
LIGHT IN THE COMMUNITY

St.Christopher's mission and outreach newsletter

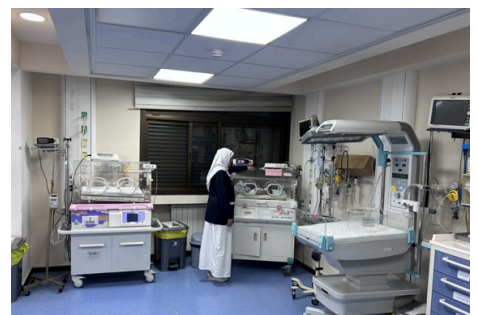
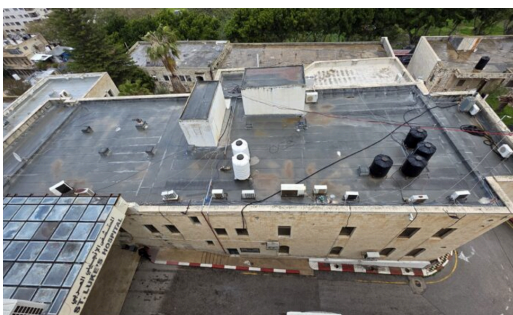
St. Luke's Hospital, West Bank

St. Christopher's Helps Bring Light and Hope to the Holy Land

A small light can make a big difference — and thanks to the generosity of our St. Christopher's family, that light is reaching all the way to St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus, West Bank.

Our parish has donated \$2,000 to Alongside Hope's Light for St. Luke's campaign, and thanks to a matching gift, our contribution has doubled to \$4,000. This will help fund four solar panels, with a contribution toward a fifth, providing reliable electricity for a hospital that serves more than 455,000 people.

St. Luke's Hospital, operated by the Episcopal (Anglican) Diocese of Jerusalem, has been a place of healing and hope for generations. It provides care to people throughout the region, regardless of background or ability to pay. With services including maternity care, neonatal care, emergency treatment, and surgery, a dependable power supply is essential — especially in a region where outages are frequent.



Through the *Light for St. Luke's campaign*, 407 solar panels are being installed to provide clean, sustainable energy and help ensure that doctors and nurses can continue their life-saving work without interruption.

This gift also reflects something happening much closer to home. St. Christopher's is preparing for its own solar project, with 109 solar panels being installed on the roof of our church hall. In our own way, we are continuing to bring light — reducing our environmental impact here in West Vancouver while helping provide a source of hope and healing for our brothers and sisters across the globe.

Whether through the energy we generate on our own roof or the panels we help provide at St. Luke's Hospital, we are reminded that even a small light can shine brightly. These projects are more than about solar power — they are about caring for creation, supporting our neighbours, and putting our faith into action.

Thank you to everyone whose generosity made this gift possible.

Together, St. Christopher's is helping the light of Christ shine both in our own community and around the world.

Our Impact

- St. Christopher's gift: **\$2,000**
- Matching gift: **\$2,000**
- Total contribution: **\$4,000**
- Impact: Four solar panels, plus a contribution toward a fifth



Mark your calendars

Sun Sep 6, 2026 : The Reverend Peter Smythe, Chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers, will be our guest preacher. Following the service, we will gather for refreshments, and Reverend Peter will share insights into the work of the Mission to Seafarers and the lives of the seafarers they support.

Supporting the Xwemélch'stn Little Ones School

The Parish Book Table is a wonderful example of how small acts of generosity can make a big difference. Book sales and donations from the congregation raised \$250, which Parish Council generously doubled to \$500 for the library at Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw (Little Ones School).

Located in the Squamish Nation community, the school provides an Indigenous education from Kindergarten 4 through Grade 7 for about 131 students. Its curriculum weaves Squamish language, culture, traditions, and Indigenous Ways of Learning and Being into everyday school life, helping students build a strong sense of identity while receiving an excellent education.

The Reverend Jonathan Pinkney, Sonia Anderson, Laura Groos, and Chris Loat received a warm welcome when they visited to present the cheque. We were inspired by the dedication of the staff and the vibrant learning environment they have created.

The school buys its books through GoodMinds, an Indigenous-owned bookseller specializing in Indigenous authors and educational resources. This year, every student received a book to take home for the summer — encouraging a love of reading while giving them access to stories that reflect their culture and heritage.

We are delighted that St. Christopher's could play a small part in putting good books into the hands of every student.



Mark your calendars

Sun Aug 30, 2026 : Join us for refreshements, a cheque presentation to Impact North Shore, and a talk by Executive Director Wendy McCulloch, following the service.

St. Paul Episcopal Church - update

Our partnership with St. Paul Episcopal Church in Belwang, Philippines, continues to grow. The church serves a rural Indigenous community where most families rely on farming for their livelihood. Many people travel long distances for work, school, shopping, and medical care.



Graduate Deacon Intern Archie Stapleton Ambatang, who ministers at St. Paul's, has shared a vision for improving the church so it can better serve both the congregation and the wider community. Plans include adding a ceiling, pews and a pulpit, replacing windows, and making other improvements to create a safer, more welcoming space.

The congregation is committed to doing its part. Following an ***Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)*** approach, members will provide volunteer labour and locally available materials, especially timber. They are determined to be active partners in making the project happen. However, additional funding will be needed to complete the work.

A diocesan engineer is now preparing a detailed assessment and cost estimates, with each part of the project priced separately so improvements can be tackled as funding becomes available.

Once the plans are ready, we hope to assist St. Paul's find grants and other partners to bring this vision to life. We welcome suggestions of organizations or foundations that you know of who might be interested in supporting this worthwhile project.

Together, we hope to help create a church that will be a welcoming place of worship and a strong community centre for many years to come.

Remembering Those Who Serve At Sea

Seafarers play a vital role in our daily lives, carrying around 90% of the world's trade while spending long periods away from their families and facing increasingly difficult and dangerous conditions at sea.

To mark Day of the Seafarer, The Reverend Peter Smythe, Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers Vancouver, led a moving service in the historic chapel at the Mission's waterfront property which was attended by Chris Loat. It was a privilege to join Archbishop John Stephens, Mission staff, volunteers, and fellow supporters for this special time of thanksgiving and prayer for all those who work at sea.

St. Christopher's is proud to support the Mission to Seafarers, which offers visiting seafarers friendship, hospitality, practical help, and spiritual support while they are far from home.

Below: Pictures taken at the celebration of the Day Of The Seafarer





Who We Support

We invite you to visit these organizations online and learn more about their work:

- Alcoholics Anonymous – northshoreaa.org
- Alongside Hope – alongsidehope.org
- Anglican Foundation of Canada – anglicanfoundation.org
- Diocese of Northern Philippines – ecphilippines.org/northern-philippines
- Family Services of the North Shore – familyservices.bc.ca
- Harvest Project – harvestproject.org
- Impact North Shore - impactnorthshore.ca
- A Loving Spoonful - alovingspoonful.org
- North Shore Crisis Services Society - nscss.net
- Lookout Housing & Health Society - lookoutsociety.ca
- Mission to Seafarers – flyingangel.ca
- Stars for Life Childcare & Education – starsforlife.ca
- NCSS SAGE Transition House
- Shaker Church, Squamish Nation – squamish.net
- Widows Group, St. Christopher's
- Xwemélch'stn Little Ones School

Visit us at www.stchristopherswestvan.org

Your support makes a world of difference

If you need more information on anything in this bulletin contact chris-loat@shaw.ca



The above painting, capturing the unique charm of St. Christopher's Church, is by Elizabeth Sutherland-Cox. We gratefully acknowledge the artist's permission to reproduce this beautiful work.