

# RAPPORT

## Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



May 30, 2010

### Trees for Thought This Summer

The bible begins with two trees at the centre of the Garden of Eden, the Tree-of-the-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil, and the Tree-of-Life. One leads to suffering, and struggle, the other grants access to eternal things. Because we ate first from the Tree-of-the-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil, we were restrained from eating from the Tree-of-Life. Collectively and individually we need to work through the implications of human consciousness first: the awareness of suffering and pleasure, and choice. At a physical level the one tree reflects the struggle between left and right brain processing, between reason and values, things and relationships. The other tree represents the whole brain experience of participating in God's endless grace.

The bible ends with the New Jerusalem coming to earth from heaven, now with only one tree growing at the centre, the Tree-of-Life, bearing fruit every season, whose leaves are now for the healing of the nations.

When we allow the Easter experience to work within us the Tree-of-the-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil no longer dominates our life. The struggle of double-mindedness begins to ease as we embrace the New Jerusalem as real, in the concrete of the here and now, and in our relationships. We learn to:

Let go of information to come to *wisdom*.  
Let go of the legal to come to the *loving*.  
Let go of being right to come to *being helpful*.  
Let go of resisting to come to *allowing*.  
Let go of the ego to come to our *deeper self*.  
Let go of the either/or to come to the *both/and*.  
Let go of disinterest to come to *acceptance*.  
Let go of judgment to come to *forgiveness*.  
Let go of protection to come to *welcome*.

Let go of the systematic to come to *the spiritual*.  
Let go of narrow rigidity to come to *wider flexibility*.

Let go of dualistic thinking to embrace *paradox*.

#### The Application for This Summer

The Easter experience integrates the Tree-of-the-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil into the Tree-of-Life, which *now* bears fruit for every season and whose leaves are *now* for the healing of the nations.

Let this summer become the experience of life, finding fulfillment, *now*.

*Rev. John.*

### Baptism of James Callum Andrew MacKinnon



On March 21, 2010 baby James Callum Andrew MacKinnon was welcomed into the Mountainside family by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. James is the son of Isabelle Lacelle and Neil MacKinnon and baby brother of Charlotte. His godparents are Ryan Quance, Dominique Lloyd-Smith and Kathryn MacKinnon.

## Chair of Session reports on budget at Congregation Meeting of May 2, 2010

The 2010 budget as presented at the Annual Meeting contained several areas where costs were reduced from prior years. The major areas are in staff compensation where salaries were frozen at the 2009 levels, the music program, communications and in outreach. These actions were taken towards reducing our deficits below the \$200,000 level which we have seen in recent years. Several members of the Congregation questioned whether these reductions were appropriate and the Executive Committee was charged with reviewing all aspects of the proposed budget and presenting its findings, including a revised budget, at a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on May 2, 2010.

The Executive Committee has completed a preliminary review and has agreed to change the method of reporting investment income and capital expenses for purposes of the operating budget, and is continuing to look at additional areas which would not impact the quality of our worship service and programs. The

Committee also discussed additional fundraising activities, however, our financial problem is one where we need a recurring source of additional revenues as opposed to a one-time drive. Any members of the Congregation who have constructive

### Executive Committee



*seated LtoR: Susan Salvati, Elva Crawford, Vincent Salvati, Chair of Session. Standing: Lynne Dawson, Philip Johnston, Julie Dawson, Donna Fraser, Heather Gibbons, Rev. John. Missing: Don McLeod, Betsy Zukow*

### Finance Committee

Here is a snapshot of 2010 at Mountainside United as of April 30, 2010.

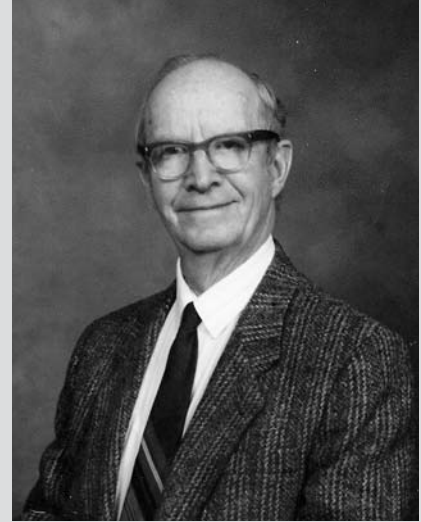
REVENUE	
Givings	57,862
Fund Raising & Donations	13,899
Cost Recovery	5,915
Other (Investment Income)	12,685
	\$90,361
EXPENSES	
Salaries & Administration	127,187
Program	9,590
Capital Repair Expense	9,056
Outreach	150
Wider Church (M&S & Presbytery)	4,037
	\$150,020
Excess Expenses over Revenue	-\$59,659

ideas on other areas where we can reduce expenses or generate additional revenue are encouraged to bring them forward, as our intent is to include all viable options to help solve this problem. These changes will result in a reduction of our operating deficit to approximately \$65,000, still far short of what would be required for us to have a "break-even" budget. Restoration of the budget reductions enumerated above would add an additional \$30,000 to the deficit, therefore it would not be financially prudent to restore this funding without additional commitments from the Congregation.

Thus, the proposal from the Executive Committee as stated at the May 2 meeting is to issue a "Faith Challenge" to the Congregation whereby each member of the Congregation is requested to relook at their 2010 intention and commit to an increase which will allow for the restoration of the funding cuts without increasing the operating deficit. All results of the "Faith Challenge" will be used to fund restoration of the salary increases and programs to the 2009 levels. The Executive Committee members have

## Bequest by former parishioner and Assistant Minister at Dominion-Douglas United Church

Mountainside United church is appreciative of a very generous bequest by Rev. Dr. Charles F. Johnston in memory of his parents Madge R. Johnston and Norman D. Johnston. Madge and Norman were long-time parishioners actively involved in the life and work of their church. Charles Johnston went into the ministry from Dominion-Douglas and was ordained in 1943. He served in a pastoral charge in the Eastern Townships, as an army chaplain with the Nova Scotia Highlanders and as Associate Minister at Dominion-Douglas. Charles moved west, in 1951, where he was a teacher, mentor and an example to generations of young theological students. He died on February 2, 2010 in Dorval, Quebec surrounded by family. Philip Johnston, member of Mountainside and Chair of Trustees, is a cousin of the late Charles Johnston.



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increased their intentions by an average of 20% and we encourage you to do likewise. This increase has allowed us to restore \$1,500 to the music budget which will provide soloists for the months of May and June.

We at Mountainside are at a critical decision point for the future of our Congregation. A business as usual approach of using our endowment funds to cover our operating deficits will result in Mountainside disappearing as a viable Congregation within the next ten years. This is clearly not the strategy put forth by the Executive Committee as we would like to see Mountainside continue and evolve to meet the need of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christianity, however, the decision is not ours alone. We need all of you to step forward and vote for the future by increasing your intention for 2010.

*Vincent Salvati,  
as Chair of Session*

## Children's Church Closing and Annual Picnic

On Sunday, June 13th we will have our Children's Church closing. TM2 will once again be participating in the service. We will celebrate the end of the school year and thank our various teachers and leaders.



Everyone is invited to stay after church for the annual church picnic. Juice, coffee and hotdogs will be provided. People are invited to bring something to share. Finger-foods are best – sandwiches, veggies and dip, chips, fruit, dessert – preferably nothing that needs a fork or spoon. Bring a hat, your shades and maybe a folding chair. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we'll have some sun.

*Lynne Dawson*

## Report from TM2

### Youth exchange with City View United Church in Ottawa

This spring season has been an exciting one for TM2. Made possible through connections of Margaret DeCastro and Linda and Bal Mount, a youth exchange trip was organized with City View United Church in Ottawa. Our group consisted of Vanessa Rodrigues, Bal and Linda Mount and Lynne Dawson as leaders and we were joined by most of the TM2 group: Bethany Mount, Elise Farquhar, Jayzle Aravelo, Katie Haentjens, and Leslie and Fritz Okrah.

On April 9, our group headed off mid-morning in cool and very windy weather in a convoy with two minivans. We were treated to a gourmet hamburger lunch by Bal and Linda at "The Works", a fun, trendy chain in Ottawa (apparently coming to Montreal next year). We spent a few hours at the Canadian Museum of Nature which was enjoyed by all – certainly worth



*Mountainside United TM2 group joined by City View United.*

the trip! We then headed to City View United Church in Nepean where we were warmly received with a potluck chili dinner. Our gang had the opportunity to get to know their youth group thanks to some "breaking-the-ice" games including one where everyone had to try and remember all the other names. Like our TM2, City View United Church also has some talented young musicians; their group is quite different from ours, in the sense that

they play orchestral instruments such as violins, flutes and brass. The two groups joined forces to rehearse the anthem "Lean on Me", and the hymn "We Are Marching"; it was a very interesting experience for all involved, as our TM2 has never played with a concert ensemble, and City View's group has never played with a rock band!

After the rehearsal, we were billeted in the homes of church members. On Sunday, TM2 played much of the service music on their own, including the prelude and a few of the hymns, and the two groups joined together to play the pieces they had rehearsed the night before, much to the delight of the congregation :)

Before returning home we were treated to a sandwich lunch and their enthusiasm about coming to see us in Montreal in the near future.

On May 7th, the group from City View arrived for a return visit. They traveled up by train and we met them at Dorval mid-evening. Their group consisted of three adults (including

### Outreach Committee reaches \$ objective for support of summer day camps

Thank you for the wonderful support which has permitted us to send over \$3000 to three inner-city summer day camps. Montreal City Mission's Camp Cosmos serves many from refugee backgrounds in the downtown area. The Cotes des Neiges Council of Churches sends children to four different summer camps in the Cote des Neiges area. The camp at St. Columba House offers the camp experience to those in that neighborhood. All of these children are able to have the opportunity for a safe summer filled with fun activities. The donations are used to cover the many expenses such as counselors, training, bus passes, supplies, food, police checks, and shadows for children with special needs.



*Donna Fraser, Chair  
Outreach Committee*

their Youth Minister – Alyson Huntly) and seven young people. The group got a very early start on Saturday, meeting at the Snowdon metro in order to pick up transit day passes. They got a full day of sightseeing in, visiting the Biodome, the Planetarium, the Old Port and spending a few hours shopping in the underground complex. Vince and Susan Salvati hosted everyone for a potluck at their beautiful home as the church was in use that evening, so a very warm thank-you to the Salvatis.

The two groups of young musicians again joined forces on Sunday to participate in a Mother's Day/Family alternative service; we then had a small luncheon and saw them to the train station for their return trip to Ottawa.

All in all, good fun was had by everyone, and we are considering doing another exchange with City View again in the fall.

*Lynne Dawson &  
Vanessa Rodrigues*

## Music Report

Mountainside's concert series 'Concerts Plus' has wound up another successful season. The 2010 series' three programs were quite varied and attracted many who were interested in exploring different musical styles. On March 21st, the members of the Maenad Ensemble were featured in the second concert of the series. Louise Campbell, clarinet, and Amy Zanrosso, piano, with guest mezzo-soprano Irene Feher, presented a program consisting of vocal repertoire by Honegger, Brahms, Schubert, and MacDonald, and the Phantasiestücke, Op. 73, of Schumann for clarinet and piano. We were pleased to welcome Andrew P. MacDonald, featured composer, who is a professor of music at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, Qc, and a Juno award winner.

On April 18th, Mountainside Choir was joined by the FACE Chamber Orchestra for a concert of music by Handel, Vivaldi, Haydn, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Fauré, and Gardel. This is the second year that Mountainside has managed to collaborate with FACE in order to present a program in the Concerts Plus series. It is always a pleasure for the choir members to perform with such young and talented musicians. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the electrifying performance of a movement from the Haydn Violin Concerto in C by 11 year old Richard Zhang, whose name we feel that we shall certainly hear more of in future.

Concerts Plus 2010 has been a financial as well as an artistic success, finishing the season 'in the black' and in good shape for 2011. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time, effort and money in order to make the series a success.

*Margaret de Castro  
Director of Music*

## Concerts Plus

Concerts Plus concluded the 2010 season with a final concert on Sunday, April 18th which featured the Choir of Mountainside United Church and the FACE Chamber Orchestra. The program included works of Handel, Vivaldi, Haydn and ended with the Missa Brevis in F Major by Mozart. Mountainside's choir of amateur, semi-professional and professional members, under the direction of Margaret de Castro, ended the choral season with a flourish in



*Theodora Stathopoulos and  
Margaret de Castro*

the always well-attended spring concert. The audience was

also appreciative of the immense talent displayed by the young soloists from FCO. The Face Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1999 by its conductor, FACE music teacher Theodora Stathopoulos. The orchestra provides the school's most advanced string players from all grades (10-16 years of age) with the opportunity to further develop their ensemble skills through the study of advanced chamber music repertoire. The students' experience is enhanced through community concerts, tours and festival participation. This is the second time that these two groups have collaborated and we look forward to another concert in the future.



## Earliest Presbyterian and American Roots of Mountainside

Imagine yourself or your family living in Montreal during the years 1786 through 1826, a period of time when the earliest Presbyterian and American roots of the Mountainside United Church congregation were being formed.

The first Treaty of Paris (1763) had recently marked the end of the Seven Years War that resulted in the conquest of New France and Montreal by British forces. The second Treaty of Paris (1783) had just ended the American War of Independence. If you had French ancestors they would have survived the bloodless capitulation of Montreal to the British army in 1760, and the city's temporary occupation by the Americans in 1775, during their War of Independence.

Both wars had significant after-effects on the economic and religious life of Montrealers,

particularly on the protestant population. Many of the British soldiers were from Scotland serving in the famous Black Watch and Fraser Highland regiments and were happy to remain, marry and settle in Montreal or the surrounding countryside, having received generous grants of land from the Crown. Following both conflicts there was a surge of immigrants to Montreal, mainly from Scotland and Ireland but there were also many American families, known as United Empire Loyalists, who were still loyal to the British Crown or who saw business opportunities in Montreal and came to start a new life here.



*St Gabriel Street Church  
by Google*

You can imagine yourself as a demobilized soldier from a highland regiment or one that is still part of the Montreal garrison ready to defend against future American incursions which, unknown to them, would occur in 1812. If you are a woman, you might have married one of these brave Scot warriors and by 1786 already have children of Sunday School age. Chances are your husband would be Presbyterian and would look around the city for a Presbyterian church. Unfortunately he would find none, but would discover the Presbyterian worship services that the Rev. John Bethune had initiated for Presbyterians and others, in a hall that the Order of Recollet Monks kindly provided.

As a native Scot and recent immigrant to Montreal from South Carolina, where he had been Chaplain to a highland regiment, John Bethune continued his army chaplaincy in Montreal. He immediately attracted a loyal following of Scots among the soldiers and loyal immigrants from the American colonies and abroad. The

### ATTITUDE

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of *attitude* on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skills. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day.

We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.”

*Charles Swindoff*  
Source: Unknown

## Christmas Shopping Arcade

**Heads up notice!** Summer is a good time to clean out book cases and closets. As the fruits and vegetables come into season it is time to make relishes, pickles, jams and jellies for the food pantry.



Fall is the perfect time to gather and dry flowers and grasses for natural Christmas decorations.

The knitted and handmade goods that you make add to the charm of our fair. Any donations may be brought

to the church any time the building is open.

Keep the date:

**Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**

*Julie Dawson and Donna Fraser*

## Day Apart

On Palm Sunday we held a third "Day Apart". Sixteen has been the average attendance for the day of meditation and quiet. John Forster led us in a guided meditation followed by a time in a chilly sanctuary to meditate on how we could better honour Sunday. We thought about the Sabbath as the whole day – not just the morning worship and back to chores and errands but a day on which we make time for reading, music, and reflection.

*Donna Fraser*



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first Presbyterian service in Montreal was held on March 12, 1786. The following year, to the disappointment of his followers, the Rev. John Bethune left for Ontario where he had received a 3000 acre land grant from the Crown for his army chaplaincy services.

For the next three years little is known about the Presbyterians in Montreal. It is assumed that they worshiped with the Anglicans. Before long there arose a public demand for a Presbyterian minister to continue the work of John Bethune and for a church to accommodate the potential congregation. Rev. John Young arrived on the scene, a Presbyterian minister from Scotland, recently living in New York State and connected to a Presbytery in Albany. He initially conducted services for his flock in the Recollet's hall.

Money was soon raised for the construction of their first church, with local business men, merchants and fur traders associated with the North West Company providing most of the money. The donors (subscribers) list included many of Montreal's high profile gentry of that era, including

James McGill, namesake of the university, and Joseph Frobisher, North West Company fur trader living in Beaver Hall. The church was built on St Gabriel Street overlooking the Champs de Mars, a large field where the French regiments paraded and drilled until the capitulation of Montreal, after which the British garrisons did likewise. The stone church measured 60 by 48 feet and with its gallery could accommodate 650 "sitters". It was called The Scotch Presbyterian Church on St Gabriel Street but more commonly, The Scotch Church or St Gabriel Street Church. It was opened for divine service by Rev. John Young on October 7, 1792 and was said to be the "first Protestant edifice for public worship, properly speaking, in Quebec". The church remained under the supervision of the Presbytery in Albany, New York for the first two years.

This is the first instalment of a story describing the early Presbyterian and American roots of Mountainside United Church. There is much more to show and tell, but that is for another day.

*Edwin Coffey*

## JUNE – OCTOBER 2010

JUNE		
<b>Jun. 6</b>	<b>2nd after Pentecost</b>	
Jun. 7		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
<b>Jun. 13</b>	<b>3rd after Pentecost</b>	<b>Children's Church Closing / Church Picnic</b>
Jun. 14		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Jun. 17		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
<b>Jun. 20</b>	<b>4th after Pentecost</b>	
Jun. 21		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Jun. 24		church office closed for St. Jean Baptist
<b>Jun. 27</b>	<b>5th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Summer services begin in the Chapel at 10:00am</b>
JULY		
July 1	Canada Day	Church building closed
<b>July 4</b>	<b>6th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
July 5	to July 30	Church building closed except on Sundays
<b>July 11</b>	<b>7th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>8th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
<b>July 25</b>	<b>9th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
AUGUST		
<b>Aug. 1</b>	<b>10th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
Aug. 2		church office re-open
<b>Aug. 8</b>	<b>11th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
<b>Aug. 15</b>	<b>12th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
<b>Aug. 22</b>	<b>13th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
<b>Aug. 29</b>	<b>14th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
SEPTEMBER		
<b>Sept. 5</b>	<b>15th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:00am in Chapel</b>
Sept. 6	Labour Day	Church building closed
Sept. 9		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
<b>Sept. 12</b>	<b>16th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 11:00am, in the Sanctuary</b>
		<b>Children's Church Registration</b>
Sept. 16		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Sept. 19</b>	<b>17th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Rally Day – Children's Church begins</b>
Sept. 20		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Sept. 23		Session, 7:30pm
Sept. 25		wedding – Michelle Landry (Cowan)
<b>Sept. 26</b>	<b>18th after Pentecost</b>	
Sept. 27		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
OCTOBER		
<b>Oct. 3</b>	<b>19th after Pentecost</b>	<b>World Wide Communion / Stewardship Sunday</b>
Oct. 4		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Oct. 7		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Oct. 10</b>	<b>20th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b>
Oct. 11		church building closed
Oct. 14		Session Executive Meeting, 7:30pm
<b>Oct. 17</b>	<b>21st after Pentecost</b>	
Oct. 18		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Oct. 21		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Oct. 23		1:00pm wedding – Melissa Brown
<b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>22nd after Pentecost</b>	<b>Outreach Sunday</b>
Oct. 25		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Oct. 28		Session, 7:30pm
<b>Oct. 31</b>	<b>23rd after Pentecost</b>	<b>All Saints Sunday</b>