



RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



May 15, 2011

Easter Double-Header

Our sanctuary was full TWICE this Easter!! At 6:00 a.m. our Filipino members hosted a sunrise service for us all and for the Filipino congregation at the Snowdon Baptist Church. It was a lovely service including

scripture reading by the Snowdon Baptist Church pastor and a sermon by our Rev. John. The choir sang in English and Tagalog, and four young Filipinas performed. This inspiring service was followed by a sumptuous breakfast.



photo by Addy Santos



photo by Nancy Walking

At 11 a.m. our well-attended traditional Easter service was celebrated with waving palms, rousing hymns and lovely music complete with trumpet/organ duet. Rev. John and reader Tom Zukow led us in worship.

Easter Greetings From Reverend John

It has been a long haul to Holy Week and Easter this year but well worth it. Our special services and decorations wonderfully bore witness to our faith in these changing times. The intimate Maundy Thursday service continues to bless those who come to re-enact the new commandment and the Last Supper. Our choir and soloists inspired us on Good Friday as we faced the cross and pledged to carry the one that stands before each of us. The Easter Sunrise service welcomed Filipino Christians from other churches, and featured a new in-house choir for the occasion. A wonderful Breakfast followed. I had a little nap in my office at around 9am, to rest up for our regular 11am Easter service. The trumpeter, the sunshine, the hymns, the anthem, the Erskine & American communion set, and the message added resurrection glory to our worship.

We passed from Table fellowship to betrayal and denial, through crucifixion to Easter resurrection. Our society does not seem to understand the importance of this sequence of events anymore. But we do. We understand that we must unlearn the

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Nuclear weapons-free zone

On Palm Sunday the youth of the Mountainside United Church encouraged the congregation to think about the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons and help them raise awareness in the wider community. They raised this issue in the spirit of the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem revealing a kingdom not based on power and war but promoting peace through justice. Jesus celebrated those excluded from power — children, the blind and lame. He rejected violence and death and stood for healing and restoration. The world has yet to understand this message.



We are proud of our young people as they lead us in song and ask us to think about the future — ours and theirs.



Christmas Bazaar

The Annual Christmas Bazaar is being held on Saturday, November 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It is always great fun and a good way to get into the

Christmas spirit!

Donna Fraser and Julie Dawson are devoting their time and talent to make it a success. Let's help out with our TREASURES.

They are appealing for:

- ◆ BAKED AND FROZEN GOODS — to supplement apple pies
- ◆ PRESERVES
- ◆ NEARLY NEW — gifts, toys, linens, art work
- ◆ CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS — seasonal items
- ◆ BOOKS — recent novels, non-fiction, records, CDs, tapes
- ◆ JEWELLERY — real or costume
- ◆ TREASURES & COLLECTIBLES

Message from the Chair of Session

On May 1, the Congregation approved a proposal to “share” our facilities with the Montreal Korean Methodist Church (MKMC) in what we hope will become a long term partnership. MKMC will begin using Mountainside United Church on or about June 1.

MKMC has been worshipping for the past 16 years at St. Thomas Anglican Church on Somerled Avenue which is currently amalgamating with another congregation. That, coupled with a growing membership, has caused MKMC to seek us out for a possible use agreement.

A group consisting of Rev. John Forster, Philip Johnston, Don McLeod, Rich Neufeld and myself has been meeting and exchanging information with the MKMC and discussing our respective needs. This group will function as the liaison committee that will work with MKMC to resolve issues as may arise between us especially in the early months of our association.

Under the terms of this negotiation MKMC will have use of our facilities for worship services on Sunday afternoons, the Chapel for

weekday service at 5:30AM and certain other rooms during the week for Youth activities and Bible Study. As the primary outside user of our facilities, we will give preference to MKMC's needs over and above other groups who are currently using or may wish to use our facilities. As our relationship with MKMC evolves we will look into the potential for joint events as a means of fellowship and to getting to know each other.

This represents a major undertaking by Mountainside United Church and will require a period of adjustment

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Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, April 10, 2011

Our AGM this year was in April, and since the 2011 Budget was presented and approved at a congregation meeting in November, the agenda was to receive and approve the Annual Report and the auditor's review of the financial statements. The slate of officers and committee chairs for 2011 as presented by Nominating Chair Elva Crawford was officially approved. Chair of Session Vince Salvati reviewed the life and work of the church as seen in the active involvement of our members in Outreach and the various programs which take place throughout the year.

Copies of the Annual Report are available to be picked up in the office. For those of you who were not at the AGM, please pick up a copy and be amazed what goes on each week.



seated at table from L to R: Rev. John; Vince Salvati, Chair of Session; Heather Gibbons, Clerk of Session; Elva Crawford, Chair of Nominating

To The Bottom of the World and Beyond

The Argentine town, Ushuaia, the most southerly city in the world, has experienced much success promoting itself as “the bottom of the world”. It was here that we boarded the 120 passenger ship, The Expedition, on a clear evening in early March. The sun was setting as we headed down the Beagle Channel in mirror-smooth waters. The Channel opened into the Drake Passage sometime during the night. Soft rocking of the ship prompted the crew to announce that we were crossing the “Drake Lake” and would not be doing the dreaded “Drake Shake” known by many as the “price of admission” to Antarctica. For two calm days, we filled our time with lectures about Antarctic history, as well as presentations about the fauna we hoped to encounter. We got to know the ship, its crew and the other passengers. We were able to follow our progress on a large map on which our position was frequently updated. A contest was held to guess the exact time at which we would cross the Antarctic Convergence. Here, the water temperature drops approximately five degrees C. and signifies

entrance into Antarctic waters. The trick is that it is constantly moving! We made the crossing at 21:00 hrs on the third day. Joanne, having guessed 21:01 hrs, won a bottle of champagne!

On the morning of the fourth day, upon opening our curtains, we found that we were floating through icy waters, past massive icebergs with a back drop of glaciated mountains. We ran to the ship’s bow to be greeted by a glorious sun rise. We had arrived in Antarctica!

We continued our journey south, plowing through brash ice while learning to distinguish between icebergs, ice floes, growlers and bergy bits. We could never have imagined so many subtle shades of white, blue and black ice. We crossed the Antarctic Circle reaching 67deg.1min.S latitude. At this point, we turned northward.

The next week featured a combination of zodiac cruises, and landings. Because of the extraordinary weather, we made fourteen trips off the ship, the maximum number possible. It was late summer in the southern hemisphere and we saw the sun every day..... unusual for this part of the world at any time of the year.

Zodiacs, ten passenger rubber boats, are usually used for transport between the ship and land. However, when



they go “cruising”, they bring the passengers up close and personal. The cruise through Iceberg Alley, a shallow bay where bergs get trapped, was surreal. One was such a deep turquoise that we kept wanting to reach out and

touch to assure ourselves that it was indeed real and we weren’t in Disneyland! We got a good look at many seals lounging on ice floes. They seemed equally curious about us, and even the Leopard Seal, with its sneaky smile, didn’t seem to mind having its picture taken over and over again!

Our landings included one on the mainland just below the Antarctic Circle and others on various islands.

We visited only one inhabited area: Port Lockroy which has a population of four during the summer. They oversee a small museum which is the remnants of a research station from the 1950s (an open book on the old

stove describes how to cook seal!), and a post office. Since the last mail boat of the season had already gone out, any postcards sent could not be expected to arrive at their destination before next January! They also run a small gift shop. Here, we learned that Antarctica has its own tartan. On all of the landings we encountered penguins...thousands of them! The rule is that you are not allowed to approach them, but if you sit quietly (trying to avoid their guano which apparently by its colour allows you to know what they have been eating!), they will come and “peck” you out! No matter the variety (adelie, gentoo, chinstrap or macaroni),

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Journey to Rio

Early in January of this year, I left TM2 in the very capable hands of Cordell Henebury and flew south to Brazil for three months. Rest assured, I was not just lounging around on the Copacobana beach while everyone back here was digging themselves out of a snow-bank: I went to Rio de Janeiro with the very lofty musical goal of playing drums in the Samba parade for the Carnaval.

The samba school I ended up drumming with is called Rocinha, which sits at the base of a shanty town, or favela, by the same name. Rocinha is the largest favela in all of South America, with an estimated 200 000



and is quite a sight to behold, with thousands of little brick houses packed together up the face of the mountain.

As I spent more time rehearsing at the samba school and getting to know the people of the community, I learned that there has been much NGO and volunteer activity focused on Rocinha for the last couple of decades, and now the government is finally starting to pay attention and is providing them with much needed infrastructure.

There is a government high rise beside the samba school that houses a medical clinic, youth centre and several other important services. In this building there is also a music school called Escola de Musica da Rocinha (EMR), founded 17 years ago by a German musician, and functioning completely on private donations and sponsors (save for the space provided by the government). I felt I should do some volunteering during my stay in Rio, so I introduced myself to the directors of EMR and got to work helping conduct their jazz/bossa-nova band, writing arrangements and giving some piano lessons.

Currently, EMR has a very healthy inventory of donated instruments, enough to start a chamber orchestra, but sadly this year they are without a sponsor, so were unable to retain many of their teachers. All of the remaining staff are working on a volunteer basis.

Some of you may have heard of El Sistema or Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra. El Sistema is a youth orchestra program in Venezuela founded by musician and economist Jose Antonio Abreu in 1975 to help poor children learn to play an instrument and join an orchestra. The Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra is one of the ensembles from this program and has won worldwide acclaim. Ninety-five percent of the students come from poor communities like Rocinha.

In the words of Jose Antonio Abreu, "Music has to be recognized as an agent of social development in the highest sense, because it transmits the highest values — solidarity, harmony, mutual compassion. And it has the ability to unite a community and to express sublime feelings." I would love to see something like El Sistema take hold in Rio, and EMR would be a great place to start.

Vanessa Rodrigues, Youth Music Director

Birthday Lunches

As a member of the Future's Committee, Ramon Vicente would like to see us celebrate our faith as a family. He and Ester are organizing lunches on the second Sundays of each month to honour our members who have birthdays that month. Please speak to Julie Dawson if you haven't already given her your birthday month.



In March we honoured: Rev. John Forster, Laura Dizon, Ian Dizon, Haily, Elise Farquhar, Joseph Francis, Danny Garcia, Bernice King, Charlotte McLeod, David McLeod, Fiona Key, Josephine Okrah, Fritz Okrah, Anne Ross and Mark Vicente.

In April we honoured: Lorne Carrier, Margaret de Castro, Arline Fraser, Claude Guilbault, Grace Hodgson, Rich Neufeld, Charlotte Mackinnon, Bal Mount, Margo Tessler, Nancy Walkling and David Webster.

On May 8 Birthdays include: Lynne Dawson, EthelAnn Flores. Evangeline Flores, Josephine Francis, Philip Johnston, Mary Metcalfe, Barbara Moore, Bethany Mount, Lib Neufeld, Brian Powell and Dorothy Sutherland.

Our filipino family is graciously providing the food for the lunch. If you would like to provide a dish or finger food we would much appreciate it. There is always enough and it always all disappears.

Easter Greetings... continued from page 1

false myth of redemptive violence. When we witness the Holy Week drama we experience again how wrong political solutions often are. When we celebrate Easter resurrection we participate once more in God's correcting, redeeming grace. It is well worth the wait and the witness. What a wonderful Easter.

Rev. John

Concerts Plus

“Songs of Love, Spring & Hope” was the title of the concert presented by the soloists of Mountainside on March 20, 2011. This was the second in the Concerts Plus series. The audience was treated to a wonderful afternoon of solos, duets and quartets featuring the works of Schubert, Bizet, Ralph Vaughn Williams and others. Their individual talents were able to shine in this performance and we realize how lucky we are to have such fine musicians with us each Sunday.



Concerts Plus 2011 presented its final concert of the season on Sunday, May 1st. It was a glorious, sunny afternoon and the Choir of Mountainside, joined by the FACE Chamber Orchestra, presented a program featuring Gloria in D of Antonio Vivaldi. In addition to the major work, each of the groups chose one selection dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Japanese earthquake. A reception followed for the choristers and musicians as well as guests.

We Asked — You Gave!

Thank you for your wonderful response to our April Outreach appeals!

Our congregation has donated \$1660 to the United Church's Emergency Response Fund. Thanks to Alberto Santos' organization, \$70 was collected at the Easter Sunrise service. In this way we are working with our partner churches in **Japan** to support on-the-ground relief and reconstruction following the destructive earthquake and tsunami. Your continued prayers are requested for our mission partners in Japan and for our United Church of Canada overseas personnel working there with the Christian minority.

We have sent a total of \$3000 to the **summer day camp programs** we donate to each year. In a recent mailing from Saint Columba House it was mentioned that one of the key goals of their day camp last year was



pictured from left to right: Jérôme Savoie, tenor; Mariana Ramos, soprano; Kathrin Welte, mezzo-soprano; Naomi Piggott Suchan, piano; and Daniel Bastien, baritone

Teen Music Mountainside

Mountainside United church is proud to acknowledge the efforts of our young musicians who participate in Teen Music Mountainside. 2011 has been a busy year for our youth band. TM2 provided some wonderful music for Mountainside church services, the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, and a service at St. Paul's Church in Lachine (our third year in a row at St. Paul's by popular demand!)

We are working on our repertoire, vocal harmonies, and creating interesting arrangements of spiritual songs. We would like to invite young musicians and singers to join us at rehearsals. Come learn some new songs, learn something new about music, and become part of a fun, hard-working team of talented youth on Sundays at 12:30 pm.

TM2 is hosting their annual Coffee House fundraiser in Tees Hall on May 26 at 7:00 pm, so be sure to mark the date on your calendar and come enjoy another evening of great music and treats with friends at Mountainside. For more information about joining TM2, or to book TM2 for an event, please contact Vanessa Rodrigues: vanessa@mountainside.ca.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of our Youth Music program.

Cordell Henebury, interim youth music director

to work jointly with Camp Cosmos of the Montreal City Mission. These two groups, which we support, pooled their resources to offer staff training sessions. They did

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Antartica... continued from page 3

their gangly waddle made us smile. And for those of us lucky enough to see the young trying to learn to swim, they made us laugh! Fur seals populated most of the beaches, but we kept our distance as we did not want to test out the theory that they can outrun us and then bite! Countless birds circled overhead including the mighty albatross. We climbed up a glacier from where we could see our ship as a tiny speck in the sea. We watched mesmerized as a small pod of whales surrounded the kayakers in the bay below. They gently circled the group, close enough for the kayakers to feel “the blow” in their faces. We could hear the calving of nearby glaciers. Then swallowing our apprehension, we slid back down the ice on our bums. What a ride! We visited an abandoned whaling station where massive whale oil tanks are rusting away. There is geothermic activity on this island, so a dip in the ocean was proposed . . . despite the fact that the sand on the beach was HOT, the water was COLD!!

The above is just a tiny snapshot of what we experienced during our stay in Antarctica. It has been said that life is not measured by the breaths you take, but by the experiences which take your breath away. In Antarctica, we experienced many breath-taking moments which will remain in our memories forever. What an adventure!!!!

Joanne and Don McLeod



phot by Sean Santos

Mountainside is a Nuclear-Free Zone

The Mountainside Youth Group (MYG) under the leadership of Michael Dawson participated in the service for Palm Sunday. Elizabeth Farquhar gave an inspiring presentation and the group declared our church as a nuclear weapons-free zone in hopes of sparking discussion about this very important environmental and political issue.

News from the Pews

Katie Haentjens and her science partner Marianne Thibault are off to Los Angeles, California from May 8-14. After winning a gold medal at the Montreal Regional Science fair for their project entitled “Implementation of Desalination”, they were chosen to represent Canada at the Intel Science Fair (ISEF) along with five other students from the Montreal area. The girls also went to the Provincial science fair April 14-17. This opportunity has generated a lot of extra work but also many exciting experiences. We are so proud!



Lynne Dawson

Eye Glasses in Cases

Please remember that we collect eyeglasses in cases to be distributed to needy clients. Jim and Kiki Tremain delivered two full boxes brimming with glasses recently and they were gratefully received.



Message from the Chair... continued from page 2

by us and flexibility to respect the needs of MKMC, especially as concerns the use of the Sanctuary for their Sunday afternoon worship services. Over the next few weeks we will be working together to minimize schedule conflicts for events which we have currently scheduled in an attempt to find solutions that respect the needs of all involved parties.

Please join me in welcoming MKMC to Mountainside.

Vincent Salvati, Chair of Session

ERSKINE & AMERICAN CHURCH AND MMFA LEGACY TO THE ARTS AND MUSIC

On April 27, 2011 a small group from Mountainside United Church enjoyed a private tour of the former Erskine and American United Church. This 1894 heritage building that was sold to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) in 2005, has been transformed into a magnificent 450 seat Concert Hall and Pavilion of historical Quebec, Canadian and Inuit Art, and is scheduled to be opened to the public in September 2011.

Responding to the kind invitation of Mr Paul Lavalée, Director of Administration at MMFA, and guided by the latter and Michelle Prévost, Director of Donor Relations, the Mountainside group that included several former members of E & A or descendants of earlier Erskine or American Presbyterian Church families, were fascinated by the transformation of the former sanctuary, or nave. The outstanding Tiffany and other stained glass windows had been carefully removed, cleaned, restored and replaced. The chapel Tiffany windows have been reinstalled on the east side of the concert hall. The beautiful Millen garden memorial windows in the former narthex and the Birks Hawthorn windows in the Balcony overlooking Sherbrooke and Crescent Streets were glowing in the afternoon sun.

The former teak panelled chancel, that was designed by Percy Nobbs for the 1938 renovations and occupied by choir stalls, organ console and the Lyman Family communion table, has been reborn as a substantial concert stage with a large sounding board suspended overhead to enhance the original acoustics. "Les Violins du Roi" orchestra was rehearsing during the tour and confirmed the excellent acoustics of the new Concert Hall. Some members of the Mountainside tour could also see the ghosts of former E & A Music Directors such as George Little, his E & A Orchestra and Bach Choir of the nineteen-fifties and early sixties and the rich contralto voice of Maureen Forrester wafting down from that stage.

Most of the rear section of the former church containing the chapel, offices, minister's study and Sunday School rooms, were demolished and replaced by the new Art Pavilion. It is linked to the other pavilions of the MMFA by a large underground gallery beneath the Avenue du Musée. This pavilion is faced with marble and glass and the top floor provides views of Mount Royal, the Montreal General Hospital, and the ornate top of the old Erskine and American Church bell tower with gargoyles.

There was general satisfaction among the group that the MMFA has accomplished a remarkable feat of preservation, renovation and transformation of the Erskine and American Church building with a minimum of architectural and artistic compromise. The Montreal community and future visitors can look forward to a pleasant surprise in the visual arts and music scene in September.

Edwin Coffey



RAPPORT

Rapport is published by
Mountainside United
Church Communications
Committee.

Please send articles and
announcements to the church office:

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www.mountainsideunited.ca



We Asked... continued from page 5

this in collaboration with Tyndale St. George Day Camp.

Mountainside United is one of nine members of the Cote-des-Neiges Council of Churches. Last year 65 children were sent to Camp Centre Communautaire CDN, 65 children to Camp Loisirs Soleil, 65 children to Camp Mountain Sights, and 65 children to St. Paul's Camp — 260 in all.

The Outreach Committee is planning to make a booking to serve meals at the **Old Brewery Mission** again this fall. You could be one of ten meal servers, contribute towards the \$1000 cheque we hope to take with us to pay for a supper (about 340 meals) or donate blankets.

Enjoy a happy and healthy summer!

Nancy Walkling, Treasurer of Outreach

MAY – OCTOBER 2011

MAY		
May 15	4th of Easter	Rapport distribution
May 16		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 22	5th of Easter	
May 23	Victoria Day	Church building closed
May 26		TM2 Coffee House Fundraiser, 7 pm
May 29	6th of Easter	
May 30		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 31		Pastoral Care Spring Luncheon
JUNE		
June 5	7th of Easter	
June 6		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
June 9		Session Executive Meeting, 4:30pm
June 12	Pentecost Sunday	Communion & Confirmation Sunday / TM2/ MYG
		Church Picnic & June Birthday Celebration
June 13		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
June 19	Trinity Sunday	Joint service with Prince Hall Freemasons
June 20		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
June 24		church office closed for St. Jean Baptist
June 26	2nd after Pentecost	Summer services begin in the Chapel at 10:00am
JULY		
July 1	Canada Day	Church building closed
July 3	3rd after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
<i>July 4–29</i>		<i>Church building closed except on Sundays</i>
July 10	4th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
July 17	5th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
July 24	6th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
July 31	7th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
AUGUST		
Aug. 1		church office re-open
Aug. 7	8th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
Aug. 14	9th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
Aug. 21	10th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
Aug. 28	11th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
SEPTEMBER		
Sept. 1	18th after Pentecost	Choir practice, 7:30pm
Sept. 4	12th after Pentecost	Service at 10:00am in Chapel
		Rapport deadline
Sept. 5	Labour Day	Church building closed
Sept. 8		Session Executive Meeting, 5:30pm
Sept. 11	13th after Pentecost	Service at 11:00am, in the Sanctuary
		Children's Church Registration
Sept. 15		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Sept. 18	14th after Pentecost	Rapport distribution
		Rally Day / SEPT Birthday Celebration / TM2
Sept. 19		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Sept. 22		Session, 7:30pm
Sept. 25	15th after Pentecost	
Sept. 26		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
OCTOBER		
Oct. 2	16th after Pentecost	World Wide Communion / Stewardship Sunday
Oct. 3		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Oct. 6		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Oct. 9	17th after Pentecost	Thanksgiving Sunday
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Monday	Church building closed
Oct. 13		Session Executive Meeting, 5:30p.m.
Oct. 16	18th after Pentecost	OCT Birthday Celebration