



RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



March 25, 2012

Sabbatical Leave

Just a note to remind most or inform some that I will be away on sabbatical from May 1st to September 1st. Vicki and I were granted a Montreal Presbytery-funded joint sabbatical for 2012. We chose to wait until after Easter and connect our time away with our summer vacation. So three months sabbatical and one month vacation covers May to September 1st.

Joyce Schaaf has graciously agreed to come out of retirement to cover our pastoral care needs for May through July, leading most of our Sunday services for that three-month period.

The travel component of our sabbatical involves a journey to some of the great cathedrals of nature, preserved in the national parks system in the United



States. We begin at Masa Verde, travel through Monument Valley en route to The South Rim of the Grand Canyon. Then on through Joshua Tree to Sequoia. From there we go to

Yosemite, and on to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Back down to the plains we reach the Black Hills Mount Rushmore, Jewel Cave, and stop at the Bad Lands.

We hope not just to see these wonders but also connect and commune with these places and the living world within them. It is a Celtic thing we are trying to do, a peregrination (journey) to the heartbeat of God on our own continent. There will be time for rest and reflection, and writing.

By September we trust that our batteries will be recharged, inspiration will be flowing, and clarity of vision for future years of service to our churches.

Did I mention that a first grand child is due to arrive two-thirds of the way through our sabbatical, cutting out our Eastern swing through Cape Breton and Newfoundland? All the more to celebrate and reflect upon.

Rev. John

Dates to Remember

- April 1** Palm Sunday Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 p.m.
- April 5** Maundy Thursday Communion Service/ Tenebrae 7:30 p.m.
- April 8** Easter Sunday Communion 11 a.m.
- April 21** Gala Spring Concert "Kids for Kids" 7:00 p.m.

Ten Years Ago

Some might remember that I came to Montreal ten years ago January.

I came to serve St. Andrew's Dominion-Douglas United Church in Westmount. We celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of worshipping in the sanctuary that Easter, hats, white gloves and all.

When I came, the parking lot was a seasonal quagmire and wheelchair accessibility was conspicuous by its absence. We threw a big party and launched the Access Project. Soon the parking lot was paved, a bright night-light installed, a wheel chair-accessible washroom created. Then there was the lift built into the cloak room that took some getting used to and even longer to get the timing mechanisms adjusted for the great height and duration of operation involved. It's fine now, but we are all still a little leery of it.

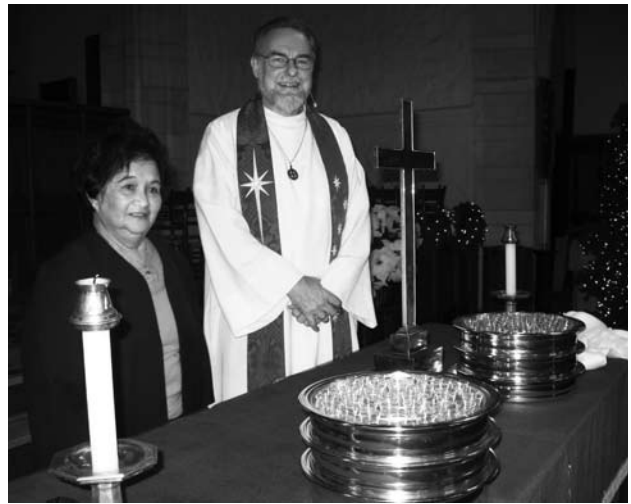
Some time later we entered amalgamation talks with Erskine & American United Church. We celebrated our Jeremiah moment as we placed our membership rolls and amalgamation documents into a ceramic jar. "Churches and faith communities will continue to thrive in Montreal." Our first post-amalgamation project was to refurbish the main kitchen. When we hosted a weekend Jean Vanier event, the name St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas, Erskine & American United Church seemed a little too long. So we

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Consecration of Communion Ware for Use in the Philippines

Our church has amalgamated twice in the past 25 years and several times before that. As a result we have accumulated a number of communion sets. A request to donate one of these sets to Malita United Church of the Philippines, in Malita, Davao del Sur, Philippines has come through one of our members, Ms Elvie Flores.

At the worship service on Sunday, December 11, 2011, the communion set was presented by the Liturgy and Learning Committee on behalf of Mountainside and accepted on behalf of Malita United by Elvie Flores.



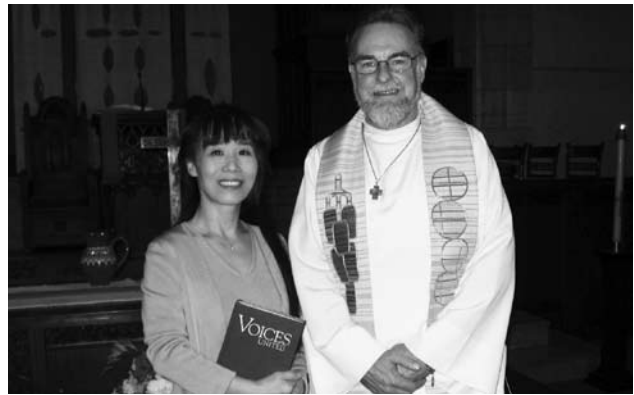
Baptism of Dario James Lorenzetti

On March 12, 2012, Mountainside welcomed baby Dario James Lorenzetti by Holy Baptism.

Dario is the son of Judith Minorgan and Jeffrey Lorenzetti, and the grandson of choir member Kathy Minorgan.

Baptism and Confirmation

On Sunday, November 20, 2011, Yeona Abigail Jang was welcomed into the church family of Mountainside by baptism and confirmation. Yeona has been worshipping with us since the spring and we are delighted that she has joined us.



Music Notes

Teen Music Mountainside began their 2012 program with a service in the Chapel on Transfiguration Sunday, February 19. An enthusiastic congregation was appreciative of their musical efforts. The group also contributed to the Pancake Supper entertainment on February 21 and will be preparing music for Palm Sunday and other services later in the spring.

Margaret de Castro

Piano for Sale

A Baldwin upright piano, formerly used in the Choir Room, is now available for sale. Please contact Margaret de Castro if you wish to view the instrument.

Spring Concert

Keep Saturday evening, April 21, free for a wonderful musical event! At 7 p.m. on April 21, Mountainside Choir will be joined by the English Montreal School Board's Junior Chorale, the Choeur des Enfants de Montréal's Junior Chorale, the South Shore Children's Chorus' Junior Choir, the McGill Conservatory Children's Choir, the Montreal Chinese Children's Choir and the FACE School Chamber Orchestra to present a varied program which will benefit various children's programs sponsored by Sun Youth. The program, entitled *Kids for Kids*, will feature 110 to 120 junior choir members who will be joined by the 25 members of the FACE Chamber Orchestra and our own choir. The final number of the program will be an exciting mass choir presentation.

Tickets (\$15; \$12 students and seniors) will be on sale as of mid-March through the Church Office and at Coffee Hour after morning services.

Margaret de Castro

Gala Spring Concert

April 21, 2012
7 p.m.

Kids for Kids

Choir of Mountainside United Church
Children's Choirs affiliated with the
EMSB Choral Festival
FACE School chamber Orchestra

Join together for a concert to benefit the
children's programs of Sun Youth



Tickets \$15 / \$12 students and seniors
Sponsors \$25 (10.00 tax receipt)

TUESDAY STUDY GROUP



In the fall of 2003, five Mountainside women formed a group with the intention of reading and discussing the Bible. We met over muffins and coffee in each others' houses, and each bought the scholarly Harper-Collins Study Bible, chose certain sections to study, and off we went. Each week we assigned the book and

chapter or chapters to be read, and at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings we got together and discussed what we had been reading, and what it meant to us. We thought we would read some of the lesser known sections of the Bible, and we did read all the minor prophets, and some of the epistles among other sections. We used whatever commentaries we could find. Sometimes we assigned one person to introduce the reading, but often we just struggled on our own.

In time, we decided to branch out to read other books with a bearing on our church life. We have read many of Karen Armstrong's books, and a number of the works of Marcus Borg, John Crossen, and other modern thinkers. We even tried to digest Bonhoeffer, but this was perhaps beyond us. Some books we loved, others we detested, but we usually found that the ones we disliked engendered the most discussion. All in all it has

been an enlightening experience.

In addition to our reading, we discuss Mountainside and its joys and needs, and all of us have been very active, not only as Sunday worshippers but as choir members, Board members, chairs of committees, cooks, shoppers, tidiers, etc., etc. Most importantly, we have become very close friends, and feel that this small group has given us enormous interest and support.

We have decided to include this article to encourage other people to form small house groups to study and read the Bible and other books. Eight people is as large a group as fits comfortably into most living rooms, and we have been reluctant to add to this group, but we are sure that this is a good thing for church women to do, and think you might like to try it. Any of us would be happy to talk to you about it.

Anita Carrier, Donna Fraser, Heather Gibbons, Judy Johnston, Linda Mount, Elizabeth Neufeld, Mary Ross, and Miriam Tees

RAPPORT

Rapport is published by Mountainside United Church Communications Committee.

Please send articles and announcements to the church office:

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A COLLECTING CHURCH

A big thank you to Dorothy Sutherland for her years of participation in the UCW (celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2012) and being Quebec coordinator for the collection of Campbell's soup can labels. At age 90, she is now stepping down from these responsibilities.

A new coordinator has been found, Joyce Patenaude of Huntington. So please continue to bring in your labels – including the bar code as well as the name and picture of the product. Nancy Walkling will continue to take the labels to Pathways, in Sarnia, Ontario. This Rotary-sponsored organization offers many services to children in the area. Our labels help provide materials for their Early Childhood Education program. They are grateful and amazed at how many Quebecers collect Campbell's soup labels to help them out.

What else do we collect?!

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

Used eye glasses which Operation Eyesight can pass on to people needing them. Ester Vicente is our contact person.

Aluminum tabs from the tops of pop cans are taken to the Grey Nuns by Kiki and Jim Tremain. Sister Regine loves to tell of the many wheelchairs which have been purchased for overseas, all from the collection of these little tabs.

Used postage stamps are trimmed by the ladies' group and sent to the Bible Society which sells them to buy Bibles.

Plastic bread tags: we have lost track of who our contact is and where these go. Do you know? Please phone the church office to tell us!

Good used clothing is collected, sorted and sent to various organizations to be used by those who need it. Grace Hodgson organizes this. We only have room to accommodate clothing appropriate for the upcoming season. Ask around if you don't know where the little collection cupboard is located.

Non-perishable food is collected in the grocery cart outside of the chapel, by the stairs on the Lansdowne side of the church. John Fraser takes it to Saint Columba House in Pointe-St-Charles when we have enough for a delivery.

Nancy Walkling

MINIPRIX

One of the outreach projects supported by Mountainside is Miniprix, a project of the Cote-des-Neiges Council of Churches. Miniprix accepts used clothing, bedding, toys, jewellery, and small household objects to sell at low prices. Profits go to support summer camps for children of the area.

Situated in the basement of St. Pascal Church on Cote-des-Neiges Road, Miniprix is open on Wednesday afternoons, Friday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Run entirely by volunteers from the churches, Mountainside's responsibility is to staff the shop on the first Saturday of each month. Kerine Moore is our representative to the Board, and she comes to sell along with Minerva Santos, Sheila Macdonough, Mary Metcalfe and Miriam Tees.

Miriam Tees

Did you know?



The **fair trade coffee** you drink at Coffee Hour on Sundays is purchased with the help of Frances Sault from the Outreach Committee. Fran takes monthly orders from the congregation. There are many varieties of coffee available (including decaf), in one-pound bags, as beans or ground to suit your coffeemaker.

Why is she doing this? It is a fundraiser for Montreal City Mission and Saint Columba House. Last year we were able to send \$390.50 to each organization.

Thanks to your pledges and the **Christmas Appeal**, Mountainside made \$8500 in donations last December to Saint Columba House, Montreal City Mission, Auberge Madeleine, Montreal Diet Dispensary, McGill Chaplaincy, United Theological College and Saint Michael's Mission.

In April you will be hearing from Outreach about the Summer Camp Appeal. Thanks for your generosity.

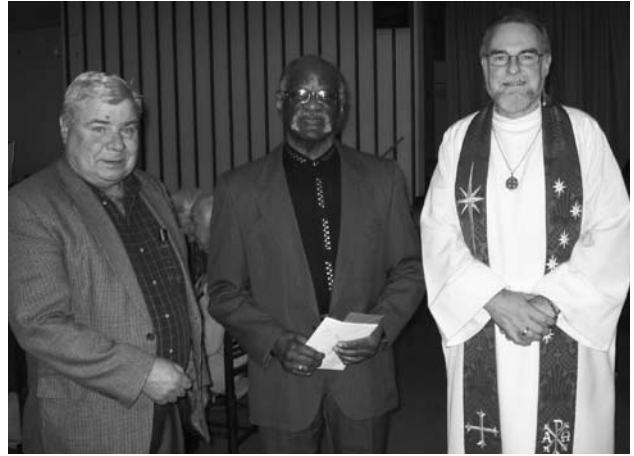
Nancy Walkling, Outreach

Joseph Francis — A Tribute

Joseph Francis, originally from St. Lucia, came to our church as a retired policeman and stayed for 18 years. He handled evening and Sunday security as well as helping with arrangements and clean-up of these activities. He was very supportive of our English language classes that were largely attended by Haitian refugees.

He is an active member of his Masonic Lodge.

Joseph impressed us all with his honesty, reliability and his fitness and elegant wardrobe. We honoured him at our Sunday birthday lunch in the fall. We wish him well in his retirement.



Notes from Julie...

Our birthday celebrations have gone through a whole year. Ramon Vicente introduced this popular idea in March of 2011 and we have just celebrated 14 March birthdays in 2012. These have been special Sundays with wonderful buffet dishes prepared and provided by Ramon's extended family. We all have appreciated the opportunity for family-style fellowship and time to get to know each other better. THANKS, RAMON.

John Mateica has agreed to be present on Sunday mornings to help prepare for and tidy up after Sunday worship. He will also operate the lift for anyone wanting to avoid the stairs.

FOR FRIENDS OF IAN MACKLAIER

Last year Ian Macklaier moved to October House on the lakeshore where he is being well cared for. He is now attending the United Church in Pointe Claire where he has made friends who drive him to church. He and his sister Elise appreciate the support he has received from Mountainside and send greetings to us all.

ST COLUMBA HOUSE GALA

St. Columba House, our United Church mission in Pointe-St.-Charles, is again inviting us to a Gala evening of fine food, music, good company and an opportunity to support their programs for youth, adults and seniors, including lunch for 100+ five days a week.

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH AT 6:00 P.M. FOR COCKTAILS AND 7:00 P.M. FOR DINNER. Tickets are \$80 with a receipt for \$60.

Those of us who attended last year can attest to a fun evening with amazing food elegantly served. If you are interested in joining the "Mountainside table" please contact Julie Dawson: 514-489-7925.

A New Year Just Begun

As incoming chair of Session, I would like to thank my predecessor, Vince Salvati, for his considerable efforts in guiding our congregation during the past two years. I am also grateful to all the new Chairs of committees and other volunteers who have accepted tasks for the coming year or two. I look forward to working with you.

As Vince recently pointed out (see, for example, his article in *Rapport* for November 20, 2011), our congregation is in a period of transition marked by decreasing membership and an ever-older age group. This is a situation we share with many other congregations, but still one that will require our continuing attention in the coming months.

We have already begun "streamlining" our administrative tasks by reducing the number of regular Session meetings. I hope we can continue these readjustments so as to make all necessary meetings (Session, committees, etc.) more efficient and interesting.

These and other questions deserve our attention in 2012. So, to all a happy New Year as, with your help and encouragement, we look forward to tackling the work ahead of us.

Richard Neufeld, Chair of Session

Pancake Supper

Many thanks to Donna Fraser and her crew for planning the fun-filled evening on Shrove Tuesday. Young and old joined in to eat yummy pancakes with maple syrup and sausages. Our cooks, led by Rev John, kept the supply going until everyone had been fed. Afterwards, Julie Dawson organized a masked Mardi Gras parade for all ages. Queen Miriam (Tees) presided over the parade. TM2 provided music for the evening.



Ten Years Ago... continued on page 7

became Mountainside United. Great choice, although St. John's on the Hill spoke to me as well.

We still had the manse next door back then. However, it made more sense to sell it and add the proceeds to the endowment fund. Ten years ago the fund was under \$1,000,000 but earning 11%. With the proceeds of the sale of the manse and our portion of the money from the sale of the Erskine & American Church building, the fund now is over \$2,000,000 in spite of the recent collapse of stock prices and negative returns on the market.

Three of the four large stained glass windows in the sanctuary were removed, refurbished, re-installed and re-glazed. The Resurrection Window was finished just in time for another Easter celebration.

Major repairs — most notably to our aging steam heating system — have been ongoing, and the moisture mystery in the sanctuary finally solved. Our latest repairs promise to reduce our heating bill.

TM2 (Teen Rock Band) began around seven years ago and now is in its third iteration. We continue to enjoy their gift of music in our worship and at special events.

Over the years there have been staff retirements. Joyce Schaaf and Joseph Francis each retired after decades of service in our church.

A new adventure began in the summer as we agreed to rent part of our church to another Christian congregation, Montreal Korean Methodist Church. We enjoy the added life and worship they bring.

You know, there is something coming up soon. Although our founding congregations reach back in some cases nearly 200 years, we are approaching one hundred years in this location. 2014 will be our one-hundredth year of worship and service in Westmount. With all the developments of the last ten years I'm sure we will find a way to celebrate and make plans for the next one hundred years.

Rev. John

Mountainside Celebrates

❖ Christmas 2011



1. Where is it?



2. When was it?



3. Who is it?



4. Which Sunday was it?



The answers are:

1. Christmas caroling at Manoir Westmount on December 8th.
2. Very happy Mountainside choir members recess after the Christmas Carol concert on December 4th.
3. Raphael De Castro as the nutcracker for his delightful improvisation on the piano and organ at the Christmas Celebration Carol Concert on December 4th.
4. TM2 participates in Advent III service on December 11th.

APRIL – JUNE 2012

APRIL		
Apr. 1	Palm Sunday	Palm Procession, TM2
		Congregational Annual General Meeting 12:30 p.m.
Apr. 2		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 3		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 5	Maundy Thursday	Communion Service /Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m.
		Choir practice, 8:00 p.m.
Apr. 6	Good Friday	Good Friday Service, 11:00 a.m.
Apr. 8	Easter	Communion
Apr. 9	Easter Monday	Church building closed
Apr. 10		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 12		Session Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Apr. 15	2nd of Easter	April Birthday Celebration
Apr. 16		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 17		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 19		Choir practice, 8:00 p.m.
Apr. 21		Gala Spring Concert 'Kids for Kids', 7:00 p.m.
Apr. 22	3rd of Easter	Baptism of Baby Sofia Anica Novac
Apr. 23		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
Apr. 24		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 29	4th of Easter	
Apr. 30		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
MAY		
May 1		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
May 6	5th of Easter	
May 7		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 8		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
May 10		Session Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
May 13	6th of Easter	Mother's Day, TM2
May 14		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 15		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
May 20	7th of Easter	May Birthday Celebration
May 21	Victoria Day	Church building closed
May 22		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
May 27	Pentecost Sunday	
May 28		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
May 29		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
JUNE		
June 3	Trinity Sunday	Communion
June 4		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
June 5		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
June 10	2nd after Pentecost	Church Picnic, Youth Program
		June Birthday Celebration
June 11		Monday Women's Group, 12 noon
June 12		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
June 14		Session Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
June 17	3rd after Pentecost	
June 19		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.
June 24	4th after Pentecost	Summer services begin in the Chapel
	1st in Lent	(Joint service with Prince Hall Freemasons)
June 25		church office closed for St. Jean Baptist
June 26		Group Meditation, 7:30 p.m.