

RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



March 1, 2009

Activities for the Lenten Way

In the next six weeks we are exploring various forms of spiritual practices to help us enter into the Lenten way. On **Tuesday, March 3rd**, a group within the church that gathers to read and discuss books, the most recent one being "The Emerging Church," is planning with me "**A Day Away**" right here at Mountainside. Using our sanctuary as a spiritual cell in which to journey by the heart, we will offer various forms of guided and quiet meditation, contemplation of the symbols in our stained glass windows and a labyrinth walk. We hope to offer many and **different points of access** to enter into the presence of God. Like any journey that usually begins from home, the inner journey begins at our spiritual home. **Starting at 10:30 a.m.** we will disconnect from the technological world to enter the sanctuary world of attending to God. **A light lunch will be provided.** Hope to see you there.

Our In-Ministry-Year student Philip Read and I will be leading **two Sunday evenings of chanting the Psalms and the Scriptures** in our sanctuary. For the first 1600 years of our Christian tradition in the West, the scriptures were sung or chanted in worship. The Protestant Reformation, which led to the translation of the bible into the various languages of Europe and the British Isles, contributed to the eventual end of chanting the scriptures, except for the psalms. In



time this too was lost in mainline denominations.

However, a liturgical renewal begun some thirty years ago has brought this practice back in part. Our present hymnal has reintroduced sung responses for the Psalms. The Presbyterian Church has issued a new Psalter and the Anglican Church has also re-appropriated the old tradition. It is time that we experience again the spiritual con-

nection of chanting the scriptures, which for centuries shaped the faith formation of millions. It is another point of entry for the Lenten journey. The simplicity and rhythm of the evenings promise to release tension and connect with the inner resonance of the soul. As Philip believes, it will be like polishing a mirror so as to see more clearly the way through Lent. Part of this seeing is seeing into other religions and their traditions of chant. The second evening we will have the opportunity to welcome and experience a Buddhist congregation and its chant tradition.

The first evening is **Sunday, March 8th**. The second evening is **Sunday, March 15th**. Both begin at **6 p.m.** and end at **7 p.m.**

Part of Philip's learning experience includes designing and putting on a workshop for our congregation. Building on our New Canadians Project, he has chosen to develop, "Hosting the Stranger: Opportunities for Radical Hospitality." Philip will lead us through scripture reflection and introduce guest speakers who will share their knowledge and experience of a refugee coming to Canada. **Sunday, March 29th, after church**, there will be a **Potluck lunch** followed by the presentation. Please support Philip in this endeavor.

As you can see there are lots of **different points of access** to enter into the **Lenten** way this year at Mountainside United.

Rev. John

2009 Easter Services

Palm Sunday – April 5th

11:00 a.m. Palm Procession

Maundy Thursday – April 9th

7:30 p.m. Communion Service /Tenebrae

Good Friday – April 10th

11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday – April 12th

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Cuba

Report from Philip Read, our In-Ministry-Year student

My story of my trip to Cuba is a story of being a hosted stranger in a foreign land. With my suitcase three-quarters filled with medicines, vitamins, creams and toothbrushes that many of you generously gave, I arrived in Cuba with the rest of the motley Montreal School of Theology (MST) crew. In total, eleven In-Ministry-Year students and two theological faculty members embarked on this journey. Dr. Phil Joudrey, our fearless leader on this expedition, reassured us that it was normal to be held up at the Havana Airport. Arriving in the middle of the night, we ventured out into the muggy darkness of a pre-dawn Havana. Greeting our weary mugs were Moraima González Otiz, our host, and Hilda, our translator. We knew we were in for a different kind of trip when our transportation arrived—a wonderfully painted school bus.

For the next ten days this was our ride. Prominently posted just below the driver's mirror was the now famous "HOPE" image of President Obama. It had been donated to the *Seminario Evangelico de Teologia* (SET), our sister seminary, by a group of American Christians in an act of solidarity with the Cubans. Beside the mirror there hung a mini-globe. Remembering this globe also reminds me how I felt humbled every time we gathered with Cuban Christians for worship: they prayed for other parts of the world, for the suffering of other sisters and brothers, and for the environment itself. I had assumed that they would be cut off from the rest of the world because of repression and being consumed with their own problems. (Why else would I be lugging fifty pounds of pharmaceuticals?!) Generosity abounded. We attended home Bible studies, sometimes outnumbering the hosts. I can recall

the small living room where our group took up all the space so that some Cubans were in the hallway. We were introduced to various people: from an HIV/AIDS awareness advocate (who has been living with AIDS for thirteen years); to an official government economist, Lourdes Regueiro; to a retired Baptist minister at the Martin Luther King centre; to a women's sewing circle. We also met a thoughtful 94-year-old Quixotic theologian, Rev. Dr. Rene Castellanos. He taught us—along with his regular group of local high school kids—folk dances from around the world. When we

were meeting with the rest of the faculty of SET, this theologian asked us, "There are liberal and conservative, evangelical and liberationist, there are feminist and socialist and individualist theologies, and now narrative and contextual theologies, yet maybe there needs to be a theology of the child. Can you imagine what a theology of children might look like?"

There are many stories that I have about Cuba: some I am ready to share now and others I still want to keep a little longer, but they all connect back to the overwhelming sense that the Spirit is truly working in Cuba. I had had assumptions going to Cuba—most of them now shattered. I had expected to see the

gospel suppressed. Instead I saw it lived. It is true that "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35), yet I had presumed that I would be the one giving. I had assumed that I was coming as one of the privileged of this world to offer charity in needy context.

But in their generosity they shared with us. This was their radical hospitality of providing for the strangers in their midst. It is what I will always remember most.

The photo is of a lunch provided by Rev. Manuel Morales' family in Terafa. This church was built as an attachment to the family home. Most of the food seen here was grown on their co-operative farming program.



Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting took place in Tees Hall following the Worship Service on February 15, 2009. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch, we marked the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Marie and Walter Lloyd-Smith and we reviewed the events and activities of 2008.

The Committee Chairs had compiled excellent accounts of the work accomplished during the year, so the review of the Committee reports went very smoothly. Julie Dawson led us through a



complicated financial report and the proposed budget of 2009 with skill.

The alertness of the members at Mountainside is never in doubt. Astute observations, comments and questions help us to remember the vitality, interest and continuing concern that each and every member at Mountainside attaches to the church. This provides encouragement to the Executive to continue to work towards high standards and goals.

Great news. Lynn Dawson and Donna Fraser were named Chairs of Nominating and Outreach respectively. This kind of commitment makes us all enter 2009 with anticipation and excitement.

Elva Crawford
Chair of Session

Slate of Officers 2009-2010

Chair of Session _____	Elva Crawford
Vice-Chair of Session _____	Vince Salvati <i>(with responsibility for Finance)</i>
Clerk of Session _____	Heather Gibbons
Rev. John Forster is an ex-officio of all committees except Ministry & Personnel	
Chair Finance _____	Vince Salvati
Chair Liturgy & Learning _____	Alan Greig
Chair Ministry & Personnel _____	Philip Johnston
Chair Nominating _____	Lynne Dawson
Chair Membership & Pastoral Care _____	Mary Ross
Chair Property _____	Don McLeod
Chair Outreach _____	Donna Fraser
Chair Trustees _____	Philip Johnston
Presbytery Representatives _____	Carolyn Walsh-Dawson, Drew Webster

For the short time Dorothy and Carol Plummer were members of Mountainside United Church, they gave generously of their considerable talents. They were active on the Bazaar Committee and helped as teachers with our New Canadians Project. They have moved to London, Ontario and wrote to us:

“Julie, we shall miss you and the wonderful people we were just getting to know at Mountainside. However, so far, as we begin to get connected here we believe this to be a good move.”

— Dorothy and Carol Plummer

CONCERTS PLUS 2009

Concerts Plus 2009 got off to an exciting start on the afternoon of Sunday, February 8th. In a concert arranged in coordination with the Montreal Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO), the prize winners of the College's 2008 Lynnwood Farnam Organ Competition presented works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Part, and Sweelinck. Nikolas Fehr, first prize winner, and Leora Nauta, second prize winner, were awarded their prizes by Scott Bradford, Chair of the Centre.

At a post-concert reception, Margaret de Castro of Mountainside presented the performers with additional gifts from the church. Mountainside also welcomed many members of Les Amis de l'Orgue, the major francophone organists' association in Montreal.

Concerts Plus will continue in March with a concert on March 22nd by the Yoel Diaz Trio. On April 26th Mountainside Choir will join with the FACE chamber orchestra to present works by Pergolesi and Schubert. Tickets, available at the door, are \$15, \$12 students and seniors.

News Flash: Michael Radulescu of Vienna will present an evening concert on Tuesday, July 7th, at Mountainside United as part of the 2009 McGill Summer Organ Academy. Radulescu is an organist and conductor who is known internationally as a specialist in the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the arrival of our Beckerath organ in Montreal and its installation at Queen Mary Road United Church in the autumn of 1959. This installation was a pivotal one and heralded the classical organ revival across North America. This summer we will be able to mark this occasion with visiting organists from around the world.



Margaret de Castro, winners Nikolas Fehr and Leora Nauta, and Montreal RCCO Chair Scott Bradford

Report from TM2



The 2008 fall season was a great one for TM2. After their first successful performance for the "Faith Expresso" youth retreat here at Mountainside in October, they took their show on the road. On November 30th, the first Sunday of Advent, TM2 played the service music for morning worship at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Ste. Agathe. Big thank-you to the Dawson family for hosting the band members and parents at their summer residence nearby; this overnight stay was a wonderful bonding experience for everyone involved.

TM2 then went on to participate in the Mountainside Christmas concert the following week. They performed Feliz Navidad as per our tradition, and were also given a glimpse into the world of Ghanaian percussion; the choir performed Krismas Dozi Vo, a Ghanaian carol, and our TM2 formed a small percussion ensemble to accompany them on congas as well as traditional Ghanaian gankogui (bells) and axate (shakers).

In December, the youth music program received a very generous donation from Mary Hagerman and the Desjardins Group, with which we were able to purchase a new guitar. All TM2 members have been very eager to try out the new instrument, and have been working with our resident guitar expert Cordell Henebury for the last

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New Cooks always welcome for Meals on Wheels

Are you available on either Monday or Thursday morning a few times a year? Do you enjoy cooking? Can you help us sustain this valuable service to those in need in our community? The meals are planned, the food is purchased and the servers are ready to take the dinners to our clients. We have many volunteers who are not members of Mountainside, so perhaps you have a neighbor or a friend who would like to join the MOW team. This is one of Mountainside's important ways of reaching out into our community.

Please call the office for further information: 514-486-1165.

A Note From Liturgy & Learning

The memories are still fresh of a busy and joyous Advent season, especially of the Christmas party and dinner for more than a hundred of the less mobile of the community, the Christmas Celebration of Music in early December, and the Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary. We could include the December 28th worship in the Chapel, in its own way a kind of special transition from the bustle of the days and weeks preceding to a quieter contemplation of the beginning of a new year.

At this point we are well into that new year and nearing the end of winter. The Childrens' Church and MYG are running smoothly according to plans laid months ago. The same can be said to a large extent for the Sunday services: the music of Margaret and the Choir and the leadership of Rev. John Forster, both outstanding. Of note is John's current Adult Education series, 'In Search of Paul,' meeting Wednesday evenings until April 1.

In contrast to the exceptionally early Lenten season of last year, we are preparing for a moderately late Easter April 12, with nonetheless all that this implies, not only in the religious sense but as well in the glorious coming of Spring to a people who know winter.

*Alan Greig,
Chair, Liturgy & Learning*



> *TM2 continued*

few weeks (Cordell also teaches songs to the Children's Church).

Though they are very busy getting on with their young adult lives, members of the TM2 senior band still manage to meet up and play together when they have the opportunity. The entire original group assembled to play two selections of music for the Christmas Eve pageant and communion service.

Spring of 2009 is looking promising for both groups: we are planning to perform for several events at our church (pancake supper in February, spaghetti supper in May), as well as a possible worship service in the Roxboro area in April. Thank you all for your support and encouragement of our young musicians here at Mountainside United Church. Our program is as strong as ever, as we look forward to continued successes and positive experiences.

*Vanessa Rodrigues
Youth Music Director*

MYG News

Mountainside is indeed blessed with 10 outstanding young members of MYG. They have organized into one spirit of friendship & fun each Sunday morning.

We have continued with our 3Story program and discover new and bizarre stories each week including current events such as the miraculous plane landing in the Hudson River.

News from the retreat committee of Café Espresso is that we have been in touch with each other and are presently organizing another youth retreat to be held this spring.

In February, MYG will begin to mentor the church children in a music program organized by Cordell. This works out well with our scheduling as I am leaving for Florida (you know that I am a wimp about cold weather) at the end of January and plan on missing as much snow as possible. Cordell will also take over my responsibilities for MYG. Thank you Cordell!

Pz & <3, see you in May,

Susan

>>> OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY PRESERVED <<<

Safely deposited in the vaults of the National Archives on Viger Street are several cartons of records (dating from 1875) which document our history.

A box labeled *Douglas Methodist Church* contains such treasures as the minutes of meetings of the Trustee Board (1875-1943), and those of the Official Board (1875-1906). The register of Church members from 1881-1905 would, no doubt, reveal some well-known names.

Contents of the *Dominion Methodist Church* carton include the Sunday School roll books, listing children enrolled between 1887 and 1918. The agreements and correspondence covering the sale of the Dominion Square property in 1912 are preserved, as are a good many of the annual reports from 1888 to 1924. It's interesting to note that two ladies of this congregation are credited with founding the Old Brewery Mission in 1889. Their names are Mina Douglas and Mary Adams.

Extensive records from both St. Andrew's and Erskine and American are also stored in the National Archives. They can be examined by the public from Tuesday to Sunday at the building on Viger Street.

The volume of records increases beginning in 1925, following the amalgamation of Dominion and Douglas Methodist Churches. Preserved for posterity are, for example: minutes of the Board of Stewards meetings (1925-1961); minutes of Session meetings (1926-1956); and correspondence relating to the building of Dominion-Douglas Church (1925-1927). Of great interest are several historical pamphlets dealing with the unveiling of the memorial tablet on December 2, 1923; the laying of the cornerstone on April 24, 1926; the dedication of the new church building on April 17, 1927; and the bulletin from Dr. Lloyd-Smith's first service on March 8, 1931.

The history of the Dominion-Douglas Ladies' Literary Society is documented in the annual programmes which outline their activities from 1905 to 1965. The record books of the Women's Missionary Society Recording Secretary date back to 1915.

Recently, documents collected in our church have been organized in acid-free file folders, and conserved in archive quality cartons. In time, these too will be sent to the National Archives. They reveal more of the history of the Ladies' Literary Society: e.g., the minutes (1945-1963), beautifully handwritten by the secretary, indicate

that the guest speaker at their October 1945 meeting was Charlottle Whitton. She must have made a hit, because she was invited to return twenty years later. The topic of her speech then was "Ottawa's City, Your Capital." A seasonal membership to the Ladies' Literary Society cost \$3.00!

Two service orders are of particular interest. One outlines the service celebrating the 50th anniversary of both Dominion-Douglas and the United Church of Canada in 1975. The second details the 100th anniversary service, dating from the founding of Dominion Square Methodist in 1865.

A recent acquisition is an article from the *Westmount Examiner* describing the dedication of the St. Andrew's chapel on March 3, 1985.

The handsome memorial to those who lost their lives in the Second War was dedicated on October 14, 1943. The order for this solemn service is included.

In the carton containing memorabilia from St. Andrew's Church, Westmount, we find their Constitution and By-laws, and the architect's drawings and notes for the new sanctuary, rebuilt in 1966. A service order from 1975 includes a history of the church from 1900. There is a bundle of newsletters describing the life of the church and its members during the years 1967 to 1980.

Among the treasures relating to Erskine and American, there is a copy of the Act of Incorporation of American Presbyterian Church dated 1864. The trustees of Erskine Presbyterian Church negotiated the purchase of property on Sherbrooke St. in the St. Antione Ward on which to build their new sanctuary. The purchase agreements are included in our collection.

The advice of United Church Archivist Beverly Anderson-Levine is to now track down the minutes of all meetings of Session and all committee meetings from as far back as we can. She also recommends including bulletins from all Sunday services and copies of our newsletter, *Rapport*. Our photocopier will be put to serious use over the next few months as we attempt to bring our proud history up-to-date.

There may well be some among us who have memorabilia significant enough to warrant conservation in the archives. If this is the case, and if you are willing to part with them, please take them to May Chan. We want our history to be as full and accurate as possible...you can help!

Judy Johnston



OLD BREWERY MISSION VISIT

Mountainside members contribute food, clothing and financial donations to several charitable organisations. But it is direct help to people in need that is most rewarding. Such was the case when a group of volunteers from our church went down to the Old Brewery Mission last November to help serve supper. We were told that there were 28,000 homeless people in Montreal. The mission could provide beds for 280 and meals for 336. It was a cold night to be lining up outside for food and shelter. The meals were hot and included almost half a

chicken. Having served so many meals daily through the years, the mission has a very organized system of setting tables, serving meals and clearing up. Clients line up and enter in an orderly fashion. We wore our Mountainside aprons and were given plastic gloves to wear. Two of us served coffee while the rest of our group formed a line to pass meals from the kitchen to the tables. Our \$1000 cheque, bags of clothing and new blankets were very gratefully received. A big thanks to those who contributed to this project.



Interest Group

The Ultimate Gift

**March 18 – 1:30 p.m. &
April 22 – 1:30 p.m.**

This DVD will be shown in two parts.

Jason thought his inheritance was going to be a gift of money and lots of it. Was he ever in for a big surprise. Follow Jason on a yearlong journey that leads him to the last thing he ever expected!

Produced by Life Media and Dean River Productions, and based on the best-selling book *The Ultimate Gift* by Jim Stovall, the story sends

trust fund baby Jason Stevens on an improbable journey of discovery, having to answer the ultimate question: “What is the relationship between wealth and happiness?”

Jason had a very simple relationship with his impossibly wealthy grandfather, Howard “Red” Stevens. He hated him. No heart-to-heart talks, no warm fuzzies. So of course he figured that when Red died, the whole “reading of the will” thing would be another simple cash transaction, that his grandfather’s money would allow him to continue living in the lifestyle to which he had become accustomed. But what Red

left him was anything but simple. Red instead devised a plan for Jason to experience a crash course on life. Twelve tasks, which Red calls “gifts,” each challenging Jason in an improbable way, the accumulation of which would change him forever.

Featuring an all-star cast including Golden Globe winner and six-time Emmy nominee Brian Dennehy, Academy Award and Golden Globe nominee James Garner, and Academy Award nominee Abigail Breslin (*Little Miss Sunshine*, *Signs*).

Come and join Jason on his journey of learning! Animated by Nancy Walking!

MARCH – MAY 2009		
MARCH		
Mar. 1	1st in Lent	Communion
Mar. 1		Rapport distribution
Mar. 1		Retirement Luncheon for Joyce Schaaf, 12:30pm
Mar. 2		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 3		A Day Apart: Meditations, 10:30am
Mar. 3		New Canadians Project, 6:30pm
Mar. 4		Adult Ed. "Eclipsing Empire", 7:30pm
Mar. 8	2nd in Lent	Chanting the Psalms & Scriptures (part 1), 6:00pm
Mar. 9		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 10		New Canadians Project, 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 11		Adult Ed. "Eclipsing Empire", 7:30pm
Mar. 12		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
Mar. 12		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Mar. 15	3rd in Lent	Chanting the Psalms & Scriptures (part 2), 6:00pm
Mar. 16		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 17		New Canadians Project, 6:30pm
Mar. 18		Liturgy & Learning Comm, 4:30pm
Mar. 18		Adult Ed. "Eclipsing Empire", 7:30pm
Mar. 19		Choir practice, 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 22	4th in Lent	Concerts Plus 2009, "The Yoel Diaz Trio", 4:00pm
Mar. 23		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 24		New Canadians Project, 6:30pm
Mar. 25		Adult Ed. "Eclipsing Empire", 7:30pm
Mar. 29	5th in Lent	Pot luck lunch and workshop presentation, 12:30pm:
		"Hosting the Stranger: Opportunities for Radical Hospitality"
Mar. 30		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 31		New Canadians Project, 6:30pm
APRIL		
Apr. 1		Adult Ed. "Eclipsing Empire", 7:30pm
Apr. 2		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Apr. 4		Junior Choirs Concert for "Born to Read" literacy program - time TBA
Apr. 5	Palm Sunday	Palm Procession
Apr. 6		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 9	Maundy Thursday	Communion Service /Tenebrae, 7:30pm
Apr. 9		Session Executive Meeting, 8:00pm
Apr. 10	Good Friday	Good Friday Service, 11:00am
Apr. 12	Easter	Communion
Apr. 13	Easter Monday	Church building closed
Apr. 16		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Apr. 19	2nd of Easter	
Apr. 20		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 23		Session Meeting, 7:30pm
Apr. 26	3rd of Easter	Concerts Plus 2009, 4:00pm
		Mountainside Choir & the FACE Chamber Orchestra
Apr. 27		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
MAY		
May 3	4th of Easter	
May 4		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 6		United Theological Convocation, 2:00pm
May 7		Choir practice, 7:30pm
May 10	5th of Easter	Mother's Day
May 10		Rapport deadline
May 11		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 14		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
May 17	6th of Easter	
May 18	Victoria Day	Church building closed
May 21		Choir practice, 7:30pm