

Dear friends in Christ,

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, many of us will engage in an exercise of “counting our blessings.” In my personal prayers, I give thanks every day that God has called me to be your rector. I am thankful for the friendships I’ve formed with so many of you, for the honour and privilege of accompanying you through the ups and downs of life, and for the good work this congregation is doing in our community and the world for the sake of the Gospel.

As I consider all this, I find myself returning to the letters of Paul, whose own thankfulness overflows in his writing. Repeatedly, he expresses gratitude for the communities to whom he writes, and he encourages them to cultivate that same orientation toward thankfulness. In fact, he mentions thanks dozens of times in his epistles! “Do not worry about anything,” he says, “but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

Paul recognizes that gratitude is essential to living joyfully. Even amid incredibly challenging and painful chapters of our lives, we can be grateful for our loved ones, for our daily bread, and for the love of God which never leaves us, even in our darkest hour. That kind of deep gratitude is not simply something we feel—it is a practice, a virtue we must cultivate by forming a habit of thankfulness. While this gratitude might be expressed in a variety of ways, I would encourage you to follow Paul’s advice and make it a part of your prayer life.

One of my favourite prayers is “A General Thanksgiving” from the Book of Alternative Services (page 129). I am particularly fond of the way it invites us to consider where the blessings might be, in every season and circumstance of our lives.



Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us. We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

As we prepare to share a meal of gratitude, let us each take time to recall all the blessings of this life—blessings of food, of family, of friendship, of faith; blessings of shelter, of education, of opportunity; and so many more. Let us give thanks for all the resources available to us, and let us pray about how we might share them in order to promote a world in which the Good News is fully realized, where all people's needs are met, and all people know the love of God and neighbour.

If you would like to make a special offering as an expression of your gratitude this holiday, you will find envelopes in the church for that purpose. You may also donate online at www.sjs.net. Your gift will support the mission and ministry of St. John's, Shaughnessy, as we seek to share God's love and abundance with the world.

May you have a safe, happy, and healthy Thanksgiving with those you love, and may we all continue to grow in gratitude for the many blessings God has so richly bestowed on us.

Faithfully,
Mother Terry+



TAIZÉ PRAYER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH AT 6PM

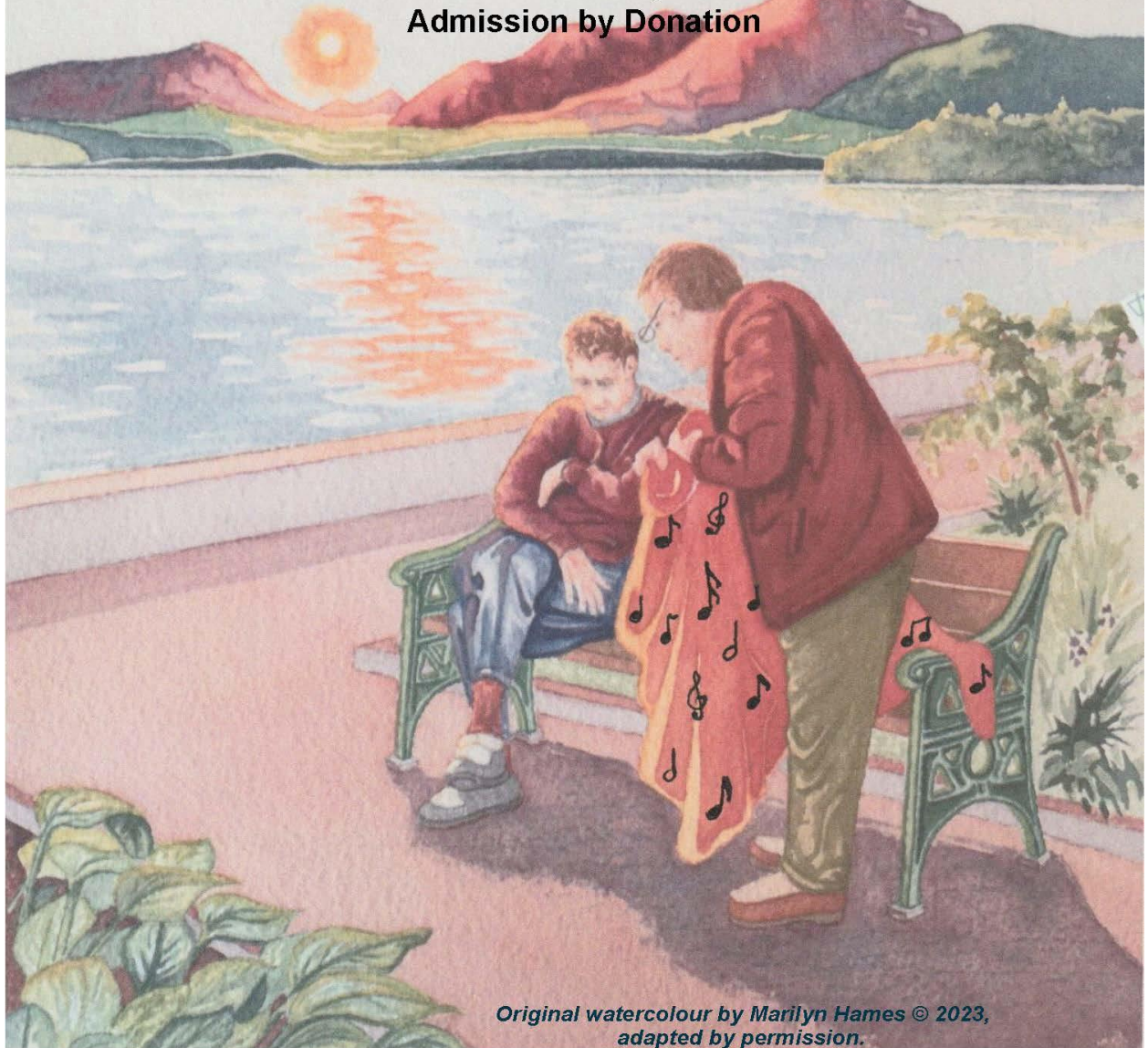
ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY
1490 NANTON AVE

Taizé is a form of Christian prayer originating from the ecumenical Christian community of Taizé in France.

One is invited to rest in God through the singing of psalm verses and other simple chants, alternating with periods of silent reflection.

Benefit Concert
For
The Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry
With
Neighbourhood Gospel Band
Special Guest Jim Byrnes

Sunday, October 15, 2023 4:00pm
St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church
1490 Nanton Avenue, Vancouver
Admission by Donation



Original watercolour by Marilyn Hames © 2023,
adapted by permission.



Small Group for Spiritual Practice A Tree of Life

Oct 17th - Nov 21st (5 Tuesdays, no session on Nov 7th)
7:00pm - 8:00pm

in person at St. John's parish

Facilitated by James Hwang and Karin Fulcher

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

It will be a time for us to find God-seed in us, be rooted in God,
connect inner and outer life, discover seasons of our journey,
and open a fruitful life throughout 5 weeks course.

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

If you are interested or have any questions,
Please email : jhwang@sjs.net



Solemn Choral Evensong

for All Faithful Departed

with prayers for those who have been
laid to rest in the Garden of Remembrance

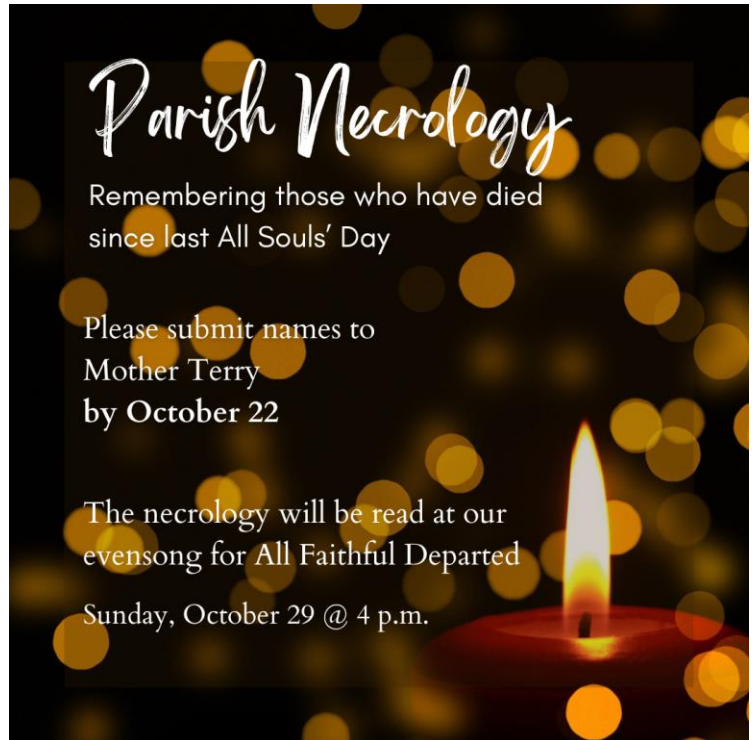
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 4 P.M.
ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY
1490 NANTON AVE.

Parish Necrology:

**Please submit names by
October 22**

At our choral evensong on October 29, we will observe the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed. While this is a service to remember all those who have gone before us, there is also a long tradition of reading the parish necrology, or list of those who have died since the last All Souls' Day.

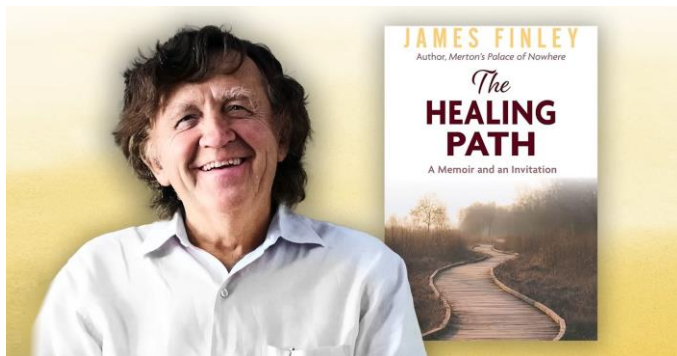
If you have family members or close friends who have died in the past year, please submit their names to Mother Terry by October 22. Please also reach out to their loved ones to let them know about the worship service, and that they will be named in our prayers that evening. Often their relatives will choose to attend, and it can serve as a wonderful way to offer support to those who are still grieving.



Trick-or-Treating at Church Sunday, October 29 after the 10 a.m. service

Children and “children at heart” are invited to wear costumes to church the morning of October 29. (Please keep costumes “family friendly.”) After the service, young people are invited to trick-or-treat around the church. Volunteers to host a station for trick-or-treating are needed. We would also be grateful for

donations of candy for this event. **Please contact Father James to sign up or for more information.** Thank you!



**The Healing Path:
A Memoir and an Invitation
A Zoom Event on Sat Oct 7
With James Finley, Ph.D.**
Student of Thomas Merton,
contemplative practitioner and
Clinical Psychologist

Join us as Jim Finley guides us through an exploration of his latest book ***The Healing Path: A Memoir and an Invitation***. Hosted by Heather Ruce and Carol Hekman, our time together will include a talk from Jim on the book's themes, question and response, and contemplative practice.

The Healing Path: A Memoir and an Invitation: The book explores the spirituality of healing, the fruit of the author's lifetime in conducting spiritual direction and psychotherapy, drawing on his lessons from Thomas Merton and study of the mystical path. It is primarily written as a memoir of his recovery from the traumatic wounds of his early life (abusive father, abuse by his confessor in the monastery, a dysfunctional marriage, and his road to healing and wholeness). But it is not just about his story—it is an invitation to the reader to reflect and resonate with the lessons that apply to their own stories.

Registration: Pay from the Heart – \$10 – \$50 (Please be generous!)

The Event will be recorded and made available for a limited time after the event to all who have registered.

Schedule for the Day (in PST):

10:00 Session 1

11:30 Break

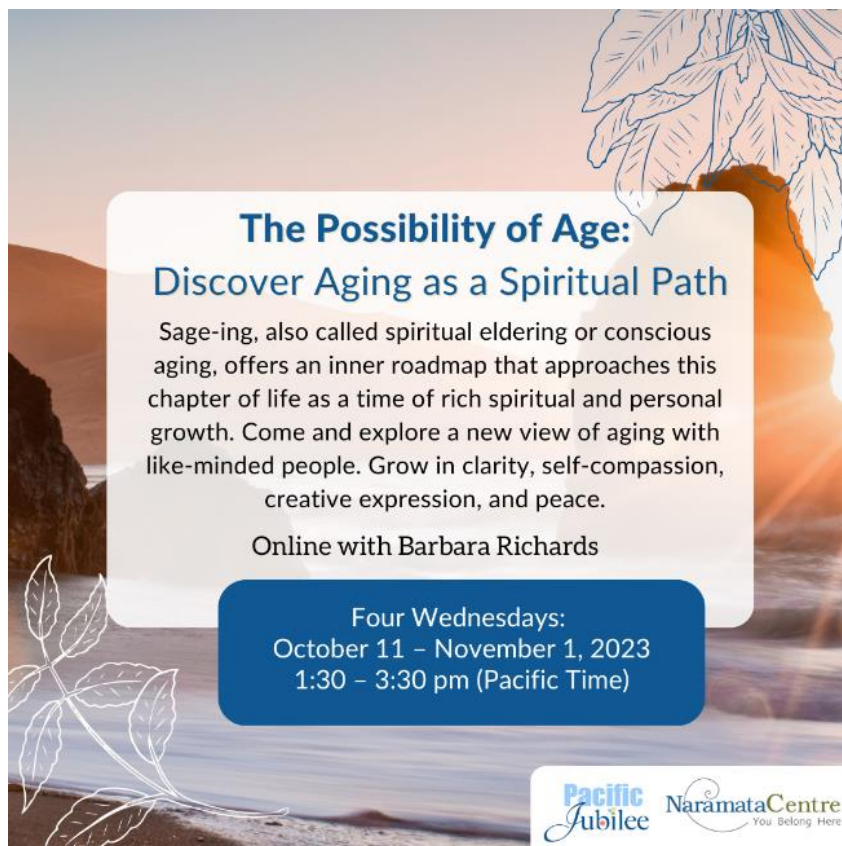
11:50 Session 2

1:30 Close

In collaboration with The Contemplative Society. More info:

lorie@loriemartin.com

To Register: <https://www.contemplative.org/events2/the-healing-path-a-memoir-and-an-invitation-with-jim-finley/>



The Possibility of Age: Discover Aging as a Spiritual Path

Sage-ing, also called spiritual eldering or conscious aging, offers an inner roadmap that approaches this chapter of life as a time of rich spiritual and personal growth. Come and explore a new view of aging with like-minded people. Grow in clarity, self-compassion, creative expression, and peace.

Online with Barbara Richards

Four Wednesdays:
October 11 – November 1, 2023
1:30 – 3:30 pm (Pacific Time)

Pacific
Jubilee

NaramataCentre
You Belong Here

The Possibility of Age: Discover Aging as a Spiritual Path

Live Online with
Barbara Richards.

Four Wednesdays: October
11 – November 1, 2023 1:30
– 3:30 pm Pacific Time.

*Are you facing the uncharted
post-career years, wondering
what's next?*

Many of us who are
approaching the third
chapter of life feel unsettled,

restless, and adrift. We sense the years 55 to 80+ can be some of our best, but we don't know how to navigate the changes that come with aging. Sage-ing, also called spiritual eldering or conscious aging, offers an inner roadmap that approaches this chapter of life as a time of rich spiritual and personal growth – a time that can bring gifts not available in earlier decades.

In this series, our inner work will include:

- transforming our images of aging ·
- cultivating the consciousness of a wise elder ·
- harvesting our wisdom through life review ·
- healing our past through forgiveness and recontextualizing ·
- embracing our mortality in order to live more fully ·
- envisioning ways of creating legacy that is our gift to the future

Come and explore a new view of aging with like-minded people. Grow in clarity, self-compassion, creative expression, and peace. This event is offered through the partnership of Pacific Jubilee and Naramata Centre. The cost for four two-hour sessions via Zoom is \$172.00

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

!!HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR!!



The original organ for St John's, Shaughnessy was an 'organ transplant' from Canton, Ohio's CrossRoads United Church containing 1478 pipes crafted in 1920 by the Estey organ company for their opus 1869. By the early 60s this instrument was due for a significant overhaul, and it was determined more cost effective to replace with new, which also enticed the prospective organist Fred Carter to immigrate from Armagh Ireland to SJS. The \$85k (equivalent to 3 Shaughnessy homes at the time) contract was awarded to the Hallman organ company of Kitchner Ontario.

What was salvageable of the redundant Estey organ was incorporated into a hybrid house

theatre style organ in Victoria. When the 3600 pipes of the Hallman arrived in 1968, it enjoyed the title of being GVRD's largest pipe organ until 2001. In addition to its grand size, it has several novel features: two sets of pipes which sound below audible range (16Hz); 9 sets of pipes sounding antiphonally from the gallery, a horizontal copper state trumpet, a gallery console and movable master console on the chancel. Though having had exceptional care for decades by local technician Marianne Huestis, by its 50th year, it too needed a significant overhaul. Headed up by Music Director Michael Dirk and the exceptional talents of Steve Miller of Calgary, the electronics were updated from analog to digital, and several other enhancements including a few more ranks (oboe, clarinet, flute, and string), chimes, new silent blowers and swell expression motors.

Dedicated Oct 28, 1968 by Archbishop Godfrey Gower, the 55th anniversary will be celebrated the night prior on Friday Oct 27, 7:30pm by local members of the Royal Canadian College of Organists Vancouver Centre (for whom Michael Dirk serves as co-president). This free/by-donation recital features local organists dressing up in costume and offering the spookiest and scariest music written for the 'king of instruments' (Bach Toccata & Fugue in d minor, Phantom of the Opera, Böellmann's Suite Gothique etc). Costumes are encouraged, and there are Halloween treats for the kids and the young at heart!





Upcoming Events

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

6 p.m. Taizé Prayer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Benefit Concert for the
Westside Anglican
Neighbourhood Ministry
*featuring the Neighbourhood
Gospel Band, with special guest
Jim Byrnes. Reception to follow.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:30 p.m.

18th Annual RCCO
Organ Spooktacular
Halloween Concert

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

4 p.m. Choral Evensong
for All Faithful Departed

EVERY THURSDAY

10 a.m. Healing Eucharist and Bible Study

St. John's, Shaughnessy
1490 NANTON AVE.

Calendar

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@sj.s.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@sj.s.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	
Michael Dirk, Principal Organist and Artist-in-Residence	organist@sjs.net
Ann Houghton, Interim Parish Administrator	church.office@sjs.net

Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector	terry.dirbas@sjs.net
Ken Pepin, Rector's Warden	ken.pepin@sjsparish.net
Joan Stewart, People's Warden	joan.stewart@sjsparish.net
Mike Dezell	mike.dezell@sjsparish.net
Catherine Holmen	catherine.holmen@sjsparish.net



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