



NEWSLETTER

Week Commencing December 2, 2018

First Sunday of Advent



Thoughts to Consider

This coming Sunday marks the first Sunday in the Season of Advent, and marks the start of a new liturgical year in the Church. We will light the first candle of our Advent Wreath marking the day but also the start of our time of preparation. We will change the colour for this time to a violet or purple to mark the change in a season centred on the theme of hope.



For much of the society of North America, this time of year is filled with a manic sense of busyness filled with purchases, decorations and food. Into already busy schedules, the time before Christmas can be grueling and constant, adding more activities to complicated lives. It can be a time of confusion and seemingly driven by consumerism.

But for those of us in the Church, this time of Advent is actually encouraging us to do the opposite. We are being urged to find time to be quiet, to seek out stillness, to investigate prayer a little more intentionally. This time of Advent is actually a spiritual time! A time to deepen connections to the holiness of God by seeking and searching anew the voice of the Almighty. To listen once more to prophetic voices calling us to deeper purpose and place.

The voice of the prophet Jeremiah is one that we will hear on Sunday: "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." Change is coming, change emphasizing a new way to be.

John O'Donohue writes: "St. Augustine said, 'Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.' Our dissatisfaction could, therefore, be the admission and awakening of our longing for the eternal. Rather than being simply the edge of some personal emptiness, it could be the first step in the opening up of our eternal belonging...desire cultivates dissatisfaction in the heart with what is, and kindles an impatience for that which has not yet emerged...There should always be a healthy tension between the life we have settled for and the desires that still call us. In this sense our desires are the messengers of our unlived life, calling us to attention and action while we still have time here to explore fields where the treasure dwells!"

The season of Advent is but four Sundays long. It could be seen as simply a time to make physical preparations for Christmas, and I am sure that this will be the case for most of us. But I encourage you to make this time much more than that. May Advent be a holy time. May it be a contemplative time. May it be a preparatory time.

This first Sunday we will light the first candle of the Advent Wreath and there are many names given to each candle but this year the first candle represents the hope as seen in the Matriarchs and Patriarchs of our faith. When we light the first candle, this prayer will be offered:

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a monarch:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
rule in our lives today.
Amen.

May your Advent be made holy by your prayerful preparations of God being known with you and amongst you, of Christ coming to you, of the Holy Spirit being known in your midst.

Make Advent Holy

The season of Advent begins on the first Sunday in December with the lighting of the first Advent Candle on our wreath. In preparation of Advent, our new Diocesan Christian Formation Coordinator, the Rev. Jessica Schaap along with Adele Finney, have created a resource entitled *Living in the Edge*. Part of this is to receive a daily email, if one signs up at the following web address:

<http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/diocesan-resources/2018-advent-resource>

Advent Quiet Evening Dec 4

We will also have a quiet evening to help begin the season of Advent. On December 4 at 7:00pm in the Trendell Lounge we will have a time of quiet contemplation using the resource *Living in the Edge*. There will be silence, candles, prayer, discussion and quiet; the perfect mix to start an Advent pilgrimage to draw deeper into reflecting on God coming to us.

Advent Messages from PWRDF

If you would like to receive emails from the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund for each day of Advent, sign up here:
<https://pwrdf.org/get-involved/advent2018/>

Our Christmas Artisans' Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in planning, preparing, creating, donating, selling and cleaning up for our Artisan's Fair last Sunday. It was a great success! So far the sale has raised about \$300 for PWRDF but more money is coming in from table rentals and several silent auction items. We will update this number next week! Special thanks to Janet Hamilton (in our church office), Ruth Major, Aileen Engs, Doug and Marge Symons, Kate Redfern and family, Maggie Sanders, and many others who helped in other ways. Thank you very much!

Archbishop Douglas Hambidge Preaching Dec 9

Retired Archbishop, Douglas Hambidge will be our guest preacher on December 9. Archbishop Douglas is a great preacher and a delight to have with us, we are very much looking forward to having him at St. John's.

St John's is Sponsoring a Refugee Family

Our parish has agreed to join with St. Philip's Dunbar in sponsoring a refugee family. Ours is a family of five (two parents and three young children) and they are currently in a refugee camp in Lebanon but are refugees from Syria. They already have extended family in the Greater Vancouver area and we anticipate that they will settle quite quickly into life in Canada. We are very delighted that we can help support this wonderful family! We anticipate that they will arrive in about 18-20 months but we have lots to do in preparation of their arrival. Lots more information will be coming soon but we are hoping that all of St. John's parishioners will in some way be involved with supporting and helping our refugee family. St. John's Refugee Committee is: Jane Dunlop (chair), Jennifer Clark, John and Jane MacIntyre, Robyn Woodward and John Stephens. Any of them would be happy to talk to you about our sponsorship of this family.

SJS Altar Guild needs volunteers to help polish silver

If you would like to help with polishing silver one day over the next week, please let us know your schedule. We could use a few helpers!



SJS Christmas Artisan Fair last Sunday

To everyone in our St John's Family,

Thank you so much for your support at the Christmas fair last Sunday. We had a fantastic time and raised over \$200 that will be distributed between "Diabetes Canada" and "Canadian Dolphin Swim Club"

We are really grateful for your generosity and hope that everyone who bought enjoys their purchases as much as we enjoyed making them.

Erin and Ben Redfern

SJS Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care team at SJS is at work within our congregation, "coming alongside to offer encouragement and comfort and company" to those who would appreciate it—whether it's because of illness, isolation, individual or family issues, or simply a desire for more personal connection. We are committed to complete confidentiality, as we make contacts under the

guidance of Father John, with Helen Kline acting as team liaison.

How can you help? Consider those you know who may benefit from a regular phone call or personal visit and make a referral—by contacting the Church Office and leaving a message for Fr John or Helen Kline. Or, make a request on your own behalf. Above all, please remember our mission in prayer, that we act with wisdom, compassion, and respect as Christ's representatives in our world.

Thank you.

Helen Kline

Westside Ministry packet stuffing: First Sunday of every month!

It's getting to be that time of year when we ask parishioners to donate clean, lightly used items that will help our homeless neighbours. Please leave your donations in the Narthex on the new silver shelving unit. **(note: this Sunday the shelving is temporarily located in the choir room.)**

Of most use are:

sleeping bags, blankets, tarps & thermal sleeping pads
waterproof shoes & boots: men's sizes 9-15
men's raincoats & sweaters & toques & gloves

We are also collecting supplies for packets that are distributed to the local homeless. We already have lots of toothpaste & granola bars.

We are currently short of:

Juice Boxes & Meal Replacement Drinks (Ensure or Boost)
Large Ziplock Bags
Protein sources (Tuna meals – that sort of thing)
Pudding Cups & Fruit Cups
Razors & Shaving Cream (small) & Lip balm
Shampoo (small) & Toothbrushes & Dental floss

Thanks!

-the Indoor Team.

Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry

The following is a summary of the activities of the Westside Anglicans Neighbourhood Ministry from the last two weeks, including highlights from our Saturday Street Outreach teams and our Mobile Care Unit (MCU).

Over the course of the last two weeks, the MCU teams visiting St. Augustine's, Kits Showers and M. Mitchell Place served a total of 25 clients and the Street Teams made 25 connections in the Neighbourhood. The main area of service from the MCU sites continues to be assistance with housing forms.

One particularly impactful story from the street involved a man whose clothes were in tatters and who only had a couple of plastic bags to his name. We were able to give him two sweaters, a large water-resistant jacket, (which the team captain encouraged to be put on immediately), mittens, toque and lots of food, packages, sandwiches, eggs, and bananas. One client commented on not being able to find cardboard to provide some insulation while sleeping on the ground, and our team was able to give him an ensolite (a foam pad). One friend is seeking new men's underwear. The food packages and clothing that the teams are able to hand out are greatly appreciated. One week, the teams were given toiletry kits in addition to all the other treasures, which were also appreciated.

Thank you to the parishioners from St. Helen's and St. John's Shaughnessy for their generosity of items donated.

For a full write up from the street teams and Mobile Care Unit, please subscribe to our email list by contacting Beth, our Office Administrator, at ministrymcu@gmail.com

Christmas Flower Dedications

Every Christmas St John's is adorned with beautiful flowers, especially poinsettias, and fine music. We are collecting flower dedications - a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and remember loved ones. For every \$15 we can display one medium sized poinsettia, and for \$25 a larger one (tax deductible). Please send in your special flower dedications (email is best), which can be memorials or thanksgivings, to the office by **Wednesday, December 12**, to allow us time to pre-order them. The Christmas flower dedications will be printed in the Christmas leaflet.





Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 2

4:00 o'clock

Join us for an inspiring candlelit service
to prepare our hearts for the birth of the
Christ Child and the Season of Advent

Reception to follow



The Nativity by Noel Coypel

Christmas Carol Service

With the choirs from York House School and
St John's Shaughnessy

Thursday, 6 December 7pm



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

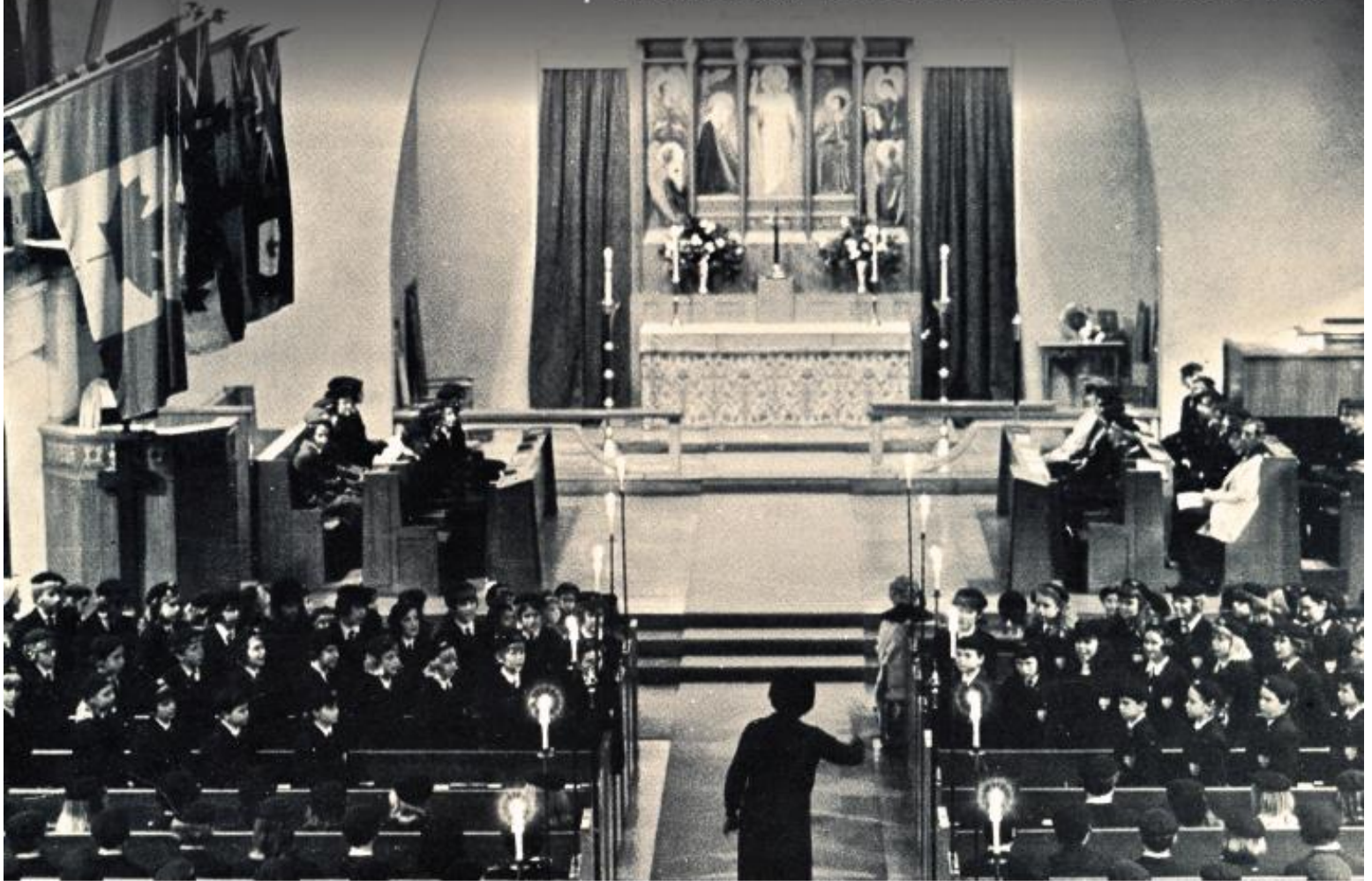
A beautiful candlelit service
followed by a reception in
the Trendell Lounge



YORK HOUSE SCHOOL

You're Invited to the
5th Annual Carol Service

Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 PM



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 7:00 PM

Many in our community have fond memories of the YHS Carol Service, which was held at St. John's Shaughnessy Church from 1950 to 1993 (photo above is from 1966).

Please join us to sing our favourite carols and to enjoy seasonal choral music with the **YHS Senior School & St. John's Shaughnessy Church Choirs** at St. John's, 1490 Nanton Avenue at Granville Street. A festive reception will follow the service.

Donations for WISH drop-in centre for women

We continue to accept **clean, used** clothing for WISH in the Downtown Eastside. Used **socks**, towels, bedding, leggings, warm coats and rain gear are in high demand. Please label your donations "WISH" or "Janet" and leave in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming SJS Events

Dec	2	Advent Carol Service	4pm
	3	Knitting Group	10am
	4	Advent Quiet Evening	7pm Trendell Lounge
	5	Scrabble Group	1:30pm
	6	Christmas Carol Service	7pm

Christmas Fair at St. Philip Dunbar Dec 1 11am

Bring friends and family to a traditional Christmas Fair, a Dunbar community event for all ages. Gifts, Attic Treasures, Preserves, Christmas Cakes, a Silent Auction, Baking, Children's Corner, and Handmade Crafts await your shopping. Then pop into the Fireside Tea Room and be served or brave the cold and get a hot dog and cocoa. A warm welcome awaits you at St Philip's.

ACW - Open House and Christmas Tea Dec 4 11am - 2pm

You are invited to see the work done by the Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of New Westminster and enjoy some Christmas fellowship and hospitality. The sweet treats are **second to none**. Please RSVP by phone 604.876.3720 and leave a message indicating your intent to attend or email acw@vancouver.anglican.ca ACW Place, 7012b Merritt Avenue, Burnaby





I bring you good news of a
great joy which will come
to all the people; for to you
is born this day a Saviour,
Christ the Lord.
Luke 2.10-11

Christmas Services

Dec 24th

5:00pm Children's Service with Communion

10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Dec 25th

10:00am Sung Eucharist



St John's
SHAUGHNESSY

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

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St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

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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
Deacon	The Reverend Dr. Pitman Potter pbpotter@live.ca
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator	Helen Kline
Rector's Warden	Judith Downes
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
Choir Director	Ann Chen
Children's Ministry	Annabelle Ip
Parish Administrator	Janet Hamilton
PWRDF Rep	Doug Symons
Sacristan and MC	Paul Bunnell (on sick leave)
Verger/caretaker	Amy Thorogood

Sunday services

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday service

9:30am Holy Communion

Please email the office if you would like our weekly newsletter sent to you.

Cover: Artwork by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com

