

From the Village Green

St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church Newsletter

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Meet Our New Priest, Venerable Stephanie Shepard

Stephanie was born in North Vancouver and grew up in the Lower Mainland. After graduating from UBC in psychology and biology she worked in the academic library system. She also served as a shop steward for a UBC local of C.U.P.E. and was seconded by the union as the health and safety chair for UBC. Throughout this time Stephanie felt drawn to the priesthood. In 1996 she entered the Vancouver School of Theology and was ordained in 2000. She has been serving in the Anglican Diocese of Westminster ever since. In 2017 Stephanie trained and then moved into intentional interim ministry to assist parishes in transition.

“I was drawn into interim ministry because I believe in the Spirit’s power to renew communities in transition”, says Stephanie. “As tempted as I’ve been to remain in every parish I’ve served, my calling is to be a midwife rather than a mother. My role is to help parishes get ready to bring new



things to birth with their next clergy leader”.

Stephanie has served at St. Paul’s in Vancouver’s West End, St. Timothy’s in Burnaby and St. Margaret of Scotland. She has been an intentional interim minister for St. John, Port Moody, St. Faith, Vancouver and St. Martin, North Vancouver. She is also the Regional Archdeacon for Granville, covering the west side of Vancouver. This involves oversight on behalf of the Bishop for eleven churches and

six ministries, including the chaplaincy at VGH and Urban Aboriginal Ministries.

Stephanie is married to teacher Byron Jang. She has two adult daughters who are active in other ministries. Byron and Stephanie live in north Burnaby with their cat Abigail. Stephanie can be reached at (604) 831-3531 or rector@telus.net and would love to arrange a time to meet. Better still, say hello in person at the 10 am Sunday service.

A St. Francis Miracle

Hello. My name is Aisha. I am 1 1/2 years old. I came to Canada on October 26.

It was a very, very long journey. I have two sisters. They are both older than me, their names are Ayan and Anisa. They are much smarter than I am. They know how to say Thank You in English. It is the first word that my mother Nasri taught them. She speaks a little English. I am just learning Somali but I know my sisters will soon start school for the first time and will teach me English. We are here in Canada to be with our family - my grandmother (who was assaulted on the street just a few days ago just because she wore our religious clothes outside) and my three uncles.

When we arrived in Canada we were greeted by people

from St. Francis-in-the-wood church. I met my uncle for the first time at the airport. He gave us presents from some wonderful people. We lived in his apartment for two weeks. I have a girl cousin almost my age. I got to meet her after our 2 weeks in quarantine.

I lied about being at my uncle's apartment for 2 weeks. I spent a few days at the hospital. I had a seizure (whatever that is). I was so scared and was so lonely since no one could be with me in the hospital. All the people were so friendly to me. The food was yucky but I never eat much anyway. I am back with my mommy and sisters now. I will never meet my dad according to my mom. It is just us 4 females.

I am glad that I will learn to say Thank You because we will need a lot of money to pay for our apartment and food. Thank you all at St. Francis. You are the MIRA-CLE we need. I hope to come to your church soon to meet you.

Aisha

Christmas Calendar

At St. Francis-in-the-Wood we are looking forward to a full calendar of Advent and Christmas events, with all the usual pandemic precautions, of course:

Sunday, December 5

10 am Advent 2 Eucharist

Sunday, December 12

10 am Advent 3 Eucharist

3 pm Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 19

10 am Advent 4 Eucharist

Christmas Eve

4 pm Family Service of Carols

7:30 pm Carol Mass

9 pm Carol Mass

(The 7:30 and 9:30 services are identical in liturgy and music)

Christmas Day

10 am Contemplative Christ Mass

Sunday, December 26

10 am Feast of St. Stephen

(Eucharist but no choir)

Sunday, January 2

10 am Epiphany

Sunday January 9

10 am Baptism of Our Lord

Eucharist

All are welcome in person (with masks, of course) or online at:

www.stfrancisinthewood.ca

Memory Lane

On November 11 Warden Chris Stringer welcomed Les and Penny Underwood who were celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary. They were married at St. Francis in 1967. The Underwoods' visit was extra special because accompanying them were Mena and Trevor Norriss, Penny's Maid of Honour and Les' Best Man. Congratulations to all and welcome home.





CARE MINISTRY



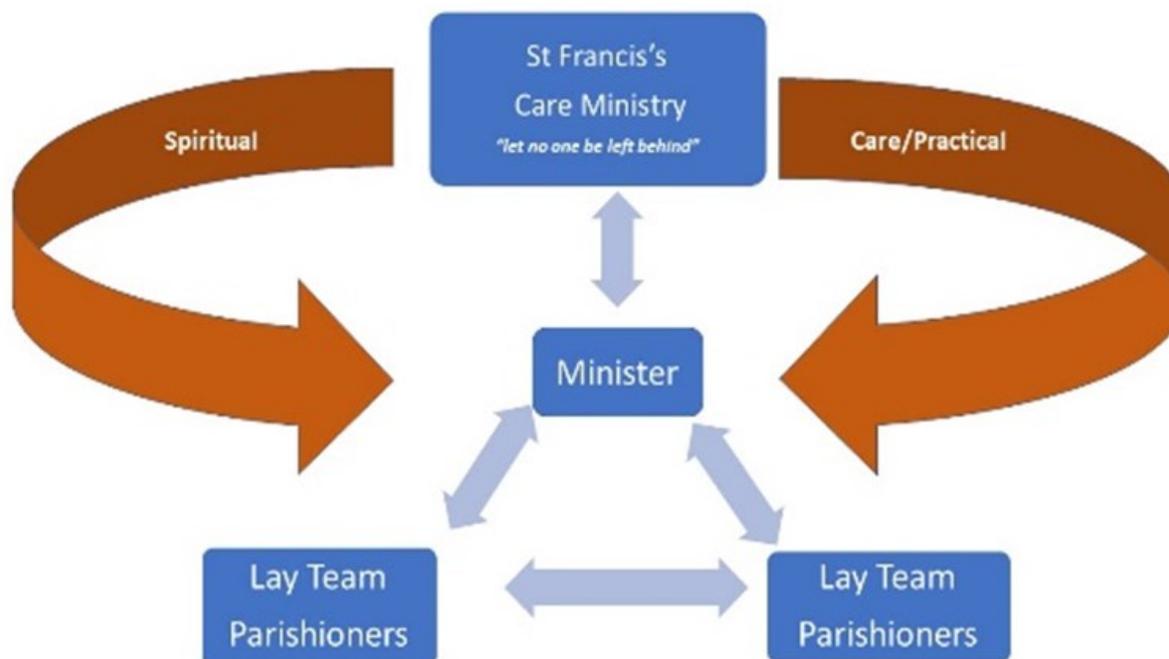
The Care Ministry is being revitalized by Deb Rollins, Penny Collett, Mary Millerd, Theresa Odishaw, Elizabeth Ferguson, Terry Joyce and Ven. Rev. Stephanie Shepard. Our Mission is to honour and support the diverse needs of people in our church and the wider community through pastoral care by our priest and parishioners.

Our Care Ministry Team is developing a simple system. The diagram below explains our vision for pastoral care at St. Francis-in-the-Wood.

The first step to receiving support is to phone the church office at (604) 922-3531. Depending on the request for support our priest Ven. Rev. Stephanie Shepard or our administrator Carol Dawson will determine the next step. If you know of someone who would like some support please ask permission of the person first before you contact the church office.

The Care Ministry is hoping more people will volunteer. There are many simple ways to help, each one a ministry: providing rides to church or appointments, making food, writing cards, knitting prayer shawls, phoning, visiting, offering communion, offering prayers and more. Volunteers can discern in what ways they might care for others. Please join us.

If you have any questions or would like to be a volunteer please contact Mary Millerd at (604) 341-8749 or marymillerd@gmail.com.



Nifty Thrifty: A Year of Success



“Nifty” and “Thrifty” are perfect descriptors of the treasure chest of items available at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Nifty Thrifty sales: everything is beautiful, unique and reasonably priced!

Our first Nifty Thrifty was held in September 2020. Since then we’ve had 8 sales, all on the first Saturday of the chosen month. We have welcomed many visitors to our community. As they ascend the stairway past the office, enter the hall/lounge and exit through the church they see all the beautiful features – like our glorious stained-glass windows – and hopefully feel the spirit of our unique parish home.

In addition to raising much-needed funds Nifty Thrifty is a wonderful opportunity for church members to work together and involve their friends and relatives. None of our successes to date would have been possible without our volunteers, our visitors and, of course the many generous people who donated their treasures. Thank you all.

We been blessed to be able to raise over \$8,000 for a wide variety of charities, including \$1,400 for our own parish refugee fund. The November 6 sale saw the most visitors we’ve ever had (113), the most volunteers (18) and the most revenue (\$1,777). Not bad considering the limits imposed by the pandemic.

Our next Nifty Thrifty will be on Saturday March 5. If you have any questions or wish to help or donate, please contact Elizabeth Ferguson at (604) 922-6602 or eafergus@shaw.ca.



Profiling Parish Gifts: The Legacy Fund

The Legacy Fund is for gifts that come to St. Francis through testamentary bequests/trusts and direct donation. It is managed by 7 trustees consisting of the rector, wardens and members of the parish council. Funds generated are for those in need including disadvantaged youth, the poor, the elderly, the homeless, the sick, the disabled and those suffering from substance addiction across BC. Neither income or capital is used for parish operating or capital costs. Vestry and parish council provide direction to the trustees for the use of income from the fund. It has supported 15 different organizations and individuals over the past 10 years, including:

Spectrum Mothers Support Society that helps North Shore mothers with children under five. Priority is given to low-income families. Sometimes the children have developmental or physical problems and Spectrum's trained caregivers engage them in specialized play and other activities. Spectrum staff are highly qualified, experienced, reliable and trustworthy. St. Francis was one of the initial supporters of Spectrum.

Treehouse Child and Youth Advocacy Centre provides independence, security and freedom that allow children and youth to dream big, create and imagine. It focuses on Vancouver area children and youth who have experienced abuse. It brings highly-trained police officers, social workers and victim support workers together with children and youth in a safe, comfortable, child-friendly setting. The Legacy Fund helps fund:

Caring Community Connections – to connect children/youth to community-based programs

Counselling Connections – connecting caregivers to therapists to help navigate their challenges and provide crucial support for their children.

Therapy Dog Nessa—who brings together children, youth and parents.

For more information contact Jan Volker at (604) 807-9789 or janyvolker@gmail.com.



Profiling Parish Committees: Social Outreach

This committee was formed in response to the strong interest of parishioners to reach out to others less fortunate. We receive money by direct donations and through periodic appeals like those during Advent and Lent.

The committee members are Co-Chairs Elizabeth Ferguson and Jan Volker, Christine O'Byrne, Carol Ayliffe, Deb Rollins, Jacqui Wilkinson, Joanna Southwell and Ann Frost.

Monies raised for Social Outreach are spent near and far, with this year's mix approximately 1/3 to the North Shore, 1/3 to Vancouver (mostly on the Downtown Eastside) and 1/3 overseas.

Our biggest efforts have been focused on our refugee families. We are extremely thankful to all who donated clothing, books, furniture and funds and to

those helping Nasri settle in. Other organizations that we have supported include

Turning Point – a women's shelter on the North Shore

the North Shore Youth Safe House

the Vancouver Food Bank, and

St. Matthew's church in the Downtown Eastside.

Overseas, we have helped an African student through high school and dentistry in Kenya and the Hands On Development Initiative in Kenya. We also continue to support HAVE (Help a Village Effort) build water wells in India.

At present we are working hard to raise funds for our refugee family. We have collected all the clothing and household goods we need to furnish Nasri and

her family in their new apartment in Surrey. Now the focus shifts to sustaining them financially for the next 12 months.

A special Advent project is underway to help raise those funds, including \$1,600/month the family needs for rent. Not only has COVID limited our ability to raise funds but rental costs in Surrey have gone up dramatically and Nasri recently had a third child. As you consider your donations this Christmas and into 2022 please consider Nasri and her children. For more information please contact Jan Volker at (604) 807-9789 or janyvolker@gmail.com.