

# Bede's Journal

The monthly newsletter of St. Bede's Episcopal Church • August 2019



## News from the Rector: Pam's Departure

With regret, I share the news that Pam Stevens has submitted her resignation as St. Bede's Children's and Youth Minister. Her last day with us will be Sunday, August 25. Over her two years at St. Bede's, Pam has introduced a liturgical Sunday school format for elementary children, hosted children's sleepovers at church, organized the parish to feed families experiencing homelessness, preached and led worship for all ages, and guided teens in preparing for confirmation. We will miss her loving presence in the lives of young people and parents.

Pam is a full-time PhD student in addition to her ministry at St Bede's, and she decided she needed to focus on her doctoral program. She is leaving our children's and youth ministry in a much stronger position than when she arrived. As unfortunate as her departure is, we will build on her good work.

The vestry and I are considering next steps for leadership of children's and youth ministry. Pam will spend her remaining time at St. Bede's finalizing lesson plans and putting leaders in place for the fall. Please join me in thanking her for her ministry and wishing her well in the future.

*Peace, Gia+*

## The Bishop's Visit: Sunday, September 15

Bishop Marc Andrus will visit St. Bede's on September 15, joining us for the 10:15 a.m. service and a luncheon to follow the service. If you feel ready to make a public, adult commitment of faith through confirmation, reception or reaffirmation of baptism, please contact Gia as soon as possible. Preparation for these rites will occur this summer.

## Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our August and September Calendar

August 19: Community Outreach Committee meeting  
August 20: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.  
August 25: Sunday School begins; Pam Stevens's last day  
September 8: The Choir returns, 10:15 a.m. service  
September 15: Bishop Marc Andrus visits  
September 17: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.

For the full calendar of upcoming events, visit [www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org) and click the link for **News and Events**.

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## Community Outreach: Project Updates and Decisions

Following is a summary of the discussion at the June 17 meeting of the Community Outreach Steering Committee. Please contact a member of the committee (listed below) if you have questions or suggestions.

After reviewing St. Bede's Way, committee members reviewed several prior agenda items:

- Due to several reasons, including a very full calendar, we are taking a hiatus from the **rummage sale** this year. A final decision on whether to continue the sale in the future will be made in August. *Note:* Please do not place rummage sale donations in the donation baskets in the narthexes. We have nowhere to store them.
- To gain input from all parishioners, the Committee will send a survey regarding our experience hosting **Home & Hope** this summer. (See the *This Week at St. Bede's* email for a link to the survey.) Responses will be reviewed at our August meeting to determine if this outreach effort is where God is calling us to serve.

The committee also reviewed the following outreach projects:

- **First Step for Families Dinners** are determining the date for our next event. Mary Working and Katie Machemer are leading this effort.
- **Housing Education/Advocacy:** Under Deb Blackmore and Van Jepson's leadership, the May 5 event had 25 attendees and was well received. Books recommended by our speakers are available in the lending library in Lehman Hall. Plans for a second speaker event on October 27 are in process.
- **Home & Hope:** Vicki Blayney is leading the June 30-July 7 host week (now completed). She updated Committee members on schedules and essential positions needing to be filled.

At our August 19 meeting, the committee will begin planning for **family sharing** and **Christmas caroling** events and will make decisions about the rummage sale and Home & Hope as noted above.

### Community Outreach Committee members

Sue Sartor and Julie Backlund, Co-Chairs • Carol Brink, Vestry Liaison • Deb Blackmore • Vicki Blayney • Katie Machemer • Angela Sherry • Mary Working

– Sue Sartor and Julie Backlund

### Community Outreach in Action: Thank-you to our Home & Hope volunteers!

Megan Ancker, Jon Backlund, Julie Backlund, J. Jeff Badger, Deb Blackmore, Doug Blayney, Vicki Blayney, David Chu, Kelly Clarke, Brendan Deocariza-Nee, Kathy Francissen, Laura Gable, Bertita Graebner, Helen Greenwood, Gia Hayes-Martin, Melville Hayes-Martin, Van Jepson, Ann Latta, Irene Lawrence, Hal Louchheim, Katie Machemer, Sally Marshall, Ann Mason, Charles Pellegrin, J.B. Pellegrin, Meredith Pellegrin, Michael Pellegrin, Jon Poe, Sue Sartor, David Sell, Megan Sell, Hasma Serverian, Carol Shedlock, Angela Sherry, Nancy Shurtleff, Pamela Stevens, Kathy Thompson, Anne Vitullo, Mary Working, Becky Zeren and Dick Zeren.

## **St. Bede's Offers a Week of Shelter to Home & Hope Families**

*Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.  
– Paul's Letter to the Hebrews*

Since its rebranding in 2009, Home & Hope has grown to offer unhoused families on the Peninsula 5,110 shelter bed nights and 15,000 meals each year. Thirty churches and faith organizations participate in providing shelter, meals and funding on a rotating basis. Over the years, some of our parishioners have assisted at other H&H sites. In 2017, we held our first week-long shelter here at St. Bede's.

As part of our community service discernment last fall, we set a goal to expand H&H participation to two weeks during the summer of 2019 and to invite other members of the network to join us. Our hope was to grow a sense of community within St. Bede's by engaging diverse segments of the congregation in mutual service.

Our initial two-week service goal was adjusted when we learned that no continuous two-week block was available; however, we agreed to host the week of the Fourth of July (historically hard to staff) and later decided to staff all day on July 4 after learning that the main day shelter would be closed.

In all, 82 jobs were slotted to fully staff H&H week. Designed to be widely inclusive for a range of ages and talents in our congregation, jobs included setting up and taking down family rooms, cooking and serving dinner, and staffing on-site from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily, as well as all day on July 4. An additional 12 job slots for child care were cancelled because the week's children would arrive in time for only dinner and bed.

Forty members of our congregation stepped up, many filling multiple positions. Unfortunately, requests for help from other local congregations did not yield any volunteers, with most replying that travel plans or houseguests meant they were busy.

Our H&H guests were three families, each with true needs and complicated life situations. One mother of two works evening shifts until 2 a.m.; her children stay with her on days off. Another family, a mother with two very small children, came to the shelter after she finished work at 8 p.m. In the third family, the mother has a steady job as a medical technician, but the father is currently unemployed and takes care of their two-year-old son. None of these working families can find affordable housing. All three were living in their cars before H&H found them temporary shelter.

It is truly a blessing to be able to help these families in the way that we do through Home & Hope.

*– Vicki Blayney*

## Gia's Renewal Leave Reading List

After Melville and I shared stories and photos from our renewal leave, several of you asked for a copy of the list of books I read while at Holden Village. Here it is, in time for the last weeks of summer vacation. Happy reading!

*Peace, Gia+*

*Seabiscuit* by Laura Hillenbrand  
Mesmerizing account of the 1930s racehorse and the three men who made him a national phenomenon.

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*  
by Bryan Stevenson  
Memoir by the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative that explores the brokenness of the American criminal-justice system. The personal narrative complements the analytical approach of Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*, which St. Bede's book groups read a few years ago.

*Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande  
An essential book that tells the truth about aging and the end of life from Gawande's perspective as a physician and a son caring for elderly parents. I found it very helpful in thinking about my parents' aging.

*Love Warrior* by Glennon Doyle Melton  
The second volume of Melton's memoir follows her through the collapse of her marriage, as she learns to be more fully herself and embrace a life that is both brutal and beautiful — brutiful.

*Race Matters* by Cornel West  
It's 25 years old, yet still a valuable reflection on race in the U.S. from a leading African-American scholar.

*Better Off: Flipping the Switch on Technology*  
by Eric Brende  
Brende and his wife spent a year in a rural community similar to the Old Order Amish that did without virtually all modern technology. He writes compellingly of the hidden costs that tech imposes on communities, families and individuals. I haven't stopped pondering this book since I read it.

*The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone  
Cone, theologian at Union Seminary, argues that Jesus was lynched. White Americans have been taught not to see this, while black Americans embrace Jesus so strongly because they recognize their experience in the gospel story. I will never see Good Friday the same way after reading this book.

*The Control of Nature* by John McPhee  
Follows three attempts by human beings to control the immovable forces of the earth: water, fire and dirt.

*The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart* by Peter Gomes  
Gomes, the Minister to Harvard University, offers an accessible introduction to the Bible that explores *how* we read this text and *why* we read it.

*The Cuckoo's Calling, The Silkworm, Career of Evil, and Lethal White* by Robert Galbraith  
J.K. Rowling writes twisty noir thrillers for grownups under a pseudonym. Brilliant characterization, intricate plotting and some of the most evocative writing I've ever read.

*Quicksilver* by Neal Stephenson  
"Sprawling historical epic" hardly describes this 900-page novel, which follows three intertwining story lines in the late seventeenth century. Not a book to read for a few minutes at a time; I needed to devote at least an hour to it at each sitting.

*Kindred* by Octavia Butler  
A black woman in 1970s Los Angeles travels back in time and meets the owners of her enslaved ancestors in this YA sci-fi novel. Provokes a lot of discussion, which makes it an excellent choice for a book group.

## Vestry View

*This periodic report on the vestry's actions and decisions is part of our commitment to serving the Bede's community. Following are key action items discussed at the July vestry meeting.*

**Staffing.** Gia has received several applications for the parish administrator position and is beginning interviews. Two current vestry members, Helen Greenwood and Van Jepson, and past vestry member Jon Backlund will assist Gia with interviews. Our goal is to have a new parish administrator on board by the end of the summer. In the interim, Isabel Gable (Laura Gable's daughter) is staffing the office Tuesday through Friday mornings.

**Children's & Youth Minister.** Pam Stevens is planning the curriculum and confirming staffing for Sunday School in the fall before she leaves St. Bede's on August 25. Before posting the job, Gia noted that we will review the model we are currently using for Sunday School and may introduce some changes before a new CYM is hired.

**Sharing Space with Trinity School.** Trinity School has asked to use the Large Wyatt classroom this coming school year, Monday through Friday afternoons, for Spanish classes. The school is willing to pay an additional use fee to the church, which will require an amendment to the use agreement between the school and the church. Vestry reviewed the school's initial proposal and will make a final decision at the August meeting.

**New Parish Rep to Trinity School.** Gia nominated and vestry voted to approve Jon Poe's appointment to the Trinity School Board of Directors for a three-year term effective immediately.

**Community Outreach.** Julie Backlund reported on upcoming community outreach plans and Vicki Blayney reported on our recently completed Home & Hope week. See the separate reports on pages 2 and 3.

**Small Groups.** Anne Vitullo is eliciting input from our small group leaders to help with future planning.

**Next vestry meeting: Tuesday, August 20** at 7 p.m. in the Ford Room. Members of the Bede's community are welcome to offer community input at the start of our business meeting.

### **Celebrations: August Birthdays and Anniversaries**

*Anniversaries are like birthdays: occasions to celebrate and to think ahead, usually among friends with whom one shares not only the past but also the future. – Zbigniew Brzezinski*

#### **Birthdays:**

3 Kelly Clarke  
4 Elaine Kriegh  
7 Mathai Mammen  
8 Julie Backlund  
8 David Chu  
9 Doug Ross  
9 Megan Sell  
17 Francie Maletis  
22 William Wenstrand  
23 Elena Barrett  
26 Abigail Machermer  
27 Tanya Brugh  
31 Bill Harris

#### **Anniversaries:**

3 Bertita and Michael Graebner  
3 Gia and Melville Hayes-Martin  
6 Kathy McKee and Colby Roberts  
9 Matt and Melanie Hayden-Gephart  
23 Anne and Wes Poulson  
26 Elaine and Randy Kriegh  
29 Dora Ho and Pedro Lo  
29 Tanya and Tim Brugh  
31 Chris and Linda Brown

## **Bede's Bedhead Book Club Continues This Fall**

The results are in and Bede's Bedhead Book Club was the most popular parish renewal group! And now, we're wondering why? Was it the casual format, i.e. with "bedhead," or the 9 a.m. time slot? Maybe participants were drawn in by the choice of contemporary writing on faith? Or was it the healthy snacks? Regardless, we enjoyed our time together and will continue this conversation in the fall.

Please plan to join us for light-hearted discussion in the Ford Room **at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month** through November. We believe that St Bede's parishioners have their own interesting material to share with us. Our leaders and book choices thus far include:

### **September 18:** Megan Ancker on Barbara Taylor Brown's *Altars in the World*

Reviewers say: *"With the honesty of Elizabeth Gilbert (Eat, Pray, Love) and the spiritual depth of Anne Lamott (Grace, Eventually), Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life."*

### **October 16:** Mary Working on Elaine Pagel's *Why Religion?*

Reviewers say: *"An extraordinary memoir of loss, spiritual struggle, illumination and insight – emotionally heartrending, intellectually exciting, a model of what a memoir should be."*

### **November 20:** Deb Blackmore on Catherine Foxes' *Acts and Omissions*

Reviewers say: *"This novel brims with wit and heart, acknowledging the awkwardness and consolations of Anglicanism in the twenty-first century."*

Deepen your faith and your friendships. Bring your favorite coffee or tea and drop in to the Bede's Bedhead Book Club.

– Deb Blackmore

## **Special Worship Services featuring St. Bede's Choir**

**Saturday, November 2 at 4 p.m.**, All Souls Memorial service at Christ Church, Portola Valley & Woodside. The clergy and choirs of St. Bede's and Christ Church will join forces to offer a service of remembrance for all who have died, featuring Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* with soloists and a chamber orchestra.

### **Sunday, December 8 at 10:15 a.m.**

The beloved services of Advent Lessons and Carols will be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Advent, featuring music by J.S. Bach, Orlando Gibbons, Isabella Leonarda and Kathryn Rose.

### **Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

The prelude to the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, featuring St. Bede's choir and soloists, and the Bay Area's renowned harpist Dan Levitan.

### **Program Set: 2019-20 Arts at St. Bede's Series**

Another year of outstanding musical presentations has been planned for this year's beloved arts series concerts. Your subscription provides important underwriting for our program. All subscriptions include admission for two to all events; donations in excess of \$100 are tax deductible. You can subscribe now at <http://stbedesmenlopark.org/arts-series/>

### **September 29: Domenico Severin, organ**

Internationally renowned French-Italian organist Domenico Severin will appear in recital which is a collaboration between Arts at St. Bede's and the Palo Alto/Peninsula chapter of the American Guild of Organists. His program will include works by Bach, Buxtehude, Froberger, Bruhns, de Grigny, Marchand, Sweelinck, Frescobaldi and Gabrieli.

### **October 13: Elaine Thornburgh, harpsichord**

*A Suite Journey:* This program takes us through the evolution of the suite as a solo harpsichord composition, often presented by a free-form piece, such as a toccata or prelude. The program begins with a Froberger Toccata and Suite. Froberger was one of the earliest composers to arrange dance movements in the same key creating a suite. Louis Couperin follows with an unmeasured prelude and suite, then a suite by Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, culminating in Bach's magnificent *Partita in E Minor*. Variety and color will be evident as the program unfolds.

### **November 24: Collage Vocal Ensemble**

For their ninth season, Collage Vocal Ensemble takes inspiration from that most wonderful shape, the sphere, with music by Kirke Mechem, Charles Wood, Ross Lee Finney and Harry Belafonte among others. They'll continue their tradition of mixing classical and popular music styles in programs of kaleidoscopic variety and mixing music for the whole ensemble with songs for women, men, trios and quartets. Their audiences always have a great time, and so do they!

### **December 8: Kitka**

Wintersongs is Kitka's critically-acclaimed and wildly popular winter holiday program showcasing seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European and Eurasian ethnic and spiritual traditions. For countless centuries, people around the world have utilized the power of community singing to infuse warmth, cheer, spirituality, wishes for peace, health and good fortune into the long, dark, cold and difficult winter season. This year's program will feature traditional folks songs and original compositions ranging from rousing Slavic folk carols, to lush meditative Eastern Orthodox sacred choral works, to Baltic pagan incantations for the return of the Sun Goddess, to Caucasus Georgian Alilos (hallelujahs), to Yiddish songs for Chanukah, to Bosnian-Muslim ilahijas (devotional hymns).

### **January 12: The Albany Consort**

Banish the winter chill with the warmth and brilliance of Italy! In collaboration with St. Bede's soloists Katina Mitchell, Naomi Braun, Katherine McKee, Dan Stanley, Colby Roberts and Chris Filipowicz, the Bay Area's beloved Albany Consort will present spectacular vocal works of Claudio Monteverdi, including selections from his *Selva Morale e Spirituale*. The Consort alone will perform instrumental treasures for brass and strings by Frescobaldi, Rossi and Picci.

### **February 2: Candlemas Vespers**

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation, marks Jesus' first appearance in the temple, and Mary's ritual purification. The candles for use in the coming year will be blessed, and the St. Bede's Choir will present works by composers from the Middle Ages through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and will lead inspirational congregational singing in this Vesper service.

### **March 15: Evensong/Angela Kraft Cross organ recital**

Join the St. Bede's choir for a candlelight Evensong service featuring Angela Kraft Cross's *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis* as well as the premier of her anthem *For Your Love's Sake*, commissioned by St. Bede's for this service. Immediately following the service, Ms. Kraft Cross will present a recital of works by Bach, Buxtehude, Mozart and Mendelssohn, as well as her own compositions.

### **March 29: Menlo Brass**

Plan to enjoy a musically exciting and entertaining concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2020, presented by one of the San Francisco Bay Area's finest brass quintets, the Menlo Brass Quintet. The Quintet includes two trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba. The concert will include a wide variety of music from baroque and classical favorites, to film scores, Broadway musicals, popular tunes, Dixieland, jazz and exciting new original compositions for brass quintet.

### **April 26: Collage Vocal Ensemble**

Poets and composers alike love to celebrate the coming of spring with its flowers and showers and a panoply of new life. So, too, does Collage Vocal Ensemble. They will offer a rich garden of musical delights in our spring program, emphasizing folk music from around the world. Artistic director Rafael Ornes has chosen choral music by living composers, famous composers from the past, and arrangements of popular songs of yesteryear and the present time. Join Collage Vocal Ensemble in opening hearts and ears to all that spring has to offer.

### **May 17: Ensemble Draca**

Come enjoy a concert of vocal and instrumental repertoire from 17th-century Italy! This concert features music by Tarquinio Merula, Claudio Monteverdi, Luigi Rossi, Barbara Strozzi and more. Bay Area-based Ensemble Draca is Alexa Haynes-Pilon (viols), Katina Mitchell (baroque triple harp and soprano), Arthur Omura (keyboard) and Catherine Stiles (baroque triple harp).

– Kathy McKee

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#### **St. Bede's Episcopal Church**

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA. 94025 • (650) 854-6555 • [www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org)

#### **Clergy and Staff**

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, Rector  
Pamela Stevens, Children's and Youth Minister  
Katherine McKee, Music Director  
Rani Fischer, Organist  
Angela Sherry, Bookkeeper

#### **Sunday Services and Programs**

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.  
Soulwork Adult Education at 9 a.m.  
Nursery at 10 a.m.  
Children's Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

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