



Lenten Soulwork series

Over the six weeks of Lent, we will discuss an important work on Christianity and American culture, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, by James Cone. This book makes the point that Christ's death was an example of lynching and explores Christianity from a black American perspective.

Dinner for Families in Need

We will be preparing a meal and serving dinner this Sunday, March 8 for families at the Life Moves shelter in San Mateo. Volunteers will gather in the Lehman Hall kitchen after the 10:15 a.m. service to prepare enchilada casserole, salad, cookies and fruit jello. All are welcome to help!

Candlelight Evensong

Join the St. Bede's choir on Sunday, March 15 for a candlelight Evensong service featuring Angela Kraft Cross' *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis* and the premier of her anthem *For Your Love's Sake*, commissioned by St. Bede's for this service. Following the service, Ms. Kraft Cross will present a recital of works by Bach, Buxtehude, Mozart and Mendelssohn, as well as her own compositions.

Menlo Brass Concert

Considered one of the Bay Area's finest brass ensembles, Menlo Brass will be at St. Bede's on Sunday, March 29 for a concert that is both musically exciting and thoroughly entertaining. The program will include a wide variety of music from Baroque and Classical favorites, to film scores, Broadway musicals, popular tunes, Dixieland, jazz and exciting new original compositions for brass quintet. The Menlo Brass Quintet includes two trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba.

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Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our March and April Calendar

March 4: Building and Grounds committee meeting, 12 p.m.

March 8: LifeMoves Dinner, 12 p.m.

March 15: Arts at St. Bede's: Candlelight Evensong and organ recital, 4 p.m.

March 16: Finance committee meeting, 4 p.m.

March 17: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.

March 18: Bede's Bedhead Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

March 29: Arts at St. Bede's: Menlo Brass, 4 p.m.

April 1: Building and Grounds committee meeting, 12 p.m.

April 10: Good Friday: Parish office closed, beginning at noon

April 13: Easter Monday: Parish office closed

April 14: Finance committee meeting, 5 p.m.

April 15: Bede's Bedhead Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

April 21: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.

For the full calendar of upcoming events, visit www.stbedesmenlopark.org and click the link for **News and Events**.

Please Welcome our Supply Priests at Sunday Services

For the next several weeks, Sunday services will be conducted by a rotating slate of supply priests. The Rev. Eric Nefstead will be us for all Sundays through Easter (except March 8). The Rev. Charlotte Wilson will be with us on Sunday, March 8, as well as Holy Week services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. We've also been in touch with the Rev. Kacei Conyers, Episcopal Chaplain at Stanford, about conducting some Sunday services as well.

Please welcome each of them to St. Bede's and offer to lend a hand, when requested, with how we typically do things at St. Bede's. And please be assured that Sunday services will continue as usual.

In transitions such as ours, the Diocese usually appoints an interim rector to lead the church temporarily until a new rector is called. Unfortunately, the Diocese does not have any interim rectors available at present and so we are following "Plan B" for the foreseeable future.

Consider this interim period an opportunity to get to know different priests and their preaching styles and to think about what you wish a new rector to offer St. Bede's.

Anne Vitullo, Senior Warden

Waiting as a Spiritual Practice

In one of her last sermons to us, Gia spoke about waiting as a spiritual practice. It is a particularly timely reflection as we open the season of Lent and begin our search for a new rector. In the coming months, we will be engaged in some purposeful waiting that offers us time for prayer and introspection.

I'm going to make a claim that I'm guessing is not going to be very popular: waiting is a spiritual practice. Waiting is a spiritual practice. As a culture, we don't like to wait. It seems inefficient. It's a waste of time to stand in line at the DMV or sit at the doctor's office. And in Silicon Valley, where we measure our worth by our busyness, nobody likes having to leave extra time in their calendars to hang around waiting. We want to get there, get started, do the thing and move on to the next thing.

Waiting is spiritually difficult for a couple of reasons. First, most of the time waiting is out of our control. That line is going to move at the pace it moves. That baby will be born when it's good and ready to be born. We can't change it. Waiting smashes our illusions that we are completely in charge of our own lives. We're not. God has given us free will, but God has not given us complete control over everything. And second, waiting forces us to get comfortable with our own selves. This was more of a challenge fifteen years ago, when we couldn't pull out our phones any time we needed a distraction. Remember back to those days, when we were forced to sit in silence with ourselves. Many people find that uncomfortable, because waiting in silence can make us face the truth of ourselves before God—how flawed and broken we are, and how deeply loved and precious we are. Lots of us don't want to go there. No wonder we're so quick to whip out our phones.

We might feel great empathy, then, for Simeon and Anna, waiting their whole lives for the messiah. Simeon is always depicted as an old man with a flowing white beard, but we don't know how old he was. I imagine him being younger, maybe in his twenties or thirties, righteous and devout and on fire for change. He's looking for the consolation of Israel. The Jewish people have been under the thumb of various foreign empires for hundreds of years; now the Romans rule the land. Simeon is longing for Israel to be independent again, freed from Roman domination, with its monarchy restored to the descendants of David. Waiting is really hard when you are young and eager and your dreams are so big and so far from reality. But the Holy Spirit promised Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the messiah. Simeon trusts the Holy Spirit. He has experienced God's faithfulness, and he knows God will keep this promise too. So when one day the Holy Spirit prompts Simeon to walk over to the temple, he goes. Excitement builds with each step; this might be the day he sees the messiah. The messiah will be a grown man, obviously, tall, handsome, charismatic, the kind of guy who can rouse people and lead armies to smash the Romans out of Jerusalem.

But to Simeon's surprise, the Holy Spirit calls his attention to a small family, to a teenage girl clutching a tiny baby, and the man with her carrying two birds, the offering prescribed for a poor person. Simeon greets them, and the girl shyly unwraps the baby and holds him up for Simeon to see. We can imagine Simeon asking, "Really, God? You're sending us a baby?" Yet the moment is almost vibrating with the power of the Holy Spirit. Everything in Simeon is shouting THIS IS THE ONE. So he takes the baby, and does the only thing you can do when a long wait is finally over: he praises God, praises God for keeping God's promise and letting Simeon reach this day.

Anna has been waiting even longer. She's eighty-four years old, long widowed. She too is longing for the redemption of Israel. She may not have Simeon's youthful fire, but she has the wisdom of long experience. She has seen enough of the world to know that the way things are is not God's will. She knows things can be different. Israel could be free. She is waiting for that day to come when God will set Israel free. And Anna waits by praying, staying in the temple night and day lifting up her hopes for Israel to God. So when the little family arrives and Simeon praises God, Anna is there to hear it. She moves towards them as quickly as her eighty-four-year-old legs will carry her, and she too praises God. It matters less to her that the messiah is a baby; she's just so relieved to have seen him at last.

Anna and Simeon weren't waiting by sitting around passively. They were yearning for change, praying for change. And yearning for change is purposeful waiting. It's a spiritual practice. I imagine Simeon and Anna recognize how much of life is out of their control. They can't make the messiah appear; only God can do that. It's up to God to act, not them. And I imagine Anna especially got good and comfortable with herself in all those years of waiting. She faced the truth of herself before God, and she accepted it.

Anna and Simeon are able to wait with such purpose because they know God is faithful to God's promises. God saved the people of Israel in the past: God led them out of slavery in Egypt, God led them home from exile in Babylon. God will save the people of Israel now, too. And so God did. God was faithful in the past, God is faithful in the present, God will be faithful in the future.

It may not be news to you—or maybe it is—that a rector search involves a lot of waiting. There will be plenty for everyone to do. There will be listening sessions for the whole parish, the search committee will write a profile and screen candidates, the vestry will keep the day-to-day ministry of the parish running. And there will be a lot of waiting. That's the nature of a search process. I really, really hope y'all will not pull out your phones and distract yourselves while you wait. Because if St Bede's waits with purpose, this can be a spiritual practice for you. You might use this time to get comfortable with who this community is before God—the challenges you're facing, and how deeply loved and precious you are; who God is calling you to be now, what God needs you to do in the world, what you need to change or let go of from my time to follow God's call for your future. That's purposeful waiting, Anna and Simeon waiting. You might even find that it is holy waiting.

In all our waiting, God is faithful to God's promises. God sent a messiah for Israel as God promised. Simeon and Anna got to meet that messiah as God promised. God will send you a new rector as God promised. So we wait with purpose, until the day when we too will see God's promise fulfilled.

Gia+

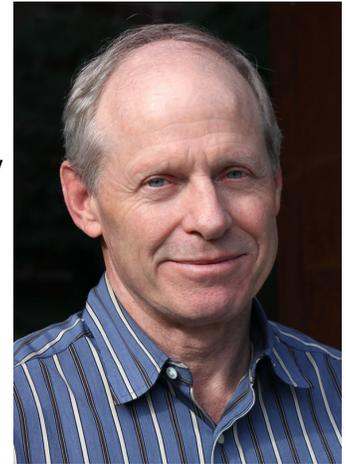
This sermon on Luke 2:22-40 was preached by the Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin on February 2, 2020.

Meet Our Search Committee Members

These members of our congregation have graciously agreed to serve on our search committee to call a new rector to St. Bede's. They bring a wealth of both professional and volunteer experience to the task and will do a wonderful job of identifying the right candidates and helping us to call a new rector for our next phase of parish life. Please keep them in your prayers.

Jon Backlund

I joined St. Bede's nine years ago, but my wife Julie and I have been a part of the community since 1986, when our older son enrolled at Trinity School. The connections to Trinity School and St. Bede's over the decades have been very meaningful and extensive, as our family has received and provided support in many ways. We have been the beneficiaries of St. Bede's dedication to spiritual formation, social justice, outreach programs and the caring community – all have enhanced our lives and growth. Since joining St. Bede's, I've participated as a worship, auction and community outreach volunteer. I served on Vestry for three years, and was Senior Warden in 2016. I have also been involved on the Buildings and Grounds Committee since 2013, and have chaired the committee since 2015. Professionally, I am currently employed, and have held technical and executive positions in several energy-related firms.



Douglas Blayney, Co-Chair

St. Bede's is the fourth Episcopal parish in which I have been involved, as my career has taken us to various cities around the country. My wife Vicki and I have been at St. Bede's for the last ten years. Previously, I served on the vestry of the first protestant church in the Los Angeles area (Church of Our Savior, San Gabriel), and I have served on several boards of directors overseeing volunteer organizations. I was raised as a Presbyterian, and became a serious Episcopalian while raising our three daughters. My work as a medical oncologist brings me into contact with people facing difficult times in their life, and my work setting is relentlessly secular. I am a Professor of Medicine at Stanford, and have research, teaching and clinical care roles.



Steele Harris

I returned to the St. Bede's congregation in 2018 after a long absence. I am the son of long-time parishioners Allan and Betsy Harris; I was baptized here in 1962 upon my birth. When Al transitioned from life on Earth in October 2018, I decided that one of the best ways to honor my father's life and his commitment to St. Bede's was to return to the community and do my best to fill the void (which all of us know is just not possible). It is my desire to carry on my father's legacy of service to the community. Al Harris served on the search committee which called Gia to St. Bede's. He also was instrumental in the fund-raising efforts to finance the construction of Lehman Hall. While Al Harris' shoes can never be filled, I am committed to supporting St. Bede's as Al would have done himself. I welcomes stories and memories that each of you is willing to share about my father.



Ann Latta

I have been a part of the St. Bede's community for many years and have served in spiritual formation for children and adults as well as served on Trinity School Board and on the Vestry. The fellowship of the flower team warms my heart. I am a retired academic librarian in the social sciences at Stanford and have lived a parallel life working for social and economic justice, particularly for children.



Miranda Pinckert

I grew up in Nyack, NY where I was an active member in the local Episcopal Church. As a member of junior choir and Sunday School, I was also in Episcopal Youth Fellowship and an acolyte for Sunday services. I attended Columbia University in NYC and moved to Boston for several years. Eventually I made my way to California and have lived in San Jose, Palo Alto and San Francisco before settling in Menlo Park, with my daughter Madeline and my husband Christian. A member of Stanford Memorial Church for several years, I searched for a closer knit spiritual community and found St. Bede's. Professionally, I am a clinical psychologist and went to a mindfulness-based graduate program. I work with high-functioning individuals and couples. I approach counseling holistically, knowing that we can struggle in mind, body or spirit.



Sue Sartor, Co-Chair

Having grown up in Sharon Heights, I attended St. Bede's as a child and young adult. Mike and I were married here in 1977, and then moved to San Jose. I have been regularly attending St. Bede's since 1985 when we moved back to the family home down the hill from St. Bede's. Our two daughters grew up at St. Bede's, greatly benefiting from the fellowship and community support provided by the Sunday School and Youth Group mentors. Over the years, I have served on Vestry, twice as Senior Warden. I have experience with the stewardship, community outreach and personnel committees; served as Sunday School Director for five years; am currently active on Altar Guild; and have helped coordinate multiple parish events. I care deeply about St. Bede's and look forward to working with fellow parishioners as we seek a new rector to guide us into the future.



Vestry View

This periodic report on the Vestry's actions and decisions is part of our commitment to serving the St. Bede's community. Following is a brief recap of key issues discussed and actions taken at the February Vestry meeting.

Children's and Youth Ministry (CYM). Brendan Deocariza-Nee has accepted the invitation to serve as Children's and Youth Minister at St. Bede's. Because of commitments to his current job, Brendan will begin his new role as Children's and Youth Minister on July 1. To help fill some immediate needs in our CYM program, he will begin teaching Sunday School for older elementary children on a volunteer basis beginning March 8.

Rooted in Jesus. Anne Vitullo and Brendan Deocariza-Nee were excited to share their takeaways from Rooted in Jesus, the first-of-its-kind Episcopal conference that took place in Atlanta, GA on Jan. 21 – 24. Approximately 1,500 Episcopalians (joined by a handful of friends from other denominations) came together as disciples of Jesus to take a bold new step into the next decade.

Supply priest plans. Four supply priests have been identified to preside at St. Bede's until an interim is secured. More information will be shared when a schedule is confirmed.

Ad hoc committee on housing. An ad hoc committee will be formed to identify options for clergy housing. The vestry was advised by Denise Obando, Transition Minister for the Diocese of California, that our parish profile will be more appealing to rector candidates if we have a plan to offset or compensate for high housing costs in the Bay Area.

Building and Grounds committee. Staci Homrig graciously volunteered to be the vestry liaison to the Building and Grounds committee, which meets the first Wednesday of the month at 12 p.m.

Finance overview. Julie Backlund, member of the Finance committee, reported that St. Bede's broke even in 2019 due to reduced personnel and maintenance costs; a \$30,000 deficit was originally projected. Since St. Bede's has not yet achieved the \$327,000 pledge goal cast during last year's stewardship campaign, the Finance Committee projects a \$16,000 deficit for 2020. Any deficit will be covered by the endowment draw.

Beloved Community. The Episcopal Diocese of California's Beloved Community training day will be held on Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Grace Cathedral. This day of workshops and networking is for all; church leaders are especially encouraged to participate. Learn more and register at www.diocal.org/beloved-community-training-day.

Next Vestry meeting: Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. in the Ford Room. Members of the St. Bede's community at large are welcome to join us for the spiritual practice that opens each Vestry meeting. Please contact Anne Vitullo, senior warden, or Brendan Deocariza-Nee, junior warden, if you wish to offer community input so that we can ensure there is time on the agenda for you.

Brendan Deocariza-Nee, Junior Warden

St Bede's Annual Gala and Auction

St. Bede's Annual Gala, a *Disco Extravaganza*, will be Saturday, May 2. We're looking forward to an evening of food, fun and a lively auction that will benefit those in our community who are in need.

We hope you will consider donating an item to this year's auction. Some of last year's auction items were tickets to the Smuin Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet and the Author's Luncheon; restaurant gift certificates, gift baskets, embroidered pillows, wine, homemade jam, and special sign-up events such as jam making and children's holiday parties.

We especially hope you will consider offering special get-away items such as we had last year to London, Hawaii, Beverly Hills and sailing. Events in your home such as dinners, wine-tastings and movie nights are also big hits!

Please let me know if you will be able to donate an item. I am happy to talk with you about your item, answer questions, or help you brainstorm an idea. All proceeds go to the Seccombe Outreach Fund to support those in our community who need our help.

Thanks so much for your support!

Sue Sartor, Auction Co-Chair

Junior Bach Concerts at St. Bede's

Junior Bach Festival will hold two of its twelve spring concerts this year at St. Bede's!

On Friday, March 20 and Friday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m., come hear young virtuoso musicians, many from the Peninsula and South Bay, perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach in celebration of the master's 335th birthday! The Junior Bach Festival, headquartered in Berkeley, has a rich history dating back to 1953 and in the last few years has headed into record territory with 475 auditioners!

The March 20 concert will feature violin, viola, piano and organ including young organists Isaiah Rassbach and Ryan Chi, while the March 27 concert will feature violin, cello, flute, piano, marimba and organ including young organist Nataly Pak playing Toccata and Fugue in D minor.

Please join us for two deeply enjoyable evenings!

Angela Kraft Cross, President, Junior Bach Festival

Showing Love to Our Unhoused Neighbors



Above, assembling the care kits in Lehman Hall.

About 30 adults and youth from St. Bede's, Trinity School and elsewhere in the community came together on Sunday, February 9 to assemble 60 care kits for our unhoused neighbors. These little parcels of grace contain water, snacks, hygiene items, gloves and socks to address the immediate needs of those living on the streets. One Trinity School parent who participated with her two children told me, "My kids and I had a chance to deliver a couple bags this evening. It was a profound experience."

You may ask, why care kits? As my husband, Evan Deocariza-Nee, explained, "While these kits can't help us solve the underlying problem of housing in the area, they can help us do something for our neighbors in need and give us the opportunity to interact with them through love." Time and again, we Christians are called to love. In the Gospel of John, as Jesus approaches death on the cross, he says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35 NRSV). What would it look like to be known for love above all else?

Leftover care kits will be available at coffee hour – please take a few with you! You're welcome to snag me at coffee hour or email bfdeonee@gmail.com with any questions.

Brendan Deocariza-Nee, event co-lead and Junior Warden

Celebrations: March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

12 Nick Flegel
14 Michaella Adams
15 Alison Newman
15 Ryan Newman
16 Kathleen Thompson
17 William Bowman
17 Sally Marshall
17 Virginia Royden
19 Vicki Blayney
23 Grace Knowles
24 Kenya Mitchell
24 Wes Poulson
25 Bob Gable
26 Michael Graebner
29 Peter Blackmore
29 Lin Yu

Anniversaries:

30 Angela Sherry and Peter Brown

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

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Staff

Katherine McKee, Music Director
Rani Fischer, Organist
Siri Huntoon, Parish Administrator
Angela Sherry, Bookkeeper

Sunday Services and Programs

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. (Rite I) and 10:15 a.m. (Rite II)
Soulwork Adult Education at 9 a.m.
Nursery at 10 a.m.
Children's Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.
First Sunday of each month: All-Ages Worship at 10:15
