

# RAPPORT

## Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



February 27, 2011

### A Sunday Morning in the Life of Mountainside Choir

It is 9 a.m. on a cold February Sunday morning. The Choir Room is warm, thanks to some very effective electric heating newly installed in the autumn of 2010. In years past, choir members would dress in 'layers', entering a choir room with a temperature sometimes in the low 60's at 9:15, and stripping off parkas and extra sweaters as the room gradually warmed up!

Choir members come in one by one. Someone comments that Kathy Minorgan won't be in today as she is babysitting twin grandchildren. Nancy Walkling will be away on a bi-weekly snowshoeing excursion. Everyone

takes care to keep the 'I will be away' list up to date — listing the dates that they will not be

present well ahead of time. The leads who take the 66 bus arrive shortly before 9:15. Those who depend on the 124 Victoria bus sometimes arrive late, as the 124 Sunday schedule is notoriously undependable.

Margaret de Castro looks around the Choir Room at 9:15 and decides to start, on time, as there are members of all four choral sections present. The Choir begins by rehearsing the service music — hymns, responsive readings, and choral responses. As the rehearsal continues, other members arrive. Ramon and Ester Vicente and Alberto Santos are late as Ramon's band has had a wedding 'gig' the night before and Alberto now plays keyboard for the band. Often Ramon, Alberto (and Vanessa Rodrigues, a sometime choir member) have very little sleep



### Upcoming Events

- March 8 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30pm
- April 10 Congregational Annual Meeting 12:30pm**
- April 21 Maundy Thursday  
Communion Service/Tenebrae 7:30pm
- April 22 Good Friday Service 11am
- April 24 Easter Communion

after late night engagements before they faithfully turn out to sing on Sunday mornings. Ruel Arevalo arrives, having battled one lane traffic on the Champlain Bridge.

Service music rehearsed, the Choir proceeds to choral repertoire, rehearsing the anthem and introit of the day as well as upcoming anthems and repertoire for the May concert with the FACE orchestra. As services in February are in the Chapel, the Choir relocates to the Chapel from the Choir Room and runs the anthem and the introit there. Lib Neufeld inquires about hymn introductions — how long will they be? Will the whole hymn be played or just first and last lines?

Lib is the Choir's 'choreographer' and tells the Choir when to stand and sit in order to alert the congregation to do so as well. There is a lot of laughter today as



Lib and Rich Neufeld were away last week and the Choir stood and sat 'like 20 individual jack-in-the-boxes'! Rehearsal completed, the Choir heads back to the Choir Room for a short coffee break before the service. Mission accomplished for another Sunday!

*Respectfully submitted (with apologies to the Choir for poetic license!), Margaret de Castro*

## Update on the Futures Committee

It has become increasingly apparent that our financial situation has been deteriorating over the past few years as our budget shortfalls have been funded by use of our endowment fund. Although in “good” market years, such as 2010, the earnings from the fund are sufficient to meet our needs, in most years we are forced to use not only the earnings but also a portion of the principal balance of the fund.

Consequently, at a Trustees meeting last November, concern was raised over the projected rate of depletion of the Endowment Fund. Based on current estimates it appeared that the Fund would be entirely exhausted within 10 years. At the subsequent Session in November, it was agreed, “that, on the recommendation of the Trustees, an ad-hoc group be set up to evaluate options for the future of the congregation of Mountainside United Church that would allow us to become financially sustainable.”

Session empowered Vince Salvati to set up and chair this ad-hoc committee. The committee is composed of the following members: Vince Salvati, Rev. John Forster, Rich Neufeld, Carolyn Walsh-Dawson, Kiki Tremain, Katie Haentjens, Elizabeth Farquhar, Alan Greig, Ramon Vicente, Neil Mackinnon, Pat Roman, Lambert Okrah and Don McLeod.

The first meeting was held on February 8<sup>th</sup>. During the meeting the committee reviewed and agreed upon the following objective, with the addition of another main area of focus “outside Environment”. During the meeting, there was a lively discussion with many ideas being put forward. The next meeting is planned for February 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Mountainside United Church: Futures Committee

#### Objective of the Committee

Evaluate all options available to Mountainside United Church with a view of five to ten years in the future. Main factors to be considered are: (a) financial capacity; (b) demographics of the congregation; and (c) ability to manage and support change.

The Committee can add additional members as the needs arise and can bring in “outside” expertise as deemed necessary with prior approval of the Session Executive Committee.

The Committee will report periodically to both Session and the Trustees with the final recommendations to be also presented at a Congregational Committee.

#### Main areas of Focus

##### Worship

A plan must be developed which will focus on our current worship service and how it would project to the

future. Questions of how we worship, where we worship and when we worship should be addressed along with a view toward a worship environment that, while maintaining our core members, is geared to attracting a younger demographic and increasing membership.

##### Community

A plan must be developed with a vision of what we stand for as a faith community. Questions of activities outside of our normal worship must be addressed. All current activities should be reviewed with a focus on their purpose, audience, and resources required to support the activity.

##### Financial

Based on the option(s) developed under Worship and Community, financial plan(s) must be developed based on our current and projected financial resources to determine if these options are viable over the longer term. The plan(s) must focus on the current and projected demographics of the congregation, ongoing expected contribution levels, yield from endowment funds, operating costs and property costs.

*Don McLeod, Acting Chair of Futures Committee*

### A SAD STORY\*

This is a sad story about four people named *Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.*

There was an important job to be done and *Everybody* was sure that *Somebody* would do it.

*Anybody* could have done it, but *Nobody* did it.

*Somebody* got angry with that because it was *Everybody's* job.

*Everybody* thought that *Anybody* could do it, but *Nobody* realized that *Everybody* wouldn't do it.

It ended up that *Everybody* blames *Somebody* when *Nobody* did what *Anybody* could have done.

*\*Anonymous*

At Mountainside, we have the opportunity via the Committees to change the ending to **A HAPPY STORY.**

If *Everybody* (all the members of Mountainside) accepts the invitation from *Somebody* (members of the Nominating Committee, Rich Neufeld, Miriam Tees, Elva Crawford) to look at how **you** could make a contribution to the work of the

*continued on page 3*

*A Sad Story...continued from page 2*

Church, this would ensure that *Nobody* is left out, and the work gets done, not just by *Anybody* but by **YOU** with your **UNIQUE CAPABILITY**.

### EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2011

Chair—Vincent Salvati  
 Vice-Chair—Richard Neufeld  
 Treasurer—Julie Dawson  
 Clerk of Session—Heather Gibbons  
 Building & Property—Don McLeod  
 Communication—Betsy Zukow  
 Finance—Susan Salvati  
 Liturgy & Learning—Lynne Dawson  
 Outreach—Lambert Okrah  
 Membership & Pastoral Care—Donna Fraser  
 Ministry & Personnel—Julie Dawson  
 Nominating—Elva Crawford  
 Trustees—Philip Johnston

*Elva Crawford,  
 Chair, Nominating Committee*

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**F**inancial Statements prepared by our accountants will be presented at the annual meeting on April 10, 2011. In the meantime, here is a snapshot view of our year, using our bookkeepers' figures.

#### Finance Committee

REVENUE	
Givings	191,597
Fund Raising & Donations	15,473
Cost Recovery	17,335
Bequests	13,750
Net Investment Income	54,795
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TOTAL	\$292,950
EXPENSES	
Salaries & Administration	370,196
Program	25,252
Outreach	20,846
Capital Repair Expense	15,517
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TOTAL	\$431,811
Excess Expenses over Revenue	-\$138,861



## PANCAKE SUPPER

**Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

**Cost: \$5.00 adult    \$3.00 children 10 & under  
 \$15.00 per family**

**Tickets will be on sale starting on February 20th**

**If you can help out, please sign-up !**

**This an event not to be missed!**



Givings were increased by \$15,000 over last year, and cost recovery, bequests and investment income were all up. Expenses were less than last year. Fortunately, growth in the endowment fund in 2010, largely unrealized capital gains, was able to make up all but \$22,000 of the cash that was withdrawn during 2010 to cover the excess of expenses over revenue. Overall, a better financial picture for the year than expected, although the favourable investment returns cannot be expected every year. If the fund return had been in line with the expected 5% long term return after fees, the capital withdrawal would have been approximately \$78,000 instead of \$22,000.

A new committee is meeting to address the ongoing deficit and present options for the future of Mountainside.

In the meantime we count on your continued support for our worship, music and programs.

*Julie Dawson, Treasurer*



## Mountainside Church Roots Shaped by New England Puritans, Politics and Religious Freedom 1803–1823

The first congregational roots of Mountainside United Church were planted by the 1786 Scotch Presbyterian Congregation who built their 1792 church on St Gabriel Street at the SW corner of the Champs de Mars in Old Montreal, with the financial help of prosperous fur traders of the 1787 North West Company and others, many of whom were not Presbyterians. It was said to be the “first Protestant edifice for public worship, properly speaking, in Quebec.”

Mountainside’s earliest theological and political roots in North America were significantly shaped by our ancestral English and Dutch Puritan settlers who arrived in New England’s Colonial settlements of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut beginning in 1631, and whose descendants migrated to Montreal prior to or following the American War of Independence.

The evolution of our historic congregation is not without its bumps. In his excellent book “Saints, Sinners and Scots”, Rev. James S.S. Armour DD, former minister of The Church of St Andrew and St Paul and friendly neighbour of our former Erskine and American United Church congregation on Sherbrooke Street, provides many insights into the disagreements and divisions within our common ancestral congregations of The Scotch Presbyterian Church on St Gabriel Street in 1803, and the Scotch Presbyterian Church on St Peter Street in 1822.

Both congregational divisions occurred during the calling or recruiting of a new

*continued on page 6*

## Finding and Filling The Season of the Spirit

The Season of Epiphany can cover up to ten Sundays. This year it takes in nine. It hasn’t been this long in over ten years. When Epiphany is long like this we get to the lectionary readings on the *Sermon on the Mount*; The Beatitudes; The salt and the light; Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; Turn the other cheek; The Lord’s Prayer; The lilies of the fields and the birds of the air. I have enjoyed digging into these passages again after such a long lay off.

These core teachings of Jesus are so familiar that we can get lulled to sleep about them. I am reminded of a story where Gandhi reported that he was awe struck when he first read the Sermon on the Mount. “My heart stopped when I read Matthew chapter 5 through 7. And I woke up the next morning determined to turn these principles into practice.” They asked Gandhi, “what’s the difference between you and most Christians, and Gandhi said quietly, “well, I think he (Jesus) meant it.” The trick for us is to understand again that when Jesus said, “love your enemies,” he meant it. When he said, “turn the other cheek,” he meant it. When he said, “you are the light of the world, the salt of the earth,” he meant it. When he said, “don’t store up for yourselves treasures on earth,” he meant it.

The longer Season of Epiphany offers us the opportunity to see the light and experience radiance, to see more clearly what the practice of our faith entails, to explore in more detail what it means to “*worship our God in the beauty of holiness.*” It prepares us for the Season of Lent where we get serious about living a *restorative righteousness* and the Season of Easter where we embrace *resurrection living*.

A long Epiphany means a late Lent and Easter. This year it is well worth the wait.

Now lets review how we find Easter. Look on your calendar or check the Internet for the first day of spring (when the sun crosses the equator, the equinox, usually the 20th to 22nd of March.) Find the first full moon after the first day of spring. Then look for the first Sunday after that full moon. You have found Easter! This year the full moon is almost four weeks after the spring equinox, and Easter Sunday is a full week after that.

Now lets find the beginning of Lent. Count back 40 days (how long Jesus was fasting in the wilderness) from Easter (excluding Sundays (6).) This should bring you to a Wednesday (Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.) Count back one more day and you have found Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday: The day we have a party at the Church. This year it is March the 8th. See you there.

*Rev. John*

## Musical Notes

Our Christmas season 'in music' was a full one in 2010. *A Christmas Celebration of Music* on the first Sunday of December featured the rich depth of our congregational music program with TM2 and Mountainside Choir performing and Caroline Derome, flutist, and Rafael de Castro, organist, providing the solo instrumental component.

Concerts Plus 2011 had its inaugural concert on Sunday, February 6, with the Trio Ambiance presenting a varied and eclectic program entitled 'Bach, Beatles and Broadway'. We welcomed many visitors to the performance who had never entered the door of Mountainside United before and heard their comments about the beauty of our sanctuary and how much they enjoyed the presentation.

March 20 will see us host the second concert in our series, this time given by our very own soloists who will sing a variety of solo vocal repertoire. Finally, on May 1, Mountainside will once again



welcome the Chamber Orchestra of FACE School who will join our choir in a presentation of repertoire by Vivaldi and Handel.

TM2 forges ahead under the interim direction of Cordell Henebury for the first three months of 2011 while Vanessa Rodrigues is on a leave of absence in Brazil. The group will perform at the Sunday worship service on February 13 and at the Pancake Supper on March 8. Plans are also in place for a Coffee House fundraiser at the end of May.

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY IN THE CHAPEL

Worship in the chapel for January and February has been — dare I say — FUN. The 80 seats are largely full, giving the feeling of warmth and a big congregation. The choir is so close that they are singing WITH us instead of TO us. Last Sunday's alternative service with the TM2's lively music was more relaxed in that intimate space. Even Rev. John's applications seem very personal. We will be back in the Sanctuary at beginning of March. Come and join the fun.

*Julie Dawson*



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH + MYG

While Susan Salvati is away this winter in California, the MYG group is being led by Michael Dawson (youngest child of John and Julie Dawson) who is back in Montreal after living for several years in Lennoxville. Mike has been leading discussions with the youth looking at music, comparative religions and popular culture such as movies.

Children's church continues to meet separately when the numbers are sufficient but often joins forces with the older group.

Come check us out!

*Lynne Dawson  
Children's Church*

*Church Roots...continued from page 4*

minister and both resulted in a withdrawal of the minority group to form a new Presbyterian congregation and erect a new church. For the first 36 years, from 1786 to 1822, the ancestral Presbyterian roots of the Erskine and American and Mountainside United Churches were shared with those of The Church of St Andrew and St. Paul.

Leading up to the first congregational division in 1803, the proprietors (pew holders) had asked the incumbent minister of St Gabriel's Church, Rev. John Young, to resign because of a drinking problem, and he left immediately in 1802. He was a Scotsman attached to the Albany Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and the first minister at St. Gabriel Street church.

Rev. James Somerville, another Scotsman from the University of Edinburg and a licentiate of the Relief Presbytery in Glasgow, was engaged to replace him. Rev. Somerville was a seceder from the established Church of Scotland, and since the majority of the congregation wanted a minister from the Established Church of Scotland, he agreed to seek ordination with the latter body but would not be available until a year hence. During this long interval, some members of the congregation who were unhappy that no other candidate had been invited to compete for the call and, being upset at the insistence that he be from the Church of Scotland, had arranged with Rev. John Mason in New York to send Rev. Robert Forrest, another secessionist from the Church of Scotland, to preach for five Sundays.

A majority of the Session then demanded that the congregation reconsider Rev. Somerville's Call and call Rev. Forrest instead. To their disappointment,

the majority of the congregation simply confirmed Rev. Somerville's previous Call. Some supporters of Rev. Forrest absconded with the church keys but the proprietors ordered the locks changed and this initiated the withdrawal of the dissenting members to form a new congregation and plan their new church.

In 1807 the new church was erected on St. Peter Street in Old Montreal and named the Scotch Presbyterian Church on St. Peter Street (in connection with the Associate Reformed Synod of Scotland). The minister engaged for the new church was Rev. Robert Easton who had come from Scotland with Rev. Forrest.

In 1822, Rev. Easton retired after having some health problems and the search began for a replacement. The majority of the congregation decided, as they did in 1803, that the minister should come from the Established Church of Scotland. This did not please the Americans and others whose sentiments did not rest with the Established Church, especially since they had raised more than half of the building fund for the St. Peter Street Church in 1803. Again the minority group of the congregation withdrew. On Christmas Eve 1822, with 100 names on a subscription list, 66 supporters met in the City Tavern (later known as the Exchange Coffee House) to begin the formation of the American Presbyterian Church.

One can only speculate why most of the Americans and some of the Scots were unhappy to attach themselves to an Established State Church, whether in Scotland or England. When we look at the places of origin of their parents and ancestors, and the tyrannical and vicious political and religious environment that often surrounded them in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, we can better understand their fears and biases in such matters.

These early New England settlers were mostly English or Dutch Puritans who often joined a Congregationalist church in the colony. The Puritans in England at this time in the 17<sup>th</sup> century suffered severe persecution and often death, charged with heresy by the Monarchs or Bishops of the established church for suggesting reforms in church practices. The practice of Patronage in the selection of ministers by pew or property



**Congratulations to Colin Spencer, our Greeter Emeritus, on the occasion of his 89th birthday!**

*continued on page 7*

## A FAMILY WEDDING

Laura Dizon and her fiancé Harold Salgado had invited us all to their wedding in early January, so the church was full — family, friends and church family. Proud grandparents, Minerva and Alberto Santos, parents Maria and Santos Dizon, brother Ian, grand aunts and uncles — Amor and Fred Casia, Zenaida and Danny Garcia, Ester and Ramon Vicente, aunts and uncles — Amado and Margie Santos, Xenia and Charlie Alfaro, Grace and Gerry Grinnage, cousins Aldy, Adhmar, Benjamin, Andrew, Joshua, Aaron and second cousins participated too — Leo Garcia, Teo and Mylan LeBaut. Laura is the only girl in her generation.



The family was easily recognizable as they all chose to wear lavender — shawls, dresses, shirts and ties — the theme color for that day. Laura and Harold were all in white. Three lovely filipinas sang during the service, one in Tagalog. Rev. John Forster conducted a warm and moving service with special prayers and ceremonies of Philippine wedding tradition. A delicious afternoon tea in Tees Hall completed this happy occasion.

We have watched Laura grow, having been baptized at our church, to a helper with the nursery children and in the Sunday school, to a confident performer in TM<sup>2</sup> and now into a lovely young bride. We are very proud of her.

We wish Laura and Harold every blessing as they start their life together.

*Julie Dawson*

### *Church Roots...continued from page 6*

owners rather than the congregation, and the financing and controlling roles of government in state established churches, were serious moral and freedom issues for nonconformist Christians in those early years. Important ancestral experiences are often relayed to later generations and may influence their religious and political decisions.

Most of the American members at the St. Gabriel Street Church, St. Peter Street Church, and American Presbyterian Church like the Elisha and Benjamin Lyman family or the Jacob De Witt family, or their ancestors, originated in the New England Colonies in Massachusetts or Connecticut or the New England states. For instance, Richard Lyman, the patriarch of the family, moved his family from Essex County, England to the Massachusetts Bay area in 1631, eleven years before Maisonneuve founded Montreal. He then walked 100 miles in 14 days with his family, his cows, and 100 other settlers who carried the minister's wife on their shoulders through the trackless forest to Connecticut and became one of the founders of Hartford. His name is etched in the memorial founder's column in the centre of Hartford. His descendents donated a fund and a memorial plaque in 1997 to the Erskine and American Church, in memory of Arthur Lyman and his wife. This plaque will soon be added to the Heritage Hallways in the foyer of the St Andrew's Chapel at Mountainside Church.

*Edwin Coffey*

### **A Note from your Outreach Committee**

Yes, it's still winter, but already we are looking ahead to next summer. In April you'll be hearing from us about giving to the three inner-city summer day camps so that children in downtown Montreal (Camp Cosmos, Montreal City Mission), Cote-des-Neiges (four camps supported by the Cote-des-Neiges Council of Churches) and Pointe-St-Charles (St Columba House Literacy Camp) are able to have a safe and stimulating summer.

Thank you for your support of Mountainside's 2010 Christmas Appeal.

*Nancy Walking*

## MARCH 2011 – MAY 2011

MARCH		
Mar. 3		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Mar. 6</b>	<b>Transfiguration Sunday</b>	<b>Service in the Sanctuary, 11:00am</b>
Mar. 7		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 8	<b>Shrove Tuesday</b>	Pancake Supper, 6:30pm
Mar. 9		Ash Wednesday
Mar. 10		Session Executive Meeting, 4:30pm
<b>Mar. 13</b>	<b>1st in Lent</b>	<b>Communion</b>
Mar. 14		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 17		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Mar. 20</b>	<b>2nd in Lent</b>	<b>Concerts Plus, 3:00pm</b>
		<b>(Mountainside Soloists in Concert)</b>
Mar. 21		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
<b>Mar. 27</b>	<b>3rd in Lent</b>	
Mar. 28		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
APRIL		
<b>Apr. 3</b>	<b>4th in Lent</b>	
Apr. 4		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 7		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Apr. 10</b>	<b>5th in Lent</b>	<b>Congregational Annual General Meeting</b>
Apr. 11		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
<b>Apr. 17</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Palm Procession</b>
Apr. 18		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 21		Choir practice, 8:00pm
	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>Communion Service /Tenebrae, 7:30pm</b>
Apr. 22	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Good Friday Service, 11:00am</b>
<b>Apr. 24</b>	<b>Easter</b>	<b>Communion</b>
Apr. 25	Easter Monday	Church building closed
Apr. 28		Choir practice, 7:30pm
MAY		
<b>May 1</b>	<b>2nd of Easter</b>	<b>Concerts Plus, 3:00pm</b>
		<b>(FACE Chamber orchestra with the Mountainside choir)</b>
		Rapport deadline
May 2		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
<b>May 8</b>	<b>3rd of Easter</b>	<b>Mother's Day</b>
May 9		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 12		Session Executive Meeting, 4:30pm
<b>May 15</b>	<b>4th of Easter</b>	Rapport distribution
May 16		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
<b>May 22</b>	<b>5th of Easter</b>	
May 23	Victoria Day	Church building closed
May 26		TM2 Coffee House fundraiser
<b>May 29</b>	<b>6th of Easter</b>	
May 30		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon