

From the Rector

This weekend, Joe is headed to Portland for a wedding reception for our niece, who was married during Covid. (If you're wondering where I am, I will be taking vacation for the coming week, as I care for the little ones in his absence and then spend time with family who will visit us up here afterward.) The funny thing is, I keep catching myself saying that he is going to Portland for "a wedding" rather than for "a reception" or "a belated celebration." That's sort of what it feels like, since none of us got to celebrate together when the small ceremony took place.

Obviously, postponing their big party was the right thing for my niece and her husband to do, given the Covid numbers at the time of their wedding. But it can't have been an easy decision. They had been a couple for many years by then. With their degrees finally finished and their careers on track, they got engaged, and they were excited to have moved into the next phase of their lives with a wedding to look forward to. Unfortunately, the pandemic crashed their party, leaving them with the choice to either wait even longer to get married, or to have a wedding that was quite different than the one they had probably envisioned.

This is a phenomenon so many of us experienced in some capacity over the last couple of years. And it can be hard to give ourselves permission to say much about the emotional toll it takes to give up those big moments, because we are aware that many people have suffered physically or lost their lives. We might think we don't have a right to lament the loss of those rites of passage or those big moments in our family or cultural traditions. But the feelings we have still matter. These are losses. They are worth grieving. In fact, we have to grieve them if we are to move forward in wholeness.

The question, though, is how do we carry ourselves forward in the new reality—the one in which the wedding or the graduation or whatever kind of celebration didn't happen? That probably looks different for each of us. But if there's something you missed during the height of Covid, I encourage you to mark or address that missed experience somehow. Whether that happens with an official celebration, or by inviting close family to look at photos with you, or by journaling or scrapbooking, it's ok to devote some time and emotional energy to the things that otherwise seemed to have passed us by.

I'm so happy that my niece is having this wedding reception, and I'm even happier that those who love her are choosing to travel for the occasion—even knowing that it isn't "the big event" itself. Though I can't make the trip this time, I am asking myself how I can show support to others in my life whose moments of joy I might have missed. Do I have friends or family who have marked a significant birthday or anniversary, or embarked on a new job, or achieved retirement, or become a grandparent, or anything else that somehow got "swept under the rug" during the darker times of public health? How can I reach out to acknowledge their joy, even belatedly?

Whatever we've endured the past couple of years—and I know the trials have been many—we have much for which we can be thankful. Let's not be afraid to grieve the experiences we've missed, nor to ask others to rejoice with us, even months or years later. As we move toward something that starts to feel more normal, let's care for those pieces of our hearts that still ache from all we've lost, and let's support those in our lives as they do the same, remembering that it is never too late to share joy, kindness, and love.

Organ Revitalization update

Following his tremendous efforts 3 years ago, Steve Miller returned this past April to activate the Midi capabilities of our Hallman Organ in collaboration with Gilles Parenteau with support of a Canada Council Fine Arts grant: <https://youtu.be/Uvf2hhvJjc>

Steve returned last week to commence the instillation of more modern blowers to our organ which will result in far less ambient noise. This Sunday parishioners present should notice a dramatic reduction of blower noise while the organ is on, but not being played. Also moving from 5hp to 1hp motor will have significant electrical savings. He will continue making improvements next week to failed tremulant motors and install a rank of oboe pipes which will add a much-needed orchestral colour.



Figure 1 Main chamber New blower left; original 'BOB' (British Organ Builders) right



Figure 2 New gallery blower in the silencing box; original blower forefront

SJS choir tenor alum Spencer Britten to perform with Vancouver City Opera Sept 13-17:

<https://twitter.com/spencerbritten>

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.

Greeting volunteers needed at the 10am service

We could use several more greeters. Please contact the office(church@sjs.net) for more details if you are interested in greeting on Sunday mornings.

SJS Garden Club Needs New Volunteers

It is time for the Garden Club to renew their efforts at St Johns. We hope we have some new volunteers who could join us from time to time. Or every week! Weather permitting, we meet on **Monday mornings**, but the day/time can be adjusted to accommodate other schedules. We do watering, light pruning (no saws or ladders), weeding, dividing, planting, etc. We enjoy wonderful chit chats in the safety of the outdoors. You can bring your own gloves and tools if you want to, or you can borrow ours. If you have old tools in your garage that you

don't use any more, please let us know. **We are accepting donations of old garden tools.**

WNM items for Homeless Needed

Winter clothing, raingear, boots, sleeping bags, socks, pudding cups, granola bars (soft with no fruit/nuts), & juice boxes.

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 Cynthia in the office (church@sjc.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 slot.

Sunday in-person services 8am and 10am

Sunday online service

10am Holy Eucharist live-stream

Wednesday online service

8pm Midweek Meditation

Rector The Reverend Terry Shields Dirbas terry.dirbas@sjs.net
Assistant Priest The Reverend Elizabeth Ruder-Celiz erceliz@vst.edu
Vestry Clerk The Reverend Karin Fulcher

Music Director Michael Dirk organist@sjs.net
Rector's Warden Judith Downes
People's Warden Maggie Sanders
Treasurer Donald Wood
Property Trustee Michael Dezell
Pastoral Care Team Coordinator Helen Kline
Altar Guild Susan Firus
Parish Administrator Janet Hamilton (Cynthia Jutras, acting)

Please email the office if you would like to have newsletters sent to you.
Newsletters, leaflets and online videos are posted on the website.

St John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church

Diocese of New Westminster

Anglican Church of Canada

1490 Nanton Ave. Vancouver, BC, V6H 2E2

604 731 4966 (ex 1 office, 2 Rector)

church@sjs.net

www.sjs.net



Offices are open by appointment only.
Email and voicemail are checked regularly and often,
so please reach out.

