

From the Rector

Now that Joe is working in his own parish on Sunday mornings, I have had our three “big kids” at church with me most Sundays. They are finally mature enough to mind themselves during church (most of the time), so it works out pretty well. They can be noisy, and I’m sure you’ve probably noticed me giving them “the mom look” from the presider’s chair once in a while, but overall I am really happy that they’re able to continue to come to church, even without a parent to accompany them.

St. John’s is such an amazingly patient and welcoming community for children! Every place claims to be welcoming, and I think most places truly believe that they are. But often churches without many children don’t know how to make families comfortable. Joe and I usually visit other Anglican parishes when we travel, and I have seen a wide variety of well-intentioned but overzealous responses to our children’s presence. The most over-the-top was about six years ago, when we visited a church in Lake Tahoe at which parishioners kept offering to take George and Jeannie for a walk so that Joe and I could enjoy coffee hour. Their hearts were absolutely in the right place, but they didn’t understand that having strangers take our children away might make us nervous.

After that visit, I started asking myself, “What is it that parents are really looking for, to feel supported at church?” And over time, I came to realize that at least for me, personally, it’s acceptance. I don’t necessarily need anyone to step in and help, although sometimes when people do that, it’s wonderful and much appreciated. But parenting in spaces that are supposed to be quiet, dignified, or solemn is challenging. There is so much effort that goes into trying to preserve the atmosphere without making our children miserable. There is such a feeling of being a spectacle. When a parish can welcome parents warmly without being overbearing, and can accept the inevitable noise and mess without much to-do, it makes our participation—and that of our children—much more comfortable and natural.

Just so that you hear it and believe it: my children absolutely love it here. They love the fact that there’s a children’s corner in the front of the church. They love

to play with their friends during church, and they love that no one stops them from playing (even if I do give them the side eye when they're too rowdy). They love spending time with the teenagers who sit there and help. They love doing the crafts Mother Liz picks out for them. After only a few months, they feel at home here.

And in case you're wondering what long term impact that makes, allow me to share a story with you from a couple of weeks ago. Chatham was sitting in the children's area during the 8:00 service. When it was time for me to set the table, she tiptoed up to the altar to ask me for water. I told her I couldn't get her any, but she could help me set the table. She was so excited! She brought me things and I set up for communion, and I told her she could stay with me as long as she looked prayerful. She agreed happily. Then, when I put my arms up (into what we call orans position) for the Eucharistic prayer, Chatham put her arms up, too. It was so sweet I almost cried.

It may seem like children aren't paying attention while they're coloring or playing, but I promise you, they are. They are absorbing parts of the liturgy, and even more than that they are absorbing the sense of importance of being in this place and offering our praise to God. They are learning, right down to their core value system, that coming to church matters to their parents, and to all these other adults and children and teenagers. And they are learning that they matter to this community, enough that we want them with us—noise, messes, and all.

Thank you for welcoming my family, and all families. It is such an important ministry, and it is bearing fruit already!

Blessings,
Mother Terry+

SJS Prayer List

If you request that someone's name be added to the prayer list, please keep in touch with us. At the end of each month, all names will be removed, so you will need to add the names again at the end of each month. Please also let us know if you want someone removed from the list. Email the office (church@sjs.net) anytime! Thank you.

Greeting volunteers needed at the 10am service

We could use several more greeters. Please contact the office(church@sjns.net) for more details if you are interested in greeting on Sunday mornings.

SJS Garden Club Needs New Volunteers

It is time for the Garden Club to renew their efforts at St Johns. We hope we have some new volunteers who could join us from time to time. Or every week! Weather permitting, we meet on **Monday mornings**, but the day/time can be adjusted to accommodate other schedules. We do watering, light pruning (no saws or ladders), weeding, dividing, planting, etc. We enjoy wonderful chit chats in the safety of the outdoors. You can bring your own gloves and tools if you want to, or you can borrow ours. If you have old tools in your garage that you don't use any more, please let us know. **We are accepting donations of old garden tools.**

WNM items for Homeless Needed

Winter clothing, raingear, boots, sleeping bags, socks, pudding cups, granola bars (soft with no fruit/nuts), & juice boxes.

Financial Support - Stewardship

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help support the worship and ministry of St. John's Shaughnessy, please do! You can use this QR code (point your phone's camera at it) and it will take you to the donation page of our website. If you have recently made a contribution online or by cheque, thank you so very much! If you currently give by Pre-Authorized Donation, thank you! Our church has been affected by COVID-19 in many ways and financial giving is certainly one.



If you would like to give via monthly Pre-Authorized Donations (easy to change and easy to cancel), please contact Cynthia in the office (church@sjns.net or 604-731-4966). If you would like to give to the church using a credit card, please use the DONATE button on our website (Canada Helps on top of page one, and Paypal on the bottom of page one). Cheques may be mailed or dropped through the church mail slot.

Sunday in-person services 8am and 10am

Sunday online service

10am Holy Eucharist live-stream

Wednesday online service

8pm Midweek Meditation

Rector The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas terry.dirbas@sjs.net
Assistant Priest The Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz erceliz@vst.edu
Vestry Clerk The Reverend Karin Fulcher

Music Director Michael Dirk organist@sjs.net
Rector's Warden Judith Downes
People's Warden Maggie Sanders
Treasurer Donald Wood
Property Trustee Michael Dezell
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator Helen Kline
Altar Guild Susan Firus
Parish Administrator Janet Hamilton (Cynthia Jutras, acting)

Please email the office if you would like to have newsletters sent to you.
Newsletters, leaflets and online videos are posted on the website.

St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

Diocese of New Westminster

Anglican Church of Canada

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Offices are open by appointment only.
Email and voicemail are checked regularly and often,
so please reach out.

