

NEWSLETTER

Week Commencing January 7, 2018



**The Epiphany of the Lord
with Holy Baptism**

From the Rector



Wise ones from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

This Sunday we are celebrating and honouring Epiphany and the arrival of the magi who came to worship the

Christ Child. There are beautiful images of this scene that stir up all sorts of ideas and thoughts. We actually know very little about these magi but we portray them in many different ways.

Often portrayed as three kings, but there is no reason for this. We do not know if there were only three, we simply know that three gifts were offered. We do not know if they were kings only that they clearly had wealth and that they had means.

Often described as wise men or wise ones, but there is no reason for this. Yes, in our Scriptures they are described as wise but that is related to them having followed the lead of a star to bring them to the home of Christ. It is fascinating that they were from the East, for why did people of the local community not recognize the star or the presence of the Christ Child?

Often portrayed as having camels, but there is no reason for this. They might have used camels as their mode of transportation but we do not know if this is accurate. The assumption is that they came from the East and so would have likely used camels.

The important piece of the Epiphany is the light shining out. The light guided the magi. The light urged them to offer rare, beautiful and significant gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The light beckoned them closer. The light revealed the presence of God. The light was a sign of holiness, wonder and awe. The light pointed to the coming of the Christ Child.

That light continues to shine out. That light continues to guide us. The light continues to beckon us closer to God, closer to Christ, closer to the invitation of the Holy Spirit. That light was not reserved for a small band of holy seekers of long ago but continues to shine out in our world of today urging us to see this light within ourselves, others and our world. Within the darkness the light continues to shine. "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." (Isaiah 60: 1).

May that light continue to lead you to bring to God gifts most rare: your love, your prayers, your will.

O God of light and wonder, guide us, lead us and bless us with your holy brightness. Open our eyes to your wonder and beauty, not hidden by the darkness but shining out from it. May your holy child, Jesus, continue to grow within us to be our guide and strength in our pilgrimage, our holy journey to you, our light and our life. In the name of the light of the world we pray. Amen.

John+



A Baptism on Sunday!

This coming Sunday Julia Fontane Dirk will be baptized! We are so delighted and excited about this! Before her birth, Julia has been a part of our parish community and we are so grateful to have her join us on the Christian pilgrimage seeking the light of Christ. She is a beautiful gift to her parents but to all of us! Please keep her and her parents, Michael and Annabelle in your prayers.

Two Baptisms on January 21

On January 21, Erin Redfern and Abigail Stephens will be baptized. We are so delighted about this! Erin has become very involved in the life of our parish and we are excited to share in this beautiful day with her. Please keep Erin, Abigail and their families in your prayers!

Installation of the Rev. Katrina Vigen

Pastor Katrina is being installed as the pastor at Redeemer Lutheran just down the road from us. Many of you have met Pastor Katrina. Her installation service is on January 14 at 3:00pm, please come and support her! The preacher will be our Rector, Father John.

Anti-Racism Training

Our Archdeaconry is hosting an Anti-Racism Training Event on January 27 at 9:30am until 4:00pm at St. Mary's Kerrisdale. All people in leadership positions in the parish are encouraged and expected to attend. Please let Father John know if you are planning to attend.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Starts Up Again!

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Study took a break over Advent and Christmas. It will resume on January 17 and run until February 7 (Lent begins on February 14 and there will be a Lenten Series at that point) We gather at 10:10am on Wednesday mornings in the church to discuss the Bible readings for the coming Sunday. Please join us!

Lent Series 2018

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John invites participants on a five-week journey into deeper intimacy with God by praying with the words of John the Evangelist (The Gospel According to John and First Letter of John). These two texts describe how God, out of deep love, sends God's only Son Jesus into the world, to take on human form and live among us. By learning from Jesus, his human friendships, and his teachings about the God he calls 'Father,' we will discover God as One who longs for deep intimacy with each of us. We will take to heart the words of Jesus: "I and the Father are one." We will find that God is not a judge, a disapproving parent, a policeman, or a taskmaster; rather God is our companion, our friend, our confidant, our beloved. We are even invited to abide in God as God abides in us. It is in relationship with Jesus that such extraordinary communion with God becomes a personal reality.

Neighbourhood Ministry Volunteers Report

Team 1 set out on Saturday under clear, cold skies, loaded down with packets, fresh sandwiches and eggs, and many warm blankets, leather jackets and rain coats offered by St. Helen's. Thanks to Elinor for all of these goodies, and to Pitman for sending us off with a prayer. With us today were Heather, Peg, Ellie and Vicki.

We started with a visit to B up at the United Church. He was deep in his sleeping bag, but did poke his head out to accept a packet and another warm blanket. Next we went to the 4th and Highbury fence, where T, R and B stood chatting. All were in good spirits. T was very happy to accept a new coat, as the zipper on his old one had broken. R reported that he had now been at the Gathering Place shelter for 2 full months - the longest he had not slept outside in a long time. B has recovered from his Christmas flu. We didn't see M, but B said he was nearby and took a packet for him too.

We ventured down 4th Avenue and found T out front of Whole Foods. He was happy for a packet and food. There were signs of several camps along the south side of the street, but nobody home. No sign of C or R, but Heather still sees them throughout the week.

We looped up to Granville Street. Evidence of S and G, but no signs of them. We left packets and food. Headed up Broadway. We saw T near a bus stop, but when we approached, he was nowhere to be found. No sign of S anywhere. On Broadway near Safeway, we found J. He is sleeping in a nearby ally and said he had enough blankets, but was happy for some food. Finally, we found S and dog Betsy, and as usual S was very chatty. He has a warm sleeping bag and a tent, in the woods at Jericho.

The recent cold, wet weather has likely been very hard on our homeless friends, so please keep them in your prayers.

Another great day out with my friends on Team 1!

Respectfully submitted by Vicki



Photo by Peter Kidd

Winter Bible Study Series

Join the SJS clergy for an interactive
Christian Formation Series
to discuss the Bible readings for the coming Sunday.

Classes will be located in the church
from approximately 10:10am to 11:15am.
Everyone welcome!

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Wednesday mornings from
January 17 to February 7
right after the 9:30am service





Meeting Jesus
in the Gospel of John

Lenten Study

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

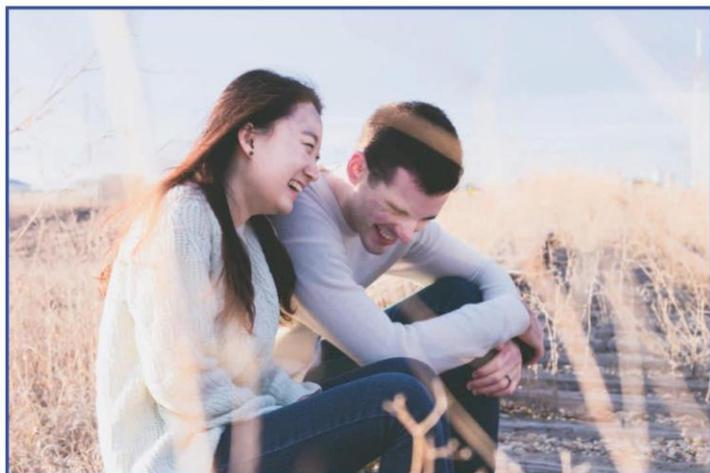
is a five-week journey into deeper intimacy with God through praying with the words of John the Evangelist.

Join the SJS clergy for this fascinating interactive Christian Formation Series! Classes will be located in the Trendell Lounge Wednesdays at 7pm.

FINAL AFFAIRS FAIR

for the Vancouver Archdeaconry

A day to explore our final affairs in regards to wills, funeral arrangements, legacy planning; what our final acts will say about us and our lives.



Mary Hamilton. Lawyer

Mary Hamilton is a Partner in the Wills, Estates + Trusts Practice Group at Alexander Holburn Beaudin + Lang LLP. Having almost 30 years of experience in wills, trusts and estate administration, Mary has held senior positions with various organizations throughout Vancouver, and was named Vancouver Trusts and Estates Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers* in 2011 and 2017. Mary advises clients about their estate planning and using wills, trusts and other vehicles (including charitable giving) to minimize taxes on death.



Mark Szabo, Funeral Director

While growing up in rural Manitoba, Mark had a newspaper route where he delivered the paper to the local funeral home. It was during that time he realized his calling was to pursue a career in the funeral profession. With over 20 years of experience as a funeral director, embalmer, and now the general manager at Walkey & Company Funeral Directors, Mark has assisted numerous families in both Manitoba and British Columbia, at a time of deep personal loss. Mark is newly married to his wife Manilyn and his interests include antiques of all sorts, motorcycles, vintage cars and spending time in nature.



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

DATE: Saturday, February 3, 2018

VENUE: St. John's Shaughnessy

Trendell Lounge, 1490 Nanton
Avenue, Vancouver BC

TIME: 10—Noon (Registration @ 9:30 a.m.)

Refreshments Served

St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

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

Telephone (604) 731-4966 (ex 11 for office)

email: church@sjs.net web: www.sjs.net

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

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Rector	The Venerable John Stephens john.stephens@sjs.net
Curate	The Reverend Liz Hamel liz.hamel@sjs.net
Deacon	The Reverend Dr. Pitman Potter pbpotter@live.ca
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Helen Kline
Rector's Warden	Dr Robyn Woodward
People's Warden	Maggie Sanders
Treasurer	Donald Wood
Property Trustee	Peter Kidd
Vestry Clerk	The Reverend Karin Fulcher
Music Director	Michael Dirk organist@sjs.net
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

Cover: *The Visit of the Magi* by Edward Burne-Jones. Snowflakes and snowman by SJS parishioner Erin Redfern.

