

Fellowship & Pastoral Care

We believe that caring for all members of our parish keeps the community strong and vibrant. Whereas Covid caused us to refocus our efforts, we now look forward to returning to those activities that cultivate our communal life and to trying new ones.

We returned to in-person **Coffee Hour** on Easter Sunday, complete with cookies. We haven't yet been able to sustain a regular weekly coffee time, but throughout the summer, we shared lemonade on the lawn and caught up on summer travel stories. This fall, we plan to have coffee hour twice a month and more frequently if there are volunteers to perk the brew and run the dishwasher. Is this a ministry you could participate in?

During Covid, supported by a special grant, St. Mary's started an **Elders group** that meets regularly via Zoom. Various topics and qualified speakers have provided a focus for this new endeavour. Would you like to participate, or could you offer a session?

The Amica Van is now bringing several of our seniors to regular Sunday worship. **Seniors' Festival Services** have been held over Zoom for the past two years, supplemented with flower deliveries and regular calls. We hope to return to in-person Festival services for our Seniors as these provide much-needed community. Is this a ministry that you would like to join?

Throughout the pandemic, the **Pastoral Care Team** provided ongoing contact with all parish members through phone calls and greeting cards. As this was appreciated by many, information packets will be mailed quarterly. The Prayer Team continues to pray for the most vulnerable in our parish in their prayer cycles. Is Pastoral Care the right ministry for you?

What other programs or events do you think we need to nurture our St. Mary's community? Can you see where you could share your talents?

Physical Plant

Just like a garden, St. Mary's exists as a physical space; like a garden, it needs care and upkeep.

The buildings provide space for meetings, worship, offices, the daily business of our church, and rental space for members of our wider community. We also have a rectory, which is rented by our rector and her family. All these spaces require ongoing maintenance. (St. Mary's is an old building with a Heritage designation.) Monies for the regular upkeep of these spaces are committed through our annual budgets. We also have a list of larger projects that will require separate funding. We recently created a Property Committee to work with our verger, Regan, to manage this work. We need additional volunteers to participate in ensuring our buildings are in good shape. Would you be interested in helping? Please let us know if this ministry is for you.

HOW CAN YOUR STEWARDSHIP, SOW THE SEEDS FOR TOMORROW?

As you prepare your own garden for the winter months anticipating the new life next spring, please prayerfully consider St. Mary's community.

What gifts of time, talent and treasure are you called to share to strengthen your roots and ensure the flourishing of our parish life?

*More information about any of these ministries and programs can be found on the website:
stmaryskerrisdale.ca*



St. Mary's Prayer Tree

STEWARDSHIP
SOW THE SEEDS FOR TOMORROW



St. Mary's KERRISDALE
2490 W. 37th Ave, Vancouver, BC, V6M 1P5

St. Mary's Kerrisdale

Greetings!

St. Mary's has rich traditions of Fellowship and Pastoral Care, Mission, Outreach, Christian Formation, and Worship. The past two years have resulted in both constancy and change. What follows reflects where we are today and we invite you to consider how you might participate. What seeds should we sow for the future of our parish life? How can we share our gifts, with the help of God's guidance, to nurture the garden of our hopes.

Worship

What nurtures your worship life? Do we need to try some new approaches as well as hold on to the familiar?

We are fortunate to have sustained our worship through Covid on Zoom. We now meet regularly in a hybrid in-person/Zoom format. Aply led by our clergy, musicians and lay ministers, we enrich our faith corporately and individually with strong music, thoughtful prayer, and read and interpreted lessons. Our eucharist once again provides a fertile space in which to live and nurture our faith most fully.

We continue to explore new opportunities to enrich our worship by using the labyrinth, trying different liturgies for church festivals, and having monthly choral evensong. This year there will be quiet worship via Zoom on Wednesday evenings and Iona Worship one Sunday evening a month.

Let us know if you would like to participate more actively in one of the many lay roles such as reader, server, greeter, or chancel guild member or if you would like to explore new ways of connecting corporately in Worship.

Mission & Outreach

St. Mary's has a strong practice of mission and outreach. Our **Community Meal** started over 15 years ago and was suspended during Covid. This fall, we will restart this program beginning in October, leading to a special meal on December 13th. There are lots of ways to participate. Perhaps you have suggestions that could deepen this ministry? Your time, talent, and treasure could be the necessary nutrients it needs.

The **Community Donations Committee** continues to assess and support charities that foster the growth of God's care for all people. We also help fund development and aid work around the world through **PWRDF** (the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund). Last year, we contributed to aid in Ukraine as well as to farming, health care, and learning in developing countries. Do you know a community that you would like to see us support?

Our **Refugee Committee** has grown in numbers this past year. After a Covid-imposed break, the committee has moved quickly to raise funds and identify a family for resettlement. Once the family is approved to come to Canada, we will need to find a place for them to plant their new life, and then be prepared to help them get established. There are lots of exciting ways to get involved in this initiative. We hope you will find an opportunity to participate.

We held two **Rummage Sales** this past year—the April sale was our most successful ever! Hundreds of bargain hunters make great finds and often connect with St. Mary's for the first time. Faithful volunteers are at the core of a successful sale, and as we emerge on the other side of covid, re-evaluating volunteer capacity, event structure, and timeframe are critical as we discern the feasibility of future rummage events.

Prior to Covid, we had begun a **Mandarin Ministry**. We have recently begun working with Reverend Bill Mok, former rector of the now closed St. Chad's parish, to reinvigorate this work. There was interest in our initial effort, as St. Mary's is situated in an ideal location for such a project. Is this where you belong?

St. Mary's has had a long association with **Cristosal** in El Salvador. Covid and the political environment have impacted our work with this important human rights organization. Our long-time chair and champion, Glen Mitchell, died this summer, so we need help to continue this important work and invite anyone interested to reach out.

Christian Formation

Learning and formation strengthen the roots of our faith. It's a lifelong process.

Here at St. Mary's, formation starts early. Our **Sunday School** program uses the Godly Play curriculum, which focuses on making meaning through story, wonder, and play. We focus on nurturing the spiritual lives of children by honouring their competency and capacity. The classroom has been relocated upstairs into the Parish Lounge next to the refurbished **Nursery**. **Confirmation** classes began this fall with plans to participate in the Diocesan Confirmation service in the spring. **Youth** and **Young Adults** meet regularly for fellowship and formation. And **young families** have both regular sessions and seasonal sessions that offer nourishment and encourage growth. Could you contribute to this garden with ideas and occasional participation?

Adult Christian Formation has thrived during the past couple of years with a small group of enthusiastic volunteers. With Rev. Roberta Fraser taking on this ministry, the team will explore formats and topics to help us nurture our faith. Do you have a speaker you would like to hear or a topic to discuss? Perhaps you know a program that would enrich our collective life in faith? Please let Rev. Roberta Fraser know.

We also have a great **library** to support your study and **APT** (Anglican People Talking), which meets regularly Monday mornings in the Heritage Lounge to discuss the current lectionary. The discussions are enlightening.

