

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Readings For Next Sunday's Service:

- * First Reading, Numbers 21:4b-9
- * Psalm 98:1-5
- * 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
- * Gospel, John 3:13-17

Letter from the Rev. Patrick Blaney

The Church Wardens met online with the Rev. Patrick Blaney on Saturday, August 29th and sadly accepted his resignation as Rector of St. John's Anglican Church. On Sunday, August 30th, Kathryn read aloud part of his letter to parishioners, which shares his heartfelt messages about his illness, and his gratitude and love for St. John's. The full text of Rev. Patrick's letter is available in print today at the Welcome Table; we invite you to pick up a copy. The full text will also be circulated today by email to e-news subscribers. Each of us processes change like this in our own unique way. Please be assured that Father Shawn is continuing as our Priest-in-charge as appointed by Archbishop John with our blessing. If you would like to send a message to Patrick, please place it in a sealed envelope and drop it off at the church office before September 15th for it to be sent over.

Alison & Kathryn, Church Wardens

Mark your calendars for the Welcome Back Potluck on Sunday, September 13th after the church service. Our potlucks are always amazing! Sign up on the flip chart in the lounge with the food item you are bringing to share and if you can volunteer to help on the day.

Vacation Alert

Kathryn Atkinson will be away August 31 to October 5th. Father Shawn will be away for several days in September and October.

Jean Welsh - Order of the Diocese of New Westminster 2026

- We are thrilled to tell you Jean Welsh will receive the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster on November 7, 2026. Jean is an amazing volunteer whose spirit of hospitality and compassion is unsurpassed. From Jean's Box collections for the shelters to tending the gardens at St. John's, from welcoming newcomers to providing food cards and bus fare to people in need, Jean Welsh is always giving, and she truly deserves this great honour! Congratulations, Jean!

Refugee Family Co-Sponsorship Update

-The six family members fled from Afghanistan in summer 2023 and have remained in hiding in a neighbouring country ever since. The family lives in fear of being reported to the police and deported back to Afghanistan.

The Canadian government has already completed their review of the sponsors (a parishioner and his group of friends) as well as co-sponsor St. John's Church and approved them. We are still waiting for the government's final decision regarding the family's applications for permanent residency in Canada. As of August 28th the IRCC website shows an estimated total time frame for processing sponsor plus refugee application of 38 months. It's been about 28 months since the family submitted their refugee applications.

Last month the family members received emails from a Canadian embassy requesting additional documentation and information about their personal histories. Diane and Warren worked with the sponsor to successfully complete this task.

The sponsor has appreciated the support provided by St John. He sent the following earlier this week: "Thank you so much for your kind words, support, and prayers. We truly appreciate everything you have done for me and my family throughout this ... process. I am also praying and hoping that their... applications will be reviewed soon and that they will all receive their visas. Thank you again for all your help and kindness."

We hope that the Canadian government will soon come to a decision and allow this family to come to Canada. - Diane and Warren Johnson

Call to Action - Roles to Fill on Sundays

In September we will be returning to our normal parish activities, and a new schedule will be set for Readers, Greeters, Welcome Table hosts, Coffee Hour, and more. We especially need more Eucharistic Administrators and Intercessors, and guidance and training are available. We would love to have more volunteers in these and many other roles. If you are curious, please contact Father Shawn, the Wardens, or Donna in the office.

Please Check the Doors - As our church building ages and settles, sometimes doors do not close the way they should. We ask all of you to be vigilant when opening or closing the Lounge and Nursery doors, to ensure those doors close securely behind you. Report any problems to Donna in the office, or to Bob on the Property Committee.

Flu Shot Clinic Returns - Sunday Oct. 18

After the great success last year, we are partnering once again with TravelVax / Pharmasave to bring a seasonal flu shot clinic on site. Parishioners and their families can sign up to get the flu shot, Covid shot, and other available vaccines. The clinic will begin as soon as the service ends, so you can get a shot then sit and have your coffee.

Quote of the Week

Here is this week's quote that provides food for thought or inspiration, or, better yet, both.

*"When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron
feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."*

—Wendell Berry

September 1st marks the beginning of the Season of Creation, and the theme for 2026 is "Living Water". This poem by Wendell Berry speaks to our connection with nature and the healing found in water.

What does this poem say to your heart? How will you connect with nature during the Season of Creation?

The Coming Week At St. John's

Sunday, Sept 6 * Coffee, Tea and Fellowship - Today (Lounge) After the service

Monday, Sept 7 * Church Office is CLOSED Labour Day * AA Meeting (Sanctuary) 7pm - 9pm

Tuesday, Sept 8 * Church Office is Open 9am-12pm * Prayer Shawl Ministry (Lounge) 1:30pm * Alanon Meeting (Lounge) 7pm - 9pm

Wednesday, Sept 9 * Church Office is Open 9am-12pm * Never Alone Meeting (Lounge) 6:30 - 8:00pm

Thursday, Sept 10 * Church Office is Open 9am-12pm * AA Meeting (Lounge) 7pm- 9pm * Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7pm

Friday, Sept 11 * Church Office is Closed * Chair Yoga with Andrea (Lounge) 10am *

Saturday, Sept 12 * Church Office is Open 9am-12pm *