

Bede's Journal

The Monthly Newsmagazine of St. Bede's Episcopal Church



We help all ages grow in faith and service.

January 2015

January at a Glance

9:00am, *Sundays in January*

Soulwork: The English Reformation and the English Bible

6:30pm, *Wednesdays in January*

Soulwork: The Historical Jesus and the Gospels

4:00pm, *Sunday 11 January*

Arts at St. Bede's presents James Welch, organist

2:30pm, *Saturday 17 January*

Memorial service: Alis Lovering Fern

4:00pm, *Sunday 18 January*

FALL GALA sign-up event: Scottish films & dinner

4:00pm, *Saturday 24 January*

FALL GALA sign-up event: Ale tasting & appetizers

Sunday 25 January

11:15am Parish Annual Meeting

noon 2015 Vestry Organizational Meeting



Look Ahead and Save These Dates!

4:00pm, *Sunday 8 February*

Arts at St. Bede's presents The Whole Noyse

Wednesday 11 February

Registration deadline for guaranteed accommodation at the Parish Retreat
(Friday-Sunday, 12-14 June at The Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg)

Shrove Tuesday, 17 February

Vestry-Hosted Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday, 18 February

4:00pm, *Sunday 22 February*

Arts at St. Bede's presents Serenade

Adult Education

January Soulwork



Sunday Soulwork this month delves into the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries with an exploration of the English Reformation and the English Bible. We'll reflect on the formation of the Church of England, from which our Episcopal Church springs, and the development of the Bible in our language. Soulwork meets at 9:00am in Lehman Hall; *childcare is available*.

On **Wednesday evenings**, Soulwork will explore The Historical Jesus and the Gospels. We will consider the formation of the canon of the Bible, gospels that were not included in the Bible, and what this all means for our faith today. A simple supper begins at 6:00pm, with Soulwork starting at 6:30. An RSVP for dinner is appreciated; please let the parish office know by Monday.

Bede's Kids

Planting Tulips

On January 4th during Sunday school, students had an opportunity to plant tulip bulbs with Vicki Blayney. This will provide another great opportunity to watch the bulbs grow and flower during Lent and Easter. We can then cut the tulips and use them for the altar and possibly to decorate the Sunday school.

– Claire Lawrence



Mark your calendar!

St. Bede's Annual Parish Retreat

Friday-Sunday, 12-14 June

The Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg



As we must confirm our reserved space by 12 February, please complete your registration by Wednesday 11 February in order to guarantee your space.

✧ Middle School Youth Group ✧

Launch!

We had a really productive discussion on December 7 about a new middle school group starting in January. Sixth through eighth grade is a great time for children to start attending the full church service, possibly by participating as acolytes or readers, and having their own discussion and social gathering following the service. The Children's Steering Committee has since purchased and assembled new furniture for the youth group room and made it a cozy, fun room for older kids. We plan to set up a survey account so children/parents can RSVP in advance so we have an idea about numbers. Look for this to start up in January, hopefully the week of the 11th!

– Claire Lawrence



Service Weekend over the MLK, Jr. Holiday

The middle school youth (grades 6-8) of our parish are excited to have their first Service Weekend in 2015! January 16-18, a group of youth will be heading to Sacramento to do service for those less fortunate than ourselves. The group will be partnering with Sierra Service Project in doing rehabilitation to homes and social service agencies in the area. Sierra Service Project was founded in 1975 and their mission is building faith, strengthening communities, and serving others. St. Bede's youth will be joining on this weekend with three other church youth groups to provide many hours of community service in the Sacramento area.

We are thrilled that we have so many young people interested in the trip, and that they are bringing their friends on this adventure. Please pray for the group that we may have safe travels, open hearts, and courage in trying new things on our trip! We look forward to sharing our adventure with all in the parish upon our return.

– Katie Machemer
and the Middle School Youth

From the Rector Epiphany Blessing



The familiar story of Christmas often leaves us with the impression that the narrative of Jesus' birth is one coherent whole. When we read the gospels of Matthew and Luke, however, we immediately notice that the stories are quite different. The journey to Bethlehem and the shepherds appear only in Luke; the visit of the wise men, which we celebrate on the feast of the Epiphany, is unique to Matthew. Matthew also places the birth of Jesus in a house in Bethlehem, not in a stable, and it is this house that the wise men visit. This suggests that our observance of Epiphany centers around our homes. Blessing houses at Epiphany is an old Christian custom, which anyone can keep in their homes. This blessing is adapted from Full Homely Divinity (fullhomelydivinity.org), a virtual treasure chest of Anglican customs and spiritual practices. All you'll need is chalk—sidewalk chalk works well—and, if you wish, holy water or incense.

The blessing of the house begins with all members of the household standing outside of the main entrance of the home. It is not necessary for a priest to perform this blessing. Rather, the head of the household is usual, though any member of the household may be designated. In some families, the person who finds the bean or token in

the Twelfth Cake or the King Cake has the privilege of presiding at this blessing.

Leader: Peace be to this house.

People: And to all who enter here.

Leader: Wise men came to Bethlehem to honor the Savior and offered him gifts:

People: Gold for a great king.

Leader: Incense to the true God.

People: And myrrh for his body, for he would suffer and die.

The initials of the legendary names of the wise men are written with chalk on the door or the lintel of the house, framed by the numbers of the new year, in this way:

20 C+M+B+ 15

Everyone then enters the house. In some places it is customary to cross the threshold with the right foot first, thus starting the year out “on the right foot.” Once inside, everyone may gather in the vestibule or another room for the blessing of the house.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Send your blessing, O Lord, upon this house and on all who shelter under its roof. Inspire us as you inspired the wise men of old who sought your Son: give us courage on the journey, discernment to find the right way, and whatever we may need to complete the tasks to which he calls us. And, at the last, may we find our rest and fulfillment in his presence in the home →

he has prepared for us in your heavenly kingdom, where he now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

It is appropriate to go through the house sprinkling each room with holy water. Incense could also be used. It would be appropriate to sing a hymn while this is being done. The familiar carol “We three kings of Orient are” would be a good and very Anglican choice. In some churches, gold, frankincense, and myrrh are blessed on this day. With or without these symbolic

gifts, the house blessing should end at the family crèche with the collect for the feast.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Epiphany blessings to your home this year.

Peace,

Gia+

An Open Letter & Invitation to All

Dear Vestry,

You may or may not know that St. Bede’s is an official member of California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL, <http://interfaithpower.org/>). The local branch of CIPL is called Peninsula Interfaith Climate Action (PICA). I have been attending local meetings of this coalition for a few months, and have found it very rewarding. It is a jovial bunch of roughly twelve people led by a calm and decisive moderator named Debbie Mytels. It represents Jews, Catholics, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Universalist-Unitarians, Presbyterians, Quakers, Congregationalists, as well as the Humanitarians. We usually meet the first Wednesday of each month at noon at First Congregational, Palo Alto, and eat our own brown-bag lunches.

This group discusses ways to work together as faith communities to address climate change. In the past month it has led letter-writing campaigns to provide feedback to the EPA. It works with local authorities to promote solar energy. Right now we are focusing on how to talk about climate change in a way that fosters conversation without shutting people down by scaring them or overwhelming them.

Climate change is often taboo because the words bring about fear, despondency, depression, anger or guilt. However, as Eleanor Roosevelt said, “Work

is always an antidote to depression.” We need to work together, to take action together. So please consider attending the next PICA meeting on **Wednesday, January 7, at noon** at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto at Louis and Embarcadero. I invite you to work with other faith communities on this most important issue for all life. It overlaps with poverty, drought, the economy, endangered species, war... all things which St. Bede’s cares about.

As leaders in our church, as Christians, as parents, or simply as residents of this planet, we need to protect the future for our children. This planet has changed. It is chemically altered and will keep changing. Our only hope is to work together with God and with each other.

Here is my favorite prayer from the Iona Community, something I learned at a retreat hosted by PICA members of the First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto.

*There is no pain in our hearts or in our planet
that you do not know,
for you have touched the lowest places on earth.
Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ,
the loss of all the beauty that is being killed.
There is no place in the heavens
that cannot be touched by your resurrection presence,
for you fill all things.
Give us strength in your victory over death
to grow into your way of love,
which does not despair but keeps sowing seeds
and making signs of wholeness.
Under Christ’s control
all the different parts of the body fit together
and the whole body is held together
by every joint with which it is provided.
Teach us to know our interconnectedness with all things.
Teach us to grow with each other and all living creatures through love.*



Blessings,
Rani Fischer

Arts at St. Bede's presents

James Welch, organist

Sunday, January 11, 4pm

The University Organist of Santa Clara University plays an entertaining program of works by Johann Sebastian Bach and other music inspired by the master. Come hear some organ music that you might not expect to hear in church as James Welch "pulls out all the stops."

Tickets at the door: \$10 general/\$6 senior/free to student



Los Ayudantes says "Thank you"

Since its inception in 2002 Los Ayudantes ("the helpers") has delivered thousands of hours of small group tutoring to English learners in Redwood City schools. This could not have happened without dedicated and steadfast support from the St. Bede's community. The Los Ayudantes Board of Directors is profoundly grateful for the work of the following volunteers in 2014: Ann Latta, Becky Zeren, Jeanne Cooper, John Hickson, Julie Backlund, Sue Sartor, Vicki Blayney, Michelle Swenson. If you're interested in learning more about Los Ayudantes please speak with any of these volunteers or visit our website at www.losayundantes.org. We are always looking for tutors; no special experience is required.

— Michelle Swenson

✧ Bede's People ✧

We remember with great fondness *Jewel Nickson*, who passed away a few days before Christmas. Jewel was a longtime St. Bede's parishioner and hospitality leader before moving to southern California in recent years.

Parishioner, writer, and jazz aficionado *Medea Bern* has just had published a volume of stories and images chronicling the San Francisco jazz scene, for the Images of America series. Take a peek at a review copy in the Ford Room! *San Francisco Jazz*, Arcadia Publishing; available from January 5 at local retailers, online bookstores, or through the publisher at www.arcadiapublishing.com.



Vestry View

Vestry thanks Finance Committee member Jon Poe for starting our December meeting with a conversation on the highlights of our 2014 balance sheet. Following the discussion we approved the 2015 budget. We are grateful for the Finance Committee's efforts and also for our 72 pledging individuals and families, whose generosity enabled us to fully fund important areas such as music and children and youth programs.

Next time you meet a Vestry member at coffee hour, ask them to share the tweet (a message of 140 or fewer characters) they wrote for December expressing our identity and vocation. Gia wrote all our tweets on a whiteboard and we discussed the common themes. They included reaching out; valuing a curious mind; serving Christ; finding a balance between self and community; accompanying a person through a painful circumstance; and the dynamic of change, growth, and emerging. Our assignment for our next meeting is to pray and reflect on a parish action or project. This project must be something into which we are willing to invest our own time, and it must be true to who we are as a community.

Fred Langhorst reported that the December rains have not caused any problems to our buildings or grounds. Specifically, the channel that protects our neighbors' yards from runoff operated as designed. Fred continued with the eVestry report: the Google Drive

enabled most Vestry members to access documents electronically prior to the meeting; Fred will address lingering issues and provide Drive access to new Vestry members in the coming month.

Diane Spath reported on several Children and Youth committee projects. Sixteen children attended the Advent gingerbread party led by Diane, Katie Machemer, and Jeanne Cooper; Jeanne's mom Barbara Cooper led older kids in cookie baking for the Service League's jail ministry. Katie Machemer will lead six middle-school kids on a service trip to Sacramento in mid-January. The search for a new Children and Youth Minister is taking longer than expected, so the team is moving forward with community-building. Vicki Blayney is documenting how to run children's and youth events; Claire Lawrence is working on parent communications.

Jon Backlund reported that the Emergency Preparedness committee has almost finished its plan for the parish. They have identified the tools that will be necessary to have on hand and will begin acquiring these tools this month.

Thank you to Jack Wenstrand for his leadership of the 2014 Stewardship committee, and thank you again to our 72 (at this writing) pledging families and individuals! You make it possible for us to continue doing the work of Christ in our worship and in our outreach.

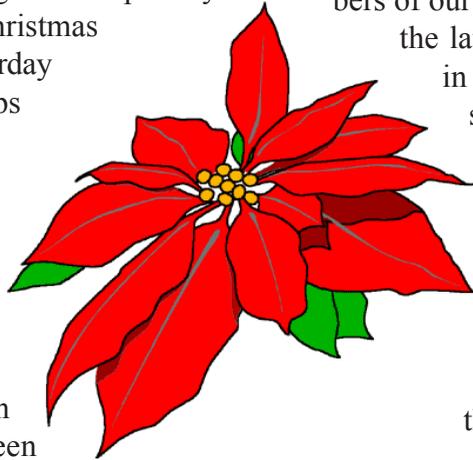
— Laura Gable Junior Warden

Christmas hospitality

Advent and Christmas bring many people to St. Bede's, from familiar faces to first-timers drawn by seasonal services to concertgoers and 12-step meeting participants, who may never enter in our sanctuary but know well the inside of Lehman or Wyatt halls.

Many people at St. Bede's stepped up to help welcome them, including our hospitality volunteers. We created Christmas cookie platters for our Saturday AA and Tuesday NA groups and hosted especially festive coffee hours for the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 7 and the three Christmas services on December 24-25, as well as after the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 28. We've been offering food and drink after all Christmas services (including *piñatas* after the pageant!) for three years now, and every year more people seem to stay, and stay longer, sharing good cheer.

This year we tried something else new, on a hunch that some might also like to gather for a meal between the Christmas Eve services. Nearly fifty people, aged from 9 months to 93 years, enjoyed a dinner buffet with meat



and vegetarian lasagne and a dessert buffet with goodies from several families.

Guests included most of the choir and musicians, who appreciated the chance to dine before their 6pm rehearsal; two pageant families, including three grandparents; Rev. Gia, Melville, and worship volunteers for the later service; single and married parishioners and their adult children; and a half-dozen members of our local community. Most of the latter had spotted the dinner in our ads listing Christmas services, and took a leap of faith in joining us—as we did in deciding to host such a gathering during a busy time. But just as with our Christmas coffee hours, the comfort and joy we shared was well worth the extra kitchen cleanup!

We are blessed to have such a wonderful facility for welcoming the stranger as well as the faithful. Thanks to all who helped put it to good use last year, and if you'd like to join us in the new year, we'd love to have you on the hospitality team.

— *Jeanne Cooper*

Family Sharing Program 2014 — Final Report

A big *Thank you* to everyone who contributed to our “Family Sharing” Program this Advent Season! Your generosity made it possible for St. Bede's to donate about \$250 in gifts and gift card value to each of the seventeen family members in four families. The wrapped gifts were received with huge smiles by the Ecumenical Hunger Program staff at their East Palo Alto office on December 16.

— *Laura Gable and Fred Langhorst*
2014 Family Sharing Co-chairs

St. Bede's - EHP "Family Sharing" 2014

Financial Summary	
Monetary donations received	\$3,555
Total gifts and gift cards purchased	\$2,403
Total food cards purchased	\$680
Wrapping material purchased	\$93
Donations transferred to Seccombe Fund	\$380
Total value (estimated) of gifts donated	\$1,150
Total donation to EHP	\$4,325
Average value (gifts & food) / family member	\$254

22-Dec-14

Note to St. Bede's from a Family Sharing recipient

Dear family,

Thank you very much for all the help you guys gave us. You guys were like angels that gave us this really big present. Because of you guys you made us be glad in this house. When I opened the envelopes you guys made my tears come out. This surprise was so big that I said "thank you to god for all the help." ARE family are going through moments so difficult but thank you guys. You guys were like a butifule light that came to us. That came to are family. We hope that god blesses you guys. We hope you guys have a wonderful Christmas.

Love,

The deadline for the February issue of Bede's Journal is Thursday 15 January.



Please send copy to: cshedlock@stbedesmenlopark.org



In the Month of January

Birthdays

- 5 Dora Ho
- 6 Sally Norman
- 7 Anne Vitullo
- 15 Vera Shadle
- 17 Michael Pellegrin
- 19 David Rogers
- 20 Dean Wenstrand
- 21 Stephen Turner
- 24 Rose Flegel
- 26 Liza Taft
- 27 Gregg von Thaden
- 28 Elizabeth Flegel
Michelle Swenson
- 29 Claire Lawrence
- 30 Matt Hayden
Robert Latta
Linda Wenstrand

Anniversaries

- 4 Richard & Robin Sequeira
- 27 Rita & Arthur Whitney
- 28 Brian & Kathleen Douglas



Bourgeois, Peter Francis, Sir, 1756-1811; Thomson, Paton, b. ca. 1750. The Macklin Bible—The Conversion of St. Paul, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54044> [retrieved January 4, 2015]. Original source: A gift to Vanderbilt University from John J. and Anne Czura.

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

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Time Value

Date Mailed: 5 January 2015

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. Gia Hayes-Martin *Rector*
The Rev. John Oda-Burns *Priest Assistant*
The Rev. David A. Sheetz *Priest Assistant*
Carol Shedlock *Parish Administrator*
Katherine McKee *Music Director*
Rani Fischer *Organist*
Angela Sherry *Bookkeeper*

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist 8:00am, 10:15am

Sunday Programs

Adult Education 9:00am — *childcare available*

Nursery 10:00am

Children's Sunday school 10:15am

Weekdays

Holy Eucharist Wednesday 8:00am

Adult Education Wednesday 6:30pm

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

650-854-6555

Trinity School + Preschool-Fifth Grade



Read *Bede's Journal* on-line at

www.stbedesmenlopark.org