



All-Ages Worship on February 2

We continue our new pattern of all-ages worship on the **first Sunday of each month at 10:15 a.m.** Our liturgy will be specially designed to speak to worshipers of all ages, from the very young to the young at heart. Children will be in church for the entire service; Sunday school will not be held, though nursery care will be available for babies and toddlers. Families may wish to sit in the front pews so children may see, hear, and participate more easily. Wiggles, shrieks, and pew gymnastics are welcome as our children learn and teach how to worship.

The Arts at St. Bede's: Candlemas Vespers, February 2

Escape from the competitive and commercial world and come to St. Bede's for Candlemas Vespers. The service, which starts at 4pm, will be entirely sung, led by The Reverend Gia Hayes-Martin, and will start with a candlelight procession into the church. Music will include hymns, psalms, and canticles for congregational singing by George Emblom, Bruce Ford, Thomas Purcell and Clara Fiske Scott. The choir will offer a psalm setting by John Goss, and the Magnificat in a plainchant setting arranged by Paul Ellison, as well as motets by Johannes Eccard, Charles H. Giffen, and Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina. At the conclusion of the service, the candles which will be used in worship for the coming year will be blessed. *Freewill donations will benefit Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse – providing safety, support, and healing to those affected by intimate partner abuse. If you cannot attend and wish to make a donation, you may do so at <http://stbedesmenlopark.org/upcoming-arts-events/>*

Make Homeless Care Kits on February 9

A service opportunity for all ages! St. Bede's parishioners Brendan and Evan Deocariza-Nee are organizing the preparation of care kits that we can give to our unhoused neighbors as we encounter them. The kits will include small toiletries, snacks, winter survival items, and information about resources. Join us on Sunday, February 9 during the 10:15 coffee hour for a brief training session and kit assembly. *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

Gia's Farewell

We will bid farewell to Gia and Melville at celebratory coffee hours after both the 8 a.m. and 10:15 services on Sunday, February 23. If you wish to contribute to a gift from the parish, you may add your gift to the collection plate by Sunday, February 16 or drop off your contribution to the church office by Monday, February 17. If writing a check, please write "rector's farewell gift" on your check; if contributing cash, please include a note with that information.

Ash Wednesday: February 26

Lent, the solemn season of preparation for Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 26 this year. We will observe it with Imposition of Ashes at 12 noon and with Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist at 7:30 p.m.

February Soulwork

Our series on the Gospel of Matthew continues on February 2 and 9. Our lectionary focuses on Matthew this year. We'll explore Matthew's context, reflect on this gospel's major themes, and discover who Jesus is for him. On February 16, all are invited to a conversation about Soulwork in the coming months. What are you interested in learning and/or teaching? Soulwork meets at 9:00 a.m. in the Ford Room.

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Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our January and February Calendar

February 2: Arts at St. Bede's: Candlemas Vespers, 4 p.m.
February 5: Building and Grounds committee meeting, 12 p.m.
February 9: Homeless Care Kit preparation, 11:30 a.m.
February 11: Finance committee meeting, 1 p.m.
February 17: *President's Day – Parish Office Closed*
February 18: Vestry committee meeting, 7 p.m.
February 19: Bede's Bedhead Book Club, 9:30 a.m.
February 25: Community outreach steering committee, 3:30 p.m.

March 4: Building and Grounds committee meeting, 12 p.m.
March 8: LifeMoves Dinner, 12 p.m.
March 11: Finance committee meeting, 7 p.m.
March 15: Arts at St. Bede's: Angela Kraft Cross organ recital, 4 p.m.
March 17: Vestry committee meeting, 7 p.m.
March 18: Bede's Bedhead Book Club, 9:30 a.m.

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

The Hardest Words I Know

*Some words are sad to sing
They leave me tongue-tied
(But the hardest words to tell you)
The hardest words I know are I love you, goodbye*
—Thomas Dolby

Dear People of God,

As you have probably observed over the years, I do some of my best theological reflection to pop music. These words from the lead track off Thomas Dolby's 1992 album *Astronauts & Heretics* have been much on my heart these last few weeks. This is the last column I will write for *Bede's Journal*. Next month Melville and I are moving to Ohio, where I have accepted a call to serve as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in the Columbus suburb of Worthington.

Dolby is right. Saying farewell to ones we love is painful, even when happy reasons have brought about the goodbye. I don't know how St. Paul managed to carry out his ministry of spending months deeply enmeshed in a church, then moving on to another city. The farewells each time must have been wrenching, and I know I couldn't have done that. Farewells have a finality about them. Even if we see the person often, things will not be the same after we have said goodbye—and since Melville and I are moving across the country, this really is farewell. I love St. Bede's and its people, and it breaks my heart to leave all of you. "Goodbye" is the hardest word I have had to say to you.

Farewells are so difficult, I think, because they close off future possibilities. We have to leave things as they are, without being able to change them. That means letting our successes and our failures stand. I've done some things well at St. Bede's. I've preached a few solid sermons, taught some interesting Soulwork sessions, baptized and married and buried beloved members of this parish, led the transformation of the vestry's partnership with the rector, guided our discernment about community service, had pastoral conversations that I hope were as meaningful to you as they were to me. I've also made a number of mistakes—times I said something hurtful or insensitive, phone calls or visits I failed to make, sermons that fell flat, errors in judgment both minor and major, the memorable-for-the-wrong-reasons Sunday when I launched half a chalice full of wine all over the altar linens. For my successes, I give thanks to God; for my failures, known and unknown, I ask God's forgiveness and yours.

In the end, this is God's church. It doesn't depend on any one person, least of all the rector. And God is faithful. God has blessed St. Bede's with strong, engaged, effective lay leadership, especially our incoming wardens, Anne Vitullo and Brendan Deocariza-Nee. These lay leaders will ensure that St. Bede's is stable and steady during the search for your fourth rector. And God has blessed St. Bede's with all the spiritual gifts you will need in this interim season. What we need—what *you* need—is already here. It's true that interims are challenging times for every congregation. St. Bede's has survived challenging times before, and not only have you survived, you have thrived! This is a powerfully resilient community. Your resilience has grown

in the time I've known you, and your capacity to face challenges head-on with courage and hope will serve you well in the months ahead.

The policies of the Episcopal Church require a departing rector to make a clean break with their former congregation, so that the parish can grieve the end of the relationship, discern its path forward, and form strong bonds with its new rector unimpeded by continued contact with the former priest. One of the greatest gifts my predecessor, Kitty Lehman, gave to me was staying away from St. Bede's for several years after I arrived. It's how you and I were able to establish such a strong relationship. I intend to give the same gift to my successor, which means refraining from any contact with anyone from St. Bede's for at least a year. If we do communicate in the future, I will not discuss your spiritual lives, the life of the parish, the search process, or your new rector: that's a clear boundary that our church's policies draw. Though our relationship as priest and parishioners is ending, my love for all of you does not end. I will always carry St. Bede's in my heart and in my prayers.

I will miss you more than I can say. My last day at St. Bede's is February 23. Melville and I hope to see you before then to say those hardest of words in person.

Blessings and love, Gia+

A CHANGE FOR THE MAY ARTS AT ST. BEDE'S EVENT

We have some good news, and we have some good news! The Arts at St. Bede's Series May 17 event was originally scheduled to feature Ensemble Draca, the early music ensemble which features our own soprano section leader, Katina Mitchell. Those plans were made before Katina knew that her second child would be arriving in early May. Congratulations to Katina, her husband Rod Albuyeh, and their first son Ambrose! The other members of Ensemble Draca have agreed to postpone their St. Bede's debut until the 2020-2021 season, when we'll look forward to some stellar early music featuring voice, viol, harps and harpsichord.



However, we do have a great program newly planned for May 17. Our bass section leader, Christopher Filipowicz, and colleague Kevin Korth, pianist, will present a recital of German Lieder for us that afternoon. Featuring all-time favorite pieces by Schubert, Brahms, and Richard Strauss, the program will also include rarely performed treasures by lesser known composers like Loewe and Korngold.

Kathy McKee

About the performers

Bass **Christopher Filipowicz** recently returned to the Bay Area as a member of the chorus of San Francisco Opera, where he made his mainstage debut as Une Voix in Massenet's *Manon* during the 2017-18 season. He was most recently seen on the stage of San Francisco Opera as Ed in Jake Heggie's "It's a Wonderful Life". Mr. Filipowicz was a member of the Core Supplementary Chorus of Lyric Opera of Chicago for their 2016-17 season where he also made his Lyric Opera debut as the Speaking Priest in their production of *Die Zauberflöte*. Career highlights include Tom in *Un ballo in maschera* with Livermore Valley Opera as part of their 2017-18 season, Sarastro and Der Sprecher in *Die Zauberflöte* with Opera San Jose, Ferrando in *Il trovatore* with West Bay Opera, covering Don Basilio in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Music Academy of the West, Don Bartolo in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Zuniga in Bizet's *Carmen* as a young artist with Nashville Opera, as well as performances with Wolf Trap Opera, Sarasota Opera, and others. Upcoming performances include Leporello in Pocket Opera's production of *Don Giovanni* in March 2020 and Zuniga in *Carmen* with Festival Opera July 2020. He holds degrees from DePaul University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has studied voice with Dr. Julia Nielsen, Susan Charles, and Cesar Ulloa.

As an in-demand recitalist and coach, pianist **Kevin Korth** has collaborated with such legendary artists as Frederica von Stade, Jake Heggie, Suzanne Mentzer, Nadine Sierra, Lise Lindstrom, Joel Krosnick, Marnie Breckenridge, Deborah Voigt, and Brian Asawa. Praised by Gramophone for playing that is "superb", and "full of color and character," his debut album, *Out of the Shadows*, a recording of American art song with soprano Lisa Delan and cellist Matt Haimovitz on the Pentatone Classics label was very warmly received. Recent projects include an album of Robinson Jeffers settings by composer Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli with mezzo-soprano Buffy Baggott for the Delos label, and an album of songs by composer David Conte for the Arsis label and a recital with Isabel Leonard. Upcoming engagements include a recital with SF Ballet concertmaster Cordula Merks. Mr. Korth currently holds a position on the vocal coaching faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Steering Committee met on January 13th. Below is a summary of our discussions and actions. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the committee if you have questions or suggestions. Members are: Co-Chairs Sue Sartor and Julie Backlund, Liz Bellock, Vicki Blayney, Angela Sherry and Deb Blackmore. There are opportunities for parishioners to contribute their time and talent throughout the year, so please note upcoming events and watch for volunteer sign-up information.

After reviewing St. Bede's Way, members addressed the following agenda items:

Ministry for the Unhoused

The team continues to learn about possible new partnerships. Trinity Church plans to host Home and Hope this June and welcomes St. Bede's participation. Please watch for more information and details.

Life Moves Dinners

The Life Moves Dinner in November was a great success! The next dinner will be on March 8th - please mark your calendars! Vicki Blayney will provide information and sign-ups. There will be plenty of opportunity for young and older to help with food preparation or serving so everyone is encouraged to participate. Committee members agreed to increase our participation with Life Moves by planning quarterly dinners and/or projects to support their various facilities.

Ecumenical Hunger Program Holiday Family Sharing

As described in Angela Sherry's January Journal article, we had another successful year supporting teens.

Homeless Care Kits

This project, brought to the Committee for consideration by Vestry member Brendan Deocariza-Nee, was unanimously approved. Care Kits of winter supplies/clothing items would be prepared at St. Bede's and handed out by individual parishioners whenever needed. We plan to assemble the kits on February 9th - please mark your calendars! (See p. 1 for more information.)

Meals for Families in Need

St. Bede's Community Service invites all families to participate in preparing a meal and serving dinner on March 8 for the families at Life Moves shelter in San Mateo. Unhoused families are provided with dinner, breakfast, shelter and counseling through Life Moves and its network of congregations and civic organizations. Our first crew of volunteers will meet in the kitchen after the 10:15 service to prepare enchilada casserole, vegetables, fruit jello and cookies. All families, and especially our children, are invited to share the fun. There are volunteer opportunities to shop, prepare food, and for adult volunteers to transport and serve it. As an extra activity during the dinner period, we will offer a craft project for the youngsters. Please look for the Signup Genius coming to your email soon. For questions, phone Vicki Blayney at 734-709-8703.

Life Moves Thanksgiving Meal Baskets

Committee members agreed to create and donate meal baskets next Thanksgiving season. Parishioners will have an opportunity to provide food, gift cards and/or beverages. More information will be provided closer in the fall.

St. Bede's Spring Gala - Auction and Disco Extravaganza! May 2nd!

Members discussed plans for the annual Gala. We will have a disco themed party with an auction, dinner and disco bingo. Community Service and Hospitality teams will collaborate on this event. Parishioners are encouraged to start thinking of items they can donate for the auction. Proceeds benefit St. Bede's Secombe Fund for Outreach. Our next meeting will be on February 25, 2020 at 3:30 in the Ford Room.

Vestry View

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

Rector's report. Gia Hayes-Martin submitted her resignation as rector of St. Bede's to the Vestry. She has been called to serve as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Worthington, Ohio. Vestry voted to accept Gia's resignation, effective Sunday, February 23, 2020.

Warden's reports. Julie Backlund and Anne Vitullo briefly outlined the steps involved in conducting a search for a new rector. Julie provides some guidelines from the Episcopal Church's Vestry Reference Guide. Anne explained that we will be working with the Diocesan transition minister to identify a supply priest or priests for the near term, as well as an interim rector to join us until a new rector is called. As incoming Senior Warden, Anne will appoint a search committee to call a new rector.

Children's and Youth Ministry (CYM). Gia and Staci Homrig updated the job description for the Children's and Youth Minister, which has been approved by the Personnel Committee. Vestry voted to approve the job description so that the position can be posted this month. Gia hopes we can identify a new CYM before she leaves on February 23.

Trinity School update. Trinity School will take this entire year to prepare their strategic plan, which will then feed into work on the campus master plan with St. Bede's next year.

Stewardship campaign. Van Jepson reported that we are moving incrementally towards reaching our full fundraising goal for 2020. To date, we have received \$277,000 in pledges, which is 85% of our goal of \$327,000. The Stewardship Committee will consider whether to conduct a "mini" campaign mid-year to close the gap.

Community outreach. We will be creating simple care kits for the homeless on Sunday, February 9. Parishioners will be invited to take a small supply of these kits and give them to homeless individuals in our community when we encounter them. We will again prepare dinner for the LifeMoves shelter in San Mateo on Sunday, March 8. Our Spring Gala is planned for Saturday, May 2, featuring Disco Bingo. The event will raise funds for the community outreach fund.

Next Vestry meeting: Tuesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in the Ford Room. Members of the Bede's community at large are welcome to join us for the spiritual practice that opens each Vestry meeting. Please contact Gia or one of the wardens if you wish to offer community input, so that we can ensure there is time on the agenda for you.

– *Anne Vitullo, Junior Warden*

Celebrations: February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

2 Bertita Graebner
4 Calvin Jepson
11 Susan Chan Egan
12 Clara Kopczynski
13 Jon Backlund
16 Robert Bowman
Harper Skey
19 Christian du Lac
Laura Gable
20 Audrey Harris
Christopher Harris
22 Leo Chrapla
23 Neill Norman
24 Tanya Luhrmann
26 Renée Hannebrink
27 Joan Craig

Anniversaries:

Please let the parish office know
if you have an anniversary
this month!

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA. 94025 • (650) 854-6555 •

www.stbedesmenlopark.org

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, Rector
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 the Month:
All-Ages Worship
