



### Faithful Community ... Faith-filled Generosity

The "Season of Sharing" – as the end of each year has come to be known – starts in October here at St. Bede's with our annual Stewardship Campaign, the time in which we invite you to consider how you can support our community with your time, talent and treasure.

2020 has certainly been a difficult year for all of us as the coronavirus pandemic continues to restrict and reshape much of our day-to-day lives. What's struck me the most over the past eight months is the faith and resilience to be found in our St Bede's community. We have found ways in which to work, volunteer, read, laugh and pray together despite all the challenges. We may gather in much different ways this year – but gather we do! It's why our Stewardship Committee selected the theme of **Faithful Community ... Faith-filled Generosity** for this year's campaign.

I ask you to consider the ways you've found solace and support in our community this year – and to prayerfully consider your gift to St. Bede's in the coming year. As Rev. Martha noted in last month's *Journal*, the Holy Spirit is clearly at work in our community and in each of our lives. Consider how you can offer your gratitude for these blessings.

Our stewardship materials, including your 2021 pledge card, were recently mailed parish-wide. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible so that we may count you in!

As always, I am grateful for your participation in our St. Bede's community.

In faith and peace,

– Anne Vitullo, Senior Warden

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## A Letter from Rev. Martha

Dear People of St. Bede's,

While he was praying in his town's church one day, Francis of Assisi famously heard the voice of Jesus say, "Francis, Francis, go and repair My house which, as you can see, is falling into ruins." Believing this to be a call to make repairs to the physical structure of the church he was standing in, he set out to make repairs to that building. Only later did he realize that Christ was calling him to heal the wounds of the church, that is, the Body of Christ. He set out to care for all those in need and taught that we should love everyone and everything, even though they differ from us. Saint Francis set such a remarkable example for both the Christians of his time, as well as every Christian since, that he continues to be one of the most loved and venerated of all the saints.

**The Feast of Saint Francis is Sunday, October 4.** Saint Bede's will honor the Feast of Saint Francis in three ways this year. I invite you to not only participate in them, but also to invite your loved ones to join us. (That is the great gift of having worship online, we can invite people near and far!) Here is how St. Bede's will honor Saint Francis this year:

***SoulWork at 8:30 a.m.*** Because of his great love and compassion, people flocked to Saint Francis, and followed him and his teachings. Thereby, Saint Francis helped to grow the church, and people's relationship with the church. It seems fitting then, that we have a **parish-wide conversation about church growth at St. Bede's** on this day. This conversation will be led by Sue Sartor and Martha Korienek, and will create room for everyone to share their thoughts. Please note that we will offer this conversation a second time for those who are unable to join us on October 4: **this same conversation will be offered on Thursday, October 8. at 7 p.m.** You'll find the Zoom link in the weekly *eNews*.

***Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.*** Saint Francis, like Jesus, cared for the children in his community. To honor his day, we will have a **family-friendly service with Bible readings from a children's Bible and a children's sermon** from our Minister for Children & Youth, Brendan Deocariza-Nee.

***Pet Blessing at the End of Morning Prayer.*** Saint Francis famously preached to the birds and considered all of creation to be holy. This is why churches around the world have pet blessings on his feast day. We will **conclude our Morning Prayer service with a Pet Blessing**, so have your furry friends handy at the conclusion of our worship this day!

I look forward to honoring Saint Francis with you, by having a conversation about the church, worshipping God and blessing our pets on October 4. And may the compassion, joy, and love of God that Saint Francis inspires in us this day remain with us always.

God bless,  
Martha+

## October SoulWork Sessions

*Every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. • Find the Zoom Links in the Weekly eNews*

### **Sunday, October 4: Church Growth at St. Bede's\***

Growing the parish was one of the top priorities identified by parishioners as we prepare to call a new rector, but what does that exactly mean to us? Please join us for a community conversation on parish size, the impact of parish growth and expectations we hold for the future. Sue Sartor and Martha Korienek will lead the discussion, with time to share your thoughts on this subject, which will help guide us as we move into a time of transition.

*\* This conversation will also be offered **Thursday, October 8** at 7 p.m.*

### **Sunday, October 11: A Look at Hildegard of Bingen**

Who is Hildegard of Bingen? How did a woman, from the Middle Ages, leave such a lasting impression on the church? Would you like to learn more about this famous composer before we enjoy her music during worship this Sunday? Our own Nancy Stork, Professor of English at San Jose State University, will share her deep knowledge and love of Hildegard of Bingen, helping us to appreciate both Hildegard's faith and impact.

### **Sunday, October 18: Chapel at Trinity School**

With the pandemic, and life being lived virtually these days, what has chapel at Trinity School been like so far this year? Join us as we hear from Matt Allio, Head of School at Trinity School, to learn more about the spiritual life, and chapel in particular, at the school.

### **Sunday, October 25: What Language is Best to Describe God?**

The way we talk about God reflects our understanding of God, and therefore our faith in God. Thus, how we think of God matters. Our own David Chu has given this considerable thought, and will lead us in a conversation about how to determine for ourselves what is the best language to use when talking about God.

### **Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our October and November Calendars**

October 7: Bede's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.; Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon

October 13: Finance Committee meeting, 4 p.m.

October 15: Copy deadline for November *Bede's Journal*

October 20: Vestry meeting, 4 p.m.

October 30: 2021 Pledge cards due to the office

November 4: Bede's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.; Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon

November 10: Finance Committee meeting, 4 p.m.

November 16: Copy deadline for December *Bede's Journal*

November 17: Vestry meeting, 4 p.m.

November 23: Final day to donate Christmas stockings for EHP's Christmas Sharing program

## Vestry View

*This periodic report on the Vestry's actions and decisions is part of our commitment to serving the St. Bede's community. Following is a brief recap of key issues discussed and actions taken at September's Vestry meeting.*

**Vestry priorities.** Anne Vitullo and Martha Korienek noted the priorities for the balance of 2020:

- Review and approval of the 2021 budget,
- A successful stewardship campaign,
- Interviews with the final candidates for Rector,
- Phase 1 reopening, and
- Transition plans for the new Rector.

**Rector Selection Process.** Denise Obando from the Diocesan Office of Transition Ministry met with Vestry to outline the selection process when final candidates are presented by the Search Committee to Vestry. Vestry members are responsible for interviewing the final candidates, selecting a candidate to call as our next Rector, and recommending our choice to Bishop Marc Andrus for his approval.

**Review of August financial statements.** Treasurer Julie Backlund gave an overview of our financial statements for the month of August.

**Preliminary budget scenarios.** Julie presented Vestry with a preliminary look at two budget scenarios for 2021, one in which we meet our fundraising goal for 2021, and one in which we fall short. Should fundraising fall short, Vestry will have to consider how much money we can reasonably take from our reserves while still maintaining a healthy six-month reserve to cover unforeseen emergencies, and how to cut programming to reduce our expenses. Vestry will review a more detailed budget at its October meeting and expect to have a "first look" at the results of our 2021 Stewardship campaign at that meeting.

**Fall Stewardship campaign.** Van Jepson shared the detailed timeline for this year's Stewardship campaign which kicks off on Sunday, October 4. The theme for this year's campaign is **Faithful Community ... Faith-filled Generosity**. The Stewardship team has set a "stretch" financial goal of \$287,000 and 100% participation for this year's campaign. An expanded team of both Vestry members and Stewardship committee members (Carol Brink, Laura Gable, Helen Greenwood, Van Jepson, Irene Lawrence, Nancy Stork, Anne Vitullo and Dick Zeren) will be contacting parishioners personally about pledging this year. Individual parishioners who are not part of the Stewardship team will present "why I give" testimonials at each of our Zoom Chapel services through November 1.

**Listening sessions on growing the parish.** Martha and Sue Sartor have prepared plans for two discussions on growing the parish, to be held on October 4 and October 8.

- Anne Vitullo, Senior Warden

## Around St. Bede's: Ministry and Committee Updates

### October is Stewardship Season

As Christians, we learn how to live our faith: ways to be the Body of Christ on earth. In spite of the challenges we have in our community today, we know that when Jesus left this earth, he gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit for guidance, comfort and strength. As was sung so beautifully in August, "His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me." Thanks to Jesus's gift of the Holy Spirit, we are never alone. Gifts of time, talent and treasure highlight our lives as Christians and we are charged with the good stewardship of these gifts. We see among our many volunteers at St. Bede's, their generous gifts of time and talent being shared with our church community.

Each year at this time, we make pledges of our treasure to support the mission of our church. We have set a goal of \$287,000 in financial pledges. This month, we will begin our fall Stewardship Campaign with announcements, testimonials and the mailing of pledge cards for 2021. We give thanks for your good stewardship of all God's gifts to us as individuals and to St. Bede's.

– *Helen Greenwood, Stewardship Committee*

### Search Committee Update

Over August and September, the Search Committee conducted two rounds of interviews with the Rector candidates and are in the process of checking references. The committee will be recommending the final candidates to the Vestry later this month. At that point, the Search Committee will have completed their work. Later this fall, Vestry members will interview the final candidates and recommend their choice for Rector of St. Bede's to Bishop Marc Andrus for his approval.

– *Doug Blayney and Sue Sartor, Search Committee Co-Chairs*



### Fall Book Club Selections

For **November 4**, we will read *This Tender Land*, by William Kent Krueger, a fictional story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. For **December 2**, we will read *The Life You Can Save: How to Do Your Part to End World Poverty*, by Peter Singer. Now in its tenth year in print, it has been praised by Bill and Melinda Gates as "a persuasive and inspiring work that will change the way you think about philanthropy." Bede's Book Club meets at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom; Contact Laura Gable ([lwgable@hotmail.com](mailto:lwgable@hotmail.com)) for a meeting invite.

– *Laura Gable, Book Club Coordinator*

### Trinity School Update

San Mateo County has approved Trinity School's waiver application for on-site learning for the upper school and there is great joy that upper-school classes (K through 5) could open on September 30. St. Bede's is the site of Trinity School's upper campus, while our sister parish, Trinity Church Menlo Park, hosts the lower campus pre-school where on-site classes have been in session – and thriving! – since late August. Parents of all students can elect distance learning if they would prefer it. Trinity School is partnering with The Village Doctor, a concierge medical service in Woodside, as we navigate through the reopening process on both campuses and throughout the year. Fun and community building are ongoing with the virtual Back-to-School barbeque and virtual Back-to-School sessions in September.

Led by Board President Michelle Swenson, a St. Bede's parishioner, the School Board recently approved a launch of their strategic planning process. Because of COVID-19, we are refocusing our process to plan for three years rather than our original five years. Among the topics to be addressed are: enrollment and marketing; campus facilities; governance; and value proposition (What we do well and how we communicate it effectively).

– *Ann Latta, St. Bede's representative to the Trinity School Board*

### Openings Available at Trinity School!

Do you know someone interested in joining the Trinity community? The school currently has openings in select grades for immediate placement. Please invite your neighbors, friends and colleagues to contact Kirk Gossman, Director of Admission, at [admission@trinity-mp.org](mailto:admission@trinity-mp.org) for more information.

### Looking Ahead to November: Family Sharing with EHP

It's not too early to start thinking about our annual Christmas project for Ecumenical Hunger Project. Again this year we will be preparing Christmas stockings for teens served by EHP. Typically each stocking contains small gifts and a gift certificate for \$50. We've an earlier deadline to gather the stockings from St. Bede's parishioners this year: **Monday, November 23**. Watch for more information in next month's *Bede's Journal*.

## Goodbye and Hello in the Choir's Bass Section

After just over a year with us, bass section leader Chris Filipowicz has bid farewell to the Bay Area and St. Bede's to return to his family home in the Mid-West. The ravages visited upon the performing arts by the pandemic have inspired him to pursue training in the medical field, where many of his family members work, and he's begun training in phlebotomy. It's a skill that is needed world-wide, and which can provide income to support the continuation of his musical career when that is possible – Chris has not forsaken singing! He'll be back to perform in our Arts Series when that resumes.



We are very fortunate to welcome baritone Thomas Wade as our new bass section leader. Thomas is a freelance singer and choral conductor based in the Bay Area, specializing in early music and choral repertoire.

He has taught and conducted at public schools and private music programs and worked with organizations like Chanticleer, the San Francisco Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque, West Bay Opera and Opera San Jose. Thomas directs the intermediate, domestic touring ensemble of the Ragazzi Boys Chorus and worked previously with the San Francisco Girls Chorus. He also sings with Ragazzi's alumni ensemble, Ragazzi Continuo and directed the group for two seasons. Thomas maintains an active performance career and sings regularly with the San Francisco Lyric Chorus and San Francisco Renaissance Voices, in addition to teaching voice lessons throughout the Bay Area.



Thomas holds a B.M. in vocal performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has studied as Choral Fellow for the Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco, under the tutelage of Susan McMane, and pursued continuing study of the Kodály methodology at Holy Names University. Welcome Thomas!

– *Katherine McKee, Music Director*

## Celebrations: October Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

1	Edwin Brink
4	Natalie Festing
5	Ann Poulson
10	Lucinda Kelly
14	Meredith Pellegrin
14	Autumn Stork
16	Roy Azem
25	Olivia Stork
27	Layla Azem

### Anniversaries:

4	Nancy and Robert Shurtleff
29	Anne Vitullo and Jon Poe

Please let the parish office know if you are celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month!

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### St. Bede's Episcopal Church

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

**Sunday Services:** Morning Prayer, 9:30 a.m. on Zoom

### Vestry

Deb Blackmore, Junior Warden  
Vicki Blayney  
Carol Brink  
Van Jepson  
Irene Lawrence  
Nancy Stork  
Anne Vitullo, Senior Warden  
Dick Zeren

### Staff

Rev. Martha Korienek, Interim Rector  
Brendan Deocariza-Nee, Children's  
and Youth Minister  
Katherine McKee, Music Director  
Rani Fischer, Organist  
Siri Huntoon, Parish Administrator  
Angela Sherry, Bookkeeper

### Committee Chairs and Volunteer Leaders

**Altar Guild:** Deb Blackmore, Elaine Kreigh  
and Sue Sartor, Captains

**Buildings and Grounds:** Jon Backlund, Chair

**Community Outreach:** Sue Sartor, Liz Bellock,  
Deb Blackmore, Vicki Blayney  
and Angela Sherry

**Finance:** Julie Backlund, Treasurer;  
Michelle Swenson, Assistant Treasurer

**Hospitality:** Laura Gable, Helen Greenwood  
and Kathy Thompson, Captains

**Search:** Doug Blayney and Sue Sartor, Co-Chairs

**Deanery delegates:** Laura Gable and  
Michael Graebner

### Trinity School Board representatives:

Ann Latta, Jon Poe and Michelle Swenson

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