

## Bede's Journal

The monthly newsletter of St. Bede's Episcopal Church • May 2020



Dear People of St. Bede's,

Just as we were preparing this edition of *Bede's Journal*, we learned that six Bay Area counties have extended their shelter-in-place orders through the end of May. I expect that news was disheartening to all of you who hoped we would return to in-person worship this month.

While we continue to shelter at home, we invite you to join us for Morning Prayer each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. It's an opportunity to pray together and check in with each other during virtual coffee hour. Between 25 and 35 parishioners and friends join the Zoom service each week, while another 30+ are viewing our service on Facebook. I love that so many of you are making Morning Prayer a regular part of your weekend!

Although we do not yet have firm guidelines from Bishop Marc Andrus for reopening our church for in-person worship, I expect it to be a "soft" opening, with certain social distancing guidelines still in place to protect the health of our community. Over the next few weeks, as additional information becomes available, we'll begin to consider what a return to in-person worship might look like. Perhaps we'll try some services outside in the courtyard ... or continue a weekly Morning Prayer for those who prefer to shelter at home a little longer. Please watch for regular updates in our weekly eNews and on our web site, [www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org).

I so appreciate all of you who are supporting our new ways of connecting – and I look forward to seeing you in person as soon as we're able.

In faith and peace,

– Anne Vitullo, Senior Warden

### Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our May Calendar

May 6: Building and Grounds Committee meeting, 12 p.m. (Zoom)

May 12: Finance Committee meeting, 5 p.m. (Zoom)

May 19: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m. (Zoom)

May 25: *Memorial Day – Parish Office Closed*

### In This Issue

- 2 Thank You to Our Holy Week and Easter Volunteers
- 3 Search Committee News
- 4 Highlights from the Search Committee's Survey
- 6 Share a Simple Gift with Our Community
- 7 Calling All Photographers!
- 8 Vestry View
- 9 Arts at St. Bede's 2020-21 Concert Series
- 11 Community Outreach and In-Reach
- 12 Birthday and Anniversaries

### Thank You to our Holy Week and Easter Volunteers

While our Holy Week and Easter services looked a bit different this year, they were genuinely heartfelt and inspiring as we gathered virtually. Special thanks go out to **Irene Lawrence** for organizing our prayer services for the Triduum and Easter Sunday, to **Kathy McKee** for selecting the music, to **Rani Fischer** for recording the organ music, to **Brendan and Evan Deocariza-Nee** for their tireless technical support in running our Zoom services and Facebook streaming, and to the **Rev. Eric Nefstead** for joining us for these services.

Thanks also to the following parishioners who served as readers and intercessors:

Megan Ancker  
Deb Blackmore  
David Chu  
Brendan Deocariza-Nee  
Evan Deocariza-Nee  
Laura Gable  
Bertita Graebner  
Michael Graebner

Helen Greenwood  
John Hickson  
Van Jepson  
Irene Lawrence  
Sue Sartor  
Kathy Thompson  
Anne Vitullo  
Dick Zeren

It was lovely to include so many of our faithful parishioners in those services.

### Inspiration for Our Times

**Path-maker** by Antonio Machado

*Composite translation from the Spanish by Bertita Graebner*

Path-maker: There is no path.  
The path is made by walking,  
By walking you make the path.

Path-maker:  
The path is the track of your footprints,  
And nothing more.

Path-maker: There is no way.  
Make the way by going farther.  
By going farther, make your way  
And glancing back upon where you have wandered,  
See the path upon which you may not set-foot-on from now onward.

Path-maker: There is no path.  
Only trails of wake in the sea.



## ST BEDE'S Search Committee News

Dear People of St. Bede's,

Your Search Committee is moving along with the tasks we outlined in last month's *Journal*. As noted in last month's article, our first tasks are to gather parishioner input in order to update our website, write the Parish Profile and respond to the questions on the Office of Transitional Ministry Narrative. We meet weekly, often with Denise Obando from the Diocese, and are making very good progress to meet our timeline.

Here is an update on our progress:

### **Website**

Our website will be the first place potential applicants will look to learn about St. Bede's. Thanks to the hard work of Brendan Deocariza-Nee, Siri Huntoon, Steele Harris, Ann Latta and Anne Vitullo, the church's website is being updated. There is now a page that is dedicated to the search process that you can find at this link: <http://stbedesmenlopark.org/rector-search/>. This page has information about Committee members, the search process and a very cool [timeline](#). Please check it out! More information about St. Bede's and the search process will be added to our website to ensure it provides a complete picture of who we are and what we do at St. Bede's.

### **Congregational Participation**

Many members completed the **survey** that was sent out in early April. See **page 4-5** for a summary of the trends we found in the responses. This valuable information will be incorporated into our website, our Parish Profile and Office of Transitional Ministry Narrative (OTM).

Virtual "listening sessions" began the week of April 20. Although these types of discussions are best held in person, we moved forward to keep to our timeline. Highlights of these discussions will be shared with all of you soon. As with the survey, your responses will form the basis of search information to be included on our website, in the Parish Profile and the OTM Narrative.

We plan to send one more survey to parishioners before we finalize the application documents.

We remain confident that we will find just the right rector for our parish! If you have questions or thoughts to share, please contact Sue Sartor or Doug Blayney at [searchcommittee@stbedesmenlopark.org](mailto:searchcommittee@stbedesmenlopark.org).

*Search Committee Members: Jon Backlund, Doug Blayney, Steele Harris, Ann Latta, Miranda Pinckert and Sue Sartor*

## Highlights from the Search Committee's Survey

Thank you to all who completed the survey. We were pleased to find that there is a lot of consensus around many of the responses. Below are the highlights for each question. Please be assured that if your particular response is not included here, it was certainly reviewed carefully by the committee members.

### **1. Describe a moment in St. Bede's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.**

The responses to this question were very diverse without a lot of repetitions. That is great! It is evident that we've had a wide range of successful endeavors at St. Bede's. Here are some responses that were entered by more than one person:

- Our response to the coronavirus: organizing and gathering for Morning Prayer, communications
- Outreach: visits to the jail, Home & Hope
- Preparing for Gia's sabbatical (Lily Grant) and responding to her departure
- Annual budget planning
- Continuing the 8:00 quiet service (no music)
- Spiritual discussions through Soul Work

### **2. What 3 attributes of our congregation would you like to see continued and strengthened?**

This question had a clear consensus among responses. Below are those what had four or more people noting the same attributes:

- The friendship, fellowship and congenial community
- Outreach opportunities to volunteer and serve others
- The music program
- Being spiritual, respectful, tolerant, diverse and inclusive

### **3. What 3 ministries at St. Bede's would you like to see continued and strengthened?**

As in number two, this question garnered a consensus of responses. Below are those with more than six people voicing the same ministries as ones to be continued and strengthened:

- Children and Youth
- Music
- Outreach, particularly for the homeless
- Soul Work, adult spiritual formation
- Trinity School

### **4. What is it that makes St. Bede's unique? What is it that makes you call St. Bede's your church?**

There was consensus on what calls us to attend St. Bede's. Below are responses that were listed by five people or more:

- The people: we depend on each other; everyone is important; small size allows us to know one another well
- The warm, welcoming, friendly, kind environment
- Convenience in terms of service times and being close to home
- Intelligent, liberal approach
- Trinity School on our campus and as our mission

## Survey Highlights, continued

### **5. Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future rector of St. Bede's. (4 words maximum)**

We learned from this question that it is hard to capture your intent with just 4 words! Many respondents listed more than four, and that was just fine with us! Below are those that were mentioned by at least six people:

- Intelligence, sharp, smart, thoughtful, educated
- Open-minded, flexible, dynamic, in-touch, liberal
- Articulate preacher, sermons
- Good organizer, prioritizer, follows through, good manager
- Outgoing, outward-looking, enthusiastic, expressive
- Spiritual, theologian, strong faith
- Compassionate, dedicated

## Share a Simple Gift with Our Community

Our Spring Stewardship drive focuses on Time & Talent, where we ask you to contribute a simple gift of your time or special talents to St. Bede's. Offering up our gifts to the Lord – in gratitude and thanksgiving – is at the very heart of stewardship. On a practical level, it offers an opportunity for you to strengthen your connection with members of our parish, working side by side in service to St. Bede's and each other.

This year's Time & Talent drive will focus on several key ministries where volunteers are especially needed right now, as we return to in-person worship: worship volunteers, Altar Guild, community outreach and hospitality. You can participate as frequently as you wish: weekly, monthly or just occasionally. Each of these areas requires perhaps an hour or two of your time when you do volunteer.

There's a place for everyone, including you! Just a few examples:

- Serving as a **worship volunteer** offers an opportunity to deepen your participation in and understanding of our worship, for example, by reading one of the lessons, leading prayers of the people or bearing the chalice at communion.
- **Altar Guild members** prepare the sanctuary for services each week, attending to the small details that make Episcopal worship special.
- The **Hospitality team** welcomes volunteers who can organize a simple coffee hour as well as those who love to throw a big party!
- **Community Services** loves hands-on help from parishioners of all ages when we prepare dinner for the LifeMoves shelter or organize Christmas gifts for Ecumenical Hunger Program.

Basic orientation is needed for some roles while others require some hands-on training with a current volunteer. Many of our ongoing volunteer rotas, including Altar Guild, hospitality and community outreach events, are managed via the online tool, Sign-Up Genius. The rota for worship volunteers will move to Sign-up Genius this month. This helpful tool enables you to see where your help is needed and select a spot that works for you. When you volunteer to help with a particular ministry, you will be added to the distribution list for that ministry and will receive an e-mail link to the online sign-up.

Our **Time & Talent brochure**, describing all of the ways in which you can contribute to parish life, will be mailed soon. It briefly outlines the responsibilities for each of these ministries or service opportunities and lists a contact person if you wish to know more.

### How to Get Involved

- Review the Time & Talent brochure when it arrives and consider where you can contribute to parish life. Reach out to the contact people listed there to learn about specific ministries.
- Look for an opportunity this month to connect with volunteer leaders via Zoom as well as email with a form that you can complete to identify your areas of interest.

A simple gift of yourself is a wonderful way to share your love for and deepen your involvement with our beloved community.

– *Anne Vitullo, Senior Warden*

## Calling All Photographers!

*We're looking for your best photos of Bede's people and events*

We know many of you around the parish have taken lovely photos of people, programs and events here at St. Bede's. Please share them with us!

We've recently purchased a membership to an **online photo sharing site** called Smug Mug that we will use to gather, organize and archive recent church photos for use on our website, in print materials and for other promotional purposes. We expect there are a lot of useful photos sitting on people's smart phones and digital cameras that we just need to capture!

We are looking for digital photos taken over the past three years that show:

- General images of the church and our facilities
- Special services like Christmas, Easter and Evensong
- Arts at St. Bede's concerts
- Choir practice and concerts
- Children and youth programs
- Community outreach events such as the LifeMoves dinners, Home & Hope, and family sharing at Christmas
- Social events like the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, special coffee hours and the annual Gala.

Please look through your digital photos and select the best shots to share with us. All photos should be clearly focused and framed. Individuals should be captured in action – not just sitting around a table – and represent a particular event or activity. Photos should be uploaded as full-resolution files (“actual size”); we can crop the photos and reduce the size where needed.

### How to upload to Smug Mug:

- When you're ready to upload your photos, please contact Parish Administrator Siri Huntoon ([shuntoon@stbedesmenlopark.org](mailto:shuntoon@stbedesmenlopark.org)) for the log-in and password.
- Log on to [www.smugmug.com](http://www.smugmug.com) with the user name and password.
- You will find folders for each of the categories above. Add your photos to the appropriate folder. Not sure where your photos should be filed? Check with Siri for instructions.
- Be sure to add a caption for each photo noting the event and who's in the picture.
- We **must have a photo release** on file to use photos of any parishioners' children; that release will be available on Smug Mug. Please download, complete and forward to Siri for filing.

Please understand that we want “the best of the best.” Our Smug Mug account is not a place for individuals to archive their entire photo library. We reserve the right to delete any images that we deem unsuitable. Thank you so much for helping us to expand our file of photographic images and better capture the life and livelihood of our parish.

– Anne Vitullo (Senior Warden) and Siri Huntoon (Parish Administrator)

## **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 April Vestry meeting.*

**Vestry welcomes new member.** Irene Lawrence joined the Vestry by unanimous vote on Tuesday, April 21. Her term will conclude in January 2023. Irene replaces Curtis Grisham who resigned from Vestry in February.

**Keeping pledges current.** Vestry gently reminds all who are able to keep their pledges current. Although we are not meeting in person, we are still incurring expenses during shelter-in-place. Checks can be mailed to the parish office or donations can be made securely online via PayPal. Visit <http://stbedesmenlopark.org/give-to-st-bedes/> for details.

**Upholding commitments to employees and contractors.** St. Bede's has continued to pay all employees and two regular contractors (our landscaping and janitorial services) during shelter-in-place. We believe in supporting our community through these uncertain times, and your contributions enable St. Bede's to take care of the people who take care of us.

**Financial update.** Treasurer Hal Louchheim gave Vestry an overview of the church's finances through the first quarter of this year (March 31). In light of the recent news about financial mismanagement of church funds at Trinity Church, Hal also talked about the financial controls that St. Bede's has in place to ensure that our funds cannot be misdirected or mismanaged.

**Search Committee update.** The Search Committee has held a series of listening sessions, which will inform the Parish Profile. Any questions or feedback can be directed to [searchcommittee@stbedesmenlopark.org](mailto:searchcommittee@stbedesmenlopark.org). Visit the Rector Search section of the website for more information, including a timeline of the process: <http://stbedesmenlopark.org/rector-search/>.

**Ad Hoc Housing Committee update.** The Ad Hoc Housing Committee has identified multiple options to address rector housing. They will prepare a short summary, supplemented by a detailed report, for rector candidates to consider.

**Trinity School continues distance learning.** In line with guidance from the San Mateo County Office of Education along with the superintendents in the seven Bay Area counties, Trinity School will continue distance learning for the remainder of the 2019 - 2020 academic year.

**Spring Gala.** The Spring Gala is now a Fall Gala, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 19; that gives you five extra months to perfect your Disco Bingo moves!

**Next Vestry meeting: Tuesday, May 19** at 7 p.m. via Zoom. 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, at least a week before the next meeting if you wish to offer community input; we need to ensure there is time on the agenda for you. Some issues may be referred to one of our committees for action before being brought before Vestry.

– *Brendan Deocariza-Nee, Junior Warden*

## Looking Ahead: 2020-21 Arts at St. Bede's Concert Series



Every spring for the last several decades, a music director at St. Bede's has spent a great deal of time organizing the following season's concert series. Available dates and aspiring performers are shuffled and reshuffled, finally settling into the upcoming year's calendar. Program information is solicited, photos are gathered, ticket prices are settled upon. Inevitably one or more of the performers calls at the last minute with a request to shift their performance date by a week or a month to accommodate other performance opportunities. Dates and artists are re-shuffled. A hither-to-unknown, immovable church event appears on the date a concert was planned. Shuffle... Re-shuffle... Finally, eventually, all the pieces fall into place and a season's slate is ready to announce.

To state the obvious, this year is different. Planning for a Sunday morning worship service a month from today is next to impossible. Planning for concert events in the coming fall, winter, and spring seems tantamount to hanging pictures on a wall of fog. Public performances in the coming months are a big, huge question mark. We don't know when or how we'll be able to start congregating in groups of any size.

But what we do know is that people crave a return to "normal," or as near to it as can be achieved with a reasonable assurance of avoiding a huge resurgence of the virus. For music lovers, this means the tantalizing prospect of being able to attend a real, live concert again. As the summer unfolds and civic authorities unveil plans and procedures for re-opening society, we'll be looking at how and when we will be able to present concerts and special worship events at St. Bede's, considering first and foremost the safety of performers and audience members alike. We know that we will have to be much more flexible than in past years. Perhaps this means lining up our slate of artists and a series of first-choice performance dates, with back up dates in reserve in the event of tightened restrictions attendant on a spike in virus cases. We may investigate the feasibility of offering a private, live-streamed video of

some performances, so that our sponsors and patrons who are particularly vulnerable to infection can join the audience from the safety of their homes.

We are committed to rescheduling five events from the current season which were canceled: performances by Ensemble Draca, Chris Filipowicz, The Menlo Brass and Collage Vocal Ensemble, as well as the Evensong and organ recital featuring compositions and performances by Angela Kraft Cross. Additionally, the choirs of St. Bede's and Christ Church Portola Valley and Woodside look forward to presenting Benjamin Britten's *The Company of Heaven*. We hope to see Kitka's annual *Wintersongs* concert in December. Numerous gifted organists live right here in the Bay Area and could give amazing recitals on our wonderful Von Beckerath organ.

So please keep your calendars flexible and save a place in your lives for next year's Arts at St. Bede's series.

– Kathy McKee, Music Director

**SAVE THE DATE: DISCO BINGO VIA ZOOM!**

**Saturday, May 16, 2020**

**4 to 6 p.m. in your home and on your computer screen!**

**Watch for more information via email soon!**



## Community Outreach ... and In-Reach

### Home & Hope Call for Volunteers

Last year, the Community Outreach Service Committee decided to not host Home & Hope on our campus this summer. However, there is an opportunity to support this ministry for any and all interested St. Bede's parishioners. Trinity Church in Menlo Park will be hosting Home & Hope from June 14 through June 28 on their campus. All volunteer positions are available. General needs are for prepared dinners, overnight hosts and children activities (if there is a need).

St. Bede's parishioners are welcome to join in! Please contact Jim Bramlett at [jdb650@gmail.com](mailto:jdb650@gmail.com) or Barbara Newton at [janewton216@earthlink.net](mailto:janewton216@earthlink.net) who will confirm specific days and times. They will begin taking sign-ups this month.

### Thanks from Our Friends at LifeMoves

*Last month, the Episcopal Impact Fund offered St. Bede's a \$1,000 grant to be used for outreach efforts in our community. In recognition of our ongoing partnership with LifeMoves, we asked the Impact Fund to send the funds directly to LifeMoves's COVID-19 Emergency Fund. Here is their thank-you:*

On Good Friday, the wonderful \$1,000 gift arrived from the Episcopal Impact Fund as directed by your congregation. We can't thank you enough for keeping LifeMoves in mind as we all navigate these unprecedented times. Please know how much we appreciate your generosity and commitment to helping those less fortunate. From all of us at LifeMoves, please accept our gratitude for your gift.

*For information about LifeMoves's COVID-19 emergency response efforts, please visit <https://www.lifemoves.org/covid-19-update/>*

### In-Reach to Our Congregation

With our community service projects on hold during the COVID-19 shutdown, the outreach team coordinated an "in-reach" to St. Bede's parishioners in April. We phoned or emailed all in our church family to hear how folks are faring and who might need some assistance. It was a joy to connect with so many of you! Even with the stay-at-home challenges, we heard cheerful reports of "doing fine," gratitude for God's blessings, and "looking forward to being back in church." Whether we connected with you or not, please reach out to one of us if you have questions, need help, or just want to chat.

*In-Reach Team: Julie Backlund, Vicki Blayney, Liz Bellock, Van Jepson, Irene Lawrence, Kathy McKee, Sue Sartor and Kathy Thompson*

## Celebrations: May Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

3	Ann Latta
3	Hasma Serverian
4	Josh Knowles
5	Juliet Knowles
6	Cameron Bowman
9	Alec Drobac
13	David Bass
14	Eliza Barrett
18	Kirk Festing
21	Catherine Ross
22	Chris Brown
28	John Hickson
28	Katina Mitchell
29	Doug Blayney
29	Hal Louchheim
29	Baden Skey
30	Naomi Braun
31	Elizabeth Skey

### Anniversaries:

5	Elizabeth & Nick Flegel
7	Josh & Juliet Knowles
8	Kirk Festing & Annie Zhou
10	John Hickson & Sarah Babin
28	David Chu & Irene Lawrence

Please let the parish office know if you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month!

---

### St. Bede's Episcopal Church

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA. 94025 • (650) 854-6555 • [www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org)

#### 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 the Month: All-Ages Worship

---