



RAPPORT

Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



October 13, 2013

It's true! We are almost 100 years old!
In September, 1914, Dominion Square Methodist Church moved up the hill from the corner of Dorchester and Peel, and services were held for the first time in what we know as Leslie Hall...an occasion to celebrate!

As we prepare to reflect on our past, the celebration of our future together has already begun. So many good things are happening. For starters, we have a new Sunday morning caretaker, with the promise of a full-time helper to start soon; our choir is at full strength and sounding better than ever; Hannah and Miriam have been engaged to lead children's worship; and — SURPRISE! — Leslie Hall is going to get a facelift in time for our community dinner at the end of November.

The Centennial Celebration will be launched on January 23, 2014 at 7:30 in the evening. Ed Coffey will present an audio-visual version of our history in — where else? — Leslie Hall! Please circle your calendar right now, and plan to come, reminisce and enjoy refreshments.

The second Sunday of every month will be a *Highlight Sunday*. Beginning on February 9, services on those special days will feature a "memory interlude" — a presentation by one of our members for whom this church has been home for a long time — folks like Miriam Tees, Colin Spencer, Philip Johnston, and

others from St. Andrew's and Erskine American. An item from our "Who's Who" column will be published in the bulletin.

And do keep your eye on the chancel. Some beautiful liturgical hangings used in years gone by will be in use from time to time. And in the upper corridor, a Heritage Wall will present a splendid visual record of our combined histories.

One of the 100th year celebration goals is to have the participation of the entire congregation. Our "MUCH" box (see photo) will be available to receive pictures, newspaper clippings and anything else which

can be posted on our history board in Leslie Hall. Please search your archives for any interesting items.

Plans are already being made for our Gala Dinner which will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2014. This is the approximate date in 1914 when the first service was held in Leslie Hall.

There will be a reception at 6pm and dinner at 6:45 pm. Some of the dishes will be made from recipes from "The Good Old Fashioned Dominion-Douglas Cookbook." Many of you will remember that.

It will be a year-long festival with surprises popping up now and again. Let's celebrate!

Judy Johnston and Tom Zukow

Coordinators for the 100th Anniversary Celebration

Mountainside Prepares to Celebrate 100 Years in 2014

MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR



Mountainside Farewell to John Mateica

On Sunday, May 12, the congregation held a farewell lunch for John Mateica, our custodian for the past 10 years. John and his wife Kristyna came to us from Erskine & American Church after the amalgamation in 2004 when the building was sold to the MMFA. John was a church officer at E&A and they lived in an apartment next to Cheney Hall. They were members of our congregation and joined us in many of our worship services and activities. John was a great help in doing many of the small and large repair projects as well as tending to the routine cleaning and sexton jobs. We wish them both well in their new retirement life in New Brunswick.



Vince Salvati, John Mateica and Ed Coffey



John and Vince

Summer in the Chapel

Every summer at Mountainside, we are blessed to share worship in our cozy, colourful chapel. The windows, the hangings, the furnishings all remind us of our legacy from St. Andrew's.

Following our tradition, our services were led by willing and able lay leaders through the month of July and on the first Sunday in August. We have Linda Guignon-Mount, Alan Greig, Rich Neufeld, Debbie Zemnicks and Ester Vicenti to thank for their thoughtful and thought-provoking presentations. Worship was made even richer by Margaret's and Aldy's gifts, and by those who participated in the "Ministry of Music".

Elva Crawford and Betsy and Tom Zukow shared responsibility for preparing the chapel and coffee time with Judy Johnston.

Many thanks to all.

OUR CHURCH LIBRARY

Edith Drummond has lovingly and professionally tended our outstanding church library since the day when Bob Shank declared, "Edith, go for it! Use your professional skills, and create a real library for us." And she did.

Unhappily, Edith sustained a serious fall on Labour Day, and is currently recuperating in St. Mary's Hospital. She will not find herself back on the job for quite some time.

In the meantime, it is important that our library continue to function. Is there anyone out there who would consider contributing about two hours per week to ensure our being able to offer this popular service? Judy Johnston would be happy to help a new librarian to get started.

Please call May at 514-486-1165 or Judy at 514-932-7221.

Stewardship as a Jeremiah Community

Jeremiah **bought** a field amid the siege of Jerusalem and declared that *“houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.”* We know what it takes to be a Jeremiah community. We know the courage it takes to **buy into** our future in trying times. We know the foresight it takes to invest in our faith when others are trying to unload their religious responsibilities. Jeremiah communities know we have to accept the present situation and the gravity of it, for the present is all we have. We know we have to **buy in**, in order to be open to God’s possibilities in the moment. We have to be open and accepting in order to creatively, **benevolently** engage and alter the flow of events for the better.

As a Jeremiah Community, as we prepare to celebrate **100 years** of faithful worship and service in this place, we know it is about strong **benevolent** relationships, Jeremiah relationships. The relationships that trust in God and creatively diverge from the fearful trends around us. The relationships that change the future, that **pay the price** out of season, that yes, at times, seem a little bit crazy, but are truly participating in the expression of God’s New Day.

We know about these strong **benevolent** Jeremiah relationships because we are part of a Jeremiah community. We listened to God and we responded to God by welcoming an amalgamation in 2004 and changing our name to include all in this process. We **bought into** the future, by investing in our building to make it accessible, with an elevator and handicap washroom. We made it safe with a paved and lighted parking lot and video display electronic door locks. We made it helpful with major kitchen and Leslie Hall renovations. We welcomed in the Montreal Korean Methodist Church to increase the worship life in our church building.

Today, in this season of cultural siege, as we anticipate our Centennial year in this location, we listen to God and respond to God. We continue to explore what it means to be strong **benevolent** Christians, who welcome and engage. We are replacing the carpet in Leslie Hall and repainting the ground level halls and hallway. We are adding projector screens for visual enhancement in our worship services. We are launching a new Stewardship Campaign, **Benevolent Giving @ 100**, with a new *buying in* feature. If you or anyone in your family has been blessed by participating in this congregation over the past 100 years we ask you to make a special, over and above, one-time celebration gift in our **100th year**.

At Mountainside United Stewardship means we trust in God and happily **buy into** our future. The siege mentality is lifting. We are ready for what God has in store for us.

Rev. John

Stewardship 2014

Each year as I address the Congregation to kick off the Stewardship, I feel somewhat reluctant to deliver the message to those of you in attendance, as most of you here are already involved in the life of Mountainside through your volunteerism and financial support.



So if this is you, take a quick nap and I’ll try to keep my remarks brief.

Our theme this year is benevolent giving. It can be defined as an inclination to perform kind, charitable acts or gifts given out of generosity. There may be several reasons for our giving. It may be out of a sense of responsibility to share the gifts that God has provided to us with those less fortunate. It can be out of a sense of guilt or for a deduction against our income taxes.

True benevolent giving is where you feel the Spirit is urging you to act. We see examples of this in our everyday lives from simple acts of charity to significant contributions to improve the lot of our fellow man.

This year we ask you to consider how each of us is blessed with gifts endowed by our creator and how we are using those gifts.

Some of us have been provided with financial success and we ask you to share with Mountainside and those other endeavors which move your spirit.

Some of us have been provided with special talents and we ask you to consider using those talents to see how this might lead to a ministry through Mountainside United.

We need not only your financial support but also your time and talents in support of our programs here at Mountainside ranging from Meals on Wheels to the Christmas Dinner to Ushering on Sundays.

As most of you know, we will not have a Fall Bazaar this year, as the support group for that event had consisted mostly of the “usual suspects” who are involved in most of the other events during the Fall and early winter, so we have had to prioritize how we use these resources.

We extended an offer through the Session for anyone who feels strongly about the Bazaar to lead the effort, however, no one has come forward.

I sincerely hope that this is not a harbinger

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Celebrations!



Baptism of Karsten Nicholas Srougi

Baby Karsten Nicholas Srougi was welcomed into the Mountainside family on Sunday, August 18, 2013. His parents are Nicholas Srougi and Christine Meaker-Williamson.



Baptism of Rocco Malcolm Lorenzetti

June 2, 2013, was the baptism of baby Rocco Malcolm Lorenzetti, son of Judith Minorgan and Jeffrey Lorenzetti. His grandmother, Kathy Minorgan, is a member of our choir. We welcome him into the church family of Mountainside.



August 24th was Berneice Fielding's 90th birthday. Her family hosted a wonderful celebration in the library at the Ambiance Residence where Berneice and Parker reside. After a delicious buffet luncheon, Berneice was presented with a beautiful scrapbook containing messages from everyone who had been invited. Along with our invitations, we were asked to write a message for Berneice and send it to Garant, her granddaughter, who then compiled the scrapbook. She was also given a "care bear". It was such a special time celebrating with all of the Fielding family in such a loving and caring atmosphere.

Diane Harper



Michael Salvati, son of Susan and Vince Salvati, married Yajaira Mora on April 20, 2013 at Mariner's Church in Irvine, California.

Building & Property

Except for the installation of a new railing at the Blvd. entrance, it was mostly business as usual outside this summer, with Sandy Chisholm tending the lawns.

Inside it was a matter of adjusting to life without John Mateica. Neil MacKinnon and Sandy were front and center in refreshing the Sunshine Room, handicap bathroom and basement.

We are in the process of planning a face lift for Tees Hall and the first floor corridor, and Leslie Hall. Details should be decided shortly and the work completed within a few weeks.

Thanks to Elva Crawford as Chair of Ministry and Personnel, ex officio of B&P, for her significant help in defining issues for this committee and of course for the future custodian (caretaker), with whom we look forward to a fruitful association.

Alan Greig

Chair, Building and Property

CHANGE: WELCOMING OUR BUILDING CARETAKER

On October 1st we welcomed Vincent Tan as the full-time building caretaker of Mountainside.

Vincent arrived from the Philippines in June with his family, wife Jo-Magali, Daughter, Shamika Rain, and son River.

Vincent is a graduate of Misamis University, Ozamiz City, Philippines, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. We believe Vincent will provide the special care and attention to preserve and present the beautiful interior of the Building as we enter into the almost 100th year of existence.

If you are in the Church during the week, please stop by and say a welcoming "Hello" to Vincent.

Elva Crawford

Chair, Ministry and Personnel

A New Look

At 7:30 on September 3, five women and three men arrived at Mountainside by van and made their way straight to the Balcony with all their equipment and proceeded to clean and polish everything down to the Sanctuary level.



At 10:00pm a second team of five men arrived with heavy equipment and worked all night cleaning, stripping and waxing floors. This process of cleaning Mountainside continued for the 4th and 5th of September.

As it finished, and you entered Tees Hall, where the green tiles had been transformed from dull to a bright and gleaming surface, there was a temptation to put up a sign prohibiting anyone from ever setting foot on it again.

However, we are a church. Please do come in. Walk on the newly polished floors.

You are welcome!

Elva Crawford

SUNDAY MORNING at MOUNTAINSIDE

Since early September we have been watching with great relief the operation of the lift on Sunday mornings to assist our members to go up to the Sanctuary level.

We believe this accomplishment is because our new Sunday Morning Assistant, JOUVEN TEUS, is able to transfer his skills as a musician to the careful and special touch needed to effectively operate the lift.

As well as managing the lift, Jouven assists in all the Sunday morning activities, setting up coffee etc., and attending to the details that help give Mountainside a warm and welcoming atmosphere following the Worship Service.

In turn, let us give a warm welcome to Jouven as he joins us each Sunday at Mountainside!

Elva Crawford

Chair, Ministry and Personnel

RAPPORT

Rapport is published by Mountainside United Church Communications Committee.



Please send articles and announcements to the church office:

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514-486-1165

www.mountainsideunited.ca

Our Collecting Church

Our clothing cupboard will close for good at the end of October. There are now many drop-off bins for organizations such as the Fondation Québécoise de la Déficience Intellectuelle (FQDI), Entraide diabétique du Québec (EDQ), Salvation Army and Renaissance, as well as ecocentres. Thank you very much to Grace Hodgson, Margo Tessler and the other volunteers through the years who have devoted many hours of their time to this project.

We are still collecting non-perishable food, used eye glasses, Campbell soup labels, aluminum pop can tabs and used stamps.

Please note that we have stopped collecting plastic bread tags because we no longer have contacts to pass them on to.

United Church Response to the Lac-Mégantic Tragedy

Immediately following the devastating explosion and fire at Lac-Mégantic, General Council Office staff contacted the Montreal and Ottawa Conference to express concern and offer support. The Synode was grateful for the contact and advised that emergency response be left to the Red Cross. For this reason, the United Church has not addressed the matter of donations with its members across Canada.

When major disasters occur in Canada, the first act of General Council staff responsible for emergency response, as a matter of established protocol, is to contact and consult with the United Church Conference office in or near whose geographic territory the disaster has occurred. Our response to disasters in Canada are therefore always guided and informed by the wisdom and wishes of the respective Conference.

Nancy Walkling

NDG Food Bank

Mountainside is now collecting food for the NDG Food Bank in its new home on Marlowe Avenue. Now in its twenty-seventh year, the emergency food basket program has about 700 clients each week. You may have read an article about food banks in the Gazette in late August in which new ideas about food banks were discussed, such as providing fresh fruit and vegetables at cost, a drop-in café for seniors with low incomes and free picnics in the parks. The NDG Food Bank has six staff positions and some 50 volunteers.



Still, there is an urgent need for the monthly baskets. Most helpful according to the Gazette are:

- Canned fish and meat
- Juice
- UHT milk
- Whole wheat pasta
- Canned fruit and vegetables

Mountainside has baskets near the Roslyn door for drop-off. Some members add a little something to their weekly food shopping and bring it to the church. How about you?

Miriam Tees

Outreach Sunday October 20, 2013

We will welcome Rev. Patricia Lisson, Director of Saint Columba House. She will inform us of new initiatives and plans for the future of this United church mission, which we support.

Liturgy and Learning

Children's Church welcomes a new leader to work with the pre-school and elementary school children during Sunday worship. Hannah Bailey is a second year biochemistry student at McGill who has worked for several summers at vacation bible camps in Ontario. The 2 to 12 year old group will be meeting in the Sunshine Room on Sunday mornings from 10:45 to 11:30 with much the same format as last year. Parents of very young children will be asked to join Hannah and participate with their kids in singing, crafts and activities with a Christian theme. A snack will also be offered.

For families of babies and very young children, a new area in the north transept of the sanctuary has been reconfigured to allow space for the little ones to move around on the floor in a mostly confined pew arrangement. In this way parents may participate in the service while their little ones remain with them.

Mountainside Youth Group will be meeting with Miriam Sherwood from 10:45 to 11:30 in the Library. Miriam is a women's studies student at Concordia and was with MYG last year. We welcome her back to lead the 12 to 19 year old group.



Hannah and Miriam

Lynne Dawson

~ Music Report ~

Please mark **December 1 at 3pm** on your calendars. It is the date for our annual Christmas Celebration of Music concert. Our choir and TM2 will be taking part and some special musical guests will be featured. As usual, there will be a free-will offering and nursery facilities will be available. A reception will follow the concert.

We are exploring the possibility of starting an intergenerational band at Mountainside. If you are interested, please contact Margaret de Castro at 514-631-6262 or by e-mail at aslan201@yahoo.com.

Stewardship 2014... continued from page 3

of things to come as the support from the Congregation continues to dwindle.

I know that we can count on those of you here today to continue your support of Mountainside.

So, this message is mainly addressed to the 200 plus members of Mountainside who we do not see either on Sunday or involved in the activities of our Church, and whom I am addressing through the *Rapport*.

You know who you are!

We see you at baptisms, weddings, funerals, and, maybe on Christmas and Easter.

Please take a few minutes to reflect on this message and consider what being a member of Mountainside really means to you.

So the choice is yours.

Each of you decides the future course of Mountainside with your support and actions so I ask that you be generous in your support for 2014.

Vince Salvati

Chair of Finance Committee

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013

OCTOBER		
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Sunday	Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary
		Rapport distribution
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Monday	church building closed
Oct. 15		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Oct. 16		Adult Education, 2:00pm DVD "Painting the Stars"
Oct. 17		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Oct. 20	22nd after Pentecost	Outreach Sunday, Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		October Birthday Celebration
Oct. 22		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Oct. 23		Adult Education, 2:00pm DVD "Painting the Stars"
Oct. 27	23rd after Pentecost	Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Oct. 29		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Oct. 30		Adult Education, 2:00pm DVD "Painting the Stars"
NOVEMBER		
Nov. 3	24th after Pentecost	Memorial Sunday, Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
Nov. 5		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Nov. 6		Adult Education, 2:00pm DVD "Painting the Stars"
Nov. 7		Session Executive Meeting, 5:30pm
		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Nov. 10	25th after Pentecost	Remembrance Sunday, Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary
Nov. 12		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Nov. 13		Adult Education, 2:00pm DVD "Painting the Stars"
Nov. 14		Session, 7:30pm
Nov. 17	26th after Pentecost	November Birthday Celebration, Service at 10:30am
Nov. 19		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Nov. 20		Adult Education, 2:00pm DVD "Painting the Stars"
Nov. 21		Choir practice, 7:30pm
Nov. 24	Christ the King	Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary
		Congregational Meeting immediately following the service
Nov. 26		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Nov. 30		Community Christmas Dinner, 4:00pm
DECEMBER		
Dec. 1	1st in Advent	Communion Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary
		A Christmas Celebration Carol Concert, 3:00pm
Dec. 3		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Dec. 7		EMSB Concert
Dec. 8	2nd in Advent	White Gift Sunday / Blue Christmas, Service at 10:30am
Dec. 10		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Dec. 15	3rd in Advent	December Birthday Celebration, Service at 10:30am
Dec. 17		Group Meditation, 7:30pm
Dec. 22	4th in Advent	Service at 10:30am, Pageant rehearsal 11:30am
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Family Service	Pageant / Communion, 8:00pm
Dec. 29	1st after Christmas	Service at 10:30am in the Chapel