

Bede's Journal

The Monthly Newsmagazine of St. Bede's Episcopal Church



We help all ages grow in faith and service.

December 2015

December at a Glance

6:00pm, Wednesday 2 December
Advent Potluck & Hymn Sing

9:00am, Sundays, December 6, 13, 20
Soulwork: Christian Marriage



Sunday 6 December — Feast of St. Nicholas
Annual Pledge Ingathering

noon FALL GALA sign-up event: Gingerbread house party

Sunday 13 December

10:15am Advent Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist
4:00pm Arts at St. Bede's presents Kitka

5:00pm, Saturday 19 December

FALL GALA sign-up event: Date night for parents, at the Leen home

11:30am, Sunday 20 December

Family Sharing gift wrapping at coffee hour

Thursday 24 December — Christmas Eve

4:00pm Children's Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist
5:30pm Community Dinner *Free to all; RSVP most appreciated*
7:30pm Candlelight Choral Prelude
8:00pm Festival Eucharist with Choir

10:00am, Friday 25 December — Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist with Carols

10:00am, Sunday 27 December — 1 Christmas

Christmas Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist: ONE SERVICE ONLY



Look Ahead and Save The Date!

Sunday 28 February

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop of California, visits St. Bede's

Soulwork in December

Sunday Soulwork this month will explore Christian marriage. Drawing on the work of the Episcopal Church's Task Force on the Study of Marriage, we'll consider changing cultural norms around marriage including marriage equality, what makes a marriage distinctively Christian, and how wedding liturgies express a theology of marriage. Whether you are straight or gay, married, single, divorced, widowed, remarried, in a committed relationship, or "it's complicated," please join us to share your perspectives on this vocation. The series meets on Sundays, December 6, 13, and 20, at 9:00am in Lehman Hall; childcare is available. Sunday Soulwork will not meet on December 27.

Participants in Wednesday Soulwork have decided that this offering should go on hiatus for the time being. If you are interested in mid-week Christian formation for adults, please talk to Gia.

Helping the Needy in Advent

St. Bede's offers several ways to share our bounty and God's love with our neighbors this month, reflecting Jesus' call in Matthew 25:36: "I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Our seasonal outreach to those in jail, via cookies and caroling, is described elsewhere in this *Journal*. To serve those in need, we participate in the Family Sharing program of Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP, www.ehpcare.org), which ensures deserving East Palo Alto families with very limited means receive Christmas gifts and grocery funds. This year St. Bede's has pledged to help fulfill the wish lists of three families, including one in which a working couple live with their five children, three grandchildren, and a niece.

Sign up at coffee hours on Sunday, December 6, to buy a specific gift or to donate



Helping the Needy Year-round

St. Bede's support of EHP's Pack the Bag program for at-risk children is year-round. Thanks to all our donors of nutritious, kid-friendly foods and the crew of weekly packers and shoppers, including Diane Spath, Linda Wenstrand, Emilee Wilhelm-Leen, Jeanne Cooper, Angela Sherry, Juliet Knowles, and Mary Working.

We also have an ongoing drive for gently used clothing (cold-weather gear especially needed) and household items, family-sized foodstuffs, and mini toiletries. They're distributed to local shelters and food banks by John Hickson, David Chu, and Carol & Ed Brink. Please leave all items in the designated narthex baskets.

towards gift and gift card purchases; you can also contact coordinators Laura Gable and Fred Langhorst before Friday, December 11, to learn which gifts still need to be purchased. The parish is invited to help wrap gifts after the 10:15 service on Sunday, December 13; they'll be delivered to EHP on December 17.

To "look after" the sick in Advent, we raise funds for a nursing scholarship in Malawi through Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (thegaia.org), which also serves as an "alternative gift" opportunity (similar to those of the Heifer Project or Episcopal Relief & Development).

The \$2,500 nursing scholarship covers tuition, books, uniforms, and a stipend for other expenses, which often includes care of younger siblings due to parents lost to AIDS. Recipients agree to serve in Malawi for at least five years after graduation, and through GAIA's mobile clinics, can ultimately care for thousands of patients each per year.

Those who donate at coffee hours through December 20 will receive a card and memento to give to another, or keep for themselves. Due to the increased cost of the scholarship, this year we're also offering the possibility to donate via credit card at coffee hours or at www.stbedesmenlopark.org; please feel free to share the link with any interested friends.

Stewardship Update

Time & Talent Pledges

Our inaugural "time and talent" pledge campaign is off to a great start, with 45 commitments in hand at press time. We appreciate how many people already give much more than an hour per week, yet are willing to offer additional and creative uses of their time. Ministry team leaders will be reaching out to all those who responded early in the new year, if not before.



If you haven't had a chance yet to reflect on how you can share your presence at St. Bede's, please try to do so by **Sunday, 12/6**, the Feast of St. Nicholas. That's when we'll ask the children to bring a basket of all the returned time and talent pledges so far to the altar during the offertory at the 10:15am service. St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, renowned for his generosity and efforts to help others, will also be on hand to distribute gold-wrapped chocolate coins—a reminder of how sweet it is to be a giver!

Financial Pledges

Our traditional stewardship campaign is nearly two-thirds of the way to our goal of \$315,000 for 2016. At press time, 48 households had returned pledges of \$200,270—many thanks to all of you for

your ongoing support of parish programs and ministry! No matter what the amount—ranging from \$20 to \$20,000 or more—these pledges not only represent full membership in our community but also a desire to share God's love through the worship, faith formation, and community outreach our wonderful facilities and staff enable us to provide.

It is critical that we have as many pledge forms returned as possible before the next vestry meeting on December 15, when we'll vote on the final budget proposal for 2016. If it's possible to increase your pledge by at least 3%, reflecting the rise in our operating expenses, we encourage you to do so, while recognizing that individual circumstances vary. All contributions are deeply appreciated.

We'll announce the initial round of pledging households in the bulletin for Sunday, December 6, in keeping with the Feast of St. Nicholas, and continue updates through Advent.

Note: If you missed the Harvest Brunch on October 26, our "stewardship social" for this season, but would like to learn more about parish planning for 2016—or to share your ideas for the future—please feel free to contact Rev. Gia or myself to meet over coffee or lunch. We'd love to hear from you.

— Jeanne Cooper
Senior warden, Stewardship chair

Advent Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 13, 10:15am

This year's celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols will be on the third Sunday of Advent, December 13. The choir will sing anthems by Malcolm Archer, George Bayley, William Byrd, Bob Chilcott, and Palestrina, and we'll hear soprano and tenor solos from Handel's *Messiah* as well.

Arts at St. Bede's presents

Kitka

Sunday, December 13, 4pm



Wintersongs showcases seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. Kitka's program features rousing Slavic folk carols, meditative Eastern and Bosnian-Muslim sacred works, pagan incantations, Hebrew songs, and lively Romany tunes, all inspired by the customs, beauty, and mystery of wintertime.

Tickets at door: \$40 center-front/
\$35 general/\$30 senior/\$15 student

For more info & advance purchase, see
www.kitka.org

From the Rector

Where Everybody Knows Your Name

Responses to my column in last month's Bede's Journal were still coming in, so I had not yet reached a decision about the rector's column by the deadline. A couple of readers suggested printing my sermons in the Journal. As we look to the conclusion of this year's stewardship campaign on December 6, this seems an opportune time to share my sermon from October 25 of this year. The texts were Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 126, Hebrews 7:23-28, and Mark 10:46-52.

Few things are as significant to our identity as our names. Naming is one of the first decisions our parents make for us, and the choice of a name can place us firmly within a family or a culture or mark a new beginning. Names can shape how we feel about ourselves and others. Anne of Green Gables gives her wholehearted loyalty to her teacher Miss Stacy because, as Anne says, "When she pronounces my name I feel *instinctively* that she's spelling it with an E."^[1] As a child, I was teased relentlessly for my unusual name, and I'm still sensitive about it. When someone takes the trouble to ask how my name is pronounced and to say it correctly, it makes me feel known and respected. The reason children get so upset when adults call them their sibling's name is because it says, "You're interchangeable, you don't matter for yourself." Calling them the right name sends a powerful message of affirmation.

[1] Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*, chapter XXIV (Kindle e-book).

Names are important in the Bible, although in a somewhat different way than for us. In the Hebrew Bible especially, to name something or to call it by name is to have power over it. As part of his dominion or stewardship of the creatures of the earth, Adam was allowed to name all the animals; whatever he called each one was its name (Gen 2:19). Jacob, wrestling with the angel at the Jabbok River, demanded to know his name before he would let go. The angel refused to tell, and Jacob was denied power over him (Gen 32:29). In a similar attempt to control Jesus, two of the unclean spirits Jesus faced called him by name, but Jesus, being the Son of God, could not be subdued in this way (Lk 4:33-34; 8:28-29).

In our time, knowing someone's name is not so much about having power over them. It's more about intimacy, recognition, claiming. To call someone by name is to know them and to acknowledge a relationship with them. We can see that in Jesus' time, too. In our story from the

gospel according to Mark, the use of names is deliberate. Bartimaeus calls Jesus by his name. He knows who Jesus is, and he recognizes him as the messiah, the Son of David promised to God's people. In calling Jesus by his name and his title, Bartimaeus makes a claim on Jesus. "I know you, I know who and what you are; now, help me!" Bartimaeus is the only person Jesus heals whose name is recorded in the gospels. And not only his name, but his family connection is recorded.

A blind beggar in his culture was the lowest of the low, a person devalued and expendable by society's terms. He is not someone you'd expect a family to be proud of, but his family claimed him through his name, Bartimaeus, which means "the son of Timaeus." The Christian community claimed him too, by knowing his name and writing it down, so that all of us all the way down to today know his name. We remember his name, and we know that he is one of us, a fellow traveler who followed Jesus on the way. Bartimaeus and Jesus are claiming each other through the use of their names. The names say, "I belong to you, and you belong to me, and there is this connection, this relationship between us."



As Jesus and Bartimaeus knew each other's names, God knows our names. God knew us before we ever came to be; God formed our parts and knit us together in our mothers' wombs. All our days were written in God's book before any of them existed (Ps 139:13, 16). God calls us by name to recognize us, to form a bond with us. Our parents might use our full name in anger and frustration, but God does it with affection, with kindness and gentle humor. In all the times we feel invisible and unknown, when we are forgotten or overlooked, when people see the role we play but not the real us, God sees us and knows our name. God's knowledge of our true self claims us for God. We belong to God, and God belongs to us, and there is an unbreakable connection between us.

God knows our names, and St. Bede's does too. Several times a year I have conversations with someone about church membership—what you have to do to be a member, who is a member. I never know how to answer those questions. I know what the canons, the rules of the Episcopal Church say: "All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with



water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are members thereof.”[2] Communicants in good standing have received communion in the Episcopal Church at least three times in the previous year and “have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.”[3] That’s what the rules say, but those rules were developed several decades ago in a context that has changed a lot since then. In practice, those official definitions break down, and membership is much messier. There are faithful attenders of St. Bede’s, people who are here several times a month, who do not consider themselves members. There are people who don’t attend church but give to the parish every year, who do consider themselves members. Then there are people who haven’t made any contact at all with St. Bede’s in a very long time, who still consider themselves members. The rules don’t speak to any of those situations. What I am left with, though, is names, the power and intimacy and recognition of knowing someone’s name. Maybe being

[2] TEC Constitution and Canons 2012, Canon I.17.1(a).

[3] *ibid.*, Canons I.17.2(a) and I.17.3.

a member of a church means that that is where your name is known.

One of the painful parts of St. Bede’s history is a time not too long ago when the parish dreamed of growing much larger. Despite much prayer and many people’s best efforts, that dream did not bear fruit, and St. Bede’s remains a relatively small congregation. Churches our size often disparage themselves for being small, for having fewer members and a smaller Sunday school than they did in the past or than other churches have now. But there is something we have at this size that larger churches cannot offer: here, everyone’s name is known. Many of you say that you value that about this community, that it is intimate enough that we call each other by name. If you have attended worship more than a couple of times, someone at St. Bede’s knows your name. St. Bede’s knows you, St. Bede’s claims you, St. Bede’s is committed to you.

In return, St. Bede’s asks you to make a commitment to this community. The most direct expression of commitment is to pledge your time, talent, and treasure to St. Bede’s. We have for a number of years asked for a financial pledge to the parish—the “treasure” component—and the vestry and I hope that you will continue to support St. Bede’s with a portion of your money, however large or small. This year, we ask you to pledge your time and talent as well.

Giving of yourself through a pledge signals that as St. Bede’s knows your name, you know St. Bede’s name as well. A pledge says that you know St. Bede’s, you claim St. Bede’s, you are committed to St. Bede’s.

Pledges are not only an expression of commitment, they help to ensure that St. Bede’s continues to offer to others what we have found here. In our busy world, it is easy to be anonymous, to hide behind an online pseudonym, to disappear in a crowd, to be forgotten among the noisy and the powerful. The knowledge and claiming we have at St. Bede’s may be one of the most profound gifts we have to offer the world. Here, God knows our names, and God has called us to this community, where all names are known.

Peace,



Gia+

Vestry View

The vestry did not meet in November, due to travel, illness, and other issues that kept us from achieving a quorum. Our final meeting of the year will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, December 15, in the Ford Room. We begin with a spiritual exercise of approximately 15-20 minutes, followed by a time for community input; parishioners are invited to attend both, or contact Laura Gable, junior warden, to share their concerns.

☀ Bede’s People ☀

Charlie Pellegrin was part of the Ragazzi Boys Chorus performing “Carmina Burana” at a Bay Area Chorus Guild concert in November. He will also appear in Ragazzi’s Winter Family Recital in Palo Alto on December 12, and in the choir’s holiday concert, “I Dream A World,” December 6 in Burlingame and December 13 in San Francisco. Brother **J.B. Pellegrin** will also sing in the two “I Dream A World” concerts, with an additional performance at 4pm on December 5 in Palo Alto. See ragazzi.org for tickets and venue details.

Congratulations and farewell to **Robin & Richard Sequeira**, who retired to Arizona last month. Keep in touch with them at 9393 E. Palo Brea Bend, Scottsdale, AZ 85255.



Children & Youth

It's Christmas Pageant Season! That's right, we are practicing, practicing, practicing! We are tuning our voices and memorizing our lines so that we can put on a great show for you! Pageant practices will be held at their regularly scheduled time after services on Sunday. Please bring your children; we have parts for all ages! The Christmas Pageant itself will be held on Thursday, December 24th at 4pm. We hope that you can all join us and celebrate the Nativity story. The pageant will be filled with your favorite Christmas carols. Sing with us! This is a family event so feel free to bring the visitors and the friends!

St. Bede's is also hosting an Advent Potluck & Hymn Sing for ages young and old on Wednesday, December 2. The joy of the holidays is all around us, let us share in the merriment together! The youth Christmas

Party that was planned for the end of December will now be wrapped up into this congregation-wide all ages Family Night. We will be coming together as a part of the wider congregation to celebrate the joys and anticipation of the Advent season.

For any and all wishing to help with Sunday school or other children's or youth events, you can always reach out to me. We have plenty of places where we could use your time and talents; whether it is your skill at baking or your ability to start up conversations with teenagers, we would love you to join in our ministry. You can email me at michaela@stbedesmenlopark.org or approach me at coffee hour!

— *Michaela Kruger*
Children's & Youth Minister



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Seeking Cookies & Cookie Bakers

Do you love to make Christmas cookies—perhaps even too many cookies to eat yourself? We have several “cookie ministries” in Advent and Christmas that could use your time, talent, and tasty treasures!

First, save the date of **Sunday, December 20**, for a “*cookie ingathering*” at both coffee hours. Please bring your extra homemade cookies and other treats, labeling containers you'd like returned and all items containing nuts. At 11:30am, Nancy Stork will lead a *mass cookie-baking and decorating* session for adults in the kitchen; youth who are not participating in the pageant rehearsal are also welcome to help. (A light lunch will be provided for those staying after 1pm.)

So where will all these cookies go?



* *Cookie platters for 12-step groups*: Last year, at Rev. Gia's suggestion, we assembled platters of store-bought cookies for each of the 12-step groups that met at St. Bede's during Christmas week—a stressful time for many in recovery—and included a note of Christmas cheer. We heard back later how many participants were touched by this gesture of love and support. We'll assemble cookie plates again in Lehman Hall on **Tuesday, 12/22**, after volunteers' return from cookie bag assembly in Woodside (see following).

* *Cookie bags for inmates*: For almost a decade, St. Bede's and Trinity School chil-

dren have helped decorate Service League cookie bags that St. Bede's volunteers and others distribute to some 1,000 inmates in the county jail on Christmas Day (see related article, page 13). But last year was the first time St. Bede's participated in actually filling the bags and it was a blast that went all too quickly, as William Wenstrand can tell you. This year's assembly line starts at **9am, 12/22** at United Methodist Church (Woodside Road at Alameda de las Pulgas). RSVP to Jeanne Cooper if you would like to join this year's volunteers; carpool for youth may be available.

* *Cookie trays for worshippers*: Several years ago we began offering hospitality to worshippers after the three **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day** services, when we're likely to have visitors and newcomers in the pews, as well as “old-timers” who enjoy a few more moments of festive fellowship. While the hospitality team will buy cookies to ensure there's enough for all of these services, your addition of homemade items will be a wonderful example of sharing our gifts at Christmas.

Note: If you have cookies to share but will be leaving town before December 20, please feel free to put them in the church side of the kitchen freezer before then; label containers with your name, and note if nuts are included.

— *Jeanne Cooper and Nancy Stork*
Hospitality Guild

Christmas Eve Dinner

Following the enthusiastic response to last year's inaugural Christmas Eve community dinner, which attracted fifty diners from ages 9 months to 91, we are again welcoming parishioners and members of the public to share festive food and fellowship between the two worship services on December 24.

After the 4pm Christmas Eve pageant and piñatas reception, we'll open the dining area at 5:30pm, and enjoy a buffet of appetizers, salads, vegetarian lasagne and spiral-cut smoked turkey, then Christmas cookies and potluck dessert (a good time to re-gift sweets you can't consume yourself!). While choir members will still adjourn in time to rehearse before the 8pm service, the other patrons will be invited to enjoy games and puzzles until just before 7:30pm, when the candlelit chorale begins in the sanctuary.

Please be sure to RSVP to the parish office by Sunday, December 20, if you plan to attend. Donations towards hospitality costs are welcome but not required; please feel free to bring family members or friends.

Those with their own dinner plans as well as guests are also invited to donate Christmas decor and/or help the hospitality team decorate the stage and tables on Wednesday evening, December 23, or the next afternoon, before the 4pm pageant; contact me for details.

— Jeanne Cooper



Candlelight Carols on Christmas Eve

Come early for the 8pm Christmas Eve service for a half hour of gorgeous Christmas carols by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. Beginning at 7:30, the choir will sing Vaughan Williams' famous **Fantasia on Christmas Carols**, as well as settings of **What Child is This**, **Wither's Rocking Carol**, and two chorales from **Hodie: The Blessed Son of God** and *No sad thought His soul affright*. Anthems during the service will include Quentin Long's setting of **Personent Hodie**, and more excerpts from **Hodie**.

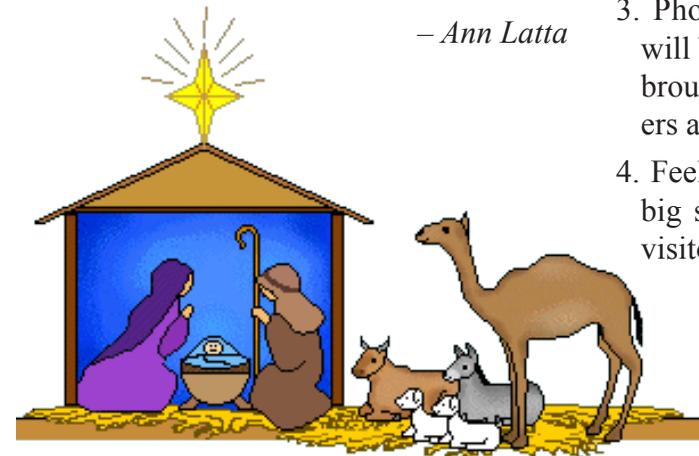
— Katherine McKee
Music Director

Christmas Morning at the Jail

For the past few years, a stalwart contingent of St. Bede's parishioners and friends have arrived at the San Mateo County Jail in Redwood City on Christmas morning at 7:30am. Escorted by a sheriff's deputy and Service League staff member, we visit each floor to sing carols while passing out bags of Christmas cookies, some made by St. Bede's parishioners and friends. We shake hands, look the inmates in the eye, and wish them a very Merry Christmas. In turn, we receive a "God Bless" from many of the inmates and we, indeed, are most blessed.

The highlight of my Christmas season, the time when I truly experience Christ among us, is this brief visit to the county jail on Christmas morning. It fills my heart with joy, and all the words of the carols are meaningful and real. Please consider joining us in what is becoming a St. Bede's tradition. It will fill your heart as it does mine.

— Ann Latta



Clip art by Cliparts.co

Notes on serving at the jail —

1. Jail visitors must be aged 18 or older, and need to submit a volunteer application to the Service League no later than Monday, December 14. Email Ann Latta for a copy of the form, which the sheriff's department will review. You can also call her for more information on what it's like to participate.
2. Approved volunteers will meet at 7:30am on December 25 at the Maguire Facility (aka the men's jail), 300 Bradford St., Redwood City; carpools may be available. It typically takes an hour to visit all floors, after which volunteers may leave or join a group heading to the women's jail, 1590 Maple St., via car. Visits there usually wrap up by 9:30am (which allows time to attend St. Bede's Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols at 10am, for those who wish).
3. Photo ID is required, and lyric sheets will be provided, but nothing else may be brought into the jail. Coin-operated lockers are available in the waiting room.
4. Feel free to wear festive clothing and a big smile—you may be someone's only visitor on Christmas Day!

Gala Wrap-Up

In last month's *Bede's Journal* we thanked all the generous ticket donors and underwriters who had supported "A Night in New Orleans," our fall fundraiser and social gala on October 30.

Now we can report the happy news that our evening raised approximately \$12,000 for parish programs and ministry—and provided a festive evening of fellowship and many shared gifts.

While the final expenses are still being tallied, our silent auction and sign-up events netted \$9,680, with ticket sales of \$3,680 and underwriting of \$2,725, offsetting billed expenses of approximately \$4,300. Special thanks to Abby Mintz for underwriting the flowers as well as assembling eighteen centerpieces and 90-plus saints masks—a saintly task indeed!

We also appreciate those who embraced our All Saints' costume theme, and those who shared their talents onstage: vocalist Tanya Gulevich, poetry reader Bertita Graebner, guitarist Mathew Mammen, vocalist Claire Lawrence accompanied by pianist Rani Fischer, and pianist Ed Brink. Thanks to Curtis Grisham for expert sound engineering that helped everyone enjoy this special live entertainment.

In keeping with this year's stewardship theme of "Sharing Our Gifts, Sharing God's Love," we particularly benefited from the work of many volunteers, along with pa-

rishioners' donations of handmade items, services, event tickets, and sign-up events that reflect their talents and interests. There's not enough space here to list all who donated to the auction, or who bartended, checked guests in and out, set up and/or cleaned up, yet without them this event could never happen.

Although we list as many contributors as possible in the event program, I'd be remiss not to mention here, along with those named above, Laura Gable (dinner chair), Anne Vitullo (decor), Fred Langhorst (auction), Carol Shedlock (publishing), Diane, Alexandra, and Gigi Spath (childcare/mask making), and Irene Lawrence and David Chu (auction/shopping). Serving as auction chair and overall event coordinator takes a lot of time and energy, but it was my privilege to have such ready and willing volunteers alongside. *Merci beaucoup!*

—Jeanne Cooper



Gala Sign-up Events

At press time a few spaces still remained for the two Gala sign-up events this month: the **Gingerbread House Decorating Party for children on Sunday, 12/6** in Lehman Hall, noon-2pm (\$35), and the **Saturday, 12/19, Parents' Night Out**, with babysitting at the Leens' residence in Sunnyvale, 5-9pm (\$40). Please contact the parish office if interested in having your child join the fun.

Community Service

The Journey Home

St. Bede's volunteers took some extra steps last month to help homeless families in the Home & Hope transitional shelter program—by walking and running in the Journey Home 5K/10K, and through their efforts raising \$1,550 for Home & Hope. That was \$550 over the initial goal of \$1,000, and placed St. Bede's in the Top 5 fundraisers of fifteen teams.

Bertita Graebner came up with the team name, WalktheTalkSB.OTF ("St. Bede's On the Fault"), and was joined by Megan Ancker, Jon & Julie Backlund, Gia & Melville Hayes-Martin, Irene Lawrence, Emilee Wilhelm-Leen with her two young sons, and Mary Working. Gia ran the 5K (with negative splits!) while the rest briskly

walked the initially drizzly 5K course at Seal Point Park in San Mateo.

Thanks to all who participated, and their supporting donors, including parishioners Deb Blackmore, Ed & Carol Brink, David Chu, Jeanne Cooper, Curtis Grisham, Al Harris, Carol & Hal Louchheim, Ann Poulson, Dave & Megan Sell, Hasma & Aram Serverian, and Michelle Swenson.

St. Bede's also continues to support Home & Hope with hands-on help. The Pellegrin family (Meredith, Michael, J.B., and Charlie), Jeanne Cooper, and Megan Sell were scheduled to serve families in the program at Transfiguration Episcopal on December 1, while Megan and other volunteers including Julie Backlund, John Hickson, and Sarah Babin served in October at Congregation Beth Jacob.

—Jeanne Cooper



Trinity School

Trinity School students created a “wall of gratitude” last month that reveals how much this special community on our campus cultivates compassion as well as a love for learning. Students, teachers and staff shared in words and pictures on notecards what they are thankful for—everything from God, Christ, family and friends to art, anime, food, dogs, and “a healthy life.”

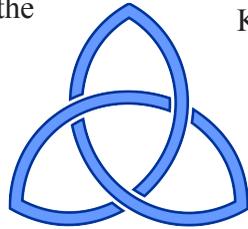
Woven among all the appreciation were prayers for peace and the victims of the attacks in Paris, as well as several examples of students’ growing proficiency in Spanish, thanks to teacher Estela Roldan, a former coordinator of the *Los Ayudantes* literacy programs that got their start at St. Bede’s. To see a short video of these unique thank-you cards, go to vimeo.com/146419514. You can also see pictures from the wall of gratitude on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinityschoolmp/.

December brings several more wonderful examples of Trinity’s unique approach to celebrating the caring, inclusive nature of Christianity in the Episcopal tradition. The **school Eucharist** at 8:30am on Thursday, December 3, invites all children to partici-

pate as they are able, and includes a food drive. On Wednesday, December 9, Lehman Hall becomes an all-day **Christmas crafts** factory/playground, where students create gifts and decor for loved ones and decorate Service League cookie bags for jail inmates. At 7pm Thursday, December 17, the whole school participates in **Advent Lessons & Carols**, filling the sanctuary to the rafters with family and friends.

Trinity will also host admission tours of its K-5 program on the St. Bede’s campus from 8:20 to 10am on Wednesday, December 9, and Thursday, December 17. The Early Childhood Program on the Trinity Church campus in downtown Menlo Park will host an admission tour from 8:30 to 10am on December 15. Please contact admission director Marie Campbell at admission@trinity-mp.org or phone her at (650) 854-0288, ext. 107, for more information.

St. Bede’s parishioners are also welcome to learn more about Trinity School by speaking with one of our four trustees on the school board: Jeanne Cooper, Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, Ann Latta, and Michelle Swenson.



The deadline for the January issue of Bede’s Journal is Tuesday 15 December.

🌸 Please send copy to: cshedlock@stbedesmenlopark.org 🌸

In the Month of December

Birthdays

- 3 Robert Shurtleff
- 4 Brian Leen
- 5 Elena Brugh
Freddy Churchill
- 6 Bob Wood
- 8 Lois Poole
- 10 Nancy Shurtleff
- 13 Medea Bern
George Shultz
Caroline Spath
- 17 Luis Wright
- 19 Carol Brink
- 24 Oran Terra
- 25 Mathew Mammen

Anniversaries

- 28 Nancy & Peter Nunn



St. Bede's Episcopal Church
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Permit No.
752

Time Value

Date Mailed: 2 December 2015

Change Service Requested



The purpose of Bede's Journal is to keep members and friends of the congregation informed of activities and opportunities for education, worship, and fellowship within the parish and beyond.

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin *Rector*
The Rev. John Oda-Burns *Priest Assistant*
Carol Shedlock *Parish Administrator*
Michaela Kruger *Children's & Youth Minister*
Katherine McKee *Music Director*
Rani Fischer *Organist*
Angela Sherry *Bookkeeper*

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist 8:00am, 10:15am

Sunday Programs

Adult Education 9:00am — *childcare available*

Nursery 10:00am

Children's Sunday school 10:15am

Weekdays

Holy Eucharist Wednesday 8:00am

Parish Office Hours M-F 9:00am-5:00pm

650-854-6555

Trinity School + Preschool-Fifth Grade



Read *Bede's Journal* online at
www.stbedesmenlopark.org