table book on Church organs was presented to her by Rich Neufeld. In addition, James Bailey, National President of the RCCO, sent a letter of congratulation to Margaret noting her exceptional musical

leadership for three and a half decades.

He noted that she had been "quite instrumental in having the 1959 von Beckerath (organ) moved from Queen Mary Road United Church and reinstalled and enlarged by Hellmuth Wolff et Associates at Mountainside.

That is an organ which was quite pivotal to the introduction of the Neo-Baroque organ in North America and for your part in saving it, the RCCO commends you."



Welcoming New Members

Christian hospitality is central to our faith. Anyone who wishes to become a member and join the church this spring, please contact the office (514-486-1165) to begin the process. It is easier than you think.



Summer Camp Appeal

For many years our congregation has been helping support summer day camp programs in three areas of Montreal.

The groups we support are all church initiatives:

1. Mountainside is a member of the ecumenical Cote des Neiges Council of Churches which sponsors disadvantaged children to attend four local camps.
2. The United Church's Montreal City Mission Organizes Camp Cosmos in downtown Montreal.
3. In Pointe St Charles, Saint Columba House runs a bilingual program, focusing on literacy to help children maintain and develop their reading skills over the summer months.

All these Day Camps promote physical activity, Healthy eating, educational activities and weekly outings. Your donations help to make these camp experiences possible so children can have a stimulating summer. They look forward to another wonderful summer in 2016.

Cheques should be made out to 'Mountainside United Church', with the note 'for summer camps' written at the bottom.



Our Charles W. Kelsey Memorial Windows

Were you aware that stained glass artist Charles William Kelsey (1877-1975) was a Westmounter and that two of his windows are at Mountainside? Kelsey trained in England for many years in the British Arts and Crafts tradition before coming to Montreal in 1922. In Westmount he lived and worked at 136 Clondeboye, and then (1948 to 1975) at 257 Metcalfe.

Kelsey's stained glass designs can be found in over 68 churches in Canada. You can find his windows in many Westmount Anglican and United churches. Westmount Park Church has one of the largest collections it seems, including several very large and colourful windows.

Our two windows were installed in the narthex, near the present day elevator, and dedicated on 14 October, 1945 in memory of two young WW2 pilots. Flying Officer Ross Eveleigh Johnson died 15 July, 1944 and



Flight Lieutenant Jack Laffoley R.C.A.F. (John Gifford Laurence Laffoley) on 4 March, 1945.

Kelsey was especially talented at painting hands and garments, using dark brown enamel. Every one of his windows is different. He is remembered for his unique expression and attention to detail. Over 400 of his drawings and the watercolour designs for his windows, many full-sized, are archived at the McCord Museum.

Much of this information came from the Westmount Historical Association's 17 March, 2016 lecture by Rosalind Pepall, former Senior Curator of Decorative Arts at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Mountainside's two beautiful windows are in need of repair. With age they have begun to "wave" — ie. buckle. Can you help us get in touch with the relatives of these two airmen? Mr. and Mrs. F. Ross Johnson family lived at 730 Lexington Avenue. Ross, their only son, attended Westmount High and McGill.

— Nancy Walkling

* Pancake Supper *

One great “flipping” good time! Many thanks to all who donated their time, mixing and flipping skills, food products and energy to make this evening such a great success.

We had a large turnout including many families and young children. Thank you for your active participation in the various skill testing games.

See you all next year.

– Anita Carrier,
Membership Convenor



Birthday Sunday



RAPPORT

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Please send articles and
announcements to the church office:

687 Roslyn Avenue
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www.mountainsideunited.ca

MAY – SEPTEMBER 2016

MAY		
May 1	6th of Easter	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
May 3		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
May 8	7th of Easter	Mother's Day Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
May 10		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
		Congregational Meeting immediately following the service
May 15	Pentecost Sunday	Communion service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		May Birthday Celebration
May 17		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
May 22	Trinity Sunday	Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
May 23	Victoria Day	Church building closed
May 24		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
May 29	2nd after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
May 31		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
JUNE		
June 5	3rd after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
June 7		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
June 9		Session, 7:00pm
June 12	4th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
June 14		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
June 19	5th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		Children's Program closing
		June & July Birthday Celebration
June 21		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
June 24		church office closed for St. Jean Baptist
June 26	6th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel
JULY		
July 1	Canada Day	church building closed
July 3	7th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel
July 10	8th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel
July 17	9th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel (Rev. John holiday)
July 24	10th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel (Rev. John holiday)
July 31	11th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel (Rev. John holiday)
AUGUST		
Aug. 7	12th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel (Rev. John holiday)
Aug. 14	13th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel (Rev. John holiday)
Aug. 21	14th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel
Aug. 28	15th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel
SEPTEMBER		
Sep. 4	16th after Pentecost	Service 10:30am in the Chapel
Sep. 5	Labour Day	Church building closed
Sep. 11	17th after Pentecost	Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary