

RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec

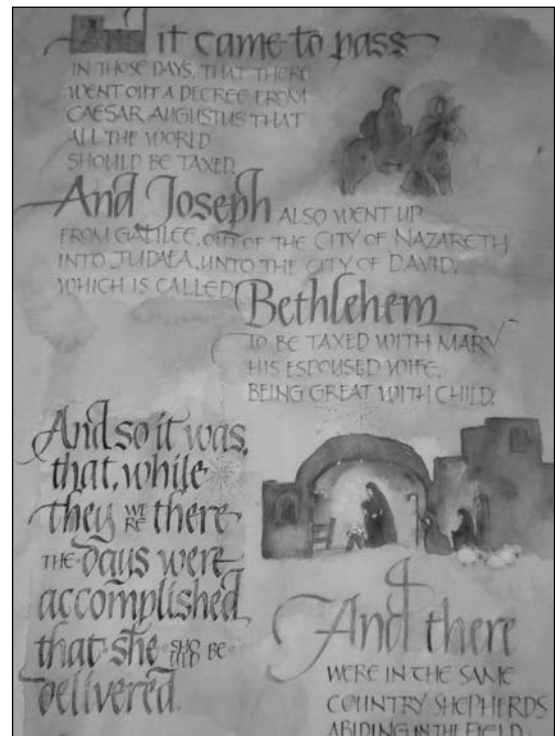


November 14, 2010

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany

The lectionary readings for this Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany focus on the prophecies of Isaiah and the nativity story in Matthew. “The nations shall go up to the mountain of the Lord... and hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” These prophecies and the process that leads to the birth of the Christ Child intensify and draw us in each Sunday. Six weeks later Matthew once again announces the gathering of the nations who bring gifts to the One who is the light of the world.

We begin the Christian year with the prophetic announcement of the global in-gathering that will be formed into a



The advent banner was created and made by Calgary calligrapher Connie Ferguson. It was purchased and donated to Mountainside United Church about five years ago by Peggy Jean Thomas. It hangs in the Narthex during the season of Advent.

A Christmas Celebration of Music 2010



Christmas is approaching and, with it, Mountainside's Christmas Celebration of Music. Our annual Christmas musical event will take place

**Sunday, December 5,
at 4 p.m.**

Choral and instrumental music of the season will be presented. Our featured instrumentalists will be Caroline Derome, flute, and Rafael de Castro, organist. Please come and join us for this wonderful start to your holiday season. A free-will offering will be collected. Please join us after the presentation for a reception in Tees Hall. Nursery facilities will be available during the event.

multilingual gospel people by Pentecost. We begin in a world of ethnic hostility and culture wars, then as now. The plot of our story will be the gospel drama of the world's peoples learning war no more. It is the gospel in-breaking of the new human culture that Jesus both announces and embodies — the culture of the kingdom of God.

Living in the Christian year places us inside this drama in which all cultures learn the way of the odd culture that is God's kingdom come,

continued on page 5

Outreach Springs from an Attitude of Gratitude

As Church historian Phyllis Tickle has pointed out in her book "The Great Emergence," about every five hundred years the Church has a giant rummage sale. The first was the fall of the Roman Empire and Gregory the Great's (510 C.E.) establishment of a new ecclesio-political coherence for Europe and the monastic tradition that carried the church intact through the Dark Ages.

The second giant rummage sale was the great schism that divided the church East from West in 1054 C.E. The East had Constantinople, the Greek language, used leaven bread for mass and believed the Holy Spirit descended from God the Father. The West had Rome, Latin, used unleavened bread for the mass and argued that the Holy Spirit descends equally from **God** the Father and **God** the Son. Rome excommunicated Constantinople and Constantinople returned the favour. (There was a little more to it, but these were the core issues.)

The last one was five hundred years ago (1517 C. E.). In northern Europe, under the control of the Holy Roman Empire and the serfdom of the waning Medieval Age, Christians again searched the scriptures for signs and prophecies that expressed the new thing **God** was doing in their midst. The Protestant Reformation was established. Freedom from serfdom was achieved, as visions of the kingdom of **God** emerged in new Protestant churches and denominations.

Over the past seven years our Montreal Presbytery has approved the sale of seven church buildings, so one a year on average representing 14% of our inventory. Presbytery has three buildings being sold right now, with another one soon to be on the market. This means 20% of our buildings could soon be sold. So we are well into the latest giant church rummage sale. How we *reach out*, in this time of transition

will affect the next five hundred years of our religious tradition.

The new *outreach* must be **Spirit** led and **Spirit** fed. The new focus will be on *individual outreach, individual practice, and individual witness*. Yes, we continue to be called to do *outreach* together. There continues to be strength in numbers and economies of scale, as our outreach events and activities highlighted in this issue reveal. Buildings remain important, offering space for wider community and youth activities. One of the secrets of *outreach* is a humble heart connected to a good program as seen in our church activities. But society no longer comes to church, society no longer looks to the church, society no longer even cares about what the church is up to, so individually in our everyday lives is the new mission field, the *new outreach* opportunity to practice our faith, the new place to engage *outreach*. And this leads us to another secret of *outreach*. A good intention connected to a strong commitment generates a faithful future.

The Application for Outreach

When the **Spirit** is poured out anew, into receptive hearts, it leads to an **attitude of gratitude**. An **attitude of gratitude** must be shared person to person, every chance we have. Outreach for today is a humble heart connected to a good program, a good intention



connected to a strong commitment. It is an **attitude of gratitude** where sharing and caring make life changing connections through everyday living.

Rev. John

Old Brewery Mission Visit



On a sunny autumn day in October, volunteers from Mountainside visited the Old Brewery Mission's Webster Pavilion to learn about what goes on there and to help serve a meal. We were given a tour of the second floor's three dormitories, which accommodate about 175 men. There has been a significant rise in demand for these beds over the past couple of years. Showers are mandatory. So far, our guide said with a smile, bed bugs have not appeared. Breakfast and supper are provided for all. Lunches are available for residents of rental rooms on the third and fourth floors. A special residential program on the fifth floor offers clients solutions to homelessness through dynamic transitional programs. A total of 400 men sleep at the Mission each night.

Donning our Mountainside aprons and plastic gloves provided, we soon got into the rhythm of setting tables, serving meals, and cleaning up. The meals were hot and included a vegetable ratatouille, big sausages and boiled potatoes. Decadent cheesecake was the dessert. After serving some 356 clients we sat down to enjoy the same supper. Our \$1050 and bags of clothing were gratefully received. This was an excellent opportunity for us to get directly involved within our Montreal community.

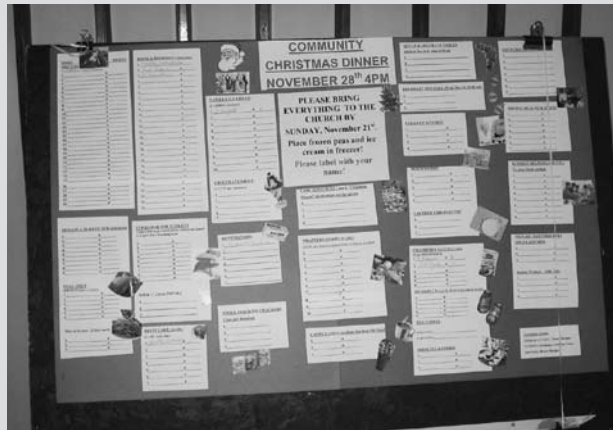
*Nancy Walkling
Outreach Committee*

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER

**Sunday, November 28
at 4:00 p.m.**

This is an annual event for our congregation to reach out to the community. We invite over 120 guests to come into our "home" and share a meal of turkey with all of the trimmings, enjoy the company of our hosts and hostesses and be entertained. There is always carol singing, dancing and a special visit by Santa Claus.

It is a big undertaking but one which always is supported by many. There is a way for everyone to help. The sign up board is in Tees Hall. Fill in your name or call the church office to volunteer. (514-486-1165).



Some of the needs are as follows:

EDIBLES: clementines, frozen peas, tinned gravy, chocolate sauce, cranberry sauce, tea, coffee, fruit cake, candy canes, wrapped candies, ice cream.

PEOPLE: To cook turkeys, serve, greet, act as hosts and hostesses, decorate the hall, clean up. We especially need **Drivers** to pick up guests and return them to their home.

Donations of money are also appreciated to help purchase incidentals.

Please have donated items at the church by Sunday, November 21.

Stewardship Sunday

October 3, 2010

Did you hear the story about old Bill Jones? Poor man was recovering from a major heart attack.

One day the phone rang and his wife Edith answered. It was Reader's Digest announcing that Mr Jones just won the \$5 million jackpot prize. All those years of buying magazines paid off for Bill. The caller said that the check would be coming by registered mail the following week and that Mr Jones would have to sign for it.

Oh dear, Edith thought. Such good news may be a shock for my husband. It just might kill him. So she called Pastor Brown for advice. The good Pastor said he would be right over to break the news gently to Bill. Love and care for his flock was in the Pastors heart as he sped over to the Jones'.

Bill, Pastor Brown said, one of the people in the congregation has just won five million dollars, and has asked me to advise him on its use. I am gathering ideas. I would just like you to think for a moment—what would you do if you won five million dollars?"

"That's easy," Bill said. First, I'd give half of it to the church."

Hearing this Pastor Brown clutched his chest, fell to the floor, and died.

Now I do not want to kill anyone this morning . . . but it is my job today to talk to you about money.

I realize I am preaching to the choir. You understand perfectly well that all we have and all that we are given comes from God.

Everyone here this morning has been a good and faithful servant of this church, community and to God. Whatever the need has been asked for in the past, you have helped. You have helped with your time, with your gifts, with your ideas and with your money. You have increased your offerings by 20% allowing the church to increase its Mission & Service activities. You are a kind and caring community. So I thank you and consider you a blessing on this church.

Today, I invite you share your commitment to our congregation.

I would like to hear how God and the church's ministry make a difference in your life. One nice perk of a small congregation is hearing what happens in the lives of others. Wasn't it nice to read about

Edith in the *Rapport*? Wouldn't you like to know more about our members? I invite you to share your Good News. You can write a piece in the *Rapport*, or share your news in your small church groups; how about a personal testimony before a Sunday Service? Only your creativity and imagination limit you on telling us where you are encountering God in your life.

The theme this Stewardship Sunday is The Attitude of Gratitude. And I am grateful for all of you. For the committee who knits, the groups who come each week for activities & study, for the drivers, for those serving meals on wheels, for the bazaar helpers, for the choir, TM2, for those who outreach for pastoral care, the list most fortunately can go on and on.

And wouldn't it be a blessing for that list to go on and on. Each of us can show our gratefulness to our Lord by serving Him in worship, giving with a joyous heart our financial offerings, donating our God given talents and sharing the Light that is within us all.

Thank you.

Susan Salvati
Chair of Finance

Christmas Appeal

*In gratitude we give, ingratitude we receive,
In gratitude we live, in gratitude we believe*



Every year at this time Mountainside United Church makes a special Christmas Appeal for funds on behalf of Montreal City Mission, St. Columba House, United Theological College and McGill Chaplancy. There are other community

missions we would like to support such as Dans la Rue, Montreal Diet Dispensary, and Chez Madeleine. Please give generously so that we are able to support these groups as we have in previous years.

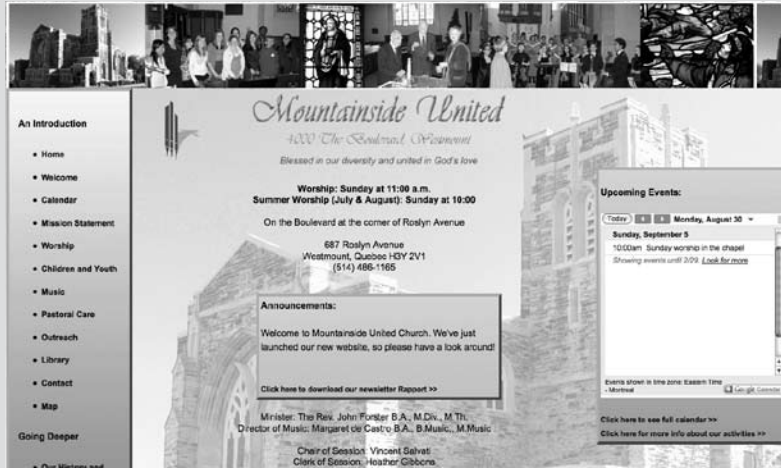
Donna Fraser, Chair Outreach Committee

*Please use this form to send in with your cheque which should be made out to:
Mountainside United church "Christmas Appeal".*

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Address: _____ Amount of your donation: _____

Our Website



Our website, www.mountainsideunited.ca, got a makeover this fall and we've been making sure to keep everyone in cyberspace up to date about the current goings-on at our church. The Google calendar which appears in the "Upcoming Events" section on the main page, as well as a full-calendar display on the Calendar page, shows real-time information about our activities, from Sunday worship to weekly meetings and special events, such as serving dinner at the Old Brewery Mission and preparation for our Christmas Bazaar. The Activities page features photos and descriptions of these events; new photos and info are added quite often, so be sure to check our website regularly. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Vanessa Rodrigues

Advent...continued from page 1

God's will done on earth as it is in heaven. Sunday by Sunday, beginning in Advent the lectionary and the liturgy cultivate this new culture by teaching the church to practice the ways of the kingdom.

The cultivation of congregations that grow into intercultural communities of the kingdom of God is akin to the cultivation of a garden. It requires the patience to trust that the long unpredictable season of watering and weeding, of tending and pruning will surely lead to the harvest that is the promise foretold in Advent, Christmas, Epiphany.

This Advent we come from our sports cultures, our pop cultures, our family cultures, our ethnic cultures to the welcome culture of Jesus Christ that confronts and transforms every culture. It begins with the promise of communion.

Rev. John

We're making some changes!!

While I was Chair of the Finance Committee I was always concerned that we did not have an approved budget for almost one-third of the year that it covered. This was the result of submitting the budget to the Annual Meeting which is normally held in mid- to late February. Added to that problem was the situation we faced this year where the Executive Committee was requested to revisit the budget. This led to the Faith Challenge and a final budget not being available until June.

In order to remedy this situation we are trying something different this year. We will have two Congregational meetings, the first of which will be held on November 21, 2010 and will have one item on the agenda, the discussion and approval of the budget for 2011. The remaining items, such as approval of

the year-end financial statements, approval of officers, Committee reports, etc., will take place in the second Congregational meeting to be held in early spring 2011.

Splitting the meeting in this fashion provides us with a number of advantages, including having an approved budget for a full year, allowing additional time for auditors to complete their year-end review, providing additional time for the Committees to complete their reports, and preparation and reproduction of the Annual Report.

Please help us in implementing these changes by attending church services on November 21 and participating in the Congregational meeting to follow.

*Vincent Salvati
Chair of Session*



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TM2



Our youth band Teen Music Mountainside is enjoying a busy fall season — they performed What a Wonderful World and Stand By Me as part of our Worldwide Communion service on October 3rd, and will make another appearance during worship at Mountainside in November. We are planning to entertain patients at the Montreal Children’s hospital during the Christmas season (our own “plugged” take on Christmas caroling!), as well as participating in events at our church during that time, such as the Community Christmas Dinner and the Christmas Eve Pageant. We rehearse almost every Sunday at 12:30pm during the school year and are always welcoming new members, so if you are a musician or singer age 12–19 and would be interested in playing in our band, please contact Vanessa at vanessa@mountainsideunited.ca.

Vanessa Rodrigues



MYG
Mountainside Youth Group
 A teen place to meet, greet & eat. We meet every Sunday, perching wherever.
 11 AM

Stories
Videos
Games



Concerts Plus 2011

Plans are now gearing up for the 2011 Concerts Plus series. The opening concert will be held on Sunday, February 6th. Diane Caplette, flute, Solange Bellemare, violin, and Iona Corber, cello, of Trio Ambiance, will present an eclectic program entitled “Bach, Beatles and Broadway”. On Sunday, March 20th, our own soloists Mariana Ramos, soprano, Kathrin Welte, mezzo-soprano, Jérôme Savoie, tenor, and Daniel Bastian, baritone, will sing a selection of vocal music from operatic and operetta repertoire. Finally, on Sunday, May 1st, Mountainside Choir and the FACE Chamber Orchestra will once again join forces to present the grand finale of the series.

All concerts will take place at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a Meet and Greet session with the performers involved. Tickets for individual concerts are \$15 (regular admission) or \$12 for students and seniors. Concert series sponsorships will also soon be available. At a cost of \$150, each sponsor will receive (10) tickets which can be used for any or all of the concerts in the series. Please consider the possibility of helping us out with the expenses of the series in this way – a pair of concert tickets can make a wonderful Christmas gift!

Margaret de Castro, Director of Music

Confirmation

There will be a planning meeting after Church in January (date to be determined) to discuss when and where the 2011 confirmation classes will be held. If you have a youth who is in grade 7 or higher who wishes to be confirmed, please call May Chan in the Church office and leave your name. For questions please see Rev John Forster or Lynne Dawson (Chair of Liturgy & Learning).

Rev. Raymon T. Vicente 1912–1989

Ancestor and Friend



He is remembered quite vividly by some members of Mountainside United Church because of his friendly and outgoing personality, and not only by his children and grandchildren who have made the Montreal area their home. It is surprising to hear

that he stayed in Montreal only from 1976, when he was sponsored by Amor Casia as an immigrant to Canada, until his departure in 1979. It was then when he decided that his church in the Philippines needed him. That need was not just in his imagination. He wound up doing four Sunday services every week.

The Reverend Vicente was born in Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan in 1912. He did his religious studies at the Union Theological Seminary of the Philippines. Early on it became evident that the churches he served with enthusiasm were too poor to support him and his growing family. As a result he studied life sciences sufficiently to work as an agronomist in the Bureau of Plant Industry. His work involved farm visits where he taught pest control and other agricultural skills. He served most of the churches gratis, including pastoral emergencies such as death and serious sicknesses. The churches in return shared their harvests with his family.

Angelita, one of his daughters, writes from Vancouver:

“We lived a humble life. We were poor, and yet my parents felt rich with love and caring for others. I can still vividly remember when my mother would cook lots of food and share it with our even poorer friends and neighbors.”

When Rev. Vicente retired as an agronomist, he and his wife, with some like minded others, started a program for unemployed youths, which offered free vocational courses. This program became integrated into the regular educational system after the government recognized its merits.

He was married to FORTUNATA, and they had six children, all born in the Philippines. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of grandchildren and an asterisk(*) the greater Montreal area as place of permanent home.

MINERVA (6)*; AMEURFINA (3)*; ANGELITA (2); ZENAIDA (2)*; RAMON, JR (4)*; RAMON III (deceased, 2).

Most of the persons marked “*” are members or adherents of Mountainside United. Here they form an informal but lively group, admired for its friendliness and musical talents. Indeed they have become essential to the survival of a Christian community whose roots go back into the first half of the 19th century.

*Minerva V. Santos and Angelita Lejeune,
with John Lehnert*

MOUNTAINSIDE RESPONDS TO INTERNATIONAL DISASTERS

The congregation of Mountainside United church responded generously to United Church appeals for two international disasters in 2010:

- HAITI EARTHQUAKE in January. We sent \$3,605 in individual donations as our support.
- PAKISTAN FLOODING this fall. We sent \$1,080 as our support.

Both of these amounts qualified for the “matching program” announced by the Federal Government thus doubling the figures. Bravo to all!

Julie Dawson, Treasurer

Church School News.....

September 19th was Rally Day, launching the Children's Church school year. Yummy homebaked cookies made by the children were enjoyed at our Open House Party which followed the Covenant Ceremony.

Join us

11am

Ages 6 to 12

We have a new curriculum this year thanks to Rev. Vicki Cowan's congregation at Union Church Ste. Anne de Bellevue.

Children come to service with your parents then follow me to Church School downstairs in Leslie Hall. See you on Sunday!

Lynne Dawson

NOVEMBER 2010 – FEBRUARY 2011

NOVEMBER		
Nov. 14	25th after Pentecost	
		Rapport distribution
Nov. 15		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Nov. 17		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Nov. 18		Choir practice, 7:30pm
		Session, 7:30pm
Nov. 21	Christ the King	Congregational Meeting immediately following service
		– Budget 2011
Nov. 22		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Nov. 24		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Nov. 28	1st in Advent	Communion
		Community Christmas Dinner, 4:00pm
Nov. 29		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
DECEMBER		
Dec. 1		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Dec. 2		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Dec. 5	2nd in Advent	A Christmas Celebration Carol Concert, 4:00p.m.
Dec. 6		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Dec. 9		Residence Carolling
Dec. 12	3rd in Advent	White Gift Sunday
Dec. 13		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Dec. 16		Residence Carolling
Dec. 19	4th in Advent	
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Family Service	Pageant / Communion, 8:00p.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas	
Dec. 26	First Sunday after Christmas	service in the Chapel, 11:00am
Dec. 27		Church building closed
Dec. 28		Church building closed
JANUARY		
Jan 2	Christmas II / Epiphany	Communion, service in the Chapel, 11:00am
Jan 3		church building closed
Jan 6		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Jan 9	First Sunday after Epiphany	Baptism of the Lord, service in the Chapel, 11:00am
Jan 12		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Jan 13		Session Executive Meeting, 4:30pm
Jan 16	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	service in the Chapel, 11:00am
Jan 17		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Jan 19		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Jan 20		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Jan 23	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	service in the Chapel, 11:00am
Jan 24		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Jan 26		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Jan 27		Session Meeting, 7:30pm
Jan 30	4th Sunday after Epiphany	service in the Chapel, 11:00am
Jan 31		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
FEBRUARY		
Feb. 2		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Feb. 3		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Feb. 6	5th Sunday after Epiphany	service in the Sanctuary, 11:00am
		Concerts Plus, 3:00pm
		(Trio Ambiance with cello, flute, violin)
Feb. 7		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Feb. 9		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Feb. 13	6th Sunday after Epiphany	Rapport deadline
Feb. 14		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Feb. 16		Adult Education, 7:30pm
Feb. 17		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Feb. 20	7th Sunday after Epiphany	
Feb. 21		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Feb. 23		Adult Education, 7:30pm