

Bede's Journal

January 2018



The Monthly Newsmagazine of St. Bede's Episcopal Church

January at a Glance

9:00am, every Sunday in January

Soulwork: Spiritual Practices for Ordinary Time

Sunday 14 January

11:30am Young acolyte training

3:00pm Youth Service Project: Family Shelter Dinner

Sunday 21 January

11:30am Parish Annual Meeting

4:00pm Slavic Winterfest by Slavyanka Russian Chorus*

9:00pm St. Bede's Choir sings Compline at Stanford's Memorial Church

7:00pm, Friday 26 January

FALL GALA sign-up event: Chinese Banquet at Peking Duck, hosted by David Chu & Irene Lawrence

Sunday 28 January

4:00pm Arts at St. Bede's presents Robyn Carmichael, piano



Look Ahead and Save These Dates!

6:00pm, Sunday 4 February

FALL GALA sign-up event: Scottish Film & Dinner, at the Hayes-Martin home

4:00pm, Sunday 11 February

Arts at St. Bede's presents a Candlelight Evensong & organ recital

6:00pm, Tuesday 13 February — Shrove Tuesday

Vestry-Hosted Pancake Supper

Friday-Sunday, 8-10 June

St. Bede's Annual Parish Retreat 2018 at The Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg

Soulwork



In January, Soulwork will explore Spiritual Practices for Ordinary Time. Each week, we'll learn one or two practices suitable for any season of the year, which we can then incorporate into our own or our families' faith lives. The series meets on Sundays, January 7 through 28, at 9:00am in Lehman Hall. Childcare is available by request; please let the parish office know by Thursday the week before.

St. Bede's Children & Youth

Story, Drama, and the Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant, so wonderfully directed by Claire Lawrence and so beautifully performed by our St. Bede's children, is yet another example of the ways in which our multi-generational congregation lives out its faith in community. The children portrayed characters in the story of the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. The story included the prophets who foretold the coming of the Lord, the Annunciation to Mary by the Angel Gabriel and her bold "yes," the shepherds and Wise Ones from the East →



St. Bede's children rehearse for the Christmas pageant.

who followed the star to behold the newborn child. The characters in this year's pageant also included the storytellers throughout time who continue to share this story.



The experience of Christmas in the longest nights of winter begins a drama in which even the seasons act out what our Scriptures teach us about God coming in the dark night to bring judgment and hope, to offer teachings, and to show us the way to life through Baptism. The Christmas story is one act in the Christian drama, our script for the way we live.

The Christmas pageant is a lesson for our children, and perhaps a lesson our children teach us, that the liturgical calendar we follow and the traditions that shape our worship are all pageant plays of the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus which we in turn

experience through Christian baptism. We learn to live into our faith through the experience of hearing and acting out its stories in worship so that perhaps we might all act them out in the world.

Youth & families Dinner Service to LifeMoves Homeless Shelter

Sunday, 1/14, from 3:00pm in St. Bede's kitchen until approx. 6:30 at LifeMoves/First Step for Families in San Mateo

We invite all youth, children, and their families to prepare a taco bar meal for sixty people, then serve it to needy families. Of the sixty people at this shelter location, approximately half are children, of all ages from infants to teens. We will depart from St. Bede's at approximately 4:30 to get organized and serve dinner at 6:00pm. We will then clean up and take out the trash.

Volunteers are needed especially to share their slow-cookers/crock-pots for cooking the meats, rice, and beans, and also to chop vegetables. A detailed call to service has been sent to the email lists of youth and families. This includes a mandatory volunteer agreement to be completed before serving. Children aged ten and older may serve at the shelter. If you would like more information, please contact Pamela Stevens (pstevens@stbedesmenlopark.org).

Youth and children are invited to participate in the liturgy as Acolytes!

We so enjoyed having acolytes at our St. Francis Day celebration, and we are expanding the opportunities for children to serve in the 10:15am service for certain feast days. To serve as an acolyte, children will attend a brief training session at least a week prior to their day of service. Acolyte training sessions will be announced via email, and those attending will be included in a *rota* (rotating schedule) of service dates.

The first acolyte training day of the year will be on **Sunday, January 14, at 11:30am** in the sanctuary. It will last approximately 30 minutes. Please respond to Pamela Stevens if your child would like to attend this training (pstevens@stbedesmenlopark.org).

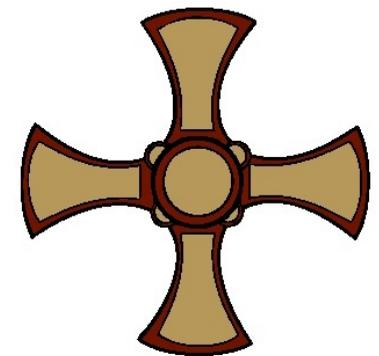
Acolytes will arrive at church for the 10:15am service by 9:30am to *vest* (dress in the *cassock* (robe) and *surplice* (white overshirt)) and prepare their *torches* (candles on sticks). In addition to learning a few new words, acolytes will learn about the meaning and symbolism in our liturgy. We hope you will discuss this opportunity with your children.

Bede's Kids' Sleepover Retreat Saturday, 2/10, 4pm – 8am Sunday, 2/11

As we prepare to enter Lent, children are invited to attend a retreat and sleepover to be held in the large Wyatt Hall classroom beginning Saturday afternoon at 4:00pm with a bit of relaxation at the playground (weather permitting) or in the classroom, and will continue cooking our own dinner and sharing a meal, followed by a candle-light service of Compline that the children will lead, before we begin a few evening activities and a night of rest... maybe.

Parents who have completed diocesan Safe Church training are welcome to participate and assist as chaperones. Safe Church training is online and can be easily arranged. Please respond to Pamela Stevens (pstevens@stbedesmenlopark.org) to confirm attendance.

– Pamela Stevens
Children's & Youth Minister



Fundraiser Fellowship

If you signed up for a 2018 event at the community service fundraising Gala last fall, watch your email for important reminders. On January 26, David Chu and Irene Lawrence will host a sold-out Chinese Banquet for nine parishioners, while Rev. Gia and Melville Hayes-Martin host their sold-out Scottish Movie Night for six parishioners on February 4.

On December 4, the Gingerbread House Party brought together ten of the youngest members of our community for pizza, gingerbread house decorating, and playground time, under the supervision of volunteers/donors Emilee Wilhelm-Leen, Abby Mintz, Katie Machemer, Audrey Harris, and Fatima Corey (house kits courtesy Jeanne Cooper and Ian Hersey). On December 18, Jeanne and Ian hosted four adults and one teen at a performance of Los Altos Stage Company's "The 1940s Radio Hour," starring Godly Play teacher and Christmas pageant director Claire Lawrence, who joined the group for refreshments afterwards.

Thanks to all who have helped support community service through their patronage or hosting of these events.



— Jeanne Cooper
Community Service
volunteer

From the Rector

Look to the Shepherds

This sermon on Luke 2:8-20 was preached at Christmas 2017.

It was chilly that night, and chill in the winter meant damp. As the dew began to form on the grass, the shepherds pulled their cloaks around themselves a little more tightly. The quiet of the night embraced them. Bethlehem with its noise and bustle was miles away; out here in the fields, only the baa-ing of sheep and the chirping of insects disturbed the silence. The shepherds took it in turns to keep watch, each of them getting a few hours of sleep while the others walked among the flocks looking out for wolves. Shepherding could be lonely work, but there was peace in the quiet and solitude, time for contemplation under the vastness of the night sky.

Suddenly an angel, a messenger from God, stood before the shepherds. The glory of the Lord, the full power and majesty and grandeur of God was before them. They had never seen anything like it before. For years after, they would try and fail to find words to describe it. It was so... so, and it terrified them. The angel spoke: "Don't be afraid." (That's how angels always have to start, "Don't be afraid;" if they didn't say that no one would ever stay to listen to them.) The angel went on, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the

people. The messiah, the savior, has been born to you this day in Bethlehem. You will find him wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. That will be the sign for you." And suddenly the darkness was broken by intense light everywhere, the quiet shattered by a deafening chorus of voices singing praise to God. A multitude of the heavenly host, too many to count, joined the first angel. It was unbelievable to the shepherds. They had to go to Bethlehem and see the newborn child. They found him just as the angel had said.

As Luke tells it, the shepherds were the first to receive the good news. That wouldn't have surprised them, because that's the way God had done things before. When the people of Israel were enslaved in Egypt, oppressed so hard they could not stand, Moses was out in the fields tending sheep. An angel of God appeared to him as a flame in a bush; the bush was on fire but it wasn't burning up. God called to Moses out of the bush and said, "I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt, how they are suffering under slavery, and I am coming to lead them to freedom." And later when Saul, the first king of Israel, disobeyed God repeatedly and God decided to replace him, the prophet Samuel was sent to anoint a new king. Samuel found that new king, David, out in the fields keeping sheep. Moses liberated his people from slavery, David defeated a tyrannical king. Both of them

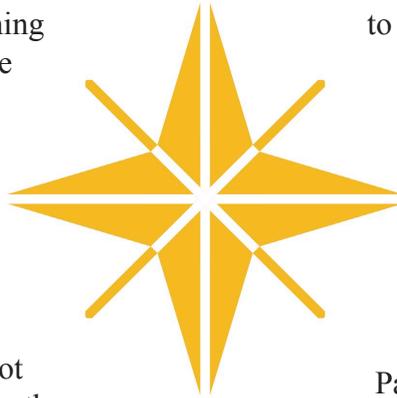
upended a power structure that interfered with God's relationship with God's people, that enriched the strong at the expense of the vulnerable, that did not do justice. Those connections between Moses and David and Jesus probably don't stand out for us, but they would have been obvious to Luke and his audience almost two thousand years ago. When God turns the world upside down, the shepherds hear it first.

And this is a *big* announcement the shepherds hear. Much later in the story, when Luke recounts Jesus' resurrection from the dead, only two men in white robes tell the good news. It's nothing compared



to the glory of the Lord shining in those fields outside Bethlehem, the multitude of angels proclaiming the good news and praising God. Nothing even close to this magnitude appears anywhere else in Luke's gospel. ***This is it. This*** is the moment of redemption, not God's ultimate triumph over the power of death, but the coming of the messiah into the world. God is taking on human flesh to live among us. God Godself is coming to save God's people.

As with Moses, as with David, the messiah has come because the leaders, the shepherds of the people, have made such a mess of the world. At the time of Jesus' birth, Israel had lost its independence. The land was occupied by the Roman army, a foreign invader. We'd like to think that faith leaders will stand up for the people, but the Jewish leadership of the time colluded with the Romans in exchange for permission to practice their religion. The authorities kept the army and the religious system funded through a reverse Robin Hood, heavy taxes that transferred wealth from the vast majority of people at the bottom of society up to the few at the top. In modern terms, this arrangement served the one percent very well, and the ninety-nine percent not at all. When the shepherds of the people fail



to care for the sheep and protect them, as they did in Moses' day, in David's time, God will disrupt the powers that be. But this time, God isn't sending someone else to be the shepherd. In the person of Jesus, God Godself will be the shepherd.

Part of my role as rector of St Bede's is to be one of the chaplains for Trinity School, the elementary school that shares our campus. A couple of times a year, I do an "Ask the Priest" day with the older grades. They write down whatever questions they have about religion, and I do my best to answer them. I really like this part of my job. Children don't have the same anxious inhibitions that adults do; they will ask the hard questions that grownups often don't ask because we don't want to look stupid. I've been aware this fall that the weight of the world is heavy on these children right now. In school chapel services, they pray about wildfires and hurricanes and homelessness and refugees and global warming because they feel that prayer is all they can do about these things. We just did Ask the Priest a couple of weeks ago, and one of the questions the students asked was, "If God sent Jesus because the world was really messed up, why hasn't God sent the messiah now, when our world is really messed up too?"

It's an excellent question, and it's one that I have also been asking. As I look back over the long sweep of God's relationship with humanity, I see that over and over again, when things get really dire, God sends a prophet, a leader, a shepherd. Pharaoh enslaves the Israelites in Egypt; God sends Moses. Israel suffers under an oppressive king; God sends David. An occupying army grinds down the people of Israel; God sends Jesus the messiah. And over and over again, these people are found out in the fields watching their sheep. They aren't in the cities, they aren't at the royal court or in the temple, they're out on the edge of the world. It's like they have to be out of the public eye, because only when no one is watching and no one is suppressing them can they become who God needs them to be. So I ask myself, why are we so sure that God has *not* sent the messiah now? God continually sends prophets and leaders to call us to faithfulness to God, to care for the poor and vulnerable, to love God and love our neighbor. Why do we assume that the messiah is not already among us? Have we looked in the right places? Have we been willing to accept the messiah's message? Sometimes we listen to those prophets and leaders. More often we reject them, and God sends us another and another, as many as we need to hear God's words to us. Those people sent by God are already among us, if only we have eyes to see them and ears to listen.

Luke has a message for all of us hoping to find the savior this night. He tells us to look to the shepherds. Look for those quiet fields outside town, for the dark stillness of night. Look for the proclamation of the good news, for the majestic awe-filled glory of God breaking into our sight. And listen to the voice of the angel: "Do not be afraid, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people, for to you is born this day a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Peace,

Gia+



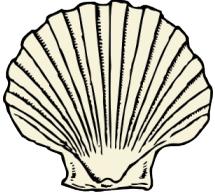
+ Rites of Passage +

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.

+ Burial +

Aram Serverian
5 June 1932 – 5 December 2017
***Receive him into the blessed rest
of everlasting peace.***

January 2018 at St. Bede's Episcopal Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	The Holy Name of Our Lord 1 Parish office closed	2 9:00a Counting Crew 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous*	3 8:00a Holy Eucharist 7:30p Choir rehearsal 7:30p Highland Pipe Band*	4 noon Alcoholics Anonymous*	5	The Epiphany of Our Lord 6 7:30a Sunrise AA* 9:00a Alcoholics Anonymous* Altar Guild work 7:00p Scandinavian Dance*
1 Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord 7 8:00a Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00a Soulwork:Ord'n'ry time 10:00a Nursery 10:15a Sunday school 10:15a Holy Eucharist Rite II	8 8:30a School chapel 9:00a Counting Crew 6:00p Sarum Seminar*	<i>Julia Chester Emery</i> 9 8:30a School chapel 2:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Finance Cmte mtg 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous*	<i>William Laud</i> 10 8:00a Holy Eucharist 8:30a School chapel 9:00a Companions alumni mtg noon Bldgs & Grounds mtg 7:30p Highland Pipe Band*	11 8:30a School chapel 9:00a Personnel Cmte mtg noon Alcoholics Anonymous* 7:30p Choir rehearsal	<i>Aelred</i> 12 8:30a School chapel noon Parkinson's Caregivers*	<i>Hilary</i> 13 7:30a Sunrise AA* 9:00a Alcoholics Anonymous* Altar Guild work 7:00p Folk Dance*
2 Epiphany 14 8:00a Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00a Soulwork:Ord'n'ry time 10:00a Nursery 10:15a Sunday school 10:15a Holy Eucharist Rite II 11:30a Young acolyte training 3:00p Youth service project	Martin Luther King Day 15 Parish office closed 9:00a Counting Crew	16 8:30a School chapel noon Parkinson's Caregivers* 2:00p Staff meeting 7:00p Vestry meeting 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous*	<i>Antony</i> 17 8:00a Holy Eucharist 8:30a School chapel 7:30p Choir rehearsal 7:30p Highland Pipe Band*	Confession of St. Peter the Apostle 18 8:30a School Eucharist noon Alcoholics Anonymous*	<i>Wulfstan</i> 19 8:30a School chapel	<i>Fabian</i> 20 7:30a Sunrise AA* 9:00a Alcoholics Anonymous* Altar Guild work
3 Epiphany 21 8:00a Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00a Soulwork:Ord'n'ry time 10:00a Nursery 10:15a Sunday school 10:15a Holy Eucharist Rite II 11:30a Annual Meeting 4:00p Slavyanka concert*	<i>Vincent</i> 22 8:30a School chapel 9:00a Counting Crew	<i>Phillips Brooks</i> 23 8:30a School chapel 2:00p Staff meeting 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous*	<i>Ordination of Florence Li Tim-Oi</i> 24 8:00a Holy Eucharist 8:30a School chapel 7:00p School Board mtg 7:30p Choir rehearsal 7:30p Highland Pipe Band*	The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle 25 8:30a School chapel noon Alcoholics Anonymous*	<i>Timothy and Titus</i> 26 8:30a School chapel	27 7:30a Sunrise AA* 8:45a Vestry Retreat 9:00a Alcoholics Anonymous* Altar Guild work
4 Epiphany 28 8:00a Holy Eucharist Rite I 9:00a Soulwork:Ord'n'ry time 10:00a Nursery 10:15a Sunday school 10:15a Holy Eucharist Rite II 4:00p Arts: R. Carmichael	29 8:30a School chapel 9:00a Counting Crew	30 8:30a School chapel 2:00p Staff meeting 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous*	31 8:00a Holy Eucharist 8:30a School chapel 9:30a Common Ground* 7:30p Choir rehearsal 7:30p Highland Pipe Band*	Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?		

*use of St. Bede's facilities in outreach to the broader community

Arts at St. Bede's presents
 Robyn Carmichael, piano
 Sunday, January 28, 4pm

Pianist Robyn Carmichael makes her debut at Arts at St. Bede's in a program of poetry and virtuosity. Lauded in the press ("Carmichael... offered generous length and variety and, most of all, extraordinary poetry" –*Palo Alto Times Tribune*;

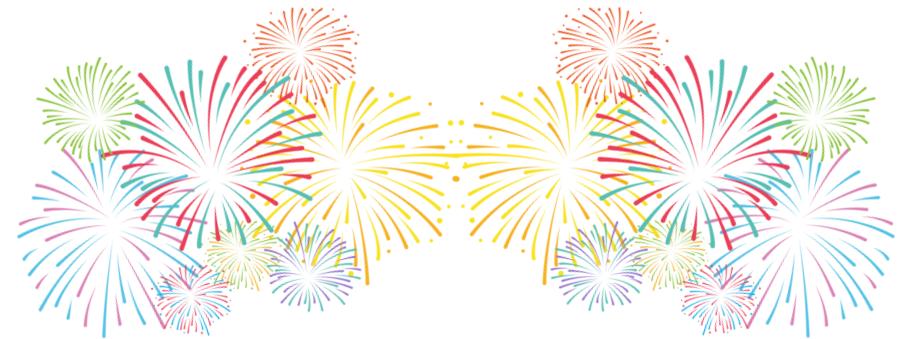


"a magnificent and illuminating evening" –*Kultura, Poland*), she brings to St. Bede's a program featuring four of the greatest Romantics of the 1830's: Chopin, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Liszt. Major works include the great B minor Sonata of Chopin and the Tarantella from Liszt's *Venezia e Napoli* S.162, no.3.

Tickets: \$25 general/\$15 student or senior

Sacred Music
 A Hymn for the New Year

By the time this edition of *Bede's Journal* arrives in our mailboxes, most of America will have put Christmas away after a month or more of celebrating "the season" which in the secular world begins at the very latest around Thanksgiving. But prior to the twentieth century, the Christmas season did not begin until Christmas Eve, and the celebrations continued on through New Year's day to Epiphany, and in some cultures, through to Candlemas Day on February 2. In Bach's time, grand New Year's Day festivities were expected. In those uncertain times, simply having survived to ring in another year was great cause for celebration, and Bach wrote several spectacular cantatas for New Year's Day, all calling for large orchestras which included trumpets, drums, and big choral forces. Several of them quote a grand 14-stanza hymn text written by Johann Herman in 1593. In Leipzig where Bach was living as 1724 turned into 1725, the text was well known and very popular sung to a hymn tune from the early 17th century, possibly written by Melchior Vulpius. Bach used the first and last stanzas of Herman's text for the cantata he composed for New Year's Day, 1725 (Cantata, BWV 41), illustrating the text's exuberant expressions of praise and hope with trumpet fanfares and grand choral flourishes.



Jesu, nun sei gepreiset
 (Jesus, now be praised)

Jesus, now be praised at this new year
 For your loving kindness, revealed to us in all need and danger,
 So that we have lived to see the new joyful time
 That hovers full of grace and eternal blessedness;
 So that in good peacefulness we have completed the old year.
 We want to give ourselves to you now and evermore,
 Protect body, soul, and life from this time on throughout the whole year!

(Listen to this section of Cantata 41 —
www.youtube.com/watch?v=io7qnsjz3uY)

Yours alone is the honor, yours alone is the praise;
 Teach us patience in bearing the cross, govern all our actions,
 Until we joyfully depart to the eternal kingdom of heaven,
 To true peace and joy, like the saints of God.
 Meanwhile deal with all of us according to your pleasure:
 Thus sings today without jests the flock of those who believe in Christ
 And wishes with voice and heart for a blessed new year.

(Listen to this section of Cantata 41 —
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEIH0Ql-mn4)

(Listen to Cantata 41 in its entirety — www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6TRChdfdw)

– Katherine McKee
 Music Director

Helping Others with Ecumenical Hunger Program

Family Sharing: Christmas 2017 was another successful pairing with EHP and our Family Sharing program. Twenty-four parishioners actively participated in either purchasing gifts or donating cash. In addition to the thirty-four gifts given to two



families, St. Bede's donated two big wish-list items: Dining room chairs, so the one family can now all eat together, and a circular saw, which will increase the other family's father's work opportunities. The children's gifts were delivered unwrapped, along with all materials for wrapping and trimming, so the parents could do the finishing touches to personalize each gift for their children. However, the parents' gifts were delivered wrapped and ready to put under their tree. Thank you to everyone who participated. Family Sharing was only a success because of this huge parish involvement.

Toy and Food Basket Distribution: December 21 was a first for St. Bede's—going directly to EHP to volunteer in the toy and food basket distribution. Helen Greenwood,

Jeanne Cooper and her friend were involved in the toy program. They organized shelves and helped in the distribution, putting smiles on the faces of families requesting toys. Gia, Liz Bellock, Jane Ross, and myself were in the food area. We stocked shelves and put together food baskets for families as they arrived. Both groups felt it was a wonderful experience working alongside the regular staff and volunteers. We saw firsthand what a huge impact EHP makes on so many lives, especially at holiday time. We plan to do this again next year and would love to see new faces joining us.

Tech Drive: The busy holiday season brought a quiet drive this year. However, EHP has year-round need of your gently used electronics, such as cell phones, laptops, or iPads. Drop them off at the church and we will get them to EHP. They will then find a family in need of your specific items.

— Angela Sherry

Family Sharing 2017 coordinator



How did we miss Mary last month?

Our belated thanks to Mary Working, another of the generous donors who backed St. Bede's team in November's Home & Hope 5k walk/run fundraiser.

Jail Ministry

Christmas morning saw the participation of a record group of fourteen St. Bede's carolers and greeters in the Service League's annual distribution of cookie bags to inmates and deputies at the county jail in Redwood City. A record number of Trinity School students helped decorate the bags, too.

Coordinator Nancy Stork, who also volunteers in the jail with Project Read, led the caroling group that included both experienced and first-time participants. Repeat volunteers included Nancy and Livy Stork, Rev. Gia and Melville Hayes-Martin, and Ann Latta. First-timers included Jon and Julie Backlund, David Chu and Irene Lawrence, Kathy McKee and Colby Roberts, Vera Shadle, and one of Ann's daughters and son-in-law. If you'd like to hear more about their experiences, be sure to ask a participant at the next coffee hour.

On December 17, Nancy led a cookie decorating session in Lehman Hall, while Matt and Cyrus Hayden, among others, helped add another forty cookie bags to the 160 that Trinity School students had designed as part of their annual Christmas Craft Fair on December 12. (The latter was the source of the lovely snowflake cling-on decals that will grace the parish hall through January 7.)

Volunteer school chaplain Jeanne Cooper supervised the Trinity School bag decorating and brought them to the mass assembly at Woodside United Methodist on December 22, where Bertita Graebner, Nancy Stork, and other volunteers bagged cookies, fruit, candy, and a caring note for more than 1,000 inmates and deputies. Thank you to all who helped bring the light of Christ into a dark place on Christmas Day. ■



Not shown, and photo by: Nancy Stork

Hospitality and Fellowship

Advent and Christmas brought numerous opportunities to welcome the stranger, bring cheer to the lonely, and strengthen bonds within our parish community. Some highlights:

 **Christmas Eve dinner:** This year saw a record 55 (or was it 57?!) guests for dinner, held between our 4pm and 8pm services. Diners included many of our choir and their guests, guest musicians, several families with pageant participants, couples and singles, clergy and staff, and two drop-ins from our community.

Special thanks go to our youth minister Pamela Stevens and husband David van Greuningen for making our dining room especially festive with white chair covers and red bows, red and gold chargers, and a lit Christmas tree; they also worked tirelessly serving drinks and cleaning up on Christmas Day. Jon and Julie Backlund contributed flower arrangements and invaluable help preparing and serving our dinner of smoked turkey, lasagna, vegetables, rolls, salad, and cheesecake. Other key hands in set-up and/or clean-up: Quentin Long, Ian Hersey, Emilee Wilhelm-Leen's parents, Matt Hayden and family, Irene Lawrence, Melville Hayes-Martin, Helen Greenwood, and Bertita Graebner. We could not have done it without you!

Dinner coordinator Jeanne Cooper figures the meal cost about \$10.50 per person, including donated centerpieces (from Trinity School) and wine. (Jeanne slightly regrets donating Christmas crackers which unbeknownst to her had whistles inside, but the six children in attendance didn't seem to mind at all.) Thanks also go to those who made financial donations to support this free event.

 **Kitka concert:** This annual Arts series event attracting 250+ patrons requires all hands—and smiles—on deck. With the help of well-organized marching orders from music director Kathy McKee, on December 11 we welcomed newcomers to our campus with holiday lights, parking assistance, helpful signage and ushers, two box offices, multiple clean bathrooms (highly appreciated!), and a reception with bartenders for nonalcoholic beverages and wine. Thanks go to Rani Fischer, J. Jeff Badger, Fred Langhorst, Jeanne Cooper, Jim Bartosh, Ed and Carol Brink, Jon and Julie Backlund, David Chu and Irene Lawrence, Curtis Grisham, John Hickson and Sarah Babin, Liza Taft, and Becky and Dick Zeren.

 **Christmas receptions:** On December 24 and 25, we hosted four coffee hours and receptions in little over 24 hours. The first was an unofficial kaffeeklatsch in the kitchen for hard-working Altar Guild volunteers and some of the forty people who attended our 9am Fourth Sunday in Advent service;

thanks to Jeanne for the coffee and Ann Latta for the walnut bread. After both Christmas Eve services, we served Christmas cookies, cheese and crackers, clementines, and beverages; the morning Christmas Day service brought the addition of Christmas kringle. (Laura Gable and Jeanne Cooper helped us do it all over again on December 31, too!) The number of patrons—including newcomers—at all these receptions has continued to grow over the years, and we're grateful for all the volunteers who support them.

 **Group cookie platters:** Recognizing the good work 12-Step groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous perform in our community year-round, as well as the stress that the holidays can bring, we continued our tradition of leaving cookie platters with notes of welcome for our four 12-Step meetings the week before Christmas. Special thanks to Nancy Stork for providing home-baked cookies.

 **Memorial services:** Although saying goodbye to a beloved member of our parish is never easy, it is also an opportunity to show Christian love to the grieving family and friends, many of whom are inexperienced with our campus and liturgy. Thank you to all the Altar Guild, ushers, and others who provided hospitality for the memorial services for Alex Coleman on December 10 and Aram Serverian on December 17.

— Jeanne Cooper
Hospitality coordinator



Guest Artists

Slavyanka Russian Chorus presents *A Slavic Winterfest* at St. Bede's on Sunday, January 21, 4:00pm—a concert of Orthodox Christmas hymns, carols, and folk songs in various languages celebrating winter light and cozy houses, troikas and drunken coachmen, blizzards, and the sparkling dazzle of a snow-covered landscape after winter darkness. The Chorus will be joined by Iskra Ethno, a wonderful group of Serbian women whose love of Balkan choral music is highly contagious.

This concert is not part of the Arts at St. Bede's Series. For more information and tickets, please visit:

www.slavyankachorus.org

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- **Congratulations** to our choir's soprano section leader *Katina Mitchell* and husband Rod Albuyeh on the birth this month of their son Ambrose Tamin!
- • • • •

Vestry View

Despite a common association, the month of January is not actually named for the Roman deity Janus. The misconception is understandable, as that entity regulated beginnings and transitions in Roman mythology; but the first month in the Gregorian calendar actually derives its name from the Latin word *ianua* (“door”). So, I can’t rightly use the disconcerting two-faced image of Janus looking forward and backward simultaneously while perched on the cusp of the new year, apt thought it might seem.

However, a door is a place of transition, and since we usually transit a portal facing forwards, I’ll focus on looking to the year ahead and leave the past where it properly belongs: behind us.



2018 will be a time of preparation—let’s get ready for renewal.

Our rector Gia will embark upon her contractually-mandated and much-deserved five-month sabbatical about one year from now. While Gia engages with renewal on her sabbatical journey, our congregation will engage renewal on a parallel, but separate, path here at home.

Our congregation is applying to the 2018 Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Program, and the committee working on the grant proposal includes Julie Backlund,

David Shaw Bass, Deb Blackmore, Tanya Brugh, Gia Hayes-Martin, Juliet Knowles, Abby Mintz, and Mary Working.

The theme of the National Clergy Renewal Program is “What Will Make Your Heart Sing?” The Program “seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor’s heart sing.” (www.goo.gl/EFwrXf)

As crafted by this committee, our grant proposal contains two overarching objectives for the concurrent, parallel-yet-distinct paths we will be following during the first half of 2019: to 1) Renew our Discipleship, and 2) Renew our Community. What do these phrases elicit for you?

The application is due by April 13, and decisions will be mailed in late August. There is reasonable optimism that our proposal will be among those accepted. Grant or no, the objectives are valid, worthy, and attainable. 2018 will be our opportunity to prepare for the time of congregational renewal just beyond the next door, the one that heads into 2019. Are you with us?

– *Curtis Grisham*
Junior Warden

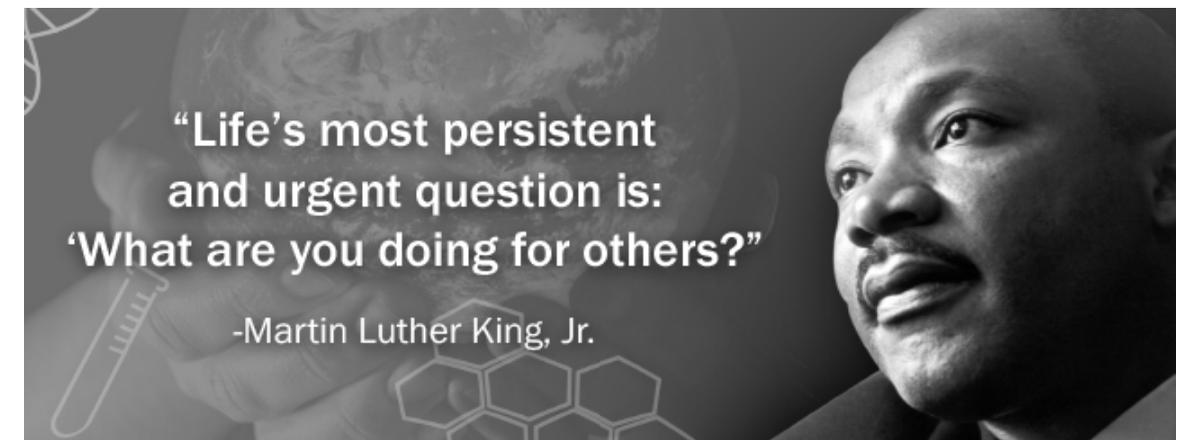
In the Month of January

Birthdays

5 Dora Ho
6 Sally Norman
7 Anne Vitullo
15 Vera Shadle
17 Van Jepson
Michael Pellegrin
19 David Rogers
20 Dean Wenstrand
24 Rose Flegel
26 Liza Taft
28 Elizabeth Flegel
Michelle Swenson

Anniversary

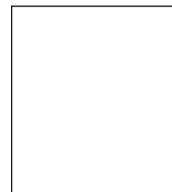
28 Brian & Kathleen Douglas
29 Claire Lawrence
30 Matt Hayden
Bob Latta
Linda Wenstrand



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

Date Mailed: 10 January 2018

First Class



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The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin *Rector*
Pamela Stevens *Children's & Youth Minister*
Katherine McKee *Music Director*
Rani Fischer *Organist*
Carol Shedlock *Parish Administrator*
Angela Sherry *Bookkeeper*
Fred Langhorst *Sexton*

Sunday Services

Holy Eucharist 8:00am, 10:15am

Sunday Programs

Adult Education 9:00am — *childcare available by request*

Nursery 10:00am

Children's Sunday school 10:15am

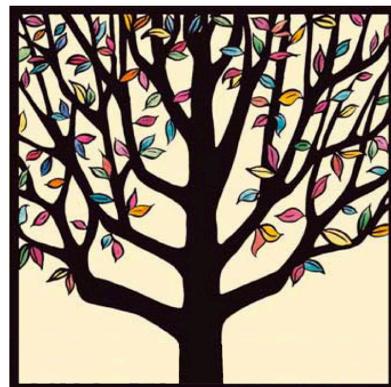
Weekdays

Holy Eucharist Wednesday 8:00am

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

650-854-6555

Trinity School + Preschool-Grade 5



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