

## **From the Curate**

The 122<sup>nd</sup> Diocesan Synod of 2023 was held last week. One of the most heated discussions was around the resolution on homelessness and housing affordability. The task force team did a thorough study on this issue for the past 14 months to review how we can understand the problem and how we would engage with the issue. The priorities set by the task force team were 'creating a clear affordable housing vision', 'increase training/skill building/education', 'enhance partnerships and collaboration', 'become visible advocates', and 'provide generous financial support'.

Most of the present delegates were in favor of taking on this project for the upcoming years. We all know Anglican church, at individual, parish, and diocesan levels, has been already putting efforts to relieve the pain and struggle of people on the street and help the marginalized find an affordable housing plan.

Still, not just the downtown east side but the whole province, the country, and the world are struggling with economic polarization and an increasing number of people who are deprived of basic necessary needs. Overwhelmed by the depth and width of the problem, I was rather helpless while seeing this as a problem that would not be solved ever. How can we provide affordable housing for all of them? Would a house solely help them get back to be on their own feet? It always seemed to me something beyond our capacity.

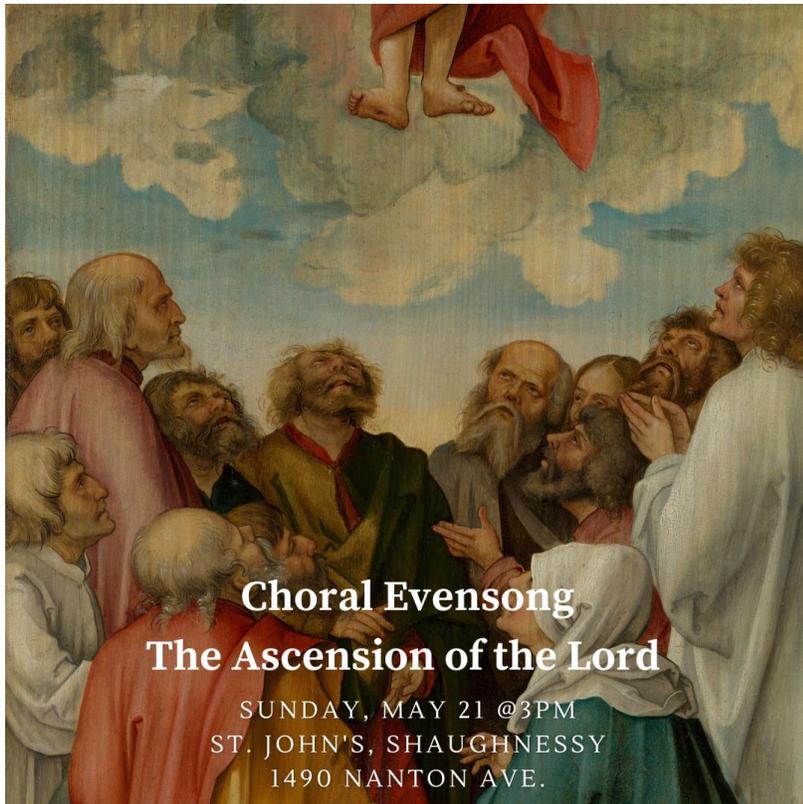
However, on second thought, the eventual goal of this project may not be only changing them, or changing society. It may be more relevant to changing us, and changing the church. We may not be able to provide a house to everyone. However, would it be possible to create a home for all where we consider and care for every one in our neighborhood as a family? We can definitely stand with them, listen to their stories, and find hope together. Furthermore, we will find more hands and voices that have been out there already, once we put ourselves out of our comfort zone. Probably, with the given limits of resources, whatever we do might not solve all problems. However, if we see this as God's way of transforming, we will be able to change our way of seeing and engaging with the world as Christians are called to be. As we help our brothers and sisters find long forgotten hopes and dreams, I am sure we rediscover ours as well.

Fr. James

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Do you have a question about church, liturgy, Anglicanism, etc.? Is there something you've always wanted to ask but thought you should already know? Send those questions to Mother Terry at [terry.dirbas@sjs.net](mailto:terry.dirbas@sjs.net). All questions will remain anonymous.

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## **Choral Evensong and Organ Recital**

**May 21 at 3pm**

Join us this Sunday afternoon May 21 for a festive choral evensong in observance of the feast of the Ascension. Our musicians will offer beautiful music, including works of William Smith, T.A. Walmisley, C.V. Stanford, Olivier Messiaen, and more! The service will conclude with a Solemn Te Deum in thanksgiving for the Ascension as well as for the coronation of King Charles III. Seasonal libations will follow, as always.

**Another special treat: our evensong and reception will be followed by an organ recital!** Isaac Howie, semi-finalist in the RCCO National Organ Competition, will offer a free organ recital for our enjoyment.

*Vancouverite Isaac Howie has always loved making music. A student of piano and composition since early childhood, his musical career has included founding a jazz trio; composing and performing for concert bands; publishing electronic music; and winning awards for solo piano. He entered the University of British Columbia at 15, where he currently studies organ under the mentorship of Professor Michael Dirk. Alongside his pursuit of a BMus, Isaac is Organist at Holy Family Parish in Vancouver; he holds an ARCT in piano and studies harpsichord with Alex Weimann. In 2021, Isaac was division winner of the Vancouver Chamber Choir's Young Composers' Competition. In his spare time, Isaac enjoys building computers and translating Ancient Greek texts.*



### **The ACW, Diocese of New Westminster's 56th Annual General Meeting**

will be held May 27, 2023 at St. Thomas Anglican Church,  
2444 E 41st Ave., Vancouver. Registration is at 9:30am.

Morning Eucharist celebrant will be  
the Right Reverend Bishop John Stephens.  
Guest speaker after the catered lunch will be  
Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director of the  
Anglican Foundation of Canada.

Cost- \$20-includes coffee and muffins at registration  
as well as lunch.

Contact Alberta Rudolf by email if you are interested in  
attending. [email-alberta.rudolf@gmail.com](mailto:email-alberta.rudolf@gmail.com)



## **Small Group for Spiritual Practice Living Water**

**May 23 - June 20 (5 Tuesdays)**  
7:00pm - 8:00pm

in person at St. John's Shaughnessy  
Facilitated by James Hwang and Karin Fulcher

Using scriptures and literature related to the metaphor of water,  
we will find God in our hearts and within our daily lives.

It will be a time for us to revisit our spiritual thirst,  
stillness of mind, changes of life, healing, and prayer  
throughout the 5 week course.

Each session will last about an hour  
and involve reflection and sharing.

Please register: [jhwang@sjs.net](mailto:jhwang@sjs.net)



**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 love? Aspire Bible Camp is coming this summer, and we want you! This collaborative offering of a

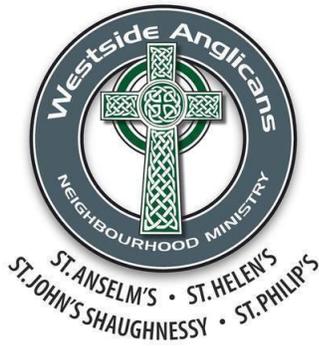
vacation bible camp, spearheaded by Lauren Odile Pinkney, Children, Youth and Family Minister at Christ Church Cathedral and Diocesan Missioner for Youth and the Reverend. Alex Wilson Vicar of St. Anselm's, seeks to offer an accessible vacation bible camp experience for parishes of any size.

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.



**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.

### **Sox and Protein items for Homeless Needed**

Thank you so much for your kind donations!

Small cans of tuna, chicken or sardines are needed as well as **socks.**

We are quite well stocked at the moment for other items.



### **Postlude from Michael Dirk, Music Director**

Though this afternoon will offer a more authentic ascension postlude by Messiaen, to musically acknowledge Ascension I've traditionally offered JS Bach's organ transcription of Vivaldi's 'The Great Moghul' violin concerto RV 208: [https://youtu.be/VDdHsK5y\\_Fo](https://youtu.be/VDdHsK5y_Fo)

It's a bit of a music-theory 'pun' as the Allegro movement is in 'ritornello' form (to 'return' - akin to Jesus returning to Heaven) in addition to the opening ascending scales with the 'Hallelujah'-like chords (though Handel wasn't to compose his famed chorus for another 35 years). Its musical merit should be considered quite significant for JS Bach to transcribe it along with two other Vivaldi concertos for organ when he was in his mid-twenties serving as court organist and music director for the Duke of Weimar. Bach would often include crafty divine musical-mathematical references - and I find the end of the piece rather fitting to have 3 statements of ascending scale concluding with a unison finish... as if musically 'tipping the hat' that Jesus ascended, and now home with the Father and Spirit: three in one.

A 'concerto' is a concert work/piece for a soloist and orchestra - this is represented on our organ by the middle keyboards (manual 2 & 3) pipework serving as the orchestra - sounding from the main organ chamber, and the soloist represented on the pipework that protrudes out from the main chamber (lowest keyboard) and the gallery pipework (uppermost keyboard): <https://youtu.be/6I7pN-WinkY>



This piece is of great significance to me as it was the first organ piece I 'fell in love with' and attempted to learn from age 10 onwards. My childhood weekly piano lesson was a bit of a drive from Surrey to the Langley Community Music School. My younger sister and I would be picked up from school for the 30 min drive, have our back-to-back lessons with Carl Montgomery, and if the lessons went 'well', we'd be treated to a drive-through McD ice-cream treat on our way home through Cloverdale, and then over to Public Library. I'm still astonished to this day that they had such a comprehensive organ CD collection

which I could borrow up to 10 at a time... which I maxed out every visit. It was Westminster Abbey organist Simon Preston's Deutsche-Grammophone recording of Bach's 5 organ transcriptions I would ultimately take out week after week, and made a mixed tape of this one movement repeated over and over. I was hooked! The exquisite performance on the 1986 Führer organ of St. Mary's Cathedral, Lübeck, Germany; coupled with a tremendously successful recording balance of both instrument and reverberant acoustic- 23m:34s start Concerto III:

<https://youtu.be/saMVVpMMPuu0>

I would suggest it be of Divine providence that Ward Music of Langley would have a Novello collection of Bach's organ transcriptions which would become my very first organ score purchase of a mere \$11 back in 1992. Thankfully my piano teacher was most supportive and had taken organ secondary lessons with St Helen organist Fred Geoghegan during his UBC piano studies (SJS organist Ed Norman would be Fred's successor as UBC organ prof).

I would meet Simon Preston at a concert he gave as part of the 2001 Holy Rosary Cathedral organ re-dedication series. In 2001, Denis Bédard moved from Quebec City to be organist-composer at Holy Rosary and succeed Ed Norman at UBC - as his student learned many of his works. Both prelude and postlude for Pentecost come from his 2003 Fantasie on the Pentecost hymn tune Veni Creator Spiritus (Come Creator Spirit), a 9th century Gregorian chant melody attributed to Frankish Benedictine monk Rabanus Maurus.

## **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



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