



A Fresh Perspective

After staying local for over sixteen months, I ventured out for two weeks of vacation in Wyoming and New York City. It felt odd to be in such close quarters with so many people at one time, especially on the airplane! Everyone seemed as excited as I was, yet a bit nervous, to travel and visit friends, family, and recreation sites. Thankfully, all went smoothly.

Similarly, St. Bede's parish life is stepping out and reclaiming itself through fellowship and community events. The Albany Consort performance in July was a grand success, Bede's Backyards are off to a great start, coffee hour-lite is in full swing, Soul Work is well-established, the "All Hands-on-Deck" Volunteer Confab jumpstarts August, donation baskets are back in the narthexes ready to be filled, Kick-Off Sunday is coming up in September and Reverend Dan's Installation is scheduled for October. Whew! There's a lot going on at St. Bede's! I feel very fortunate to be part of this dynamic parish, focused on fellowship and God's work in our community. The future is bright!

In faith and peace,

– Sue Sartor, Senior Warden

In This Issue

- 2 Letter from Rev. Dan
- 4 Vestry View
- 5 Community Outreach News
- 5 Bede's Backyards
- 6 Meditation on Arts at St. Bede's
- 7 Trinity School

A Letter from Rev. Dan

Greetings in the Name of Christ,

“... And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.
Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be.
And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life,
keep peace in your soul.
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.”
Desiderata, Max Ehrmann

Greetings in the name of Christ,

I first discovered the poem quoted above when I was a brand new student chaplain in the hospital. I was a nervous wreck for much of that summer, being confronted by fears and anxiety that I had carried with me throughout most of my life. For example, one of those fears was that I was going to fail at pastoral care. After all, I was new at this, and I'd barely stepped foot into a hospital for any reason before I found myself being told to go introduce myself to patients and provide spiritual support for them. What did I know about how to care for someone facing sickness, decline, and death? On multiple occasions, I was so nervous that I had to stall in the stairway to pray and calm my racing heart before I could muster the courage to knock on the door of the person I was going to see.

That is the place in life where I found this poem. The words of it were printed on a poster that was framed and hung above the desk of the permanent staff chaplain for that hospital. While sitting in that office alone one afternoon, beating myself up over the difficulty I was having in my role, I looked up and read this poem for the first time. On many levels it spoke to me, line after line, right into the world I was living in. The ending, quoted above, seemed to be exactly what I needed to hear at that point. And yet, as life progresses on, it seems that there is more and more truth that comes from reading it again.

The beauty of these lines is that it imagines a world where there is always hope, no matter how hard or dark or discouraging the world may appear. And, as those who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that our hope is ultimately found in God. Somehow, somewhere, God is still with us. I say that because I have been around long enough to know that Life never goes exactly the way we wish it to. The distance between our expectations or assumptions and reality can lead us to distressing questions about why that is, and if that is compatible with what we believe about God. Yet, maybe the problem is not with God, but with our assumptions. As a friend of mine once said, it is presumptuous of us to ask God to do something, and then to get angry when things do not go that way.

I love the words of Saint Paul in the 5th chapter of the letter to the Romans when he writes:

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of

sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, And endurance produces character, and character produces hope, And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

This text gives us no illusions that the Godward life will be an easy one. Doing the right thing does not give us a pass on suffering, or mean that we will be immune to hardship. No, in fact sometimes hardships come exactly because of our faith commitments. And if we are to navigate them well, we need to meet hardship with patient endurance. Continuing on in the midst of adversity builds good character, which in turn generates hope. And we are not disappointed in our hope because we find that in it God’s love is poured out into our hearts. We may not evade trouble, but we have access to immense power to navigate through it.

Blessings to you all, and may God be with us always.

Dan+

Dan Spors+
Rector, St. Bede’s Episcopal Church
2650 Sand Hill Rd.
Menlo Park CA 94025

Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our August and September Calendars

August 4: Bede’s Book Club, 9:30 a.m.; Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon
August 10: Finance Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
August 17: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.
August 22: Copy deadline for September *Bede’s Journal*

September 1: Bede’s Book Club, 9:30 a.m.; Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon
September 6: Labor Day: *Parish Office Closed*
September 14: Finance Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
September 21: Vestry meeting, 7 p.m.
September 22: Copy deadline for October *Bede’s Journal*

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 January's Vestry meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm on July 20. In attendance were Julie Backlund (Treasurer), Vicki Blayney, Susan Chan Egan (via Zoom) Laura Gable (Junior Warden), Irene Lawrence, Dan Spors (rector), Nancy Stork (Clerk), and Dick Zeren. Miranda Pinckert and Sue Sartor (Senior Warden) were absent.

Irene read the opening prayer and we approved the minutes of our June meeting.

Revision to Use Agreements

We discussed agreements with outside groups who use our space (dancers, bagpipers, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, etc.) Sue, Laura and Dan are editing these agreements and will bring revised document(s) probably next month. We are allowed to recuperate our costs (including utilities, water, building maintenance, administration) but cannot make a profit. Sue, Laura and Dan will get accurate figures from José on how much it actually costs for a group to use our space. Julie offered to help with calculating costs.

Rector's Report

Dan praised the Albany Consort concert on Saturday. If we are going to continue a full Arts Series, we will need more volunteers. We need to consider the possibility of a smaller series.

Junior Warden's Report

Laura reports that the Stewardship Campaign is going well. Siri is using her graphic design background to design our brochure.

Building and Grounds Report

Dick Zeren reports that the new boiler is installed and the kitchen floor will be done August 9-13 at a cost of about \$12,000 (originally budgeted for \$15,000).

The new AED is installed.

A better plan for Internet and phone bundling is still being worked on.

Some benches, especially in the parking lot islands, have splinters and will be sanded.

There has been a proposal on behalf of the Trinity students to make the campus completely non-smoking or to leave just one smoking area behind the kitchen. There are large sand ashtrays still in use around the courtyard. We discussed possible benefits (no student exposure to ashtrays). Several members raised concerns that Narcotics Anonymous participants often continue to use tobacco as they wean themselves off more dangerous addictions and wondered if removal of outdoor ashtrays would be unwelcoming to them. People do not tend to use the area behind the kitchen, particularly at night or in the rain. Perhaps we could leave just a few ashtrays near the entrances to Lehman Hall, for the NA participants, and remove other ashtrays. No action taken.

B and G recommends clearing out the sewage line from the school to the road, which has its original clay pipes, at a cost of \$2,092. A camera has already been sent down the line and such scoping helps prevent growth of tree roots. Dick moved, Irene seconded a motion to approve up to \$2,500 for this expense. Unanimously approved.

We read a compline prayer together and closed the meeting at 9:10 pm.

– *Nancy Stork, Clerk and Laura Gable, Junior Warden*

Community Outreach News - Supporting Our Community

Donation baskets have returned to the narthex at St. Bede's so that we can collect packaged foods, toiletries and other items to support Ecumenical Hunger Program and other local nonprofits. You can help by donating:

- Canned and packaged food
- Toiletries and personal care items
- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and spray
- Household cleaning supplies
- Disposable diapers (sizes 4 – 7) and baby wipes.

We cannot accept clothing or household goods in the donation baskets right now; pick up a fact sheet in the narthex for information about local organizations that would appreciate these items.

– *Anne Vitullo, Community Service Steering Committee*

Join us for Bede's Backyards!

It's not too late to join the conversation!

There are still openings at two of our Bede's Backyards gatherings in August: on **Thursday, August 19** at the home of Joan Sanders, and on **Monday, August 30** at the home of Sue and Mike Sartor.

Please join us for an opportunity to connect with each other and talk with our new rector, The Reverend Daniel Spors, in an informal setting. There's no formal agenda to these gatherings – just a chance to get together!

RSVPs are being handled online via Sign-up Genius; see the weekly eNews – This Week at St. Bede's – for the link to the online sign-up. All gatherings will be small with about 10 participants at each. So that we can accommodate as many parishioners as possible, we ask that you RSVP for one date only.

Children are welcome at these gatherings but should be masked if they are not yet vaccinated; please leave your pets at home.

We look forward to seeing you soon – in one of our Bede's Backyards.

--Anne Vitullo

Music



WHAT LIES AHEAD?

As we look forward with cautious optimism toward the gradual return to “normal” activities, what better time could there be to pause and look closely at our arts series? Before forging ahead with a business-as-usual return to what has been done in the past, I feel we need to take a moment or two as a community to examine what the series provides to the people of St. Bede's and the greater community around us.

The first big question is: does the series, which was begun decades ago, still have value to us currently? Should it continue? If the answer is yes, then we should ask more questions of ourselves. Are the concerts offered on the series of sufficient quality and variety? Should the offerings on the series – hitherto almost exclusively concerts and musically-focused worship services – represent a broader spectrum of the arts? Should we have literary events and visual arts as well as music? If so, which musical events will we do without to make room for other types of presentations?

Regardless of the content of the series, who will lend a hand to ensure that all runs smoothly on concert days? I can do the administrative work of creating and organizing the series, but cannot run a concert or event single-handedly. Rani is a superb concert manager, but with a recent reduction in her weekly hours, might not be able to fit arts series concerts into her work week on a regular basis. On concert days we absolutely need help to move furniture, run the box office, usher, and help out at the receptions. With a smaller overall church membership, do we have enough willing hands?

I hope that you'll all – especially those who've been subscribers in years past – be willing to spend a few minutes thinking about the future of the Arts at St. Bede's. Around the time this August edition of Bede's Journal is published, we'll have had our August 1st Volunteer Confab, and I'll know a little bit more about the question of volunteer availability. After that, we'll create an opportunity to discuss the other questions and find the best way forward.

-- Katherine McKee, Music Director

Trinity School - August 2021 Trinity School Monthly Report

Last year, Trinity School conducted over 1,100 Covid tests with zero positive cases. As we start the new school year, our community remains vigilant and reminds everyone to follow proven, on-campus health procedures.

1. School Covid procedures remain the same as 2020. Kids ages 5-10 aren't yet vaccinated. Visits to campus should be minimized. Everyone must wear masks, maintain social distances and wash hands frequently.
2. Monthly (maybe more often) testing starts August 18, to protect all students and staff.
3. Out-of-state travelers should quarantine. All families and staff start quarantining August 15.

We continue to comply with CDC, OSHA, Dept. of Education, SMDPH and the Governor's policies. As our education quality excelled last year, 107 students will join us this year, up 10% from last year. In educating our next generation of citizens, Trinity School affirms our beliefs:

- a. We engage and challenge students academically. We kindle their innate curiosity and lay the groundwork for a lifetime of inquiry. Trinity students take part in problem-solving and exploration and have the tools to gain confidence through supportive academic risk-taking.
- b. We value a culture of self-awareness, empathy and connection. Trinity students take responsibility, practice kindness and seek out opportunities to help others.
- c. We believe that a strong sense of self leads to self-advocacy and advocacy for others. Trinity students share their voices and talents to boldly meet challenges they and others face.
- d. We embrace a spirit of encouraging successes and positive outcomes by collaborating and honoring everyone's contributions. Trinity students share ideas, listen and strive to find solutions for the common good.
- e. We believe that understanding emerges when a variety of voices are heard, and when every person feels welcome, supported and safe. Trinity students celebrate diversity and seek to learn from a rich representation of experiences and points of view.

f. Rooted in our Episcopal heritage, we embrace the diversity of thought and faith held by our community of learners. Trinity students grow through their exposure to and understanding of world religions and traditions and learn that faith manifests in many ways.

Our mission remains the same: Trinity School cultivates academic excellence in an environment where each child is known, valued and has their unique voice. The legacy of a Trinity education is a curious mind and a discerning heart. Thanks in advance for helping everyone stay safe and healthy in this upcoming school year.

-- Jon Poe, Trinity School Board Member

Celebrations: August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 3 Kelly Clarke
- 4 Elaine Kriegh
- 8 Julie Backlund, David Chu
- 9 Douglas Ross
- 23 Elena Barrett
- 26 Orlia Budge
- 31 William Harris

Anniversaries:

- 3 Bertita & Michael Graebner
- 6 Katherine McKee & Colby Roberts
- 23 Anne & Wes Poulson
- 26 Elaine & Randy Kriegh
- 29 Dora Ho & Pedro Lo
- 31 Chris & Linda Brown

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

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

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

Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist, 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on Zoom

Vestry

Vicki Blayney
Susan Chan Egan
Laura Gable, Junior Warden
Irene Lawrence
Miranda Pinckert
Sue Sartor, Senior Warden
Nancy Stork, Clerk
Dick Zeren

Staff

Rev. Daniel Spors, Rector
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, Sue Sartor, Anne Vitullo

Buildings and Grounds: Jon Backlund, Chair, Miranda Pinckert, Mike Sartor, Richard Zeren

St. Bede's Choir: (*returns in September*)

Orlia Budge, Catherine Clover, Margaret Elam, Rani Fischer, Irene Lawrence, Nancy Stork, *sopranos* ✧ Naomi Braun (section leader), Ronnie Sue Leith, Becky Zeren, *altos* ✧ Carol Brink, Ed Brink, Chris Brown, *tenors* ✧ David Chu, Quentin Long, *basses*

Community Outreach Steering Committee:

Deb Blackmore, Vicki Blayney, John Hickson, Sue Sartor, Angela Sherry and Becky Zeren

Finance: Julie Backlund, Treasurer; Michelle Swenson, Assistant Treasurer, Randy Kriegh, Irene Lawrence, Hal Louchheim, Jon Poe, Angela Sherry

Hospitality: Helen Greenwood, Kathy Thompson and Anne Vitullo, Captains

Deanery delegates: Michael Graebner and Irene Lawrence, Laura Gable (alternate)

Trinity School Board representatives:

Jon Poe and Michelle Swenson