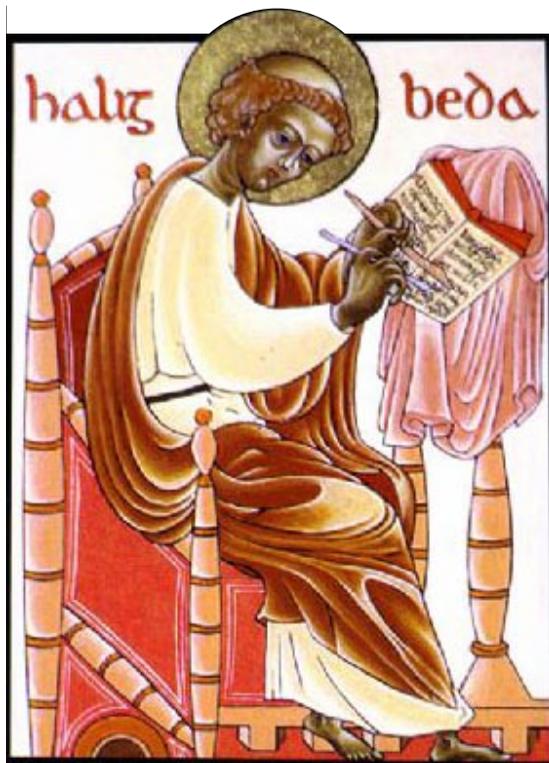


Bede's Journal

The Monthly Newsmagazine of St. Bede's Episcopal Church



We help all ages grow in faith and service.

March 2013

March at a Glance

11:30am, Sundays, 3, 10, 17 March
Lenten Series

4:00pm, Sunday 10 March

Arts at St. Bede's presents organist Susan Jane Matthews

11:00am, Saturday 16 March

Rummage Sale benefitting Nets for Life

Holy Week and Easter

24 March + Palm Sunday

10:15am Procession of Palms
Hot Cross Buns at Coffee Hours

28 March + Maundy Thursday

12:00 noon Foot Washing and Healing Eucharist
6:30pm Agape Meal, Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar
8:00pm-midnight Vigil in the Church

29 March + Good Friday

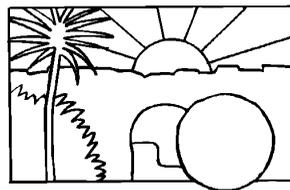
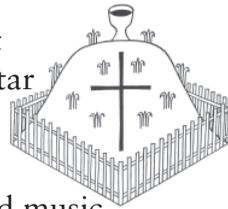
12:00-1:00pm Communion from reserved sacrament and music
7:30pm Meditation on the Passion of Christ

30 March + Holy Saturday

7:30-8:45pm Great Vigil of Easter

31 March + Easter Sunday

8:00am Eucharist with traditional language and Hymns
10:15am Sung Eucharist
11:30am Easter Egg Hunt



Look Ahead and Save The Date!

Friday-Sunday, 26-28 April

Retreat for kids ages 10-14, together with Christ Church, Portola Valley,
at St. Dorothy's Rest (Healdsburg area)



Lenten Series

A four-week Lenten series is underway, meeting Sunday mornings at 11:30 at the Soulwork tables or in the Ford Room. Do join in!

Week 1, 2/24: The presenters came from within our congregation, sharing stories from their life experience about "betrayal." This word is a difficult one. The exercise was intended to help us identify more profoundly with Christ's pain of betrayal.

The idea for this came from a retreat by Dr. Rachel Remen, author of *Kitchen Table Wisdom* and *My Grandfather's Blessings*. Rachel is a well-respected healer and leads retreats using this concept with physicians and other health care providers at the Institute for the Study of Health and Illness at Commonweal.

Week 2, 3/3: Dr. David Riggs, a popular Stanford English professor emeritus, will lead discussion of the poem "The Dream of the Rood." The poem is translated from eighth century Anglo-Saxon. It is a mysterious poem written from an unusual perspective about the "rood" or cross. *Ford Room*

Week 3, 3/10: Dr. Riggs will lead discussion of "Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward,"

another poetic reflection on Lent from the beloved poet and priest, John Donne. *Ford Room*

Dr. Riggs taught at Harvard in 1968-69 before joining the Stanford faculty as an Assistant Professor the following year. He became a full Professor in 1985 and specializes in Renaissance literature. David has written books about Shakespeare, Shakespeare's rival Ben Jonson, and Marlowe. It is a pleasure to have my good friend, David, as our guest for these Lenten meditations.

Week 4, 3/17: End-of-life Decisions—What is new in end-of-life documents? Who will speak for you if you are too ill or hurt to express yourself? What kinds of medical interventions might you want under different circumstances? Documenting your wishes today means your family shouldn't have to make heart-wrenching decisions for you later. An Advance Health Care Directive provides a way for you to communicate your wishes to family, friends, and health care professionals.

Presenter Betsy Carpenter has served as a grief counselor and continues advance directive work at El Camino Hospital. She is a volunteer lecturer about advance health care planning and ethical decision-making at the end of life at Stanford Medical School.

Eileen+

Bede's Kids' Coin Drive

Change is good—and more change is even better, when it comes to the annual Bede's Kids coin drive. Not only is it a time for monetary puns, to coin a phrase, it's an easy way to increase your almsgiving during Lent.

This year's recipient is Pwoje Espwa ("Project Hope"), a nonprofit in southwest Haiti that operates an orphanage for 600-plus children, plus a school, medical clinic, farm, and vocational training programs that serve several thousand more needy individuals. When we last raised funds for this charity, under the catchy title of "Seeds of Change—Change for Seeds," we helped support its efforts to be self-sustaining after the devastating 2010 earthquake had swelled the numbers of children it serves. Not only do Hope Village residents grow most of their own food, they also sell seeds and saplings to local farmers.

But last year saw more devastation in the impoverished nation, this time from Hurricane Isaac in August and Hurricane Sandy in October, which again put pressure on the 15-year-old Pwoje Espwa to aid even more young people. We'd like to help them meet that demand by increasing last year's coin tally of \$300, which benefited continuing earthquake relief efforts for children in Japan.

So please bring your coin jars and loose change to coffee hours now through Palm

Sunday (24 March), and Bede's younger parishioners will gladly help funnel it into our collection bottle, decorated by Audrey Harris on Shrove Tuesday. We will announce the total on Easter Sunday, the perfect time to celebrate new life and new hope, and share our joy with others.

— *Jeanne Cooper*



+ 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 +

Jean Bennett Seccombe
10 July 1921 - 3 February 2013
***Receive her into the arms of your mercy
and into the glorious company
of the saints in light.***

Alfred L. Wilcox
14 May 1921 - 24 February 2013

***Grant him a place at the table
in your heavenly kingdom.***

Ei Spied and Commented Stardust and Ashes



It is part of the Ash Wednesday service for us to say, "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes." This image that we came from something and will return to that place is a small version of the larger Lenten journey. What begins on Ash Wednesday with cosmic dust will return to the cosmic dust of the Easter garden of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Cosmic dust? We know that part of what makes up the dirt of earth came from the stardust created when a dying star exploded over 5 billion years ago. Dust and gases mingled with the brown skin of earth, our soil. We received the elements we need to live, carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, in that explosion. What exists in the present came from what already existed.

As we daily lose skin and hair cells, we contribute to the evolving nature of our earthly home. Creation continued—and continues to evolve and diversify. The second Genesis story (Gen 2:7) reminds us that we came from the earth or soil. In Latin, the word for soil is *humus*. This is where we get the root word for the powerful virtue: humility. Humility keeps us grounded (pun intended). In the Garden of Eden, Adam is more accurately translated *Hā-ādām* or earth creature (Phyllis Tribble, lecture notes 1982).

The rabbis tell us we are to keep two stones, one in each pocket. The stone in one pocket

tells us we are to remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. In the other pocket we are to touch the stone that reminds us we are "created a little lower than the angels" (Psalm 8:6).

On Ash Wednesday we sign our foreheads with ashes at our two later services. When signing the foreheads of the children of Trinity School (our largest congregation each week!) we sign with "stardust." Both are made with burned palm crosses from last year. Both concepts are true. We are ashes and stardust.

As we go through Lent we are to attend to earthly things—dirt, bushes that burn, fig trees that need fertilizer, palms, bread from grain, wine from grapes, and always the tree of Good Friday: the tree whose Holy Fruit is our crucified and ultimately resurrected Lord.

The empty tomb of Easter confronted those amazed women and the angel. The garden was where they awakened to the Eden now regained—soil, growth, life, and death, and then life again. Lent says "yes" to the Cosmic Christ of exploding stars and new universes we are only beginning to discover. Lent says "yes" as well to the humble brown skin of earth's dust, dead cells, and rocks.

With so many possibilities for us to come alive to—may our eyes open this Lent to the mystery about and within us. Amen.

Eileen+

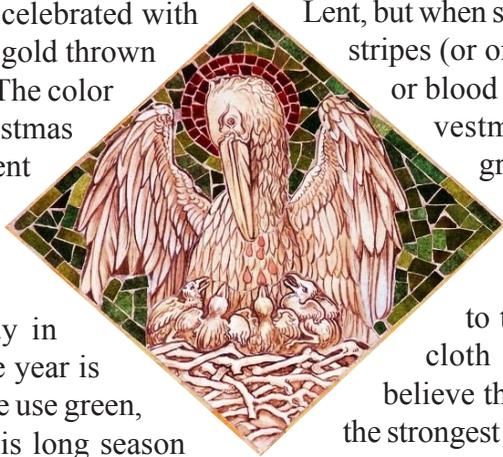
The Church's Color Palette

Beginning in the sixth century, the church instituted a regular pattern of colors to signal the changes of liturgical seasons. The church year was divided roughly in halves. The year tells the story of the life of Jesus for the first half of the time and the story of the church's response in the second half of the days and months.

The first half of the church year contains a triad of joy—Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. The first two are celebrated with white (with maybe some gold thrown in) and Pentecost is red. The color that prepares us for Christmas and Easter is violet. Advent is mildly penitential and Lent is more deeply penitential.

The season that we stay in for the second half of the year is called Ordinary Time. We use green, a color of growth, for this long season that ends with All Saints and then the final Sunday, Christ the King. Then we begin Advent all over again.

The primary colors of the liturgical calendar are violet, white, red, and green. There are other, secondary colors that can be used to enhance the primary colors: pink, black, blue, brown, and beige. We used to use black, for example, at funerals but we have gone back to white. Why? It is the celebratory color of Resurrection. The color pink is



used on the third Sunday of Advent and very rarely on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It is supposed to represent "penance infused with joy." Some Lutheran and Episcopal churches use blue for Advent to show that Advent is less penitential than Lent. I personally like using violet for both Advent and Lent. Why violet and not purple? Violet is suggested because purple can be tricky—too much red or too much blue can miss the proper color. So violet is a safer choice for practical reasons. Sackcloth is used sometimes for

Lent, but when sackcloth (linen) is used the stripes (or orphreys) are usually black or blood red. I think our sackcloth vestments at St. Bede's, with green stripes, are great for Ash Wednesday. They tie the green of burned palm crosses with a nod to the scripture about "sackcloth and ashes." However, I believe the primary color, violet, is the strongest choice for Lent, especially with the pelican, symbol of Christ's passion, on the chausable.

Red can be used for ordinations, feast days of the apostles, Palm Sunday, and confirmations. Brown I hardly ever see used. Light blue is thought of as Marian or Mary blue. Dark blue is associated with Sarum blue.

Does all this matter? To quote a Buddhist sutra, such symbolic color "is the finger pointing to the moon, but not the moon."

Eileen+

☀ Bede's People ☀

Sixth-grader **Mathew Mammen** recently earned his black belt in Kuk Sool Won, a Korean form of martial arts that he began in kindergarten. It took him three years to complete the eight stripes in the previous level of brown belt, his father Mathai noted, adding, "In fifty more years, he can be a 10th degree black belt."

David Chu & Irene Lawrence attended the baptism of grandson Benjamin David Biakanja at Holy Family, Half Moon Bay, on 10 February.

At press time, tickets were still available for the Portola Valley Conservatory Theatre production of "Oklahoma," starring St. Bede's Godly Play leader **Claire Lawrence**, which runs March 13-17 and 20-23; a group of Claire's students are attending the March 17 matinee, with chaperones Ian Hersey and Jeanne Cooper. See pvtc-ca.org for ticket details.

The Rev. **Tracy Longacre** is back on Diocese of California soil for a respite. She will be traveling to Canada to debrief her experiences in Africa with her volunteer agency. We look forward to seeing more of Tracy before she sets off for new adventures.

Arts at St. Bede's presents

Susan Jane Matthews, Organist Sunday, March 10, 4pm

*A celebration of the life of Johann Sebastian Bach
through the organ music of his world*

Susan is Director of Music at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame. She has served at St. Michael's Cathedral, Boise, Idaho, and as Principal Organist of Grace Cathedral. We welcome Susan back to play for us, and look forward to her program which will include works by J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Vivaldi, and Sweelinck.

Tickets: In advance \$10 general/\$6 senior/free to student

At door \$12 general/\$8 senior/\$5 student



Spring Rummage Sale

Spring cleaning? Decluttering? St. Bede's Lenten rummage sale, which benefits Nets for Life, can use your small, working household items and easily portable furnishings; art and knickknacks; books, DVDs, and CDs; and adult and kids' clothes, shoes, and accessories in good condition. The Community Service Committee will host the sale, open to the public, in Lehman Hall from 11am to 2pm on Saturday, 16 March, with remainders on sale at coffee hours on Sunday, 17 March.

Please place your donations in specially marked baskets in the narthex anytime before Friday, March 15; donation forms will also be available in the narthex. Volunteers are needed from 4:30 to 6:30pm on Friday,

.....
• Save the (new) date!
.....
• **Men's Retreat**
.....
• led by the Very Rev. Alan Jones,
• Dean Emeritus of Grace Cathedral
.....
• Saturday, 18 May
.....
• 9am-2pm
.....
• in the library at
• Christ Church, Portola Valley
.....
• for the men of
• St. Bede's, Christ Church, & Holy Trinity
.....

15 March, to help sort and display items—it's always fun to spot finds!

We also need volunteers during the sale on 16 March—to serve refreshments, re-sort items, and help cashiers—and after the last coffee hour on 17 March, when we pack up usable clothing and household goods for donation to local shelters, books to local libraries, and other items to Goodwill.

Our goal is to match last fall's record volunteer turnout and to beat last spring's tally of \$1,613 raised for Nets for Life, a multi-agency partnership supported by Episcopal Relief & Development. For \$12, a pesticide-treated net can save three people from malaria, which claims nearly 655,000 lives a year—mostly children under 5 years old. This program aligns with four Millennium Development Goals: reducing child mortality, increasing maternal health, combating disease (including malaria), and creating global partnerships for development.

These semiannual rummage sales began in June 2009, eventually moving to a Lenten date in support of international outreach and a fall date in support of local charities. Shoppers from the general public have told us that they appreciate not only the great deals but also the fact that their dollars and coins are benefiting worthy causes. And for many, it's their first time on our campus. Whichever way you can help welcome them will be appreciated!

— Jeanne Cooper

Thanks from Jane McDougle

Dear good people of St. Bede's,

Thank you so much for all of your well-wishes for my move to Holy Innocents, San Francisco. I have been very touched by the cards and notes that I have received over the last month.

It was a lovely lunch party on my last Sunday (2/17). Thank you to all of you for making it so delightful: the cooks, the decorators of the tables, and for all of you who came.

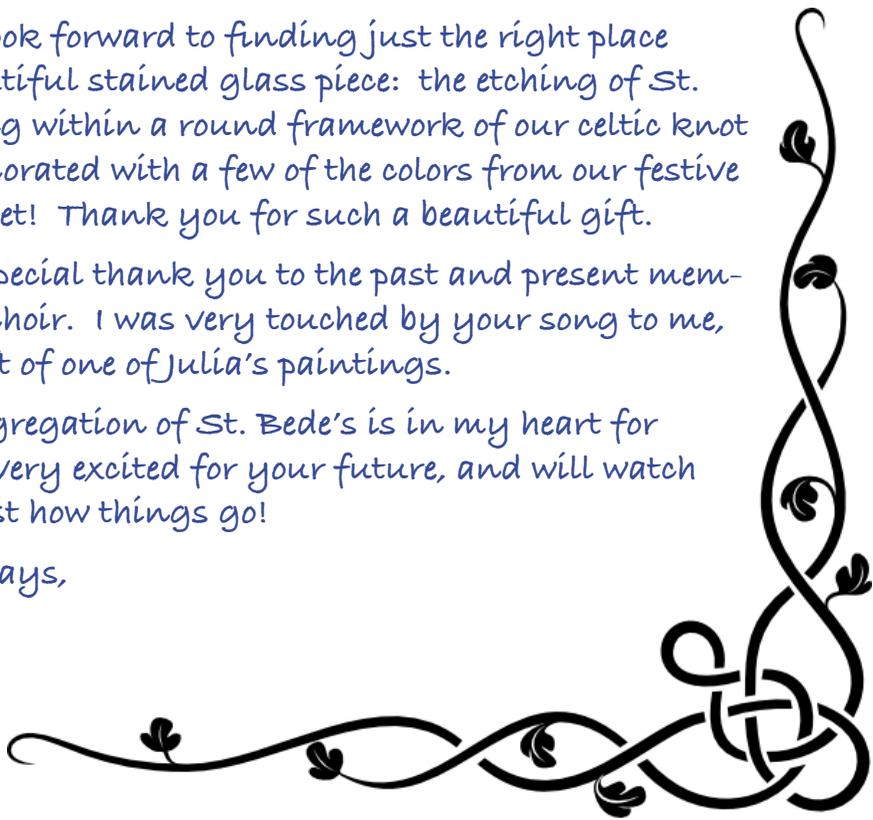
I shall look forward to finding just the right place for the beautiful stained glass piece: the etching of St. Bede's lying within a round framework of our celtic knot pattern, decorated with a few of the colors from our festive liturgical set! Thank you for such a beautiful gift.

And a special thank you to the past and present members of the choir. I was very touched by your song to me, and the gift of one of Julia's paintings.

The congregation of St. Bede's is in my heart for ever. I feel very excited for your future, and will watch with interest how things go!

In love, always,

Jane+



Easter Choir

Calling all singers! Even if you cannot commit to regular rehearsals and singing on Sundays, we invite all singers to join the choir for Easter (10:15am Sung Eucharist).

Rehearsal is Wednesday night, 27 March at 7:30.

If interested, please contact David Sheetz at dsheetz@stbedesmenlopark.org



The deadline for the April issue of
Bede's Journal
is Friday 15 March.



Please send copy to:
cshedlock@stbedesmenlopark.org

Substantiation for Charitable Deductions

by Irene Lawrence, Enrolled Agent

Professional tax practitioners, like most other professionals, have their in-jokes. One of them is that there are three reactions when we ask a client, in the course of a tax interview, about their charitable donations. This first response is, “How much is allowed?” The second is “How much did we put on last year’s return?” The third response is for the client to gaze at the office ceiling and attempt to read numbers written there.

You will not be surprised that none of these methods are acceptable to the IRS. A few years ago the IRS issued new and stricter rules about what counts as acceptable substantiation for various types of donations. There are two rules that I think are probably of most importance to St. Bede’s people: first, that in many cases a cancelled check, the traditional proof, is not enough, and second, that you must have your proof in hand before you file your tax return for the year (or by the return’s due date, if you goof and file late).

First, the traditional cancelled check is enough if every single separate donation is less than \$250. Or, since nowadays it can be difficult to get a cancelled check, other bank records such as a bank or credit card statement are acceptable. Even if you give lots of donations to the same organization so that the yearly total is greater than \$250,

the bank record is OK as long as none of the separate gifts is \$250 or more. So is a written statement from the charity, as long as it has the charity’s name and the date and amount of the donation.

However, if any single gift is \$250 or more, your bank record isn’t enough. After all, you might have written a check to St. Bede’s for, say, \$500 for your successful bid on an original Picasso at the annual auction. Therefore, your only allowable substantiation is a document from the charity with the same name, date, and amount as above, plus a statement about what, if anything, you received in return. If your payment was all gift, the document **MUST** say so—something like “no goods or services were given in exchange” for the donation. (Churches may add “except intangible spiritual benefits.”) If there was something given in exchange, the document **MUST** describe what was given in exchange and estimate a value for it. Then you are allowed to deduct the difference, if any.

Many charities, including St. Bede’s, opt for simplicity and include the required language for all donations, even small ones. This is a sensible approach.

I must emphasize again that you, the taxpayer, **MUST** have this document in hand before you file your tax return. If for some reason you file late, you must have this documentation by 15 April (usually) if you didn’t file an extension, or by 15 October if you did.

When these rules came into effect, the IRS said that they would be somewhat lenient about small amounts. I don’t know if that is still the case, but I do know that they are very strict about larger amounts. Two recent court cases upheld the IRS’s denial of deductions even though everyone, including the IRS, agreed that the contributions were entirely legitimate, but the substantiation did not meet the letter of the law. And the substantiation could not be corrected after the fact.

In one case, the taxpayers donated a large sum to their church and received a contemporaneous acknowledgement letter, but the letter did not specifically state that no goods or services were received in exchange for the donation. Of course at the audit the church hastened to provide a corrected letter, but that letter was not effective because it was late, and the taxpayers were denied their deduction.

You will be happy to know that St. Bede’s quarterly statements do contain the correct language. You just have to be sure you keep the statement and produce it if needed.

Included on the following page, with permission, is a chart provided by the sponsors of a tax update seminar I recently attended. It shows the documentation and substantiation required for the most common charitable gifts. But as always, be sure to check with your own Enrolled Agent or other tax advisor before doing anything major.

Charitable Contribution Substantiation Information Required		
Amount	Documentation	Substantiation
Cash donations of less than \$250	Bank record	Includes canceled check; bank, credit union, or credit card statement showing name; and transaction posting date (credit card)
	Written communication from charity	Name of charity, date, and amount of contribution
	Payroll deduction	Pledge card and pay stub, W-2 wage statement, or other document furnished by employer, including total amount withheld for charity
Cash donations of \$250 or more	Written acknowledgment from the charity for each donation	Name of charity, date, amount paid, description, and estimate of value of goods or services provided by the charity
Noncash contributions of less than \$250	Receipt from donee or reliable records	
Property donations greater than \$250 and not more than \$500	Contemporaneous written acknowledgment	Name of charity, date, amount paid, and description (but not value) of goods or services provided by the charity
Property donations greater than \$500 and not more than \$5,000	Written acknowledgement	All of the above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How you got the property; • Date you got the property; and • Cost or other basis. Must file Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions
Donations of \$5,000 or more excluding stock, certain works of art, and autos	Qualified appraisal	Attach appraisal to return and complete page 2 of Form 8283
Donations of art valued at \$20,000 or more	Signed appraisal and photograph	Attach signed appraisal to return and provide photograph of sufficient quality and size to fully show object if requested by the IRS
Stock of publicly traded corporation	No appraisal required if as of date of the contribution market quotations are readily available on an established securities market	Attach Form 8283 to return
Nonpublicly traded stock	Contributions greater than \$5,000 and less than or equal to \$10,000	A partially completed appraisal summary; complete Form 8283, Part I
	Contributions greater than \$10,000	Attach qualified appraisal to return
Vehicle, boat, and airplane with value of more than \$500	Value is the lesser of the gross sales proceeds or the FMV of the vehicle if no "significant use or material improvement"	Taxpayer needs contemporaneous written acknowledgement from donee organization; donee organization must use Form 1098-C to report value of vehicle donations, if vehicle is sold; this can be used to provide acknowledgement to the donor

Note: These rules apply to individuals making qualified contributions to IRC §501(c)(3) organizations. Additional rules apply when gifting a partial or restricted interest, gifts via trusts, and gifts with remainder interest.

In the Month of March

Birthdays

- 1 Athena Burrs-President
- 6 Elena Hobbs-Minor
Maddie Stewart
- 9 Joey Jackson
Gerald Spillman
- 10 Janet Hill
Isabel Norman
- 11 Jon Poe
- 12 Nick Flegel
- 13 Betty Smith
- 14 Michaella Adams
- 16 Kathy Thompson
- 17 Sally Marshall
Jinx Royden
- 18 Dave Hannebrink
Zane Brown
- 19 Cayley Bowles
Vicki Blayney

Anniversaries

- 19 Abby & Arthur Mintz
- 24 Frank & Janet Hill
- 30 Diana & Nelson Powell
Angela Sherry & Peter Brown

- 23 Steve Debenham
Grace Knowles
Marjorie Oda-Burns
- 24 Steven Minor
Tom Nute
Wes Poulson
- 25 Colin Stewart
- 26 Michael Graebner
Mary Frances Jett
- 29 Bruno Geoly
- 30 Virginia Knight
- 31 Noelle Roux Dunn
Sam Leen

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Time Value

Date Mailed: 27 February 2013

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. David A. Sheetz *Interim Music Director*
The Rev. Kevin Sparrow *Sunday Assistant*
The Rev. John Oda-Burns *Sunday Assistant*
Carol Shedlock *Parish Administrator*
Rani Fischer *Organist*
Angela Sherry *Bookkeeper*
Ann Latta *Senior Warden*

Sunday Services

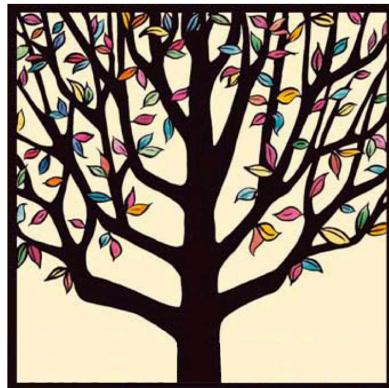
Holy Eucharist 8:00, 10:15am
(Nursery 10:00, Godly Play Sunday School 10:15am)

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