



NEWSLETTER

Week Commencing July 16, 2017
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost



From the Rector

"You may tell a tale that takes up residence in someone's soul, becomes their blood and self and purpose. That tale will move them and drive them and who knows what they might do because of it, because of your words. That is your role, your gift." (Erin Morgenstern)

As Christians we have a story to tell, the story of our encounter with God in our daily life but also the encounter of God with people down through the ages. For our faith centres upon Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God and who shared the word of God so often in stories and parables. Stories have a way of pushing us deeper into our relationship with God if we are willing to explore them and move towards that which they are inviting us. Stories go beyond theological argument and discussion and open our hearts and souls to God's whispering voice inviting us to drink deeper of life and discover anew the presence of God as shown to us in Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel passage for this Sunday, Jesus tells a parable about a sower, a farmer, a gardener who ventures out to the prepared soil and begins to cast the seeds in generous and chaotic fashion. Seeds are flying everywhere, it seems, in the parable. They are not only landing in the tilled earth, they are falling on the path, amongst rocks, amongst thorns. It is wasteful and ill-planned. But still, it seems the sower keeps on casting the seeds, everywhere and anywhere, perhaps in hopes that all would grow. Or maybe just that some would grow.

That was Jesus' parable, the parable of the sower. It has been interpreted in a variety of ways and perhaps all those ways are correct in some fashion. For that is the beauty of a story: it paints a picture but does not tell you what you must see in that picture. It opens our minds to new thoughts, new possibilities, new vision.

Do you have a story about planting seeds or planting young plants? Do you have a story about harvesting it unexpected places? Do you have a story of teaching someone else about a garden or a plant or a seed? Do you have a story that reminds you about the miracle of life contained in a tiny seed? Where is God in all of this?

O God, our Gardener, you sent Jesus amongst us to plant seeds, to tell stories, to reveal your love. May those seeds, those stories, your love grow within us. May they transform and change us so that we see anew the power of your grace to hold us and bless us each day and each moment. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Book Study or Bible Study?

A couple of people have asked about having a book study or a Bible study mid-week and during the day. We are trying to determine how many people might be interested in this. If this is something that you would like to participate in then please speak to one of the Clergy. If there is enough interest we would look to start this in the Fall, on a day that is convenient to most (if not all!) people. Thank you.

Partnership Diocese

Our Diocese of New Westminster has partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines to share relationship, faith and ideas. Our parish of St. John's has been partnered with St. Luke the Evangelist Mission, Butbut Proper, and St. James of Jerusalem Mission, Luccong. Their priest is Padi (Reverend) Barnabas Chaokas. We are looking for someone in our parish to be the liaison person to connect with our partner parish. Are you interested? Please speak to Father John.

SJS Prayer List: how do I add someone to the list?

The St John's prayer list is updated regularly. The binder is located in the Narthex (Granville entranceway), and you may add names anytime you are here. The list is checked just before each service. You may also call the office Mon-Thurs, or email names to the office. You may also email names directly to Fr John and Mtr Liz, especially after 3pm on Thursdays because the office is closed on Fridays.

You are invited to the Neighbourhood Ministry BBQ Aug 7

The Neighbourhood Ministry will be hosting a BBQ at Dunbar Apartments on BC Day, Monday August 7. Please contact Joan Stewart if you can attend and/or provide a food donation for the event.
jstewart@westerndriver.com Tel: 604.805.7315

Memorial Garden Service September 24

Our Annual Memorial Garden Service of Evensong will be held on September 24 at 3:00pm. Please put this on your calendar now and plan to attend. Please let people know about this, especially those with a connection to St John's Shaughnessy and the Memorial Garden. This is an important ministry for us.

A Neighbourhood Report about Shaughnessy

Church Committee commissioned VST student, Alecia Greenfield, to compile as much information as possible about the Shaughnessy neighbourhood. We wanted to bring together census data, neighbourhood information, a critique of our website and first impressions of our building, a listing of local groups and people, amongst other things. Alecia has completed this work and a copy was presented to Church Committee on June 21. Church Committee has been tasked with studying the material and we will meet with Alecia at a special meeting of Church Committee on August 16. If you would like to see a copy of this Neighbourhood Report, please contact Janet in the Church Office or the wardens or the clergy. It is an interesting and helpful read!

Garden Tools, Rocks & Driftwood wanted

Do you have any gardening supplies in your garage that you don't use any more, and would like to donate to the church? Please bring them to church on Sunday, or contact the office to arrange pick up. Gloves, shovels, brooms, forks, carts, pruners, etc. can all be put to good use by our growing team of volunteers. And we welcome more volunteers!



We are also looking for attractive rocks and interesting pieces of driftwood for the garden. If you find anything that catches your eye while on your travels this summer, and you are able to bring it to us, please do. If they come with a story all the better!!!

Donations for DTES Women's Shelter

I just started volunteering at WISH in the Downtown Eastside. If you have any used summer clothes/shoes, used make-up (maybe that colour wasn't right after all), or used costume jewelry that you would like to donate, please leave them in the church office labeled "Janet" or "WISH" and I will take them to my next shift. Thank you!

Janet

Sock Drive in October

In October, St. John's Shaughnessy is joining with Shaughnessy Heights United Church, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Little Flower Academy School and we hope Shaughnessy Elementary School, and York House School, along with people of our neighbourhood to collect new socks to be distributed to the homeless. Stay tuned for more information!

Thefts at St John's

We have had a few thefts around St. John's in the past month or so. Please ensure that none of your belongings are left unattended. We are adding some new security features and protocol but please assist us by not leaving any valuables open and visible. If you have any concerns, please speak to the Clergy, Amy (our caretaker) or the Wardens.



Memorial Garden Service

Sunday Sept 24 at 3 o'clock

Join us for a special service of Choral Evensong as we remember loved ones whose ashes have been placed in our Memorial Garden.

A reception in the Trendell Lounge will follow. All welcome.



1490 Nanton Avenue (at Granville St)
Vancouver BC V6H 2E2
604.731.4966 / www.sjs.net

St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church
1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6H 2E2
Telephone (604) 731-4966 (ex 11 for office)
email: church@sjc.net web: www.sjs.net
Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 8:00am to 3:00pm

Rector	The Venerable John Stephens john.stephens@sjc.net
Curate	The Reverend Liz Hamel liz.hamel@sjc.net
Deacon	The Reverend Dr. Pitman Potter pbpotter@live.ca
Rector's Warden	Dr Robyn Woodward
People's Warden	Maggie Sanders
Treasurer	Donald Wood
Vestry Clerk	The Reverend Karin Fulcher
Music Director	Michael Dirk organist@sjc.net
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.

Cover image: Sower with the Setting Sun by Van Gogh, 1888.

