



# NEWSLETTER

Week Commencing May 5, 2017



**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

## From the Rector

The Psalm for this coming Sunday is one that is well known to many of us. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is one that is recited at difficult and trying times as well as simply words of comfort when needed.

“The Lord is my Shepherd...” it begins and goes on describe how God is with us in green pastures and beside still waters but also in the walk through the darkest valley and in the presence of our enemies. A beautiful hymn and song to God that clearly comes from the heart and depth of life.

There are a number of interesting translations available, including this one written by Eugene Peterson:

God, my shepherd!  
I don't need a thing.  
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,  
you find me quiet pools to drink from.  
True to your word,  
you let me catch my breath  
and send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through  
Death Valley,  
I'm not afraid  
when you walk at my side.  
Your trusty shepherd's crook  
makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six-course dinner  
right in front of my enemies.  
You revive my drooping head;  
my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me  
every day of my life.  
I'm back home in the house of God  
for the rest of my life.

While attempting to modernize and give greater meaning to the psalm (perhaps this only gets in the way for you though!), this translation still gets the point across of God's unfailing, unfaltering, and complete love. The image of Shepherd is grounded in this very fact: God's complete compassion and hope for us.

The gospel passage for this coming Sunday, often referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus tells his followers, "I am the gate for the sheep." This, it seems to me a beautiful image connected with Psalm 23. Jesus was God's Word, God's light, God's Son, God's example of God's hope for us. He revealed what it means to know God as Shepherd. As the gate, he shows us how get closer to God's desire for our lives and our living.

In this season of Easter, as we reflect on the resurrection of Christ and how it brings us new life and new hope and new meaning, hold onto this image of Shepherd and Gate. How has Jesus opened to you a closer relationship and closer walk with our Shepherd, the one who walks with us even in the valley of the shadow of death?

*O God, our Shepherd, Guide and Hope, as we open the gate wider to see you more clearly and nearly, lead us to those places of still water and green pastures where we observe your presence more readily. Invite us into deeper contemplation of your love and light in our lives that reveal a Shepherd walking with us in all parts of our lives. In the name of Jesus, our gate and our guide we pray. Amen.*

### **Church Interior Meeting May 9 at 7:15pm**

Please join us when we meet with the architect and parishioner, Arno Matis, to look at a first draft of his concept drawings of some potential changes to the interior of our church. These drawings are for discussion purposes only and so all input would be appreciated. We will meet at the church on **May 9** at 7:15pm.

### **Church Committee Meeting May 17 at 7:15pm**

Our next Church Committee Meeting is in the Trendell Lounge on May 17. Please arrive by 7pm.

## **Neighbourhood Ministry Annual General Meeting May 24**

Wednesday May 24, 2017 in the Trendell Lounge 7pm-9pm  
Light refreshments provided. All welcome.

## **Diocesan Synod Meets May 26 and 27 - Italian Cultural Centre**

St. John's Synod Delegates are the licensed clergy (Father John, Mother Liz and Deacon Pitman), Louise Hadley, Maggie Sanders and Matthew Stephens.

## **Archdeaconry Service of Evensong for Pentecost June 4**

All of the Anglican churches of the our Archdeaconry of Vancouver (on the west-side of our city) will gather on June 4 at 4:00pm at St. Mary's Kerrisdale for a Service of Evensong as we celebrate Pentecost. Retired Bishop Michael Ingham will be our guest preacher. Please plan to join us!

## **Ethiopia in Pictures and Description June 5**

Archdeacon Douglas Fenton went to Ethiopia earlier this year and will be presenting a description of his trip on Monday June 5 at 7:00pm. Ethiopia is a beautiful country and rich in traditions of the Christian Church which are both fascinating and educational. Father Douglas will offer his insights and perceptions as he shares pictures and commentary. Please join us!

## **First Annual SJS Versus Diocesan Office Staff Wiffle Ball Baseball Game! Join the team! Game Day is June 7**

The St. John's Shaughnessy Saints have invited the Synod Office Staff to an evening of fun, fellowship and athletic prowess in the inaugural - we think - Grand Ol' Wiffle Ball Baseball Game.

The game will be held on Wednesday, June 7th, from 6:00 to 8:00, on St John's Green.

A Wiffle ball is a hollow, plastic baseball-sized ball which is used for training in the pre-Little League age group. It's easy to hit, and won't hurt if it hits you.

Bats, balls, bases (and a "T" for the littlest teammates) will be provided. Bring your own glove, cap and pinstripes. A prize will be given to the contestant who brings - and uses - the most vintage piece of baseball gear.

"Take Me Out To The Ballgame", and other devotional music, will be provided by Michael "Wurlitzer" Dirk.

Pizza and a small selection of beverages will be provided by St John's Shaughnessy. Please bring some toonies to help with the cost of pizza. We are asking that people bring fruits and vegetables as potluck if they are able, and other beverages if they are interested.

Please register with Michael Dezell (SJS) or Double-Agent Douglas Fenton (SOS) by Sunday, June 4th, if you would like to attend. All are welcome to play, and not everyone has to play, but we need to know the number of people attending who plan to eat pizza.



## **Syrian Refugee Family Sponsorship – update**

As of last Sunday, SJS parishioners have donated \$6040.00, meaning we have already reached **over 50%** of our goal! Please bring in your donation soon if you haven't already done so.

## **Hospitality Volunteers Needed for Sunday Morning Coffee Hour**

Are you interested in helping out at coffee hour? Training and written instructions provided. We will pair you up with someone who has done it many times. Please contact the office if you are able to help out. **We need extra volunteers in all areas for the summer months.**



## Volunteer Drivers Needed

We are looking for several volunteer drivers for some members of our congregation who require a ride to church. These senior parishioners are just a **five minute drive from St John's**. Hopefully we will set up a rotating roster of drivers. Please contact the office if you are able to help out.



## Walking Group at SJS

Do you think you need a little more fresh air and exercise? Join the SJS Walking Group! It is on Mondays (except holidays) starting at 12 noon. Please meet up by the east door of the church, and wear good supportive shoes. Dogs welcome. If you sign up in advance, we can let you know about cancellations and/or time changes. **We hope to walk on other days** as well. Let us know what works for you. Please contact the office for more information.

## Calling all Gardeners! Mondays at 10am

Please join a small group of us who work on tidying up the gardens at St John's on Monday mornings. Weeding, pruning, raking and transplanting. No experience necessary!!! Many hands make light work. Please contact the office for more information.



## **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund - PWRDF**

May 3, 2017 marks the one-year anniversary since a wildfire tore through our region forcing our community to be evacuated. Through the generosity of donors, PWRDF received more than \$280,000 in response to the Fort McMurray wildfires.

On behalf of our community, the Fire Steering Community wishes to thank each and every donor for the thoughtfulness and compassion shown to our community. As well, we wish to assure donors that their donations will be thoughtfully spent with the vision, mission and strategic plan of the PWRDF in mind.

*Fire Steering Community of Fort McMurray*

## **Poverty and Violence: Doing Justice in a Post-Colonial World by International Justice Mission (IJM) Canada & Cristosal**

You are invited to join IJM Canada and Cristosal as we unpack what it means to do a justice in a post-colonial world. Hear from **Noah Bullock** and **Celia Medrano** from Cristosal and **Kevin Dixon** from IJM Canada as they share about the inroads they are seeing on the frontlines of seeking justice. The day will conclude with a panel discussion that will challenge participants about what it means to be a seeker of justice in the midst of a broken world. **Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**, 8:45am – 4pm. St. Mary's Kerrisdale Anglican Church 2490 West 37th Ave (at Larch). Tickets are available thorough 'Eventbrite' for \$45.00 (lunch included).

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/d/canada--vancouver/events/>

## **Fundraising Sunday Morning Yoga Class at SJS?**

We are considering offering one or more fundraising yoga classes in the Trendell Lounge right before or after the 10am service, if there is enough interest. Please contact the office for more information.





# Evening for Ascension

May 28 at 4pm  
*Reception to follow*

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As they were watching,  
Jesus was lifted up,  
and a cloud took him  
out of their sight.

*Acts 1.9*

## **St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church**

1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6H 2E2

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Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 8:00am to 3:00pm

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Rector	The Venerable John Stephens <a href="mailto:john.stephens@sjs.net">john.stephens@sjs.net</a>
Curate	The Reverend Liz Hamel <a href="mailto:liz.hamel@sjs.net">liz.hamel@sjs.net</a>
Deacon	The Reverend Dr. Pitman Potter <a href="mailto:pbpotter@live.ca">pbpotter@live.ca</a>
Rector's Warden	Dr Robyn Woodward
People's Warden	Maggie Sanders
Treasurer	Donald Wood
Vestry Clerk	The Reverend Karin Fulcher
Music Director	Michael Dirk <a href="mailto:organist@sjs.net">organist@sjs.net</a>
Assistant Choirmaster	Ann Chen
Children's Ministry	Spencer Britten
Parish Administrator	Janet Hamilton
PWRDF Rep	Doug Symons
Sacristan and MC	Paul Bunnell
Verger/caretaker	Amy Thorogood

### **Sunday services**

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Sung Eucharist

### **Wednesday service**

9:30am Holy Communion

Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings and Confessions are by appointment with the Rector. Please contact us if you would like to have our weekly newsletter emailed to you.

