

# Bede's Journal

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



## Feast of St. Francis

We'll celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 6. The 10:15 a.m. service, held in Lehman Hall, will be all-ages worship and will include the blessing of animals. Animals of all species (leashed or crated, please) are welcome to attend church with you to receive a blessing. You can also bring stuffed animals and/or photos of pets.

## October Soulwork

Soulwork continues our reading and discussion of Atul Gawande's book *Being Mortal* through October 20. Gawande writes about aging and dying as both a physician and the child of elderly parents, and his work prompts reflections and conversations we all need to have about the end of life. On October 27, Gia and our deanery delegates will report back from the Diocese of California's Annual Convention, which will be held October 25 and 26 at Grace Cathedral. Soulwork meets on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Ford Room.

## Housing Advocacy Session Postponed

The Housing Advocacy Session originally set for October 27 has been postponed until early next year. Deb Blackmore and Van Jepson are planning to design a short workshop on advocacy as well as a postcard that the assembled group can send to elected officials as part of the session.

## Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our October and November Calendar

- October 13: CYM discussion, 11:30 a.m.; Arts at St. Bede's with harpsichordist Elaine Thornburgh, 4 p.m.
- October 15: Articles due for November Journal
- October 16: Bede's Bedhead Book Club, 9 a.m.
- October 20: Harvest Brunch and Pledge Ingathering, 11:30 a.m.
- October 22: Vestry meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- November 2: All Souls Memorial Service, 4 p.m., Christ Church, Portola Valley
- November 3: CYM discussion, 11:30 a.m.
- November 17: Community outreach: LifeMoves dinner service
- November 20: Bede's Bedhead Book Club, 9 a.m.
- November 24: Arts at St. Bede's with Collage Vocal Ensemble, 4 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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## Children's and Youth Ministry: Where We Go from Here

When I came to St. Bede's six years ago, one of the first things we did as a congregation was commit to a sustainable model of children's and youth ministry. I learned this model from Mark DeVries's book *Sustainable Youth Ministry*. It relies on a network of volunteers for hands-on youth ministry, supported and guided by a staff person who focuses on curriculum and long-term planning. I'd used this model at my previous parish, where it served us well. I thought, and the Vestry agreed, that this team-based approach offered the best prospect for a stable, thriving children's and youth ministry at St. Bede's.

What we have found is that the sustainable model actually isn't sustainable in our context. (Ironically, the team-based approach is working very well for us in ministry areas other than children's and youth formation: community outreach, hospitality and stewardship.) We have struggled to recruit volunteers who are not current parents of young children. Our adults who don't have children at home are committed to other ministries, including the choir, Altar Guild and volunteering in worship, that conflict with Sunday School. Our parents want to volunteer in their children's Christian formation, but their lives outside of church are draining, and they need Sunday worship to restore them for the week ahead. Our diocesan staff observes that part-time children's and youth ministry positions are very difficult to fill; churches have underinvested in young people's faith formation for so long that there are few highly qualified candidates for these jobs, and the cost of living in Silicon Valley doesn't help. The model of a part-time staff person supervising a team of volunteers isn't working for us. It's time to try a different way.

The vestry and I are absolutely committed to offering high-quality children's and youth ministry at St. Bede's. Indeed, Sunday school is proceeding apace this year under the skilled leadership of Claire Lawrence, Katie Machemer, Katie Homrig, Juliet Knowles and Catherine Clover, and two of our teens, Freddy and Bobby Churchill, who were confirmed in September. The questions facing us are: How can we best provide for the Christian formation of young people, given our busy lives and limited volunteer time? What kind of staff leadership do we need to carry out this ministry, and what should be the scope of the children's and youth minister's position?

These discernment questions call for prayerful decision-making, listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Fortunately, we have some experience with discernment: we used this process to re-envision our community outreach a year ago. I invite all interested adults, whether parents or not, and all middle- and high-schoolers to an initial time of reflection on **Sunday, October 13, OR Sunday, November 3, both at 11:30 a.m.** The same presentation and discernment questions will be offered both Sundays, so you can attend the date that fits your schedule best. A light lunch and child care will be provided. Please email me at [gia@stbedesmenlopark.org](mailto:gia@stbedesmenlopark.org) to let me know you will attend. If we have a large enough group, we'll use the World Cafe method of large-group conversation that served us well in our community outreach discernment. The insights harvested from this round of discernment will feed into a smaller group's work to set a vision for children's and youth ministry and write a job description for the position.

I hope to see you on October 13th or November 3rd. Together, we will listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance for our children's and youth ministry, and the Spirit will show us the path forward.

*Peace, Gia*

## **2020 Stewardship: Annual Pledge Campaign**

We continue this season of renewal that began in January 2019. At a mid-year check-in, we discovered that renewal was much more than having a locum priest while our rector was away. This season transformed us into different people and a community with expanded skills, new connections among us, and new ministries that strengthened our individual paths to God. Renewal also clarified that, as members of this special faith community, we have a deeper sense of belonging, because this is our community, led by us. We learned again how love binds us together, and through God's love for us we are called to be, act and join together as grateful members in a community that lives out God's love in worship, formation and outreach.

It is with this sense of gratitude and renewal that the Stewardship team looks to 2020. The pledging season is earlier this year, starting September 29 and ending with the Harvest Brunch on October 20. This is a more convenient time frame that stays away from the joyous distractions of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Together, the Stewardship and Finance committees have reviewed our expected costs and corresponding sources of income for "maintaining God's house" in the coming year, and resolved to align our 2020 budget and pledge goal to \$327,000.

Please watch your mailbox for the stewardship appeal, to arrive soon. Your 2020 pledge card may be mailed to the church office or placed in the collection plate at Sunday services.

We are grateful for your generosity and invite you to prayerfully discern how you are called to pledge your financial support for St. Bede's community, ministries and outreach. Should you have any questions, please contact a member of the Stewardship team.

– *Stewardship team: Julie Backlund, Helen Greenwood, Van Jepson and Sue Sartor*

### **Join us October 20 at the Harvest Brunch**

Please join us for a light brunch as we wrap up this year's stewardship campaign. We would appreciate having your 2020 pledge commitment by October 20 so that we can accurately plan next year's operating budget.

## **The Feast of All Souls: Commemorating the Faithful Departed**

Please mark your calendar on November 2 at 4 p.m. for the annual All Soul's service of music and remembrance celebrated by the choirs and clergy of St. Bede's and Christ Church, Portola Valley. This year's service, to be held at Christ Church, and will feature Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*. Premiered in 2013, it has become one of this decade's most popular sacred choral works. Like Herbert Howells and John Rutter before him, Mr. Forrest chose his own set of texts for his Requiem. Sung in Latin and English they are a combination of the traditional Roman Catholic Requiem mass texts and passages from Matthew, Job and Ecclesiastes.

The choirs will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra (flute, oboe, horn, percussion, harp, violin, 'cello, and organ) which will include St. Bede's members Kathleen Thompson on violin, Laura Gable on percussion, and Rani Fischer on organ. Vocal soloists will be drawn from both churches' choirs. The solos designated for "boy soprano" will be shared by Allison and Ryan Newman, members of St. Bede's Sunday School and children of our alto soloist/section leader Naomi Braun.

For a wonderful performance of this work, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTsqM7CDYgcsi>, a performance by musicians from Bob Jones University, where Mr. Forrest earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, and where he taught from 2007 to 2012. You can hear Mr. Forrest discuss the work on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLUcl88g40E>; excerpts of the piece serve as background music to his discussion.

– Kathy McKee

## **Bede's Bedhead Book Club**

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. Our upcoming leaders and book choices are:

**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. Sign-up online on Sign-up Genius or contact coordinator Deb Blackmore at [deb@blackmore.com](mailto:deb@blackmore.com).

– Deb Blackmore

## **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 September vestry meeting.*

**Staffing.** Siri Huntoon joined St. Bede's on September 16 as parish administrator. See the article below for a brief introduction to our newest staff member.

**2020 Budget.** Treasurer Hal Louchheim gave Vestry a review of St. Bede's financial resources and an early look at the budget for 2020. A preliminary budget has been prepared so that we can more accurately reflect the funds needed to be raised through our annual stewardship drive, which occurs during October.

**Re-envisioning Our Children's and Youth Ministry.** Gia recommended to Vestry that we follow a discernment process – similar to that used last year to review our community outreach commitments – to re-envision our children's and youth ministry. Two initial discussion sessions will be held on Sunday, October 13 and Sunday, October 27. Please see Gia's article on page 2 for more details. In addition, there is a meeting of area Episcopal Churches at St. Mark's in November to discuss ways in which churches may be able to collaborate on CYM programs.

**New Capitalization Policy.** At the August meeting, Vestry approved a new capitalization policy that will help us to better define capital projects (typically large projects that support our infrastructure, e.g., a new roof on the church) vs. operating maintenance expenses. This policy will help with the annual budgeting process and define how funds set aside in endowment or reserves can be used.

**Master List of Capital Projects.** The Buildings and Grounds Committee has developed a rolling five-year plan for capital improvements on the church campus. It represents the Committee's best estimate of capital projects that will be needed over the next five years for ongoing preservation and renewal of our facilities. At the September meeting, Vestry approved the first of these projects, authorizing spending up to \$30,000 this year for three new heating/cooling units for Lehman Hall.

**Next vestry meeting: Tuesday, October 22,** at 5:30 p.m. in the Ford Room. (Note earlier start time.)

– Anne Vitullo, Junior Warden

## **Welcome Our New Parish Administrator!**

Siri Huntoon joined St. Bede's as our new parish administrator on September 16. Siri comes to St. Bede's from Stanford, where she was the administrator for Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and also worked for the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences. She also brings ten years of experience as a graphic designer. The search committee was impressed with Siri's resourcefulness, initiative in learning new skills, technical ability and personal warmth. She is a member of University Lutheran Church in Palo Alto. Siri will be in the office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. She can be reached at (650) 854-6555 or [shuntoon@stbedesmenlopark.org](mailto:shuntoon@stbedesmenlopark.org). If you're on the Bede's campus during the week, please stop by and introduce yourself!

## **Celebrations: October 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:**

- 1 Ed Brink
- 2 Margaret Monroe
- 4 Natalie Festing
- 5 Ann Poulson
- 7 Erica Cicero
- 8 Anton Wahlman
- 14 Meredith Pellegrin, Autumn Stork
- 16 Roy Azem
- 25 Melville Hayes-Martin, Olivia Stork
- 27 Layla Azem

### **Anniversaries:**

- 4 Nancy and Bob Shurtleff
- 6 Megan and Dave Sell
- 29 Anne Vitullo and Jon Poe

## **Milestones**

### **Confirmations, September 15, 2019**

*Strengthen, O Lord, your servants with your Holy Spirit.*

J. Jeff Badger

Frederick Day Churchill

Robert Blackwell Churchill

Brendan Francis Deocariza-Nee

Evander Myles Deocariza-Nee

### **Deaths**

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.*

Betsy Ann Lindsay Harris, July 22, 2019

Barbara Woods Wood, August 9, 2019

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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

Katherine McKee, Music Director

Rani Fischer, Organist

Siri Huntoon, Parish Administrator

Angela Sherry, Bookkeeper

### **Sunday Services and Programs**

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. (Rite I) and 10:15 a.m. (Rite II)

Soulwork Adult Education at 9 a.m.

Nursery at 10 a.m.

Children's Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.