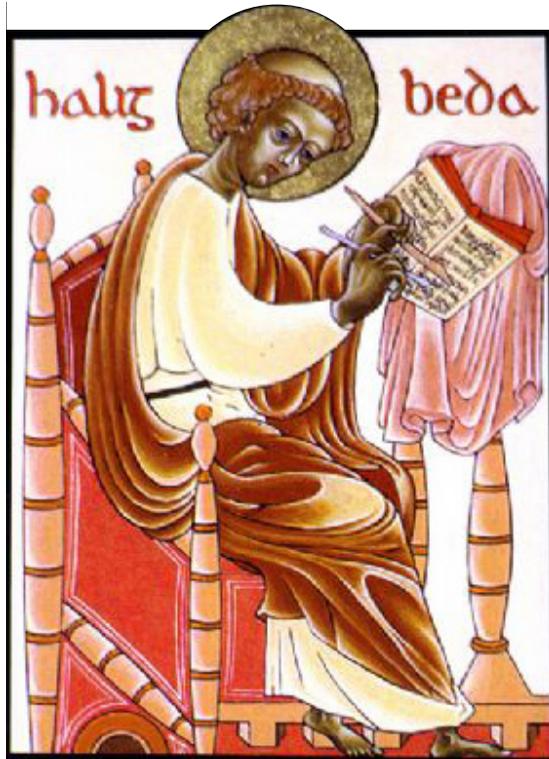


# *Bede's Journal*

*The Monthly Newsmagazine of St. Bede's Episcopal Church*



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

## December at a Glance

*Sunday 2 December — 1 Advent*

*at coffee hours* Advent Craft Fair and alternative gift market

*4:00pm* Arts at St. Bede's presents Kitka

*6:00-8:00pm, Thursday 6 December*

Advent Potluck and Hymn Sing

*7:30pm, Saturday 8 December*

Hawaiian Holiday Concert and canned food drive

*Sunday 9 December — 2 Advent*

St. Nicholas Offering of Toys

*11:30am* Chili Cook-Off

*Sunday 16 December — 3 Advent*

*11:30am* Cookie baking & bag decorating

*4:00pm* A Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols, with festive reception

*7:00pm, Thursday 20 December*

Trinity School Service of Lessons & Carols

*Sunday 23 December — 4 Advent*

*10:15am* Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

*noon* Greening of the Church

*7:00pm, Monday 31 December*

Parish First Night Party

### Christmastide Services

*Monday 24 December — Christmas Eve*

*4:00pm* Holy Eucharist & Christmas Pageant

*8:00pm* Festal Eucharist with Choir – *Come for carol singing at 7:30!*

*9:00am, Tuesday 25 December — Christmas Day*

Holy Eucharist with Carols, Rite I: ONE SERVICE ONLY

*9:00am, Sunday 30 December — Christmas 1*

Holy Eucharist with Carols, Rite II: ONE SERVICE ONLY

### Look Ahead and Mark Your Calendar!

*Sunday 6 January — The Epiphany*

Epiphany Activities at Coffee Hours



Arts at St. Bede's presents

## Kitka: Wintersongs Sunday, December 2, 4pm

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*



Join in!

### St. Bede's Annual Advent Potluck & Hymn Sing

Thursday, 6 December (On the Feast of St. Nicholas!)

6-8pm in the parish hall

Fun for all ages!



## Community Service in Advent

Advent and Lent are both seasons of expectation and reflection, thus inspiration for us to give more of our time, talent, and treasure than usual to those less fortunate than ourselves. While not everyone can support all initiatives of the Community Service Committee, each gesture is appreciated. Here's an overview of ways you can help this Advent:

**\* Family Sharing:** Formerly called Adopt-a-Family, we'll help fifteen very needy, deserving adults and children in East Palo Alto celebrate Christmas this year. Fred Langhorst and Laura Gable are chairing the effort to raise funds to buy food and gifts requested by recipients, who have been carefully vetted by Ecumenical Hunger Program. There are also some gifts you can sign up to purchase; see the displays at coffee hours through 9 December.

**Hands-on help:** Join the gift-wrapping party at St. Bede's at 10:30am on Saturday, 15 December; the presents will be distributed on 16 December. Contact Fred or Laura for details.

**\* Service League:** Our own St. Nicholas will collect new, unwrapped gifts suitable for children and teenagers on Sunday, 9 December; you can also bring them to the parish office the week before or after. They'll be donated to the Service League, which distributes them to children of inmates at the San Mateo County Jail.

**Hands-on help:** Lift spirits of the incarcerated and their families by donating unused holiday greeting cards with matching envelopes (no calendars or postcards, please). Help sort donations at Advent coffee hours. On Sunday, 16 December, join in decorating cookie bags (both coffee hours) and making Christmas cookies after the 10:15 service, for distribution on Christmas Day for some 1,100 inmates and guards. Nancy Stork will lead the cookie-making drive.

**\* Seccombe Fund:** At the end of the year we divide up the monies raised for the Seccombe Outreach Fund (such as from the twice-annual rummage sales) among a variety of long-supported, local nonprofits such as EHP, InnVision Shelter Network, Home & Hope, Habitat for Humanity, Service League, etc. This year we'll also host a chili cook-off after the 10:15 service on 9 December; vegetarian and meat chilis will be available to eat in or take home.

**Hands-on help:** Chili makers, servers, and cashier help are needed; please contact Jeanne Cooper for details.

**\* Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance:** Help us raise \$1,200 for a nursing scholarship in Malawi, which covers tuition, room and board, books, uniforms and child care for younger siblings, often orphaned by AIDS. Carol Brink has a special thank-you gift for donors of \$20 or more, and all donations receive an alternative giving card that can be sent to recipients. Look for coffee hour displays through 16 December.

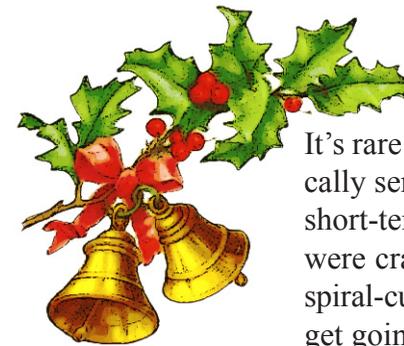
## Home & Hope for the holidays

It's hard to be homeless anytime of the year, but the holidays are especially difficult—for service providers as well as clients. That's why St. Bede's parishioners recently went above and beyond our quarterly commitment to provide dinner, childcare, and overnight chaperones for one night to families in the transitional shelter program called Home & Hope.

Able to answer an emergency call for help over Thanksgiving week and afterwards were Hasma Serverian, Ann Latta, Rani Fischer, Dave Rogers, and myself. We provided two dinners to the fourteen people, and Thanksgiving crafts and games for six very active youngsters at the Home & Hope day center and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, both in Burlingame. Rani and Dave later served as overnight chaperones at Hillsdale United Methodist Church in San Mateo.

**\* Food and clothing drives:** "Pack the Back," our healthy food drive for children, continues over the holidays, especially when school lunches are no longer available. Check out the suggested shopping list in the narthex. Canned stews, meats and soups are also especially welcome by the adults served by area food banks. Also, this is "Decem-brrr": Please donate new or gently-worn jackets, coats, mittens, gloves, scarves, knit caps and boots for all ages. Food and clothing are taken to EHP and InnVision Shelter Network; mini toiletries go to Urban Ministries' drop-in center.

**Hands-on help:** If you have a car, occasional help is needed taking donations to area food banks and clothes closets. Contact John Hickson or Jeanne Cooper for details.



It's rare that we get to see families more than once, since we typically serve every three months and the program is designed to be short-term. But it was nice to be able to ask the clients what they were craving for the next night, and to be able to respond with a spiral-cut ham, plus Peet's coffee and strong black teas to help them get going in the morning—they leave their host sites quite early.

Some (though not all) had invitations from friends or family for Thanksgiving dinner, and they hoped to reciprocate the hospitality in the near future. As one 6-year-old boy told me, "We're going to get a home soon, and then I'm going to invite you over."

Our next Home & Hope service night is Tuesday, 12/11, at Transfiguration in San Mateo. If you'd like to make a dinner item or help with games and crafts, please contact me.

—Jeanne Cooper

## ☼ Bede's People ☼

Our choir member **David Chu** will be one of the performers when the Stanford Early Music Singers perform "Seven Centuries of British Music," with works of Tallis, Byrd, Weelkes, Tomkins, Purcell, Dowland, Taverner, and more. Enjoy the free concert on Wednesday, 5 December, at 8pm in Memorial Church.

In November, **Brian DiGiorgio** and **Will Latta** were in Woodside Priory's production of "The Three Musketeers."

Former parishioner **Elizabeth Posner** worshipped with us recently and reported that all is well in Washington state, where she and husband Jim now live.

We also enjoyed seeing **Melissa Shoaf** again, visiting from Christchurch, New Zealand, while awaiting the ordination of her (deacon) husband, the Rev. John Shoaf, to the priesthood!

Going way back: We were pleased to welcome **Jack Towner** at the Thanksgiving Day Eucharist. Jack, who now lives in Oklahoma City, was Trinity School's first fifth-grade teacher.



**Congratulations to our new deanery delegation:**

**Carol Brink, Rani Fischer, Mike Graebner, and Dave Sell!**

We look forward to hearing about other parish best practices and regional collaborations.

**Congratulations to our new vestry class:**

**Jeanne Cooper, Sung Moon, Robin Sequeira, and Diane Spath!**

We are excited about the passion, energy, and leadership you bring to St. Bede's.



### Casting Call

As of Thanksgiving, our Christmas pageant cast includes ten young actors in speaking roles and five even younger actors in animal costumes and/or special cameos. Rehearsals, including discussion of the Bible stories involved, begin during Godly Play for the older cast members, starting 2 December, with additional rehearsal times to be announced later. Showtime is 4pm, at the Eucharist on Christmas Eve. If your child would like to participate, or if you would like to assist in any way, please contact Claire Lawrence or Jeanne Cooper as soon as possible.

## Hawaiian Hospitality, 12/8

After catering and headlining a dinner party at St. Bede's this summer, Hawaiian slack-key recording artist Patrick Landeza was so impressed by our parish, he asked if he could bring to St. Bede's one of his Christmas concerts—a popular tradition in the East Bay for the last ten years—in part to help our Advent outreach and to introduce our church to a wider community. And so St. Bede's will host its first-ever Hawaiian holiday concert, on Saturday, 8 December, in the parish hall.

This will be a fun way to introduce St. Bede's to a neighbor or friend. If you saw "The Descendants," you've heard the sweet, tranquil sounds of Hawaiian slack key guitar; expect a mix of traditional and original holiday music and Hawaiian songs (perhaps

with hula), and don't forget to wear an aloha shirt if you have one.

The Community Service Committee will have displays about alternative giving for Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance and Family Sharing, not just to invite contributions but to educate concertgoers about our commitment to outreach. We're also asking for concertgoers to bring a canned food item to offset shortages at local food banks, a concern very familiar to Landeza, who also teaches community service to middle-schoolers at St. Joseph School in Fremont.

Doors open at 6pm, when a mixed-plate lunch will be for sale, as well as crafts and baked goods (the latter benefiting the Secombe Fund); the show begins at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$15, available at the door, but please email [jcooper@stbedesmenlopark.org](mailto:jcooper@stbedesmenlopark.org) to reserve a space.

## A Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 16, 4pm

Offered by the choir and clergy of St. Bede's, this lovely service for all ages will retell the Christmas story in words and music. The musical centerpiece will be the beloved *Ceremony of Carols* of Benjamin Britten, with harp. A festive reception will follow with mulled wine and hot spiced cider.

*Free will offering.*



Cathedral of Notre Dame, Amiens, France

## “Ei” Spied and Commented The Twelve Days

When I was the chaplain at The Bishop’s School in La Jolla, California, I received calls every December asking me to repeat the chapel about the “Twelve Days of Christmas” song.

“Now how does that go again?” these calls began. “The one about the twelve days?”

In 16<sup>th</sup> century England, Roman Catholics were forbidden by law to practice their faith. Not only were there severe penalties for being a practicing Roman Catholic, but also for teaching the faith as well. In order to teach the children critical elements of faith and doctrine, a code couched within a nonsensical Christmas Carol was developed. The “Twelve Days of Christmas” appears to make no sense, yet it is popular enough to be sung in pubs and at social gatherings.

One theory was that the meaning was to be found in the “days.” I will spare you the various theories people generated to support their theories and just tell you the meaning is found in the “gifts.”

The twelve days were the days from Christmas day to Epiphany. The partridge stands for the ultimate gift of the baby Jesus given on Christmas day. After all, a mother partridge is willing to sacrifice her life by luring enemies away from her



young in the nest. The pear tree suggests the cross—how powerful an image for Jesus.

The second gift, two turtledoves, stands for the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Doves also reinforce the tie to Christ and Christmas. They can stand for the virtue of purity as well.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, three French hens were something only the very wealthy would ever serve. It would truly be a meal fit for a king, to feast upon three such precious birds at dinner. When the children sang about the three French hens, they were supposed to think about gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Can you guess who the four calling birds would be? How about the four evangelists, Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John, who sang out the story of Jesus?

What about the five rings? The law of Moses of course, or the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

Six geese a-laying suggests new life and the catechism message for children is that God created the world in six days.

The seven swans a-swimming is a little more self-evident to me. Paul writes in Romans 12:6-8 on the seven gifts of the Spirit. The image of swans, author Ace Collins suggests in *Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas* (p. 173), states that if you walk with God

the gifts of the Spirit are able to animate your life in ways that show you to be as graceful as a swan on water.

”Eight maids a-milking” is to call to mind the beatitudes of Matthew chapter 5. The job of milking a cow in a barn was a low-caste job in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and so it is meant to remind us that Jesus loves the poor, those who mourn, the pure in heart, and the hungry.

The dance of the nine ladies is about the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, goodness, and the rest.

The ten lords a-leaping is a connection to the Ten Commandments. This is another reference to the Hebrew scriptures.

The loss of Judas, the fallen disciple, resulted in eleven members of Jesus’ inner circle instead of the original twelve pipers. So we were reduced to eleven pipers piping.

Finally the twelve drummers drumming contained the twelve elements of the Apostles’ Creed. The creeds are summations of our foundational beliefs as Christians.

When it became safe to reveal the original secrets of the song, people didn’t seem to want to know the inner meanings it contained. It is a lively song and for most it remains just that. Knowing the code is value added however for those of us who love the story it tells. God works in mysterious ways, in this case an entertaining one.

Happy Advent!

*Eileen+*

You’re invited:

## First Night Party

Monday, 31 December

7 – 9 pm

in the Great Hall

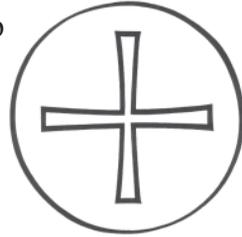


All ages join in for  
games, snacks, and puzzles.

## History and Symbolism, the Food of Altar Guild

The Saturday checklist for preparing for services is full of chores that resonate with the early church. Traditions were created over the past two thousand years and have been repeated continuously. What might seem routine about switching colors of vestments, polishing silver, and replacing candles is following in the steps of the faithful from the beginning of Christian life.

Look at the Eucharist and the basic symbols of the bread and wine being the body and blood of Jesus and the re-enacting the last supper. Our bread is picked up from Martha's Bakery and scored to break cleanly in half for the offering. The wine is port, measured out in crystal carafe. The fine linen covering the altar is seen symbolically as either the shroud of Jesus or the wedding veil to celebrate the marriage of Jesus to the church. The altar is an ancient archetype for a place of holiness and has stood for stability of church tradition, as well as sacrifice. The original in the temple of Jerusalem was used for animal sacrifice and the resultant meat sold out the back door. The lit candle is also archetypal and symbolizes for us the presence of the spirit bringing light in the darkness. Our silver chalices are of precious metal as a sign of respect and to symbolize the best we can offer. The early church also attached importance to Christ's



blood not being absorbed into the material of the cup or exposed to rust.

One part of tradition that was unfamiliar to me was the liturgical colors that correspond to the church calendar. Look at the whole liturgical year, anchored by the three major feasts of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Any time that is not "special" is called Ordinary time and the color for it is deep green. Green symbolizes growth and development. Advent's color is purple for royalty or repentance. Advent is not as penitential as Lent, however, so some churches use blue and save the purple only for Lent. Christmas changes to white. Easter is also white. White is

the color for purity and the vestments for these two major feasts are suitably beautiful. Pentecost's color is red to symbolize the flames above the apostles' heads. But at the time of Lent, beginning after Shrove Tuesday, the putting away of all that is formal or fine and replacing them with simpler vessels and materials is to show this is a time of repentance.

At Baptisms, the font at the rear of the church is filled with water to be used to mark the forehead of those being baptized (symbolic cleansing), and baptisands' foreheads are crossed with chrisom, holy oil to show they have been marked for Christ. The holy oil comes from Grace Cathedral and is blessed by the Bishop. The candles given the baptized afterwards are lit to symbolize their new life in Christ.

In the church there is a small shelf near the Sand Hill narthex, where a small arrangement of flowers frames a medallion of Mary and a small stoup filled with holy water. Everyone is invited to dip their hand and cross themselves. This expresses a tradition symbolizing a desire to be spiritually clean. A stoup in an ancient church would have been a fountain. Altar guild refills ours weekly.

All the layers of meaning taking part of these rituals help deepen our faith and rootedness in our Anglican tradition. Become part of the Altar Guild and see what I mean.

– Julia Weber

with thanks to Rev. Eileen Lindeman  
for providing background

### Time to test your knowledge with another Altar Guild quiz!

1. *What modern word comes from the word nave?*
2. *What is an aspergillum?*
3. *What would a celebrant do with a manutergium?*
4. *In church, what is the corporal?*
5. *How is a burse used?*
6. *What do you do with a thurible?*
7. *Who wears a dalmatic?*

Answers over here!



1. Navy. The shape of Gothic churches re-called that early Christians sometimes hid out under Roman boats. The place where the congregation sits is still called the nave keeping alive the symbol of the church as a ship.
2. From the Latin word asperges, meaning to sprinkle. An aspergillum is a brush or a perforated globe holding a sponge on a short handle, made to deliver the blessing with sprinkling of holy water by the clergy.
3. Use it to wipe their hands after washing them in the lavabo. Also called a lavabo towel.
4. Not a military term, it refers instead to the linen piece that holds the crumbs of the bread. Because the crumbs signified the body of Christ, they are carefully collected on this linen placed on the altar.
5. To hold the corporal and protect the chalice. The order of elements is usually the chalice with a pall (originally to keep dust from the chalice), then a burse holding the corporal and two purificators, covered completely with the chalice veil. This set-up can vary depending on which Rite is being used.
6. Use it to burn incense. The resin burns within on hot coals, and the holder is swung on small chains to create puffs of aromatic smoke.
7. This is a chasuble for deacons. It has arms and a band over the chest. It represents the cross and symbolizes justice, joy, and salvation. Another form with two bands is called a tunicle.

## Planned Giving

### Five Tax-Tips for Prudent Stewards

Some end-of-year reminders:

1) To increase your April tax refund, pre-pay as much of your 2013 charitable pledge as practical before December 31. Make your congregational treasurer twice as happy by clearly designating your gift as counting toward your 2013 pledge.

2) Avoid paying capital gains on the sale of appreciated securities by using them to make your charitable gifts. You may gift them to your congregation via the Diocese without any transaction fees. Ask me how.

3) Consider exchanging a bank CD for a charitable gift annuity. You will gain a much higher payout, a 2012 tax deduction, and make a gift to your church.

4) Get tax deductions this year for your future charitable donations by establishing a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) before December 31. Episcopal Charities sponsors a DAF that is administered by the East Bay Community Fund.

5) Consider making your giving more effective by trading in your charitable giving shotgun for a rifle. By focusing your charitable investment to five organizations or less, you may garner an enhanced sense of making a difference in the lives and missions you support.

For further information, please contact your gift planning officer.

Pray often: "All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee."

*The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP*

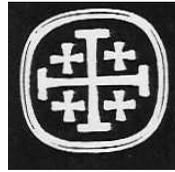
*Gift Planning Officer*

*Episcopal Diocese of California*

*(415) 869-7812*

*RichardS@DioCal.org*

*www.EpiscopalGift.org*



## Signs of the Times

“**O**utward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace” is how the *Book of Common Prayer* catechism describes the sacraments, which also help us navigate our life in the church. Both St. Bede’s and Trinity School share in the work of creating spiritual grace, but when it comes to navigating our shared campus, we have known for some time that a few more “outward and visible” signs would be very much appreciated by the many visitors to the site, from church newcomers to delivery services and other drop-ins.

The issue dates back to the building of the parish hall in 1995, when additional signage was considered by school and church personnel, although it was later put on hold. More recently, the school has come up with suitable designs and funding for helpful directional signs near the school buildings and parking area. Look for the school’s new signs soon, while the vestry considers additional ways to raise our visibility within the community.

– *Jeanne Cooper*

*Bede’s Journal*

December 2012

# In the Month of December

## Birthdays

- 3 Jennifer Grillo  
Robert Shurtleff
- 4 Brian Leen
- 6 Bob Wood
- 8 Lois Poole
- 10 Nancy Shurtleff
- 13 Medea Bern  
George Shultz  
Caroline Spath
- 14 Anna Grillo
- 17 Lucho Wright
- 19 Carol Brink
- 21 Tessa Geoly
- 25 Mathew Mammen

## Anniversary

- 18 Fran & Tom Nute



December 29: The Feast of Thomas Becket,  
Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170

*Print: The murder of Thomas á Becket,  
from Golden Legend, Westminster, 1484-85.*

Bede’s Journal

December 2012

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

Non-Profit Org.  
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Menlo Park  
CA 94025  
Permit No.  
752

**Time Value**

Date Mailed: 28 November 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 *Volunteer Assistant*  
Carol Shedlock *Parish Administrator*  
Rani Fischer *Organist*  
Angela Sherry *Bookkeeper*  
Ann Latta *Senior Warden*

**Sunday Services**

Holy Eucharist 8:00, 10:15am  
(Nursery 10:00, Godly Play Sunday School 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 on-line at  
**[www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org)**