



Bede's Journal

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Bede's Episcopal Church

March 2019

Month at a Glance

Fri 1 - 7:15pm **Pizza Theology** *off site*

Sun 3 - Last Epiphany

9:00am Soulwork: **The Way of Love**

11:30am Liturgy planning committee mtg

Tue 5 - Shrove Tuesday

4:00pm **Outreach steering committee mtg**

6:00pm Vestry-hosted Pancake Supper

Wed 6 - **Ash Wednesday**

noon Eucharist w/Imposition of Ashes

6:00pm Choir rehearsal

7:30pm Eucharist w/Imposition of Ashes

Thu 7 - 6:00pm **Taizé on Thursdays**

Sat 9 - 10:00am Choir retreat *off site*

Sun 10 - 1 Lent

9:00am Soulwork: **The Way of Love**

11:30am **Faith Practices for Families**

11:45am Hospitality discussion

11:45am Liturgy planning committee mtg

Tue 12 - 5:00pm **Finance committee meeting**

Wed 13 - 9:00am Companions alumni mtg
noon **Buildings & grounds mtg**

Thu 14 - noon BYO brown bag with Ernie

6:00pm **Taizé on Thursdays**

7:00pm Hospitality discussion

Fri 15 - 7:15pm **Pizza Theology** *off site*

Sun 17 - 2 Lent

9:00am Soulwork: **The Way of Love**

4:00pm **Lenten Evensong & organ recital**

Tue 19 - 7:00pm **Vestry meeting**

Thu 21 - 6:00pm **Taizé on Thursdays**

6:30pm Potluck supper with Ernie

Fri 22 - **April Bede's Journal deadline**

Sun 24 - 3 Lent

9:00am Soulwork: **The Way of Love**

Thu 28 - 6:00pm **Taizé on Thursdays**

Fri 29 - 7:15pm **Pizza Theology** *off site*

Sun 31 - 4 Lent

9:00am Soulwork: **The Way of Love**

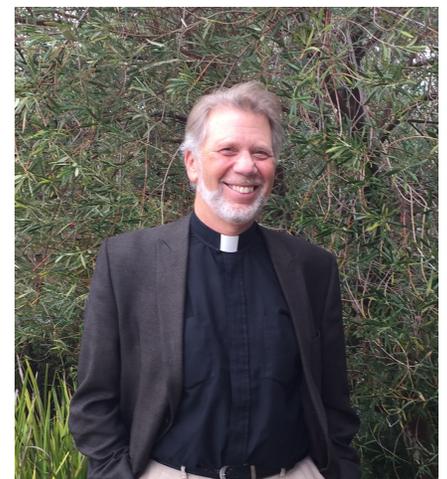
From the Locum

An Introduction: Rev. Ernest Boyer

I am honored to have a chance to serve as locum at St. Bede's for the next few months, into June. I hope during that time to have a chance to get to know as many of you as I can. In the meantime, let me tell you a little about myself.

First, I'm married to Sondra Allphin. Sondra is an attorney, who suffered a debilitating injury that resulted in a rare condition known as CRPS, which stands for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. Among the many other unfortunate results of this, she will find it very hard to attend services at St. Bede's. Between the two of us, we have five children and five grandchildren with another on the way. They are the joy of our life.

I have devoted most of my life to ministry. I received my Master of Divinity degree from Harvard in 1984 and worked for many years as a



professional lay minister in the Roman Catholic Church in Boston. Of course, in most circumstances the phrase “professional lay minister” would appear to be a contradiction in terms, but not for the Roman Catholic Church. I functioned first as a youth minister and an adult services minister in a blue-collar parish in Boston, then later worked for many years as a certified hospital chaplain specializing in chronic care patients and in an early form of hospice work. While doing this later I got my doctorate in theology at Harvard University.

Eventually I left the Roman church, deeply disillusioned by its treatment of women and gay people, among other things. For a time, I was spiritually adrift, but then Sondra suggested the Episcopal Church. The two of us attended one Sunday morning and I was sold at once. I felt like I had come home. It was wonderful. Almost at once people began to tell me that I was called to ordination. I hesitated at first, but soon the call became overwhelming. I was ordained in 2009.

Since then I have served as Priest in Charge in two parishes in the diocese of El Camino Real. I've loved every minute of it. And now I'm particularly looking forward to my time at St. Bede's.

I enjoy walking—I walk six miles a day—reading, and writing. I also recently took up photography.

That's me. Now I hope to hear from each of you.

– Ernie+

Adult Education: Soulwork

From February through March, we will follow Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's invitation to discern “The Way of Love” in our lives. Join Soulwork when you can as we reflect on practices for a Jesus-centered life in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

Coming Up

*** Renewal Season Small Groups ***

Nearly all of our small groups get rolling in March. All parishioners are encouraged to participate in at least one of these. See the full schedule and RSVP online via Sign-up Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044dafa72caafb6-small>)—or just come! Drop-ins are welcome.

Faith Practices for Families: This family-focused small group will meet monthly from now until May after the 10:15am service. Spend Sunday lunch with your family after the service. After lunch, the group will split for a short parenting conversation while children will have free time with caregivers on the playground. We'll come back together for a short prayer to end each session.

Pizza Theology: Share a slice of conversation about Jesus and Christianity over pizza and pints. People of all ages and faiths (or no faith) are welcome. We'll discuss a new topic at each session.

Taizé Thursdays: Experience calmness and centering in the candlelit sanctuary of St. Bede's, rather than sit in traffic on Sand Hill Road. Join us for an informal, ecumenical, participatory service of chant, song, prayer, and silence in the mode of the Taizé community in France. This practice has grown worldwide, and we're now introducing it at St. Bede's.

Bede's Bedhead Book Club: Join us on Wednesday mornings for a casual breakfast and discussion of books about contemporary faith. We'll start with books by Ann Lamott, a Marin-based writer with a bright comic voice, about her experiences as a Christian. Our starting point will be her two short classics: *Help, Thanks, Wow: Three Essential Prayers* (published in 2012) and *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair* (published in 2013). Each book is a short read—less than 100 pages each. Copies are readily available in local libraries and at local or online booksellers.

*** Share a Meal with Rev. Ernie ***

Plan to join us in the Ford Room for a BYO lunch at noon on **Thursday, March 14**, or for a potluck dinner at 6:30pm on **Thursday, March 21**. Please reserve your spot on the sign-up sheet in Lehman Hall (see the bulletin board near the coffee service tables). To keep the groups small and informal, sign-ups are limited to ten people per meal.



Community Service

The community service event dinner at First Step for Families in San Mateo on February 24 was well attended by members of St. Bede's of all ages. Cooking directly after church turned out to be a great innovation, and everyone pitched in browning meat, grating cheese, baking carrots, and making guacamole. Katie Machemer had shopped for ingredients and serving supplies. The kitchen was made spotless after our event thanks to Vicki Blayney, Brendan Deocariza-Nee, and Mary Working. Freddy and Bobby Churchill engaged with this event as part of

their preparation for Confirmation.

The food was both the simplest and probably the best we have ever offered—we got rave reviews of the chili, guacamole and chips, and the brown-sugar carrots. We had a good all-ages cross-section for the cooking; only families made it to the shelter to serve. Catherine Clover and Alexis Reed, Freddy Churchill, and Katie, Abigail, Kiersten, and Zachary Machemer served the food and shared the meal with families.

– Pamela Stevens, M.Div., Children's & Youth Minister



Music in Worship

The Light

At least once every year we sing “O Gracious Light,” or in Greek, *Phos hilaron*. It means joyful light, *phos* being light as in the word phosphorescent, and *hilaron* being joyful, as in hilarious, except here referring to a true encompassing joy of His mercy. We sing this hymn when we have an evening service, usually at Evensong. It is one of our oldest hymns, and we know that it goes back to the fourth century. St. Basil of Caesarea describes it sung at the daily lamp-lighting ceremony at his church. Our hymnal offers four musical settings of three different translations from the Greek, hymn numbers 25, 26, 36, and 37. Hymns #25 and #26 are recent translations from 1977; #25 is set to the famous 16th century *Tallis Canon*, and #26 to an early Italian plainchant from the 12th or 13th centuries. Hymn #36 and hymn #37 use differing 19th century translations of the text; the first set to a 16th century French melody composed to be sung to the Song of Simeon and the latter a melody composed by 20th century-born composer Gerald Near.

The words themselves invite us to focus on an image, light, as a metaphor for love or goodness, or Godness. The Greek is almost void of verbs, being mostly images or names of praise. A recent translation (not in our hymnal) captures the rapture:

*Christ, gladdening light of the holy glory, Glory of God, heavenly Father immortal,
The holy blessed one, our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In the translation used for hymns #25 and 26, we sing a different translation with a couple of lines added to the Greek original, lines two and four of stanza two:

*Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.*

The translator, F. Bland Tucker, writes that he debated long over whether to make line two “From candles lit to pierce the night.” This choice would have been exactly what we experience while singing this in a candlelit sanctuary in the waning afternoon light.

It is a hymn which kindles our hearts but does not devour our senses in passionate flames. It sets the tone for an inspired worship in which light vanquishes darkness.

– Rani Fischer, Organist

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 are key action items discussed at the February vestry meeting.

2019 finances. Senior Warden Julie Backlund has introduced vestry members to a new, simplified balance sheet that provides us with a snapshot of the church's finances. While vestry members continue to review the church's full balance sheets each month, the simplified version will give us a high-level review each month.

Community outreach changes. We have informed Ecumenical Hunger Program that we have discontinued our Pack-the-Bag ministry effective this month. There were a dwindling number of St. Bede's volunteers interested in this project, and EHP wanted volunteers only on weekday mornings when many people have work commitments. Julie Backlund and Sue Sartor have organized a new Community Outreach Steering Committee to identify and coordinate outreach projects, recruit and support project leaders, and recommend Seacombe Fund grantees. That group meets for the first time on **March 5**.

Stewardship. During March, the Stewardship Committee will be contacting parishioners who have not yet made a financial commitment to St. Bede's for 2019. Your gift—at whatever level is comfortable for you and your family—is important to the financial health of the parish.

Renewal season programs:

Small groups on faith topics. Our small groups on faith topics will get rolling in earnest during March. Among the current offerings are: Faith Practices for Families; the Bedhead Book Club, which will discuss Anne Lamott's books on faith and Christianity; Taizé on Thursdays, a participatory service of chant, song, prayer and silence; and Pizza Theology, informal discussions of Christianity at a local café. Look for information in the service bulletin each week, as well as the master schedule and group descriptions on our Lehman Hall bulletin board. RSVPs are being handled by a new online tool, Sign-up Genius.

This is Home. Deb Blackmore and Van Jepson are organizing a panel discussion that will help us all to learn about and advocate for affordable housing in our community. The first session is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, after the 10:15 service. Deb and Van presented their tentative plans at the February vestry meeting and are now looking for speakers from the community for the May 5 panel.

Hospitality discussion. Junior Warden Anne Vitullo will be chairing an effort to rethink our hospitality activities and transition to a team-based approach. Interested parishioners are invited to join us at one of two hospitality roundtables: **Sunday, March 10** at 11:45am in the Ford Room or **Thursday March 14**, 7 to 8pm in the Ford Room. Contact Anne if you'd like to attend.

Buildings and grounds committee. The icemaker in the Lehman Hall kitchen has been repaired and is currently working. Jon Backlund is getting estimates on a replacement machine. Three new bronze signs will be installed in Jarow Garden in March to remind everyone of its sacred purpose. Jon Backlund is also getting estimates for dry-rot repair and painting of the covered walkway in front of Lehman Hall that connects the church, the hall and the classrooms. Work will be done this summer.

Upcoming vestry meetings: Tuesday, March 19 and Tuesday, April 16 at 7pm 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 or to offer community input at the start of our business meeting.

– Anne Vitullo, 2019 Junior Warden

Wrapping Up

***** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—A Feast for All! *****

On March 5, parishioners donned Mardi Gras beads and heaped plates with traditional Fat Tuesday treats. Thanks to all for bringing big smiles and good cheer, and to our vestry hosts: Megan Ancker, Julie Backlund, Deb Blackmore, Vicki Blayney, Carol Brink, Brendan Deocariza-Nee, Helen Greenwood, Van Jepson, Anne Vitullo, and Mary Working.



+ Rites of Passage +

Life is marked by significant cycles and events: we are born, baptized, confirmed; some of us are married, families are raised, illness comes, death occurs. Such are the Rites of Passage and such are marked by special prayers in the church.

+ Baptism +

Emma Turner Homrig
Baden William Skey
Cameron Joseph Skey

Give them the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

+ Burial +

Anna Beth Eubanks Inglis
15 February 1922 - 7 January 2019
May her soul, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

International Contact Opportunity: Lodging Sought

Last year, a family recently arrived from Turkey came by St. Bede's asking Gia if she could find parishioners willing to spend time with them to help them improve their English. Ann Poulson and Dick Zeren have been tutoring them ever since.

The family is doing well: They have been granted asylum. The children (Kerem, 12, Rana, 10, and Mina, 7) attend Las Lomas schools; father, Omer, is driving for Uber; and mother, Rahsan—a physician—is studying for the exam to allow her to practice medicine in California.

One of their friends in Turkey, Mehmet Emin Ekmen, a prominent attorney and politician, has asked them to try to find summer housing for his son, Bedirhan, a third year law student at Istanbul University School of Law in Turkey. Bedirhan spent last summer in England, and now he wants to live in the United States to improve his English and learn about our culture.

His hope is to rent a room for three months (15 June to 15 September), ideally with a family or in a group residence. Bedirhan is a non-smoker and non-drinker who looks forward to the opportunity to learn more about life in the United States.

If you are interested, or know of a possible housing situation, and/or want further information, please contact Ann Poulson.

Belated Celebrations in February***Birthdays:**

- 2 Bertita Graebner
- 11 Susan Chan Egan
- 12 Clara Kopczynski
- 13 Jon Backlund
- 14 Fred Langhorst
- 16 Bobby Bowman
Harper Skey
- 17 Kiersten Machemer
- 19 Christian du Lac
Laura Gable
- 20 Audrey Harris
Christopher Harris
- 22 Leo Chrapla
- 23 Neill Norman
- 26 Renée Hannebrink
- 27 Joan Craig

* *Apologies to those whose special days are here recognized late due to the general kerfuffle at the start of the renewal season!*

Celebrations in March**Birthdays:**

- 1 Athena Burrs-President
- 6 Kristín Black
Elena Hobbs-Minor
- 7 Deborah Blackmore
- 10 Janet Hill
Isabel Norman
- 11 Jon Poe
- 12 Nick Flegel
- 14 Michaela Adams
- 15 Allison Newman
Ryan Newman
- 16 Kathy Thompson
- 17 Will Bowman
Sally Marshall
Jinx Royden
- 19 Vicki Blayney
- 23 Grace Knowles
- 24 Steven Minor
Wes Poulson
- 25 Bob Gable
- 26 Michael Graebner
- 29 Peter Blackmore
Lin Yu
- 30 Virginia Knight

Anniversaries:

- 24 Janet & Frank Hill
- 30 Angela Sherry & Peter Brown

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The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin *Rector (on leave until June 9)*

The Rev. Ernest L. Boyer *Locum*

Pamela Stevens, M.Div. *Children's & Youth Minister*

Katherine McKee *Music Director*

Rani Fischer *Organist*

Carol Shedlock *Parish Administrator*

Angela Sherry *Bookkeeper*

Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist 8:00am, 10:15am

Sunday Programs: Adult Education 9:00am, Nursery 10:00am, Children's Sunday school 10:15am

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

Trinity School + Preschool-Grade 5

St. Bede's Episcopal Church www.stbedesmenlopark.org
2650 Sand Hill Rd + Menlo Park, CA 94025 + (650) 854-6555