

From the Rector

Earlier this week, Joe and I were interviewing a new therapist for our son, James, who is on the autism spectrum. As she was playing with him to get to know his needs, we watched with delight as he showed off the new skills he has acquired in recent months—identifying shapes, colours, numbers, letters, and saying so many words! But we also engaged in conversation with the therapist about James' history and our family background. We felt a very good rapport from the outset.

What stood out to me, though, was that when she asked us what we did for a living and found out that we were both priests, she seemed very happy to make a connection. "Oh, I'm Christian, too!" she said. So often, when I tell strangers about my vocation, I am met with surprise or awkwardness. This was the first encounter I have had, in Canada, in which I discovered a common interest with someone around our shared Christian faith.

As I reflect on this, it occurs to me that these days, it can be lonely to be a Christian. We are expected to keep our faith to ourselves unless someone asks us about it. I hear from my children that they are one of only a few people in their entire class whose families are Christian. They have been ridiculed for it in the past, and now they mostly keep quiet about it. I would imagine that most of us have made similar decisions, at some point, for the very same reasons.

While I don't recommend standing out on a streetcorner with a neon posterboard, it does occur to me that if we don't take the risk of declaring our faith to other people, from time to time, we won't have the opportunity to make connections like Joe and I made with James' therapist this week. It clearly meant a great deal to her to know that even in the course of her work life, she is not alone in being a person of faith.

As a church community, one of the most important things we do is support one another in our life of faith. We encourage one another. We check in on one another and offer a listening ear or a helping hand. We celebrate each other's successes. We try to remind ourselves and one another that we are not alone in this life, and we are not alone in this journey of faith, wherever we might find ourselves on its path. But I would encourage us to remember that this same work extends beyond the family of this congregation. People in our daily lives may be walking that path of faith, and not feeling support. Just knowing that we are making the same pilgrimage may offer them some much-needed comfort and encouragement.

What do we say? Whatever the Holy Spirit tells us to say in the moment. Jesus urges us not to be anxious about that. But my prayer for us all is that, despite the uncertain responses we may face, we will grow in our courage to share our faith with others in our lives.

Blessings,
Mother Terry+

A Prayer for the Coronation of King Charles III

Bishop John Stephens has asked that the following prayer be shared and offered in diocesan parishes and personal prayers leading up to/and on the day of the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
to the honour of your name,
and the good of your Church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Community Engagement Update

Several of us gathered for a conversation about community engagement on Tuesday evening. There was some energy around hosting a tea for the neighbourhood, but we also decided we need to hold some more events within the congregational community first, so that we know each other better before we plan a bigger event.

We also noted several upcoming events that will bring the larger community onto our campus: an evening prayer being offered by Deacon Pitman's musical group, the Neighbourhood Gospel Band; the Vacation Bible Camp being organized by the diocese and hosted at SJS; and the Neighbourhood Gospel Band concert in October to benefit the Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry. We talked about promoting these events through social media, including the use of Facebook ads, as well as having materials to share with people when they are here that let them know about other upcoming events and activities at the parish. We will keep the conversation going and send another invitation before we hold our next Zoom gathering, so please join us next time! If you have ideas before our next gathering, please send them to Mother Terry at terry.dirbas@sjs.net.



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.



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.

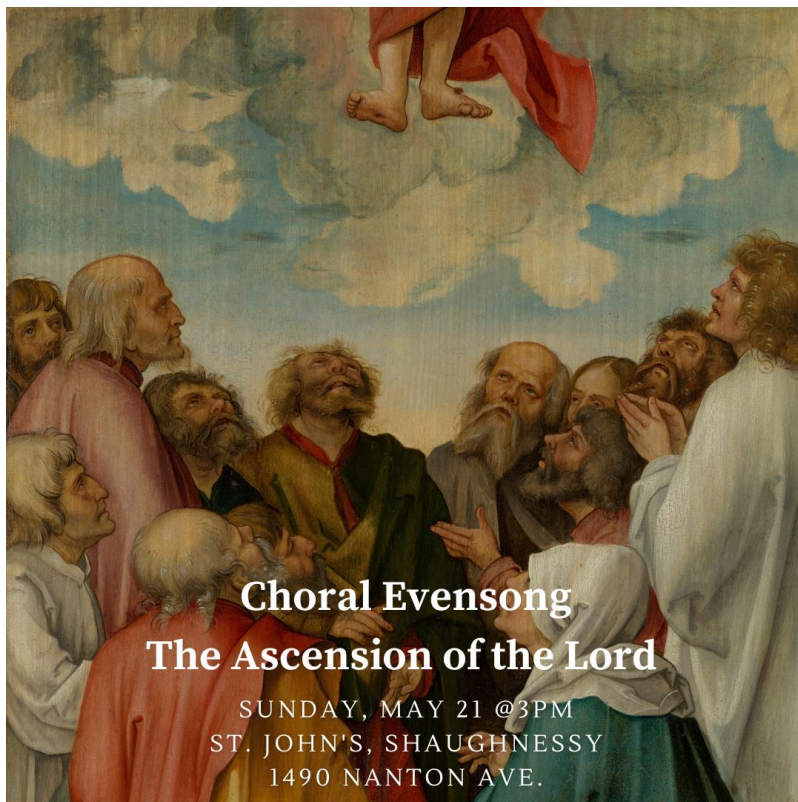
Partnering with **the Reverend Terry Dirbas at St. John's Shaughnessy** and the Reverend Laurel Dykstra of Salal and Cedar, Aspire Bible Camp runs from July 17-21, and is made possible by grant funding from the diocesan Anglican Initiatives Fund and the Parish Ministry Development department Together 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.

Music Notes



Choral Evensong for The Ascension of the Lord Sunday, May 21 at 3 p.m.

Join us for a beautiful choral evensong on May 21, as we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends to church, particularly those who are music lovers. Please help us spread the word!

As usual, we will have seasonal libations afterward. If you would like to assist with this reception, please contact the parish office.

Silent Movie Mondays at the Orpheum Theatre - Our organist Michael Dirk made his full-feature debut at the Orpheum Monday May 1st 7:30pm improvising a soundtrack on the historic Mighty WurliTzer organ to the 100 year old feature **'Safety Last'** starring Harold Lloyd, preceded by an animated short film also from 1923. Both wonderful films, made before sound was introduced, were enhanced with the sounds from the Mighty WurliTzer Organ played brilliantly by Vancouver Civic Organist (and organist at St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church) - the one and only Michael Dirk.

There are two more Silent Movie Mondays so check them out! Well worth the experience! (please see the advert below)



Following the movies Harold Lloyd's granddaughter Suzanne, shared memories of her family growing up.

Vancouver Civic Theatres present
Silent Movie Mondays:

On May 1st our organist Michael Dirk improvised 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/>

LAUDATE SINGERS & PARAGON SINGERS
WITH ORGANIST ANGELIQUE PO

Classical Europe



COME WITH US TO AUSTRIA AND CZECHIA AS WE EXPLORE THE WORLDS OF MOZART, SCHUBERT, HAYDN AND ZELENKA. ALSO FEATURING CANADIAN PIECES BY SEWEPAGAHAM, MCINTYRE AND A NEW COMMISSION FROM COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE ANDRÉ LUIZ MACHADO.

8PM FRIDAY MAY 5, 2023
WEST VANCOUVER UNITED CHURCH
2062 ESQUIMALT AVE., WEST VANCOUVER

TICKETS: ADULT \$35, SENIOR \$30, UNDER 35 \$10 / LIVESTREAM: \$20
FOR MORE INFO, VISIT US ONLINE AT LAUDATESINGERS.COM
INFO@LAUDATESINGERS.COM • 604-729-6814

All programming and COVID-19 protocols subject to change.



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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.

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 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
The Reverend James Hwang, Curate jhwang@sjs.net
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, Honorary Assisting Priest
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, Honorary Deacon
The Reverend Pitman Potter, Honorary Deacon
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Patrick Mahon, Verger

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