

## **From the Rector**

Our parish council has recently decided to dedicate the beginning of our meetings to fellowship and formation by engaging in a book study. This year, we are reading *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Though we have just begun, I wanted to share the title with you in case you'd like to read it, too. I suspect some of the themes or examples may come up in my preaching as the year goes on.

The premise of the book is that we have allowed the presence of magnificent houses of worship—going all the way back to Solomon's Temple—to distract us from the reality that God is present everywhere, and that often the holiest of experiences take place outside the church walls. Last night, members of parish council shared with one another examples of times when we encountered God somewhere ordinary—in nature, in a small group, or while supported in a challenging time. For some of us, it took quite a bit of reflection to identify such holy moments. Speaking for myself, I shared one story, but then recalled other experiences long after our meeting ended.

On Tuesday in Holy Week, I attended the chrism mass for the diocese, at which all the clergy renew their ordination vows, and the holy oils to be used in the coming year are blessed by the bishop. At that service, our guest preacher was the Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Neil Alexander, Professor Emeritus of Liturgy and Theology at the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee. Bishop Alexander asked all of us to recall that moment when we first felt alive in our ministries, and to hold onto it—to call it to mind constantly, to let it nourish us. I think Barbara Brown Taylor is calling us to do the same thing. She asks us to recall, over and over again, where we have met the living God, and to hold fast to those experiences of what she calls “More.”

What about you? Where has the holy touched your own life? When was there a moment when you thought to yourself, “Wow, God is in this place!” These are places we might set up an altar, if not physically then in our own hearts and minds, to help us mark that experience as something we can cherish and allow to nourish us going forward.

Love,  
Mother Terry+

Dear Abbey,

*I noticed at the end of the Maundy Thursday service, Mother Terry seemed to be washing the altar with something. Was that oil or water? And why did she do that?*

Sincerely,  
Maundy Musings

Dear Musings,

Following the service of Maundy Thursday, it is the tradition of the church, going back to the seventh century, to wash the altar. St. Isadore of Seville mentions this custom, which apparently extended even to the washing of the pavement of the church, in commemoration of Jesus' washing his disciples feet. This action is also found in the rubrics of the Maundy Thursday service of the Sarum Missal: "After reflection, let the Clergy assemble at church to wash the Altars... First, let the water be blessed in the usual way . . . begin at the High Altar and wash it, pouring on it wine and water."

While our present-day ceremony is not as elaborate as years past, and while different churches observe the washing of the altar in different ways (some with wine and water, some with water only), Christians continue this ritual as a connection with our forebears in faith. As it follows the stripping of the altar, which calls to mind the way Jesus was stripped and flogged, the washing of the altar is often theologically understood as reflection upon preparing the body of our Lord for burial.

Happy Easter!  
Abbey



Vancouver Civic Theatres present  
Silent Movie Mondays:

Our organist Michael Dirk will make his full-feature debut at the Orpheum Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm improvising a sound track on the historic Mighty Wurlitzer organ to the 100 year old feature **'Safety Last'** starring **Harold Lloyd**. Retired SJS organist Ed Norman will offer 'The General' June 5th, and Michael returns for three Chaplin shorts July 10th.

<https://vancouvercivictheatres.com/events/vct-silent-movie-mondays-safety-last-may-1-2023/>

**Looking for something this summer for kids?** Always wished there was a place to invite families over the summer to grow deeper in faith, play in community, and grow together in

Camp is coming want you! This of a vacation bible by Lauren Odile Youth and Family Church Cathedral Missioner for Reverend. Alex



love? Aspire Bible this summer, and we collaborative offering camp, spearheaded Pinkney, Children, Minister at Christ and Diocesan Youth and the Wilson Vicar of St.

Anslem's, seeks to offer an accessible vacation bible camp experience for parishes of any size.

Partnering with **the Reverend Terry Dirbas at St. John's Shaughnessy** and the Reverend Laurel Dykstra of Salal and Cedar, Aspire Bible Camp runs from July 17-21, and is made possible by grant funding from the diocesan Anglican Initiatives Fund and the Parish Ministry Development department Together we will hire youth to help deliver the program, working alongside mentors, as they develop their own leadership while engaging with kids of all backgrounds. We can't wait for what is going to be a summer of real fun together!

Have a passion for ministry with kids, training in *Godly Play* or *Messy Church*, or know of a youth/young adult who might want to work with us? [Contact Lauren by email to find out more.](#)

Parishes are invited to participate in the drop off and pick up, as well as hosting snack times. This will give them the ability to engage with the parents and celebrate the joys of kids learning together about Jesus.

Registration opens now, and the \$75 fee gives kids a limited edition Aspire Bible Camp T-shirt and snacks everyday. We ask that participants bring their own lunches.

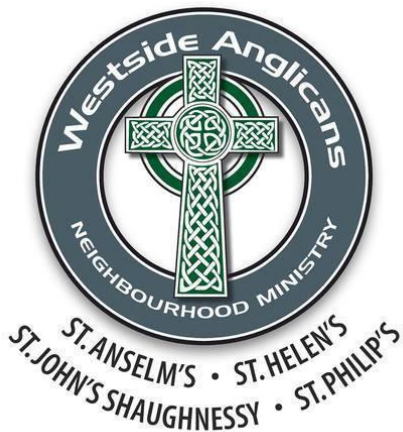


CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR presents  
**EASTER EVENSONG**  
Sunday April 30 - 3:30pm

A celebration of the 400th anniversary of the music of

*William Byrd 1539-1623*

including his tour de force Evening Canticles of "The Great Service"  
and his Easter motet - Haec Dies



**The St John's WANM indoor team is looking for another team member.** Specifically, this person will be added to the roster of people that coordinate with the outdoor team. This means very occasionally attending at the parish on a Saturday morning for an hour or so and handing our packets and lunches to the outdoor team.



## WNM items for Homeless Needed

Thank you so much for your kind donations! We are **low on protein** (small cans of tuna or chicken), and as always, **socks**. We are quite well stocked at the moment for other items.

Come hear the St. Stephen's Community Singers as they sing **Music From the British Isles** on this coming Sunday, April 23, 2023 from 2 to 3:30pm, at St. Stephen Anglican Church, 885 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, West Vancouver.



## **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](mailto:church@sjs.net)) anytime! Thank you.

## **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 Ann in the office ([church.office@sjs.net](mailto:church.office@sjs.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.

## ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to our mailing list, so that we may let you know about upcoming events.

### Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector [terry.dirbas@sjs.net](mailto:terry.dirbas@sjs.net)  
The Reverend James Hwang, Curate [jhwang@sjs.net](mailto:jhwang@sjs.net)  
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assisting Priest  
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, Honorary Deacon  
The Reverend Pitman Potter, Honorary Deacon  
Michael Dirk, Music Director [organist@sjs.net](mailto:organist@sjs.net)  
Jaime Yoon, Interim Choir Director [jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net](mailto:jaime.yoon@sjsparish.net)  
Ann Houghton, Interim Parish Administrator [church.office@sjs.net](mailto:church.office@sjs.net)  
Patrick Mahon, Verger

### Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector  
Ken Pepin, Rector's Warden  
Joan Stewart, People's Warden  
Mike Dezell  
Catherine Holmen



1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2  
(604) 731-4966  
[www.sjs.net](http://www.sjs.net)