



# RAPPORT

## Mountainside United Church

4000 The Boulevard, Westmount, Quebec



Celebrating  
100 YEARS  
in this place

October 19, 2014

### Celebrations

Hi everyone,

What a wonderful 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration held September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. There are various write-ups and pictures marking this joyous event. Yes, we have “**Much** to be thankful for” at **Mountainside United Church**. And the good news is there still is more to come.

On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, our anniversary speaker is Ramon Vicente sharing memories treasured by our ‘Filipino family’.

On Remembrance Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Balfour Mount will share the story of how Palliative Care in North America got started



*Dominion Methodist Church, 1914*

*image courtesy of Westmount Archives*

### The Rev. George Douglas

In 1925 the congregations of two churches, Dominion Methodist and Douglas Methodist, amalgamated to establish Dominion-Douglas Church. Named for Dr. George Douglas, one of Canada’s best known and most highly respected ministers, Douglas Methodist Church had been built in 1876 on St. Catherine Street at the corner of Chomedey.

Reading about the Douglas family, one is struck immediately by their integrity, the strength of their faith, their courage, and the depth of their intellect. The story begins in Ashkirk, in the Scottish Borders. John, the father, was a miller, but, while enduring a declining business, he was persuaded to relocate to Montreal. Following some time later (in 1832) were his wife, Mary Hood Douglas, and their three sons; the youngest, George, was seven years old. He attended the British and Canadian School in Montreal and a private school in La Prairie before taking a job as a clerk in a Montreal bookstore. Hoping to become a marine engineer, he entered the ironworks

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forty years ago as a result of planning an Adult Ed. Program on *Death and Dying* here at Mountainside.

By the way, a documentary was produced some years ago on all of this. We are planning a series of evening presentations with the people involved in the new year as part of Palliative Care’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Check for times and dates.

There are other articles and announcements included in this issue of *Rapport* springing from our Centennial celebration in Westmount and our looking to the future.

Read and enjoy. It is amazing how the Spirit has moved us, is moving us, and promises to move us into the future.

– Rev. John

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Over 120 people came to enjoy the “Gala” celebration dinner held on Saturday evening September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Many old friends, including former ministers, gathered in Leslie Hall prior to the catered dinner which was held in Tees Hall. Each guest had a very impressive program designed by Susan Salvati and fresh flowers provided and arranged by Judy Johnston. Tees Hall was decorated with very colorful ceiling hangings along with many banners reflecting the celebration theme “MUCH” — Mountainside United Church & MUCH to be thankful for.

Guests were called to dinner at 7:00 pm and all enjoyed the wine and the gourmet delights.

Following the dinner, Tom Zukow read a letter of congratulation from the moderator of The United Church of Canada, Gary Paterson. He commended us on our service and faithfulness over the past century. Tom then reviewed the eclectic program which ranged from Opera to Broadway, beginning with several selections with One Piano and Four Hands — Margaret and Raphael de Castro — followed by Opera selections with singers from Opera de Camera, a professional Opera company. The very talented



Toronto singer Candice Santos, accompanied by Aldy Santos, provided a medley of Broadway selections.

Carolyn Derome, flutist, along with Margaret de Castro, entertained with several Celtic selections. The entertainment was enthusiastically received. We ended the evening with everyone standing and singing our “Celebration Anthem”. A great evening was enjoyed by all.

— Tom Zukow

## Anniversary Service September 14, 2014

Our history came alive in Leslie Hall on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. One hundred years of pride in our heritage were reflected in music and worship, and in the warmth of fellowship and laughter.

Margaret de Castro and Caroline Derome set the tone for the service with their stunning duet for piano and flute. The choir’s performance of a singularly suitable introit was divinely inspired. Margaret de Castro’s choice was John Robb’s composition, “We Love the Place, O Lord”. Resplendent in retro gowns of red, the choir sang from the balcony, filling the room with glorious sound. Aldy Santos and Candace Santos brought tears to the eyes of many with their music — a hymn in Tagalog, the language of the Philippines. The congregation joined in a lusty rendition of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hymn.



Three special guests assisted in the service: Rev. Janis Campbell, Rev. Phyllis Smyth and Rev. Fred Tees. In his pre-service instructions, Rev. John urged them to “be radiant”! And radiant they were, not just in the performance of their professional duties, but through their sharing of personal memories: some very amusing, some poignant, all received with affection and gratitude.

At the service on the second Sunday of each month throughout our anniversary year, we have been treated to a sharing of recollections by members whose roots go deep. Elva Crawford was our gifted story-teller on Anniversary Sunday. She recalled, with humour and sincerity, her family’s deep connection with Erskine and American. And visually, Elva was a knockout in her fashionable retro attire!

Betty and Ed Coffey have created a remarkable

anniversary gift to us all. An 8-foot long panel documents the history of our church from 1786 to the present. Rev. John acknowledged the Coffeys during the service and expressed sincere thanks from us all for their creativity and their generosity. The time-line will be installed in the Heritage Hallway.

Tucked away in the “communion cupboard” for who-knows-how-long was a collection of precious articles - mostly silver under the tarnished surfaces! Among these was a trophy presented to a group of 6 people by John Leslie, Sunday School Superintendent, in 1923. The inscription tells us that these six saints (possibly teachers?) were being rewarded for their punctuality and regular attendance. Rev. John surprised

Tom Zukow and Judy Johnston by re-awarding this trophy to them in recognition of their efforts through the year to highlight our history and create new memories.

Lib Neufeld and Margaret de Castro put their heads and four hands together to close the service. The postlude was the finale from a Mozart sonata. They left us all uplifted and grateful.

The final verse of the recessional hymn expressed the themes that have guided us through this very special year:

*The church is not found in one place or one building,  
frozen in memories from long, long ago.  
The church is exploring adventures of living  
that free us to follow new paths God will show.*

– Judy Johnston



*Tom Zukow and Judy Johnston*



*Joesphine, Judy, Elva*



*Rev. Fred Tees, Rev. Phyllis Smyth, Rev. Janis Campbell, Rev. John Forster*



*Ed and Betty Coffey*

## Stewardship 2015

**G**ood Morning to all on this Stewardship Sunday which is the kick off of our annual campaign.

Over the years that I have been addressing the Congregation on this subject, I have tried imploring, cajoling, guilting and a number of other ploys to try get you to give more.

So today relax you can take your hands off your wallets and purses — for at least a few minutes — while I tell you a story about times of future past.

Of course all of good stories begin with, Once upon a time, so...

Once upon a time there was a church which was filled on Sundays with collection plates brimming and a large ministry staff. Over the years, the demographics of the community in which this church was located changed. The pews were still filled on Sundays and collection plates were still overflowing, however, a disturbing trend was emerging. There was more and more gray hair in the pews and attendance in the Sunday Church School was declining. No, this did not happen overnight — it was subtle and gradual — so the Session took little if any notice of it.

As financial support from the Congregation began to drop off, the abundant Endowment Fund was used to plug the gap and cover the operating shortfalls and

over the years of decline the fund was being depleted. Does any of this sound familiar?

In case you are wondering the name of the church was Erskine and American.

Susan and I joined E&A in September 2000, and the die was already cast. The Endowment was depleted, paint was peeling off the walls and the building envelope was in need of repairs in excess of \$2,000,000. The pews were “packed” with 40 or 50 hardy souls on every Sunday. The Minister, seeing the handwriting on the wall, hightailed it out of town and for the last few years of our existence we had visiting ministers presiding over the Sunday Services.

The Session, finally seeing the light, formed a Committee to investigate the various options available for the future — not the distant future but the projection that within the next three years we would be out of funds to continue as a Congregation. Led by the efforts of Brian Clark we finally had a solution, albeit not one that would be acceptable to all members of the Congregation. After much contentious debate and more than a few Congregational meetings the decision was reached to sell the Church building and property to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

As with the ancient Israelites, the Congregation was scattered to the four winds, with some going off to St. James, some coming here and the rest to other churches.

You may now be wondering where I am going with this history lesson so let me apply it here. Or as Rev. Forster would say, “and the application for today is” — code for time to pay attention!!

When the small band of E&Aers came up the hill to join this Congregation, the Endowment Fund was barely holding its own (in serious decline) and was being used to plug the gaps as in the case of E&A. It is true that our fund now stands at more than \$2,000,000, however, if not for two significant events — the funds brought from the E&A Church sale and the sale of the manse — the fund would be approaching zero, and we would be having a different conversation today. To those of you who believe that this amount is more than adequate, it was just a few years ago when we saw the stock markets plummet and portfolios halved in a few short months. A strategy of relying on

### And now a Mini Museum!

**T**he Heritage Hallway is a reality; the Gala Dinner was a huge hit; the Anniversary Service on September 14<sup>th</sup> provided a moving and meaningful focus for our celebrations.

But....there's more to come!

Our searches into the nooks and crannies of our building revealed a collection of artifacts worthy of display. Our “mini museum”, located in Tees Hall, will open to visitors on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. You will find trophies, rose bowls, trays and candelabra, all engraved to reveal the donors and honorees. If you have a treasure you would be willing to loan to this collection, please bring it to church, and it will find a place of honour!

A permanent record of much that has happened at Mountainside throughout the year will be produced shortly. It will include the snippets, the biographies of notable builders of Mountainside, the texts of presentations made on our “Special Sundays” and much more. Watch for it!

Let's keep those snippets coming! Have a special memory? Please jot it down and submit it to the office or to Judy Johnston.

— Elva Crawford and Judy Johnston

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## Notice

As a follow up from our last Congregational meeting in the spring, Session is planning a short information meeting in Leslie Hall following our November 23<sup>rd</sup> Congregational meeting for the budget and nominations. Two of the four topics that surfaced at the spring Congregational meeting will be researched and presented as requested.

1. Information around the possible future sale of our building to another church.
2. The possible redevelopment of the site for seniors care, community services, or residential housing.



## Confirmation Class

Parents of youth interested in attending a Confirmation class in the fall should speak to Rev. John.

The target age is usually grade 8 or older. The day and timing of an eventual group will be determined by the participants and their parents.

– Lynne Dawson  
Chair, Liturgy & Learning



## Building & Property

The summer has been relatively quiet, with Neil and Sandy doing some general upkeep and Sandy the usual good job maintaining the grounds. We have all noted the exceptional maintenance of the interior by Vincent Tam, to whom our thanks!

Our one big project for the season was the restoration of the large stone chimney above the Roslyn entrance as well as windows high in the south Sanctuary wall, done by Mount Royal Roofing and completed mid-July. The results appear excellent.

Our neighbour in the 'Manse' is doing some property upgrade outside. Most will be invisible to us but part of their program, approved by Westmount, is the installation of a fence at the southwest corner of our parking lot to shield their property from the lights of cars using our parking with greater frequency these days.

The building and property look good for the remainder of this Centennial year!

– Alan Greig  
Chair, Building & Property Committee

## Adult Education

**Back by popular demand!** The DVD series *Thank God for Evolution*, will be presented on three Wednesday evenings 7:30 to 9 pm, November 12, 19 and 26. Don't miss it.

## Summer Services

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

This summer's services were based around the themes of inspiration, empathy, illusions and distortion, goodness. A very special "Second Sunday" presentation highlighted the history of Christian hymns.

As always, we reach out with thanks and admiration to our worship leaders: Miriam Tees, Debbie Zemnickis, Margaret de Castro, Alan Greig and Ester Vicente. Worship was enriched by the gifts of Margaret and Aldy Santos, and by those who took part in the Ministry of Music.

## Soup Labels & Pathways

For many years Dorothy Sutherland of Mountainside coordinated the Quebec United Church Women's collection of Campbell's soup labels as part of a program called Labels For Education which provides educational materials to centres of education. A couple of years ago, Joyce Patenaude, from Huntington, took over from Dorothy. For about 15 years I have been their courier, getting the labels to their destination in Ontario.

In the 1980s, when I first heard of the church's collecting of Campbell's soup labels, the program only worked in the U.S. Aid was being sent from here to the Puerto Rican School for the Deaf. Since 1998 the program has been available for Canadian schools too. Quebec laws do not permit contributions or donations to schools that are tied to the purchase of certain goods or services (in this case, Campbell's soup). So for several years our soup labels went to Sir MacKenzie Bowell School in Belleville, Ontario to help purchase instruments for their music program. Now the labels go to Pathways Health Centre for Children in Sarnia, Ontario.

Pathways is a non-profit organization funded primarily through the provincial government. The Rotary Club of Sarnia has been a significant partner since Pathways first opened in 1975. The centre relies on support from the community to purchase equipment and materials used by the staff in their work. They deliver services to children, youth and young adults.

When I did my delivery to Pathways in Sarnia this summer, I was invited to go on a tour of the facilities and take some photos (Check out photos on a bulletin board in Tees Hall). Children were playing with toys in the cheerful waiting room until their therapists came to see them. Pathways summer day camp children were excitedly

heading into the changing rooms of the heated swimming pool. When I visited the integrated early learning daycare, I

was told that Pathways provides services for special needs children and helps the children in their transition to the kindergartens of local schools. Aside from offices and treatment rooms there are two small activity/gym rooms and the much larger Lampton Room.

I was introduced to Gwen, one of the staff members. Her mother Orlene, a healthy 86 year old, does the volunteer job of clipping and counting the labels that are received. Dorothy used to send notes to her with our labels. Gwen counts about 60,000 labels every year!

What do our labels help purchase? Big red rubber balls, soccer size, have been very popular with the children as well as team pinnies in various colours. A digital camera was purchased a few years ago and now musical instruments are being collected, along with books, crayons and various learning tools. Each year a label deposit submission form has to be notarized and sent to the Campbell redemption centre. Then items are ordered from an online catalogue. The soup labels are stored for 180 days in case Pathways is audited. So many steps and people involved!

Message from Pathways... "We cannot thank you enough for the continued support over the years! It is amazing what kind people do to help out!!!"

— Nancy Walking, Mountainside Outreach Committee



## MUSIC REPORT

### A Good-bye to Kathrin Welte

On September 7<sup>th</sup> the choir bade farewell to Kathrin Welte, our alto soloist, who has been with Mountainside Choir for seven years. Kathrin is joining the choir at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul as a lead chorister.



### A Joint Venture with the Choir of Westmount Park United Church

Mountainside Choir will join the choir of Westmount Park United Church at Westmount Park's weekly worship service on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at 4:30 pm. All congregational members are warmly invited to attend. We hope that this will be the first of many joint musical activities.

### A Christmas Celebration of Music

The annual Christmas Celebration of Music concert will be held at 3 pm on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Invited guests are the Village Ringers, a handbell choir from St. Lambert United Church. A freewill offering will be received. As always, nursery facilities will be available and a reception in Tees Hall will follow the concert.

— Margaret de Castro

*Rev. Douglas... continued from page 1*

of Sutherland and Burnett and attended design classes in the evening. Later delicate health forced him to abandon this ambition. A convert to the Methodist Church, he became a class leader, a local preacher, and a probationer for the ministry. In 1849 he went to England to attend the Wesleyan Theological College. After his ordination, having been sent to Bermuda as a missionary, he contracted malaria. Eighteen months later feeble health compelled him to resign, whereupon he returned to Canada. One of the first orators of his

church, he was stationed as a minister in Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, and Hamilton. His marriage to Maria Bolton Pearson in Toronto, on 28 November 1855, was blessed with the birth of four daughters, Mary, Mina, Alice, and one who died in childhood.

The disadvantages experienced during George Douglas' youth drove him to be a student throughout his life, his greatest interests lying in the fields of literature, philosophy, the natural sciences, and metaphysics. In 1869 the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by McGill University. In 1873 he

founded, and became first Principal of, the training college for Methodist ministers, Wesleyan Theological College, McGill University. He remained in this position until his death. On 10 Feb. 1894 Dr. Douglas, ailing with encroaching paralysis and blindness, succumbed to pneumonia and, following a simple service, was buried in Mount Royal Cemetery. He had been admired for his uncomplaining endurance of physical affliction and his unwavering commitment to righteousness.

– *Ann Boa*

*Stewardship 2015... continued from page 4*

rising stock markets to cover our rising operating deficits is not a long-term solution.

A few years ago, the Session, recognizing the reality of a declining and aging congregation, formed a Futures Committee which I had the privilege to Chair. The final report had a number of recommendations, including the Birthday Sunday feasts — thank you Julie Dawson for the idea and our Filipino community for the food — and a charge to the Trustees to investigate the various uses of our building and property. One of the major reasons for this is the high cost of maintaining the buildings and property compared to what are the current and future needs of this Congregation. This led to a number of actions including our relationship with the Korean Methodist Church and the recent proposal to sell of the building lot on Lansdowne — which was debated at the recent Congregational meeting.

I, for one, was greatly disappointed with the results of that meeting — in particular with the debate on the use of funds from the proposed sale. At some points it reminded me of the last days of E&A where a minority felt that we could somehow stay in that building despite having less than \$100,000 in available funds.

Let me share some facts with you about the marketability of this property. I know they are facts because I have a friend whose firm is handling the sale of several churches in and around Montreal. He has also consulted and met with the Trustees on this matter — at a cost to me of two strokes in our weekly golf match.

First, he knows of no Congregation in the Montreal area that has the financial capability to purchase our property in its entirety.

Second, the proposed subdivision of the property

would not affect the value of the overall value of the entire property.

The debate at the Congregational meeting seemed to focus on how we would use the additional funds from the proposed sale. Although this is a relevant topic, isn't it better to have the funds first and then decide how to use them?

As you have figured out by now, my topic this year is not just about the 2015 Stewardship Campaign but about where this Congregation will be in the future. If we don't plan for the future, it will be planned for us. I have been involved in the death of one majestic church and will not be involved in the death of another.

So I ask you to look through your Stewardship materials to consider not only support for 2015 but to look to the future and the legacy that we will leave (behind) for Mountainside United Church.

– *Vince Salvati, Chair, Finance Committee*

**RAPPORT**

Rapport is published by  
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## OCTOBER 2014 – JANUARY 2015

OCTOBER		
<b>Oct. 12</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b>	<b>Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary</b> MUCH Centennial Celebration Sunday
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Monday	church building closed
Oct. 14		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Oct. 16		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>19th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary</b> <b>October Birthday Celebration</b>
Oct. 21		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>20th after Pentecost</b>	<b>Outreach Sunday, Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary</b>
Oct. 28		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
NOVEMBER		
<b>Nov. 2</b>	<b>21st after Pentecost</b>	<b>Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary</b>
Nov. 4		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Nov. 6		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Nov. 9</b>	<b>22nd after Pentecost</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday, Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary</b> <b>MUCH Centennial Celebration Sunday</b>
Nov. 11		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Nov. 12		Liturgy & Learning Comm, 5:15pm Adult Ed.— “Thank God for Evolution”, 7:30pm
Nov. 13		Session, 7:00pm
<b>Nov. 16</b>	<b>23rd after Pentecost</b>	<b>November Birthday Celebration, Service at 10:30am</b>
Nov. 18		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Nov. 19		Adult Ed.— “Thank God for Evolution”, 7:30pm
Nov. 20		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Nov. 23</b>	<b>Christ the King</b>	<b>Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary</b> <b>Congregational Meeting immediately following the service</b>
<b>Nov. 25</b>		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Nov. 26		Adult Ed.— “Thank God for Evolution”, 7:30pm
<b>Nov. 29</b>		<b>Community Christmas Dinner, 4:00pm</b>
<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>1st in Advent</b>	<b>Communion Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary</b>
DECEMBER		
Dec. 2		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Dec. 4		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Dec. 7</b>	<b>2nd in Advent</b>	<b>White Gift Sunday, Service at 10:30am in the Sanctuary</b> <b>A Christmas Celebration Carol Concert, 3:00pm</b>
Dec. 9		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Dec. 13		EMS Concert, 4:00pm
<b>Dec. 14</b>	<b>3rd in Advent</b>	<b>Service at 10:30am, in the Sanctuary</b> <b>MUCH Centennial Celebration Sunday</b>
Dec. 16		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
<b>Dec. 21</b>	<b>4th in Advent</b>	<b>December Birthday Celebration, Service at 10:30am</b> <b>Pageant rehearsal 11:30am</b>
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Family Service</b>	<b>Pageant / Communion, 8:00pm</b>
<b>Dec. 28</b>	<b>1st after Christmas</b>	<b>Service at 10:30am in the Leslie Hall</b>
JANUARY		
<i>Jan. 1–2</i>		<i>church office closed</i>
<b>Jan. 4</b>	<b>Epiphany</b>	<b>Communion service, 10:30am in Leslie Hall</b>
<b>Jan. 11</b>	<b>First Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Baptism of Jesus, 10:30am in Leslie Hall</b>
Jan. 13		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
Jan. 15		Choir practice, 7:30pm
<b>Jan. 18</b>	<b>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>January Birthday Celebration, service 10:30am in Leslie Hall</b>
Jan. 20		Meditation Group, 7:30pm
<b>Jan. 25</b>	<b>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b>	<b>Service 10:30am in in Leslie Hall</b>
Jan. 27		Meditation Group, 7:30pm