

# RAPPORT

## Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



March 7, 2010

### Concerts Plus 2010

**Concerts Plus** launched the 2010 season with an Organ Extravaganza on Sunday, February 7th. The featured artists were Philippe Bélanger, titular organist of St. Joseph's Oratory, and our own Vanessa Rodrigues, director of Teen Music Mountainside, on the Hammond B3. Philippe was the winner of the 2001 John Robb



Competition of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, Montreal Centre and his winner's recital was the debut of Mountainside's new recital series **Concerts Plus**. The program was an eclectic mix of classical and jazz repertoire. Philippe delighted the audience with a thrilling performance on the trumpet. Cordell Henebury, on guitar and Hans Verhoeven, on drums completed this very talented musical ensemble.

The series will continue on Sunday, March 21st, with a concert presented by the Maenad Ensemble. Louise Campbell, clarinet, Amy Zanrosso, piano, with guest mezzo-soprano Irene Feher, will perform music of Brahms, Schubert, Schumann, Honegger, and Eastern Townships composer Andrew Paul MacDonald.

Finally, on Sunday, April 18th, Mountainside Choir will join forces with the Chamber Orchestra of FACE



School to present the series' final concert. Orchestral music of Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Haydn and Vivaldi will be performed as well as the Missa Brevis in F Major (K 192) by Mozart.

Tickets for each concert are available at the door on the day of the concert: \$15; \$12 – students & seniors. Informal 'meet and greet' sessions with the performers follow each program. Come and help us celebrate the approach of spring through music!

### 2010 Easter Services

**Palm Sunday- March 28th**

11:00 a.m. Palm Procession

**Maundy Thursday- April 1st**

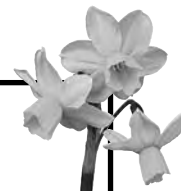
7:30 p.m. Communion Service / Tenebrae

**Good Friday- April 2nd**

11:00 a.m. Service

**Easter Sunday-April 4th**

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion



## Rev. John

We just *held* our Annual General Meeting for 2009 or as I would like to start calling it our **Affirming God's Ministry** in 2009. We also *held* back the publication of Rapport in order to report the important aspect of it. After much discussion we approved the new budget for 2010 but also requested a revised budget be presented to a congregational meeting by the end of April. The budgetary exercise of tightening our belt for 2010 initiated by the executive in October did not anticipate the strong fourth quarter return on investments. While racking up a whopping **\$214,000** operating **deficit** our unrealized capital gain on invest unexpectedly rose **\$194,000**. At the end of the year our actual change in position was **-\$37,000**.

So after absorbing our deficit spending and receiving unexpected market gains we were less than \$40,000 behind where we were

financially the year before. This is certainly *good news* and prompted the congregation to request the time to reevaluate the nature and depth of some of the budget cuts.

It was also noted that cutting deficits is a two way process. To be *fair*, cutting cost also requires increasing revenues. To be **faithful**, cutting costs requires increasing giving. If we take the *good news* of our 2009 investment return and just add in more expenses to the budget we will be living in denial and returning to an unsustainable pattern. The fact is that our average giving per contributing household is far below that of other United Church congregations in Montreal Presbytery. We can and must give more to insure the kind and quality of ministry we expect. We must be prepared **to give what needs to be given** in order to truly respond to the **Spirit's** leading.

When we put this in the perspective of **Lent**, without adding a new level of generosity to our

Christian walk, we will be choosing less for no good reason.

When we put this in the perspective of **Easter**, without increasing our giving and seeking out the new thing that **God** is up to, we will be looking for the *resuscitation of a corpse* instead of seeking the **Resurrection of the body**.

**Lent** challenges us to embrace our *best practice* and **Easter** promises us *Resurrection living*. We get a vibrant church in the process. That is the best way I know of **Affirming God's Ministry**.

—Rev. John



## Baptism

Mountainside celebrated the baptism of Ava Amor Casia Borzacchini on November 22, 2009. Ava is the infant daughter of Yvette Casia and Luciano Borzacchini. Her godfathers are Michael and Laurence Casia.



## Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday Feb 21st, 2010

The Annual Report closes out the past year by reflecting on what we have done as a congregation. The Annual Congregational Meeting forms a bridge of those reports to the future with the formation of a newly elected Session and Executive. It is the process of continuity, commitment and change at work.

The past two years as Chair of Session have followed the rules of life. One encounters ups and downs and challenges that sometimes seemed to be moving us side ways. However, the rewards came when we focused and succeeded on ways to implement our Mission Statement.

With this last message as Chair of Session, I offer my sincere thanks for all the support and help from everyone who helped me along the way and I am sure that the same support will be afforded to the incoming Chair and Executive.

—Elva L. Crawford  
Chair of Session



### Slate of Officers 2010-2011



Chair of Session \_\_\_\_\_ Vince Salvati  
 Clerk of Session \_\_\_\_\_ Heather Gibbons  
 Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Julie Dawson

Rev. John Forster is an ex-officio of all committees except  
 Ministry & Personnel

Chair Communications \_\_\_\_\_ Betsy Zukow  
 Chair Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Susan Salvati  
 Chair Liturgy & Learning \_\_\_ Lynne Dawson  
 Chair Ministry & Personnel \_ Philip Johnston  
 Chair Nominating \_\_\_\_\_ Elva Crawford  
 Chair Membership  
 & Pastoral Care \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. John Forster  
 Chair Property \_\_\_\_\_ Don McLeod  
 Chair Outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Donna Fraser  
 Chair Trustees \_\_\_\_\_ Philip Johnston  
 Presbytery Representatives \_\_ Carolyn Walsh-Dawson,  
 Drew Webster

## Meals on Wheels at Mountainside United Church

On a Monday in November a group of grade 3 and 4 students from ECS came with their teacher Rebecca McGay to visit Mountainside's Meals on Wheels kitchen. The visit was part of the 100th anniversary project at ECS which was to bring women in various fields to the school to speak with the students about their interaction with the community. Sheila Goldbloom, who has been active in the field of social work in Montreal, was asked to work with the grade 3 class. This MOW visit was part of this project.



*Seen in the picture:  
Cooks-Jim Tremaine and Kerine Moore  
Mountainside MOW- coordinator Betsy Zukow  
Grade 3 and 4 girls from ECS*



## Founders' Day Celebrates **100 YEARS** of Scouting in Westmount

The 2nd Westmount Scout group celebrated Founders' Day on Sunday, February 21, 2010 at Mountainside United Church. Representatives of the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers participated in the 11 a.m. worship service. Nearly 100 young members use the church building facilities on a weekly basis. Mountainside is the long time sponsor of the 2nd Westmount Scouts.

## The Divine Call?

A chapel complete.  
 No place to sit in Tees Hall,  
*A service is a community time.*  
*Only then can love be expressed.*<sup>1</sup>  
 Alone, we are singletons.  
 Together we can communicate.  
 The words, "How are you?" have meaning.  
 To find a direction is a sense of place.  
 Thus, who I am can be discovered.  
 Next step, I can reach out to others.  
 Faith, thus doubt, allows the risk.  
 I know to whom I belong.  
 And where to find needs.  
 That is always the Divine call.

—Elizabeth Tremaine

<sup>1</sup> Rabbi Kirschner

## Baptism

On February 14, 2010 Darius Abeka Buxton-Heaton was received into our Mountainside church family through infant baptism. Darius is the son of Laura Ashley Buxton-Heaton, who was baptized as a child in St. Andrew's-Dominion Douglas Church. The god mothers are Isabelle Dasuk, Stephanie Assas and Samantha Kelly. Darius's god fathers are Norman Weekes and Nicolas Zuniga.



## Report from TM2

2010 is shaping up to be a very eventful year for TM2. On Sunday February 14 we were invited back by popular demand to take part in the morning Eucharist service at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Lachine, where we were very enthusiastically received by their congregation for the second year in a row. This service was particularly special for us, as we were treated to a very inspiring sermon by Carol Lord in honour of Black History Month.

In a recent and very encouraging development, TM2 was invited to take part in a benefit concert/service for the Haiti relief fund at St. Peter's Anglican Church in TMR on Sunday February 21st; Bryan Gazzard, the organizer of this event, informed me that Mountainside United Church is getting a city-wide reputation for being the only Mainline Protestant church in town with such a high-level youth band!



We should all be very proud of our young musicians and our strong youth music program!

Spring is looking to be even more exciting as the winter has been so far. TM2 will be traveling to Ottawa to participate in worship at City View United Church on April 11th. City View has a very active youth group, and as an exchange their youth will be visiting our church and participating in our service on Sunday May 9th, Mother's Day.

For our most ambitious endeavour yet, we are planning to travel by train to Amherst Nova Scotia on Thanksgiving weekend to take part in a service led by our

former ministry student Philip Read. We are very much looking forward to this trip and we will need your support more than ever to make it possible. TM2 will be hosting a cabaret evening fundraiser on Thursday May 27th so please come out that evening, enjoy the entertainment and help our band to achieve our goals as Mountainside's musical ambassadors!

—Vanessa Rodrigues  
 Youth Music Director



## 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 in 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 preceeding 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 Easter on April 4th, as well in the glorious coming of Spring to a people who know winter.

—Alan Greig, Chair, Liturgy & Learning

### Wanted:

Teachers for Children's church.  
Speak to Lynne Dawson or call at  
(514) 483-4755

Lynne

## Communion Elders Retire



Mountainside thanked our retiring Communion Elders Roy Forsey and Marilyn and Cam Lamond at the Annual Meeting held on February 21st. They have faithfully given twelve years of service to this distinguished service which includes preparing the communion and ensuring that servers are recruited for each time. This responsibility has now been accepted by Santos and Maria Dizon, Anne Hamilton and Linda Mount.

## HISTORIC ERSKINE & AMERICAN WINDOWS HIGHLIGHT EXHIBITION

**E**ighteen newly restored Tiffany stained glass windows that were successively located in two of Mountainside's ancestral churches, American Presbyterian and Erskine and American, are now the highlights of a Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) exhibition: *"Tiffany Glass: A Passion for Colour"*, running until May 2, 2010.

After the Erskine and American church building was sold to the MMFA in 2008, the windows were removed for repair and restoration. They will eventually be reinstalled in the former church, which will become the museum's Concert Hall, adjoining the new pavilion of Canadian Art now under construction.

Meanwhile, the MMFA Director, Nathalie Bondil, and its Senior Curator of

Decorative Arts and Chief Curator of the exhibition, Rosalind Pepall, have assembled an impressive international exhibition of the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933). In addition to the windows, there are beautiful lamps, vessels and other outstanding creations of decorative art, on loan from many public and private collections.

This is a unique opportunity to have a close-up view of the Tiffany windows, and examine the techniques and types of glass developed by Tiffany, such as mottled, confetti and drapery glass. It is also a reminder of Mountainside's rich ancestral heritage of ecclesiastical art and architecture and well worth a visit.

*–Elizabeth and Edwin Coffey  
Feb 17, 2010*

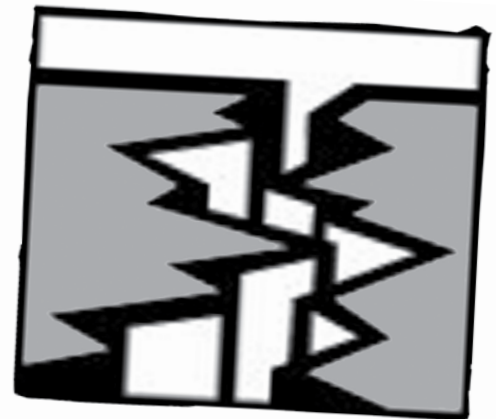


## HAITI EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

The congregation of Mountainside United Church has responded very generously to the appeal for financial help after the earthquake disaster in Haiti on January 12, 2010. We sent \$3,605 to the United Church "Emergency Response Fund for Haiti". Most of this also qualified for the "matching program" announced by the Federal Government thus doubling the amount which was contributed.

A large proportion of the participants in our New Canadians Project were Haitians – young French-speaking men who had left families in Haiti. Worry about their loved ones is added to the challenge of making a new life in a new land.

*–Julie Dawson,  
Treasurer*



**MARCH - MAY 2010****MARCH**

Mar. 1		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 3		Adult Education - First Light, 7:30pm
Mar. 4		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Mar. 5		Folding Club, 9:30am
<b>Mar. 7</b>	<b>3rd in Lent</b>	<b>Alternative Service - Lenten Blues</b>
<b>Mar. 7</b>		<b>Rapport distribution</b>
Mar. 8		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 10		Adult Education - First Light, 7:30pm
Mar. 11		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
<b>Mar. 14</b>	<b>4th in Lent</b>	
Mar. 15		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 17		Liturgy & Learning Comm, 4:30pm
Mar. 18		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Mar. 21</b>	<b>5th in Lent</b>	<b>Concerts Plus, 3:00pm</b>
<b>Mar. 21</b>		<b>Baby Baptism: Baby James MacKinnon</b>
Mar. 22		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Mar. 24		Adult Education - First Light, 7:30pm
<b>Mar. 28</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>Palm Procession</b>
<b>Mar. 28</b>		<b>A Sabbath Away, 1:00 - 3:00pm</b>
Mar. 29		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon

**APRIL**

Apr. 1	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Communion Service /Tenebrae, 7:30pm
Apr. 1		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Apr. 2	<b>Good Friday</b>	Good Friday Service, 11:00am
<b>Apr. 4</b>	<b>Easter</b>	<b>Communion</b>
Apr. 5	Easter Monday	Church building closed
Apr. 8		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
<b>Apr. 11</b>	<b>2nd of Easter</b>	
Apr. 15		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Apr. 18</b>	<b>3rd of Easter</b>	<b>Concerts Plus, 3:00pm</b>
Apr. 19		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 22		Session Meeting, 7:30pm
Apr. 24		2:00pm wedding - Lynne Walkling & Joshua Lougheed
<b>Apr. 25</b>	<b>4th of Easter</b>	
Apr. 26		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon

**MAY**

<b>May 2</b>	<b>5th of Easter</b>	<b>deadline for Rapport submission</b>
May 3		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 6		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>May 9</b>	<b>6th of Easter</b>	<b>Alternative Service</b>
		<b>TM2 &amp; City View United Youth Group</b>
<b>May 9</b>		<b>Mother's Day</b>
May 10		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 13		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
<b>May 16</b>	<b>7th of Easter</b>	<b>Rapport distribution</b>
May 17		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 20		Choir practice, 7:30pm
May 22		Wedding - Emily Stoger & Michael Minnis
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	<b>Communion</b>
May 24	Victoria Day	Church building closed
May 27		TM2 - Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30pm
May 29		3:30pm wedding - Karin Oliver & Pierre-Luc Bernier
<b>May 30</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	
May 31		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon