

From the Rector

We had a very successful annual vestry meeting last Sunday. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and to those who gave presentations, who supported our audiovisual needs, and who hosted coffee for us.



In my remarks at the end of the meeting, I noted that our parish has been growing. Our average attendance for 2023 was 85! For the first full year without Covid restrictions, that's fantastic!

Last year, I challenged us to dedicate ourselves to welcoming visitors—not just saying hello, but encouraging them to come to coffee hour, and finding an opportunity to introduce them to others. This parish has always been a welcoming place, but you went above and beyond. It has been a beautiful thing, to see people actively incorporating newcomers into conversations in the Trendell Lounge, and working to make sure they meet lots of people. Well done, everyone, and keep up the good work!

This year, though, I want to challenge us to go a step further—in 2024, let's commit not only to welcoming people when they walk in the door, but to finding ways to invite people to come experience the joy and the friendship we find here. That doesn't necessarily have to be for a Sunday morning service—there is so much happening at St. John's that we can invite people to!

We now hold evensong on the second Sunday of every month. (The one on March 10 is going to be extraordinary, as the University Singers will be here to share some truly amazing music with us as we worship. We will also have a light reception afterward.) Our Holy Week services are some of the finest in Vancouver—even people who aren't

regular churchgoers may want to experience the richness of those liturgies. Our Maundy Thursday potluck soup supper is always a great time for community-building, as well, and would be a wonderful time to invite a friend. As spring goes on, we'll have more formation offerings, a grief support event, and an exciting fundraiser, among other activities.

If you have an idea for another event or activity we could host that might make it easy to invite people in and get to know them, please let us know—we'd love to explore other opportunities for incorporating new people into the parish.

Why am I giving us this challenge for 2024, especially when we're already growing anyway? Because it isn't about numbers—it's about love! Think about the ways your participation in this parish has blessed your life. If we have found something meaningful and inspiring here in this community and in our worship, why wouldn't we want to share it with other people?

The Power of an Invite:

Why people came to church:

6-8%	Came by own initiative
8-10%	Liked the clergy
3-4%	Had a need met by the church
1-2%	Were evangelized
75-85%	Were invited by a friend

The average is that 83% of people came to church because a friend invited them to come.



I encourage you to think of two people you might invite to something at church—a concert, a fellowship event, or a worship service. Pray for those two people every day. And when the time is right, invite them to something happening at SJS that you think they would enjoy. **We have so much to offer to each other, and to the community.** Let's keep up the good work we're doing in our worship, in our service to those in need, and in building and deepening relationships with one another. And let's look for ways to reach out and invite others to find the same joy we've found.

Warmly,
Mother Terry+

Tuesday Evening Lenten Study

March 5, 12, & 19 at 7pm

Now on Zoom!

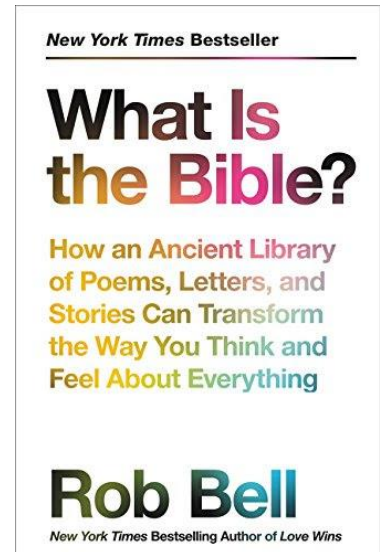
Link: [Tuesday Evening Formation Series](#)

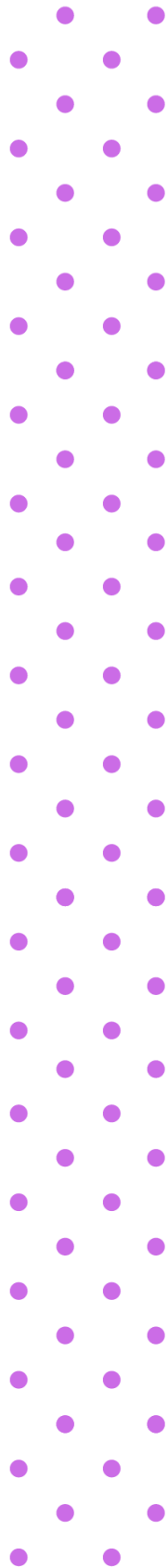
By popular demand, the Tuesday evening Lenten series has moved to Zoom. All are welcome to join us!

As a reminder, our conversations are loosely drawn from the book *What is the Bible?* by Rob Bell, but it is not necessary to have done the reading to participate in the discussion.

Next week, we'll talk about dualistic thinking in our daily lives and in religious thought. I'll offer some background on Jewish dietary laws at the time of the New Testament, and we'll discuss Peter's vision that all things were made clean. If time allows, we'll also discuss the story of Jonah.

If you'd like to read before class, please take a look at chapters 13 & 22 in Rob Bell's book. Please also read Jonah (the whole book—don't worry, it's short!), and chapter 10 in the Acts of the Apostles.





Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

7 p.m. Marc D'Anjou Organ Concert

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

4 p.m. Choral Evensong

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

10 a.m. Lenten Mini-Retreat

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

7 p.m. Parish Council Meeting (in person)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

TBD Palm Cross Making

TUESDAYS IN LENT

7 p.m. Zoom Study Group

EVERY THURSDAY

9 a.m. Labyrinth Open for Meditation

10 a.m. Healing Eucharist and Bible Study

St. John's, Shaughnessy
1490 NANTON AVE.

Calendar

Taizé

Lent 2024 Sundays @ 7 pm

18 February, 25 February, 9 March,
10 March, 24 March



St Augustine's Anglican Church

8680 Hudson Street

Vancouver, BC

V6P 4M5

604 263 9212

staugustinesanglican.com



Finding “The Way”



A quiet mini-retreat at SJS
for reflection, spiritual refreshment and drafting
a personal *Rule of Life**

10:00 am-2:30 pm, 16th March, 2024 at SJS
(Please register at church.office@sjs.net and bring a bagged-lunch)

*Anglicans are encouraged to frame a *Rule of Life* that evolves to guide us
on our faith journeys as well as through life as circumstances change

Volunteers for making props for Sunday school (Godly Play materials)

We all know that the presence of children at our parish is a treasure beyond measure. Their innocence, curiosity, and unrestricted imagination bring vitality to the community and we learn how to love and be kind while nurturing them. Our parish is also blessed with a group of dedicated volunteers who offer their time and talent to children's ministry. Using Godly play format, we have been providing children a space and time to listen to the stories in the Bible in a tangible way, ponder on personal meanings from the stories, and create their own stories in a playful way.

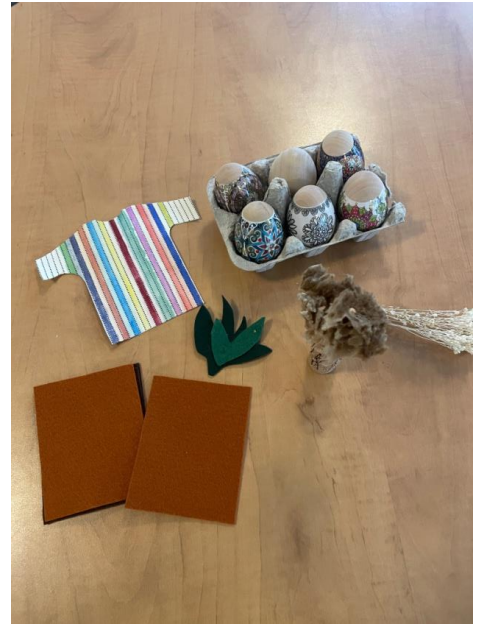


Beginning from the New

Year, our team has been trying to upgrade the settings so that the program can serve its purpose for our children's growth in a better way. One of those efforts was adding more stories that would intrigue and inspire them. Many teachers contributed their time and resources already, and I would like to ask for help from anyone who wants to join this particular project. The following props are

bisque fired clay pieces, which are ready to be painted. The props serve as symbols not toys so these are already okay as they are, but I think more colors will make children more interested in stories.

Painting props is one thing, but once we get together, I will appreciate extra hands in making plaques with printed images. There are also other props that require different materials (clothe, paper, little branches, etc), and more ideas and participation will be welcome. The ones in the last photo are examples, which were made by Marilyn. At the moment, Saturday seems to be a good day for gathering, but it can change depending on available schedule of participants. Please contact me through parish email: jhwang@sjs.net



Labyrinth is Open

The Labyrinth here at St. John's Shaughnessy will be open for walking on Thursday mornings from 9 am to 9:45 am. For those who would like to stay, a service of Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers begins at 10 am followed by a low-key Bible Study.

Westside Anglican Neighbourhood Ministry

As always, we are very grateful for the generosity of parishioners for their donations that go out to folks living on the street. At the moment we are especially in need of the following items:

- Socks (thick socks are good, but please not so thick that folks cannot get shoes on over them)
- T-shirts (medium size and up is best)
- Pudding cups
- Simple wipes (or an equivalent brand) for hands/face/body in small packets
- Handwarmers
- Toothbrushes individually wrapped
- Disposable shaving razors

We also welcome donations of the following items that are continually needed:

- Warm tops (hoodies, sweaters)
- Sweat pants
- Travel size toothpastes
- Mini unscented soaps (like you find at hotels)
- Meal replacement drinks (e.g. Ensure/Boost)
- Juice boxes with straws
- Fruit caps
- Canned tuna or similar (check that it has a ring pull)
- Soft granola bars (not hard or crunchy)

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@sjis.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 the office (church.office@sjis.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, <i>Rector</i>	terry.dirbas@sjns.net
The Reverend James Hwang, <i>Curate</i>	jhwang@sjns.net
The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, <i>Honorary Assisting Priest</i>	
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, <i>Deacon (Retired)</i>	
The Reverend Pitman Potter, <i>Deacon (Retired)</i>	
Dr. Graeme Langager, <i>Choral Director</i>	graeme.langager@sjns.net
Michael Dirk, <i>Principal Organist and Artist-in-Residence</i>	organist@sjns.net
Jonathan Robinson, <i>Assistant Organist</i>	
Deanna Ferguson, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	church.office@sjns.net

Trustees

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, <i>Rector</i>	terry.dirbas@sjns.net
Ken Pepin, <i>Rector's Warden</i>	ken.pepin@sjnsparish.net
Joan Stewart, <i>People's Warden</i>	joan.stewart@sjnsparish.net
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Catherine Holmen	catherine.holmen@sjnsparish.net



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