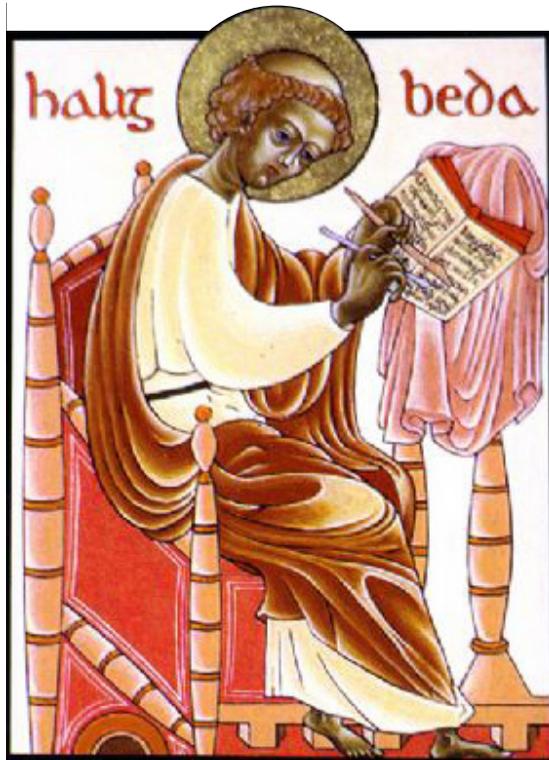


Bede's Journal

The Monthly Newsmagazine of St. Bede's Episcopal Church



*"We help all ages grow in faith and service."
November 2012*

November at a Glance

Sunday 4 November – All Saints’ Sunday

10:15am Jarrow Memorial Garden Roll Call

11:30am Harvest Brunch: Election Results & Parish Profile

6:00pm, Wednesday 7 November

All Saints’ Soulwork, with Nancy Stork

10:00am, Saturday 10 November

Women’s Retreat – *Life in Balance: A Benedictine Toolkit*

9:15am, Sundays – 11, 18, 25 November

First three weeks of *Bible Basics* Soulwork, with Rev. Eileen Lindeman

9:00am, Thursday 22 November – Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Eucharist



Look Ahead and Save These Dates!

Sunday 2 December – First Sunday of Advent

Advent Crafts & Advent Fair alternative gift market

Arts at St. Bede’s presents Kitka

Thursday 6 December

Advent Potluck and Hymn Sing

Saturday 8 December

Hawaiian Holiday Concert

Sunday 9 December

St. Nicholas Offering of Toys

Saturday-Sunday, 27-28 April

Pre-Teens/Young Teens Retreat at St. Dorothy’s Rest, Camp Meeker for St. Bede’s and Christ Church Portola Valley youth

You’re invited!

Harvest Brunch & Rector Search Update

Sunday, 4 November, 11:30am

after the 10:15 All Saint’s Sunday service

It’s an exciting time, and in addition to the announcement of vestry and deanery election results, we’ll all have the opportunity to view our parish profile. The profile presents a record of who we are and of whom we want to call to be our new rector.

Childcare, kid-friendly lunch and activities will be provided for kids; RSVP to the parish office to let us know how many children to provide for.



All Saints’ Memorial Supper

Wednesday, 7 November

Please join us in the Great Hall at 6pm for a potluck supper to remember those who are no longer with us.

Please bring a dish to share and a picture of your loved one. You might want to bring a dish that was a particular favorite of your loved one. We will share food, thoughts, prayers for, and memories of those who have passed on.

– Nancy Stork

+ 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.

+ Death +

Alice Wilder Hall
18 February 1946 - 19 October 2012

Grant her a place of refreshment and everlasting blessedness.

Diocesan Convention 2012

At 8am on 20 October, your deanery delegates boarded a bus in Burlingame to take them, with other Peninsula delegates and clergy, for a day at Grace Cathedral to consider the state of the Diocese of California. We had an enjoyable day together, punctuated with brief moments of prayer and song. Something that really impressed me was the number of teenagers and young adults with us—a joyful and hopeful sign of the energy and strength of the Episcopal Church.

There were a number of resolutions passed. In line with the national church, we supported Measure 34, to end the death penalty. We supported a youth initiative for a parish workday associated with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We also passed a resolution designed to raise congregational consciousness of those living in poverty, quoted here (emphasis added):

That the 163rd Convention of the Diocese of California calls upon all of its constituent committees, commissions, institutions and congregations to include as part of every meeting in calendar year 2013, no matter what the purpose, the following agenda item:

- *How will what we are doing here affect or involve people living in poverty.*

Who knows how doing this will change us. I only know that I trust in God to work with whatever we offer, and that something will happen!

Jane+

☀ Bede's People ☀

We have more newcomers joining us in worship and service opportunities. You may have spotted **Deb Blackmore** helping at the recent rummage sale; a certified life coach and writer of SmileLines at www.debblackmore.com, she lives in Atherton with her husband, **Peter Blackmore**, a tech CEO.

At Rally Day we also welcomed **Meme Enemark** and her husband, **Peter Enemark**, of Palo Alto. St. Bede's many Stanford alumni will be pleased to note Peter's Cardinal credentials: BA '66, MA '74, and PhD (in education) '78. A graduate of Mary Baldwin College, Meme earned a master's degree at the University of Minnesota and holds a law degree from George Washington University. They've lived in Washington, DC, as well as the Bay Area.

Several parishioners took to the stage last month: **Steve Boisvert** and **Amy Worden** sang in West Bay Opera's production of "Les Contes d'Hoffman" in Palo Alto, while **Claire Lawrence** performed in Woodside Community Theatre's "Sound of Music." If you have an upcoming public appearance, let us know if we can share it in *Bede's Journal*.

Late-breaking news: Our deacon, Rev. **Kevin Sparrow**, is to be ordained a priest on December 1st!

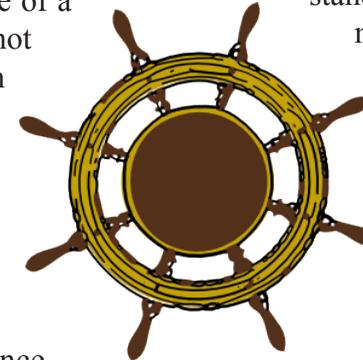


"Ei" Spied and Commented

The Abilene Paradox

When you like something about your church, you are glad that congregations are so hard to change. When you are unhappy with something about your parish, you can find it discouraging that churches resist change to the degree that they do.

One good thing is that if you seek change, when change comes it is likely to be around for awhile. If you think of the church as a sailboat you can see the value of a sailboat that is stable enough not to flip over easily. A boat with homeostasis is a good thing. Clearly there are benefits to organizational stability as well, as Loren Mead notes in his book, *A Change of Pastors* (p. 80).



The bad news about resistance to change is that congregations (to use another nautical metaphor!) are like heavily loaded barges that tend to go in one persistent direction until something either sinks them or until a tugboat grabs on and is strong enough to wrestle it onto another course. Those who see problems with the way a church functions are not the voices we usually want to hear. This is easy to understand. Somehow we all tend to think that if we can silence the messenger we can ignore the message. One insightful parishio-

ner described the dilemma this way: "if you can't solve the problem it feels negative to raise the issue." True, what do you say when someone says, "well, how would *you* fix this concern you have raised?" The problem, of course, is that almost no problem in a church is an individual problem.

Sometimes we settle for something called the Abilene Paradox. The Abilene Paradox is a management concept that a man by the name of Jerry Harvey used to explain why he and his family all traveled to a sub-standard cafeteria in Abilene, many miles away from their hometown in Coleman. What they later realized after the unhappy trip on a hot Texas evening was that nobody told the others, "I don't want to go. I would rather stay home." As it turns out, all the others wanted to stay home as well, but they went along because they didn't want to be

the isolated, negative voice saying let's not do this (*Strategic Planning for Congregations*, p. 280). Sometimes people in churches find it hard to express opinions that are at variance with others for fear of being the odd one out.

One of the most promising times for change in a church is the time when a rector leaves. This is why interim ministry has come about, to take advantage of this window of opportunity. When Bishop Swing was



in this diocese, his goal was for interims to more or less observe a parish and maintain things. The thinking of Bishop Marc is that interims should be change agents. This reflects current understanding of interims in other denominations as well.

So far we have been able to act on concerns parents expressed that we needed a Spiritual Formation program and staff to replace Jeanne when she resigned as our Christian Education director in June. We are working now with Godly Play and a paid nursery staff person, Kendra Qualls. We also have been working hard to get our new website up and running to respond to concerns that our old one was not adequate. The Altar Guild is working at a new level of energy as they reorganize and plan for their future. Our music program continues to provide our joyous music and was enhanced by Rani and Jane's efforts to raise the money to restore the organ. Buildings & Grounds has been able to respond to the challenges of gas leaks and other challenges with Will McDowall's help. Our parish community service efforts expand and grow with Jeanne Cooper's leadership and were ably described in last month's *Bede's Journal*. Two fundraisers have raised both money and volunteers... and we need each element to help us grow. On November 11 we will begin a 5-week Bible Basics series. December 2nd will interrupt the series for an Advent Crafts Sunday.



Eileen+

Growth is the number one concern of the diocese. Bishop Marc has asked parishes to focus on this because average Sunday attendance has gone down 50% since 2000. If the decline continues at this rate the Episcopal Church in our diocese will lose another 50% of our efforts by 2022. At St. Bede's we seek to grow as well, if only to replace the numbers we lose to a transient Bay Area culture. So far we have seen about a 10% growth this year. How do you feel about growth? Most of us have slightly mixed feelings. We want a feeling of closeness and yet we also enjoy new and expanded possibilities. Our Bede's 101 class was used to help us meet some of our newcomers.

The congregation's vision of who we are should drive the choices that are made about the future. In other words, you should be the tugboat that turns the barge of St. Bede's in the direction of your future. This is not something a new rector does alone, it is the work of the congregation *with* their new rector. Find out more about how to express your views about who we have been and where we are going in January and February Soulwork sessions. Change will happen. Let us make it the change we find in accordance with our values and vision for St. Bede's. Exciting days lie ahead as we get ready for our new rector.

Extravaganza VII

TRIBUTE TO ALBA

Celebrating Scotland Then and Now

Saturday, November 10, 2012
7pm to 9pm

FEATURING

Highland Dancers
Bruce Cotter, Solo Piper
Macintosh Pipe Band

LOCATION:

St. Bede's
2650 Sand Hill Rd,
Menlo Park, CA 94025

All proceeds benefit the
San Jose School of Highland Dancing
and its programs in the Bay Area.

TICKETS:

Before November 1st:
\$15 (adults) and \$10 (youths 3-11).
After November 1st:
\$20 (adults) & \$15 (youths 3-11).

To purchase tickets or for more
information please go to
www.sanjosehighlanddance.com

There will be a Scottish Tea room
with homebaked goodies & raffle.

Arts at St. Bede's presents
Kitka: Wintersongs
 Sunday, December 2, 4pm

For centuries, people around the world have used community singing to infuse warmth, cheer, and spirituality into the long, dark, cold winter season. Eastern Europe's position as a crossroads between Europe and the Orient has produced an astonishingly rich array of seasonal musical. Kitka's 2012 *Wintersongs* program features songs ranging from rousing Slavic folk carols to lush Eastern Orthodox sacred choral works, to Baltic pagan incantations, to Yiddish, Sephardic, and Hebrew songs for Chanukah, to Bosnian-Muslim devotional hymns, to Romany tunes for the winter festivals of Vasilica and Kurban Bajram. Traditional pieces are woven together with new arrangements and original compositions by Kitka members and contemporary American and Eastern European composers, all inspired by the customs, beauty, and mystery of wintertime.

In advance \$27 general/25 senior/15 student
At door \$32 gen/30 sr/15 student/5 under-12



November 2012

Bede's in Bloom Sign-Up Events

The final sign-up events of the parish's annual spring benefit, *Bede's in Bloom*, came to fruition this fall, helping fund our annual budget and enriching our sense of community.

On 22 September, two dozen guests gathered in the Great Hall to sample wines and tapas from the Iberian Peninsula, hosted by Ian Hersey and Jeanne Cooper. They had ample help from gracious server Claire Lawrence, *sommelier* Norry Hersey (Ian's father, visiting from Florida) and his wife Evelyn, who rushed home to prepare hot items there after discovering the kitchen had no gas (since repaired). Between those who booked a slot in spring and those who reserved later, the wine tasting raised \$240 for St. Bede's.

A month later, Ronnie Sue Leith gave a behind-the-scenes tour of a major dog show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds to Luke, Sally, and Isabel Norman, escorted by Jeanne. Only three slots had been available for this unique sign-up event with an experienced judge of canine competitions, raising another \$75.

Thanks to all those who shared their special talents in sign-up events this year, and to all those who participated. If you think you might have a skill or interest that could lend itself to an event for next year, please talk to Jeanne, who can also help find co-hosts.

—Jeanne

Bede's Journal

From the Assistant Organ Restorer

08. Okt. 2012

Sehr geehrte Mitglieder und Freunde der St. Bede's Episcopal Church,
 Mit diesem Brief möchte ich mich nochmal herzlich bedanken für große Anteilnahme und großzügige Hilfe, die Sie mir und meiner Familie anlässlich des Todes meines Vaters geschenkt haben.

Besonders durch Ihre Verbundenheit im Gebet über viele Meilen entfernt haben Sie uns reichen Trost gegeben.

Gott segne Sie!

Bernd Becker, Orgelbauer in Deutschland

Dear members and friends of St. Bede's Episcopal Church,

With this letter I would like to thank you once again for the great sympathy and generous help you extended to me and my family on the occasion of the death of my father.

You have given us much comfort particularly by your closeness in prayer across the many miles.

God bless you!

Bernd Becker, organ builder in Germany



Bede's Journal

November 2012

Author Talk Aftermath

An inspiring story of compassion and a simple but savory supper raised \$125 for Home & Hope—and helped raise the profile of St. Bede’s within the greater community. But if you missed it (perhaps while watching the first presidential debate), there are several upcoming opportunities to hear the tale, and another to help the interfaith transitional family shelter.

HOPE

About two dozen people, including six not affiliated with St. Bede’s who’d seen local notices, turned out on 3 October to listen to speaker Marty Brounstein talk about his nonfiction book, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. Focused on the rescue of 24 Jews by a Dutch farm couple during World War II, his interactive discussion also examined the wider context of compassion for the persecuted among us. One of the people saved by Frans and Mien Wijnakker was also in attendance: Brounstein’s wife, Leah Barss, who was born in hiding with the help of the Wijnakkers.

Brounstein will make similar presentations at 1:30pm on Sunday, 18 November, at the BJE Jewish Community Library in San Francisco; at 3pm on Sunday, 2 December,

at Sunnyvale Public Library; and at 7pm on Monday, 3 December, at Peninsula Temple Sholom in Burlingame. All events are free and open to the public. (For more possibilities, check www.martyabrounstein.com.)

Before his talk at Bede’s, twenty people dined on turkey rolls, salad, home made coleslaw and, thanks to Jeanette Latta, a variety of delicious cakes and pies. Jeanne Cooper and Ian Hersey underwrote the dinner, so all donations went to Home & Hope in honor of Congregation Beth Jacob in Redwood City. Two weeks later, Hasma Serverian, Megan Ancker, Katie Machemer, Rani Fischer, and Jeanne helped make dinner and provide childcare for four Home & Hope families being hosted at Beth Jacob, while John Hickson and Sarah Babin served as overnight chaperones. Bede’s next Home & Hope service will be Tuesday, 11 December, at Church of the Transfiguration in San Mateo; let Jeanne or John know if you’re interested in assisting.

Special thanks go to all who helped with setup and cleanup at the 3 October event, and to the Wednesday Soulwork regulars and choir members, who graciously allowed us to schedule the event during their regular time slot.

– Jeanne

Rummage Report

A record number of volunteers, including several new parishioners, and many donors helped contribute to the success of St. Bede’s 29-30 September rummage sale, which raised \$900 for the Seccombe Outreach Fund and also produced much-needed supplies for local charities.

The sorters, sellers, and post-sale shleppers included Deb Blackmore, Ed and Carol Brink, David Chu, Jeanne Cooper, Juliet Knowles, Fred Langhorst, Ann Latta, Katie Machemer, Megan Sell, Hasma and Aram Serverian, Nancy Stork, Julia Weber, and Linda Wenstrand. On Saturday, approximately sixty patrons created \$650 in sales, with the remaining \$250 generated during Sunday coffee hours. Thanks to all our purchasers.

Afterward, Fred, Julia and Nancy took two carloads of clothes, shoes, and household

linens to Ecumenical Hunger Program; two carloads of thrift-store items to Goodwill and seven boxes of books to Los Altos Library; we also bought a few choice pieces for next year’s silent auction.

In early December, the Seccombe fund is divided into grants supporting local community service providers, such as Los Ayudantes, EHP, Home & Hope, InnVision Shelter Network, Habitat for Humanity, Service League, and Stanford Hospital Episcopal Chaplaincy. The fall rummage sale is the primary source of income for the Seccombe fund, along with eScrip, a sign-up program that receives a small percentage of certain credit card purchases by participants. You can enroll in eScrip any time; please contact Fred Langhorst for details.

– Jeanne Cooper



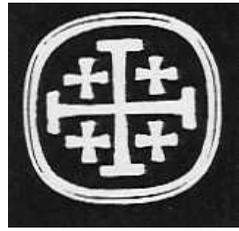
The deadline for the December issue of
Bede’s Journal
is Thursday 15 November.



Please send copy to:
cshedlock@stbedesmenlopark.org

Planned Giving

A Most Expensive Inheritance



My cousin Judy had Down's syndrome. Judy never learned to speak or care for herself and spent the last years of her life in an institution. We seldom speak

of family members who, like Judy, are permanently disabled. Many of us with disabled family members may not be aware of how important it is to take particular account of them in our estate planning.

A disabled adult whose lifeline is Social Security (SSI), Medical, subsidized housing or another government program is likely to be disqualified from receiving future benefits if their parents were to die without a will--or without a properly designed trust. This would be a most expensive inheritance. Only an enormous inheritance could compensate for disqualification, yet even a modest inheritance may trigger this disastrous result. A parent's lack of proper planning could easily have unintended catastrophic results for their loved one.

A special needs person like my cousin Judy requires a third party "Special Needs Trust" to protect her benefits. The appointed trustee of such a Special Needs Trust administers its finances for the named beneficiary in a way that protects other benefits that she may

be receiving. Such a Special Needs Trust may be funded with a bequest from her parent's will or trust, or with a life insurance policy.

Any unspent principal in a Special Needs Trust will, at the death of the disabled beneficiary, be paid to a remainder beneficiary. This may be another family member, a charity, or a combination. A woman in Marin has named her church as ultimate beneficiary of her daughters' Special Needs Trusts.

Recently I helped a couple who have an adult disabled son plan a Charitable Remainder Trust that will pay into their son's Special Needs Trust. This will have the advantage of significantly lowering taxes on their estate while protecting their son and ultimately also benefiting their parish.

For ways to both protect family members and benefit your church contact your gift planning officer. He can refer you to appropriate professional advisors as well as inform you of various options.

A Special Needs Trust may be an important way to care for someone whom God has given to us.

*The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP
Gift Planning Officer
Episcopal Diocese of California
(415) 869-7812
RichardS@DioCal.org
www.EpiscopalGift.org*



In the Month of November

Birthdays

- 5 Catherine Norman
- 12 Abby Mintz
J.B. Pellegrin
- 13 Brian Douglas
- 17 George Fern
Charlie Pellegrin
- 23 Stephanie von Thaden
- 24 David Craig
Ella Debenham
Janet Dickens
- 25 Thomas Latta
William Latta
- 26 Mark Knight
- 28 Joe Jackson
- 30 Peter Minor

Anniversaries

- 7 Michelle Swenson & Stan Drobac
- 18 Steven Minor & Elena Hobbs-Minor
- 26 Janet & Richard Dickens



St. Bede's Episcopal Church
2650 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Menlo Park
CA 94025
Permit No.
752

Time Value

Date Mailed: 31 October 2012

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. Eileen Lindeman *Interim Rector*
The Rev. Jane McDougale, DMA *Priest Associate & Music Director*
The Rev. John Oda-Burns *Volunteer Assistant*
The Rev. David A. Sheetz *Volunteer Assistant*
The Rev. Kevin Sparrow *Deacon*
Carol Shedlock *Parish Administrator*
Rani Fischer *Organist*
Angela Sherry *Bookkeeper*
Ann Latta *Senior Warden*



Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist 8:00, 10:15am

Weekday Services

Holy Eucharist Tuesday 8:00am, Thursday 12:10pm

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

650-854-6555

Trinity School + Preschool-Fifth Grade

Bede's Journal is online at

www.stbedesmenlopark.org