

RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



November 2016

Christmas at Mountainside 2016

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany

As we begin the Christian year this 2016, the Old Testament readings for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany focus on the prophecies of Isaiah. They are the ancient waking dreams of God's New Day, God's Dream for all humanity. We begin with:

The nations shall go up to the mountain of the Lord... and hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

We continue with:

A shoot shall come up from the stump of Jesse.... The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on

him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Then it gets specific with:

Look, a young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, God is with us.

And finally it ends with:

The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us... and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A Christmas Celebration of Music

sous la direction / directed by
Margaret de Castro

avec / with
Rafael de Castro, orgue / organ

et / and
Caroline Derome, flûte / flute
Peter Purich, violon / violin

le dimanche, 4 décembre 2016 à 15h

Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 3 p.m.

Église Mountainside United Church
687 ave. Roslyn, Westmount
offrande / offering

We get the picture. We recognize how Matthew's Gospel lessons, for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany fill out these prophecies we know so well. Isaiah's waking dreams and the many night dreams in Matthew's Gospel story line lead to the birth of the Christ Child. They *intensify* and draw us in closer each week. Finally on Epiphany, Matthew once again announces Isaiah's waking dream of the gathering of the nations, but this time they bring gifts of Gold Frankincense and myrrh to the cradle of the Christ Child. This unlikely child is the One, is the light of the world, who will teach the nations to *"hammer their swords into plough shears, and their spears into pruning hooks."*

As we journey together each Sunday this Advent/Christmas/ Epiphany, we find the **hope, peace, joy and love** that make

continued on page 2

~ Outreach Sunday Service ~

Outreach Sunday took place on October 16th. Our guest speaker was Mr. Emsey Elkas, President of the Côte-des-Neiges Council of Churches of which Mountainside is a member.

Mr. Elkas was accompanied by his wife Gay, by Diane Lauzon, the Director of Camp Loisirs Soleil, one of the summer day camps, and also by Aline du Colombier, who is associated with Mini-Prix.

Mr. Elkas, a member of Mount Royal United, has been President of the Council for the last ten years. He gave us a brief history of the Council since it was started in 1971 and told us that the membership may soon be up to ten churches. Kerine Moore is Mountainside's representative on the Board of Directors. The mandate of the Council is to provide aid in the Côte-des-Neiges area of Montreal, where many disadvantaged persons live.

This is done through the sale of donated goods at the Mini-Prix shop, in the basement of Saint-Pascal-Baylon Church. The proceeds go to fund four Côte-des-Neiges area summer day camps. Additional funding comes from churches and outside organizations, funding which goes directly towards paying registration fees for the children

ages 6 to 12 who attend these five-week camps. The camp directors are all teachers who are on summer break. Monitors are screened. In addition, there is a program to train young people from the area to be leaders. A total of about 240 children participated in the camps in 2016.



Mr. Elkas is the organizer of volunteers and the administrator of services. He works with the CLSC who identify the children most in need of the camps.

After the service our guests joined us for our monthly Birthday Potluck lunch. Many people met with the Elkases to enjoy a good chat as well as asking many questions. It was a very enjoyable and informative event.

– Your Outreach Committee

Christmas Community Dinner

Our Annual Christmas Dinner for community members took place on Saturday, November 26th. A full turkey dinner with all of the trimmings was enjoyed by all including our church member volunteers and our scout helpers. As usual, carol singing and entertainment was a part of this wonderful evening. Thanks to all who made this possible.



.....
Christmas... continued from page 1

all this more than just an old dream. Our Advent/Christmas/Epiphany activities and celebrations get us involved in a living Gospel story today. It's a special opportunity to connect and participate in the *intensified humanity* of God's Dream for us. Check out the activities we are planning and the celebrations we are holding, and get involved.

It all begins with hope: Hope in the new, intensified humanity first revealed and embodied in Jesus, and now in us. We know Mountainside United is the place to be, in all this intensity and activity.

– Rev. John

Outreach Refugee Event



On September 18th we were joined at our Mountainside Birthday celebration potluck lunch by Mr. Mehmet Deger, the President of the Dorval Mosque. He was accompanied by a recent Syrian refugee and his two young sons. The boys were boasting that they could already speak French and were full of smiles when asked to pass out the

Birthday cake. Our Mr. Behmann acted as translator for the father, who only speaks Arabic, when he wished to thank Canada for our help.

After lunch, we moved to the Sunshine Room where Mr. Deger gave a short talk which was followed by a question period.

The Mosque is heavily

involved with settling in Syrian refugees and starting up a food manufacturing business in Lachine where they can provide jobs for the new arrivals.

– Outreach Refugee
Sub-Committee

Update on what we collect

On the counter in the little kitchen by the Roslyn Street entrance to Mountainside, there are containers for the many items that we collect to benefit others.

◆ Campbell's soup can labels

Please be sure your labels include the bar code as well as the name and picture of the product. Nancy Walkling takes them to Pathways Health Centre for Children in Sarnia ON where the Campbell's Labels for Education program helps provide materials for Early Childhood Education services. (The soup label program does not run in Quebec.)

◆ Used eye glasses

These go to Operation Eyesight which works to prevent avoidable blindness and to relieve blindness that is treatable in the developing world. Ester Vicente is our contact person.

We deliver the following collectibles to the Montreal Presbytery office of the United Church which passes them on to groups that can use them:

◆ Plastic bread tags

◆ Aluminum tabs from the tops of pop cans

These are melted down to make wheelchairs!

◆ Used postage stamps

It would be very helpful if you were to trim your stamps, leaving about ¼ inch paper on each side.

~ NEW ~

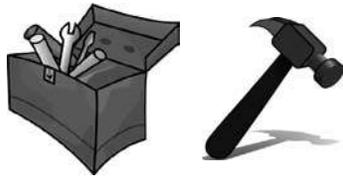
◆ Used bras

For each one collected, \$1.00 is donated to Breast Cancer research apparently.

◆ Non-perishable food

This is collected in the grocery cart outside of the chapel, by the stairs on the Lansdowne side of the church.

– Outreach Committee



B & P Report

It has been a relatively quiet summer with no major work on the church structure, but with the property now on the market it was essential to remove an accumulation of unused furniture and debris from the basement so that its condition (that of the basement) would be evident to a prospective buyer. This was done by professional junk removal late spring.

Neil MacKinnon and Sandy Chisholm have, as usual, deftly handled routine maintenance inside. Outside, in early October we deepened a water drainage channel on The Boulevard side of the building to counter a pesky water infiltration problem; and to improve winter parking lot accessibility, our snow removal expert Larry has again agreed to retract the cement barriers which in summer define the lot and protect the grass.

Heavy use of the main kitchen over the summer required a clean-up in mid-October of the food prep area by a professional crew as well as additional helping hands from our congregation. This is perhaps a matter to be discussed with the MKMC.

There remain a few small issues of a chronic nature which, with the prospect of long-term stewardship of this property, would no doubt make our to-do list, but which at this point may involve decisions better left to those who will succeed us.

Our thanks as always to Elva Crawford and to Neil for their vital input, to Sandy for his timely care of our precious green space, and to Vincent Tan for his competent and cheerful attention to our building (and to us) every week.

– Alan Greig, Committee Chair

Potential Sale of Mountainside

The Trustees met with Avison Young, our agent, on November 3rd for an update on the potential sale of our property. Since June they have sent out a series of three email marketing blitzes to prospective religious organizations. The first one, in July, reached over 1300 groups. A second blitz was sent out in early September to many of the same organizations plus an additional 400 smaller congregations. At the same time, Avison Young sent out a targeted email to all those who had repeatedly opened the marketing flyer and followed up with them. No serious interest was demonstrated by anyone in this targeted group.

The last blitz, in early October, was expanded further, reaching almost 1900 religious groups and congregations, including all recognized Christian denominations, Jewish Communities, Muslim Centers and others. Unfortunately, no real interest has been demonstrated from any of the religious organizations contacted during these three campaigns.

Apart from one visit earlier in the year, no group has expressed an interest in visiting our site. The organization that did visit our property indicated afterwards that it was not appropriate to their needs.

After discussion, Avison Young recommended that, while they would continue with this first phase of contacting religious groups, they should also approach developers to determine if they might have any interest in our site. The Trustees agreed with this recommendation since it is essential to have a realistic appreciation of the value of our property that can be obtained in a reasonable time frame. We should have this information some time during the second quarter of next year for Session and the Congregation to use as we determine our future.

Some copies of the activity report discussed at our meeting with Avison Young are available in the church office if anyone is interested in more detail.

– Don McLeod,
Chair, Trustees

Josephine's Gift

On Sunday, October 2nd, Josephine Francis re-ignited our 100th anniversary celebration with the presentation of a work of Japanese embroidery. The image is a representation of Dominion Methodist Church in 1914 in its new location on Roslyn Avenue. The work is delicate and so finely stitched, it looks like a painting. It is the result of a year's labour.

Josephine attended an annual exhibition of students' work at Le Centre du Vieux Moulin de LaSalle in April, 2001. She was inspired by the students' enthusiasm and the quality of their work. She enrolled in classes, and her artistic journey began.

It is possible to create Japanese embroidery using a kit which includes a canvas and threads. The process is not unlike painting by numbers.



Our treasure was NOT created from a kit. Rather, the image was simply outlined on the canvas, and using a photograph as her guide, Josephine made the image come alive using double strands of coloured thread and a tool called a punch needle. The finished product, beautifully framed, is a masterpiece and will find a home on the wall of the building "painted" in the embroidery.

Happy News from Jim Tremain

Jim has remarried! His new wife (Joan Miller) was a guest at a party hosted by Jim's grandparents to celebrate Jim's 16th birthday. They re-connected following Jim's move to Kingston, and enjoyed their first date in the Spring of 2015, after which "romance expectedly unfolded". They were married on September 13th, 2015, by a United Church minister in Joan's apartment with 6 children, 5 spouses, and 4 of Joan's grandchildren in attendance. May they live long and happily!



Westmount Park visits Mountainside

On October 16th members of Westmount Park United Church were invited to worship with their Mountainside neighbors up the hill and to join us for our monthly Birthday Lunch celebration. The Rev Neil Whitehouse brought a very congenial group of his congregation to participate. This was a step in finding ways to connect our church activities. Hopefully more to come!



Summer Services

In Rev. John's absence for his summer holidays, we were blessed once again to have been lead in Sunday morning worship by members of our Church family. Weekly services, from July 17th to August 14th, were conducted by Miriam Tees, Alan Greig, Fred Tees, Margaret de Castro and Ester Vicente. We owe a collective vote of gratitude and admiration to all five. Thanks, too, to Aldy Santos for providing so much wonderful music, and to Maria Dizon and Minerva Santos for gracing the communion table with flowers each Sunday.

Two Fine Photographers

Several years ago, Alberto Santos agreed to become the official MUCH photographer. With wife Minerva's help, Alberto provided a weekly pictorial exhibit — a collection of which greeted us as we arrived for coffee hour each Sunday. He and Minerva preserved many, many of his photos in albums — a treasured legacy.

Alberto's position as "court photographer" has been assumed by his granddaughter, Laura Dizon. As skilled and as faithful as her grandfather, Laura regularly commits to film glimpses of our Mountainside lives: the birthday boys and girls, weekly Scripture readers, special presentations and special guests. Thank you, Laura, for carrying on a valuable tradition, and for doing it so well.



♪♪ Music Notes ♪♪

Mountainside Choir's New Soloists

Cara Search, Mountainside's new alto lead, hails from rural New York State and is pursuing a B.Mus. degree from the Schulich School of Music, McGill University. She discovered vocal music in adolescence through drama, American theatre and song. Premiering a number of works with the Aldeburgh Festival (UK),

McGill Digital Composition Studio, and McGill's Contemporary Music Ensemble, Cara joins CME once again in November 2016 as a soloist in Philippe Leroux's electroacoustic *Extended Apocalypse*. Outside the rehearsal room, she enjoys baking bread, spending time outdoors, listening to podcasts, and is learning to juggle. Stay tuned for *Sid the Serpent Who Wanted to Sing* with Opera McGill in March 2017!

Torrance Gricks joined Mountainside Choir in September as tenor lead. Torey is completing a Master of Music degree in voice at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University.



He is in the voice studio of Dominique Labelle and performs with Opera McGill. In 2017, Torey will be featured in Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* and Massenet's *Le Portrait de Manon*. A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Torey completed his undergraduate studies in 2015 at Ithaca College in upstate New York. Torey loves the vibrant culture of Montreal and welcomes the opportunity to sing with the congregation and choir of Mountainside United every week.

The annual *A Christmas Celebration of Music* will take place Sunday, December 4th at 3 p.m. Our usual 'Christmas pudding' of seasonal choral and instrumental music and familiar carols for all to sing will also feature Rafael de Castro on the organ and Caroline Derome, flute, and Peter Purich, violin. A freewill offering will be collected. Nursery facilities will be available and a reception in Tees Hall will follow the concert.

RAPPORT

Rapport is published by Mountainside United Church Communications Committee.



Please send articles and announcements to the church office:

687 Roslyn Avenue
Westmount, QC H3Y 2V1
514-486-1165
www.mountainsideunited.ca

DECEMBER 2016 – MARCH 2017

DECEMBER		
Dec. 1		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Dec. 4	2nd in Advent	Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		A Christmas Celebration Carol Concert, 3:00pm
Dec. 6		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Dec. 10		EMSB Concert, 4:00pm
Dec. 11	3rd in Advent	White Gift Sunday, Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Dec. 13		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Dec. 18	4th in Advent	Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		December Birthday Celebration
		Pageant rehearsal 11:30am
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Family Service	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	No Service
JANUARY		
Jan. 1	New Years	Service 10:30am in in the Chapel
Jan. 8	Epiphany Sunday	Communion service, 10:30am in Chapel
Jan. 10		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Jan. 15	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Service 10:30am in in the Chapel
Jan. 17		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Jan. 19		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Jan. 22	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	January Birthday Celebration, service 10:30am in the Chapel
Jan. 24		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Jan. 29	4th Sunday after Epiphany	Service 10:30am in in the Chapel
Jan. 31		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
FEBRUARY		
Feb. 5	5th Sunday after Epiphany	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Feb. 7		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Feb. 9		Session, 7:00pm
Feb. 12	6th Sunday after Epiphany	
Feb. 14		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Feb. 16		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Feb. 19	7th Sunday after Epiphany	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		February Birthday Celebration
Feb. 21		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Feb. 26	Transfiguration Sunday	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Feb. 28	Shrove Tuesday	Pancake Supper, 6:30pm
MARCH		
Mar. 1	Ash Wednesday	
Mar. 5	1st of Lent	Communion service, 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Mar. 7		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Mar. 12	2nd of Lent	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Mar. 14		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Mar. 16		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Mar. 19	3rd of Lent	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		March Birthday Celebration
Mar. 21		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)
Mar. 26	4th of Lent	Service 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Mar. 28		Meditation Group, 4:30pm (MUC Westmount)
		Meditation Group, 7:30pm (West Island)