



A Season of Hope

As we head into the last month of 2021, I took a few minutes to reflect on how far we've come since this time last year. Step by step, arm in arm, we've moved forward through the challenges brought by the pandemic and calling a new rector. Slowly, but surely, we are bringing back traditions and customs that make our worship feel more familiar. Slowly, but surely, we are seeing former parishioners and newcomers joining us in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Advent brings one more step in this transition as we return to offering two services on Sunday mornings. We've heard from many that having the option of 8:00 and 10:15 services will be welcome. As we move into Advent, a time of anticipation and hope, I am excited to see what this next step will bring. St. Bede's future is bright, as bright as the star that shone over Bethlehem.

-- Sue Sartor, Senior Warden

In This Issue

- 2 Letter from Rev. Dan
- 3 Vestry View
- 7 2021 Christmas at St. Bede's
- 7 Trinity School Update
- 8 Bedhead Book Club
- 8 The Season for Sharing

Letter from Reverend Dan

Greetings in the name of Christ,

It is, admittedly, an outlandish thing to believe that the holy and divine one would take on human flesh to live a largely normal human life as is presented in the Gospel accounts of the life of Christ.

And yet, that is exactly the message that the Gospel authors wanted their readers to believe as they wrote. The books we call the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke, so-called that because of the similarities between their writings—share with us similar narratives of the announcement to Mary that the Holy Spirit would overshadow her and she would then give birth to a son. John’s Gospel, in its ever more theological manner, describes the Word or *Logos* as being with God in the beginning, as well as being God itself.

But if it is difficult for us to understand and believe the mystical union of divine and human, we are not alone. The early Church had great difficulty with this, and the number of differing beliefs of the nature of who Jesus was and his relationship to the one God is evidence of this challenge. Again, we are not alone in this.

One amusing and completely untrue story that was once popularly believed was that at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., a priest named Arius was explaining his teachings that Jesus was not the eternal Son of God. Hearing this, Saint Nicholas, bishop of Smyrna and Father Christmas himself, stood up from his seat, walked across the meeting hall, and slapped Arius across the face for his heretical beliefs.

What we learn from this is twofold: <sarcasm> sometimes you can solve problems with violence </sarcasm/>, and even back then plenty of people struggled to make sense of the incarnation.

But one thing I hope that we can take with us, borrowing from Matthew’s account of the birth of Christ, is that Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s promise that there would be a child who would be *Immanuel*, “God with us,” who would redeem us and show us the

way to the Father. And this should be a comfort to us, that our God is not so angry at humanity or so distant from us in our world that God has or could forget about us. Rather, in the moment of our greatest need, God came to us and to our aid, showing us how we are to live and providing hope and comfort for our lives today and what lies ahead for us in the next life.

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

Dan+

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

Looking Ahead: Key Dates on Our December and January Calendars

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|--------------|---|
| December 1: | Bede's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.; |
| | Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon |
| December 14: | Finance Committee meeting, 4 p.m. |
| December 16: | Trinity School Advent Lessons & Carols, 6:30 p.m. |
| December 21: | Vestry meeting, 7 p.m. |
| December 22: | Copy deadline for January <i>Bede's Journal</i> |
| January 5: | Bede's Book Club, 9:30 a.m.; |
| | Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon |
| January 11: | Finance Committee meeting, 4 p.m. |
| January 18: | Vestry meeting, 7 p.m. |
| January 19: | Copy Deadline for February <i>Bede's Journal</i> |

Vestry View

The following is a summary of the October meeting of St. Bede's Vestry, a board that manages the finances and steers the direction of our church. More detailed minutes can be requested from Sue Sartor at sartorsue@gmail.com.

The meeting came to order at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 19th.

There was no community input.

Announcements and New Business:

- A short article and photos about Dan's New Ministry Celebration was in the DioCal Newsletter
 - Joan Sanders offered to sponsor a wreath in St. Bede's honor at the Gamble Garden Festival of Trees event. Vestry members expressed their support and gratitude.
 - Reverend Dan inquired about whether to hold a Thanksgiving Day service. Consensus was to hold it as we traditionally have done.
 - Reverend Dan announced that the Worship Team is working on several services including All Saints', Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
 - The memorial service for Bob Shurtleff is scheduled for November 13 at 10:30am.
- Approval of Minutes from September: Laura moved, Dick seconded, passed unanimously with one correction (typo).

Finance (Julie Backlund)

- Sue moved, Laura seconded, unanimously voted to accept Finance Committee Minutes.
- Finance Report from September:
 - Arts for St. Bede's account is dwindling due to expenses for this fall's events and lack of a fundraising campaign. Due to the ad-hoc nature for planning events, the traditional request for donations and pledges was not conducted. This needs to be addressed to support future events.
 - Pledge income is on track.
 - Irene moved, Susan seconded, unanimously voted to approve the Finance Report.
- 2022 Budget (Second Draft): Julie presented updated figures and estimates for next year's budget.
 - The rector's discretionary budget was trimmed last year. Gifts from his Celebration of New Ministry provided \$2815 with more expected to bring it to approximately \$3000. Therefore, no additional funds need to be added for 2022, but will be needed in 2023.
 - \$25,000 was placed in the account for General Maintenance and Repairs to provide for expenses for contracted work. Historically, approximately \$30,000 is expended for this purpose.

Outside Use Policy

Reverend Dan reviewed the draft Use of Property by Outside Organizations policy. There was a motion to approve the updated policy: Laura moved, Irene seconded, passed unanimously.

Vestry Development (Reverend Dan Spors)

Reverend Dan noted that although we have given most attention to our top three priorities of providing for a Children & Youth Minister, recruiting, and supporting volunteers and enhancing communications, there are many other items listed as Vestry 2021 Goals. He asked that vestry members review the Goals document to see what has been completed and what is still in progress. These items will be discussed at the next meeting in November.

Illness and Injury Prevention Program (IIPP) (Sue and Julie)

Julie reviewed the updated Illness and Injury Prevention Program document. Personnel Committee members recommend that the Vestry designate the Parish Administrator as St. Bede's Injury and Illness Prevention Program administrator and adopt the Illness and Injury Prevention Program dated October 19, 2021: Dick moved, Laura seconded, passed unanimously.

Rector's Report

- Dan expressed his gratitude to all who support the parish and helped make the Celebration of his New Ministry a true renewal of ministry for all.
- The Worship team is beginning to plan services for Advent and the Christmas season.
- It looks like the next visit to our parish by Bishop Mark will be sometime between January and May 2022.
- Trinity School seems to be doing well. There is an ongoing positive relationship as seen in the Afghani outreach project.
- The annual meeting to review the Use Fee Agreement will be on October 20, 2021.

Senior Warden's Report (Sue Sartor)

Upcoming Community Outreach Steering Committee approved events include the home supplies drive for Afghani refugees in conjunction with Trinity School this week, preparing Halloween treats for Life Moves shelter on October 24th, Family Sharing stockings for EHP in December and the Disco Bingo Seccombe Fund Gala on February 26th. St. Bede's linens stored for Home and Hope will be donated to the Afghani refugee project.

Junior Warden's Report (Laura Gable)

Stewardship pledges are currently ahead of last year. The stewardship team will be calling those who have not yet pledged and encouraging them to do so by the Harvest Brunch on October 31. Laura reminded vestry members that as leaders of the parish we should get our pledges in early. She offered pledge materials for those who may not yet have sent their pledge cards to the church office.

Buildings and Grounds (Dick Zeren and Dan Spors)

- **Campus Security:** There was much discussion regarding this topic. The estimate to re-key the campus was \$14,500, due to there being many more locks on cabinets, closets, etc. than realized – 250 versus original estimate of 107. Siri is working on updating the spreadsheet of who has which key and what each key opens. The current tracking sheet does not include the School's keys. Finance Committee voted 4-1 to not expend \$14,500 to rekey the campus. B&G is committed to doing something by determining what locks and keys are needed and updating our records and key policy. There was consensus among members to get more information on our current situation and to develop a key policy that ensures security on campus. The timeline for this to be complete was to be determined. It was recommended that we focus on which rooms must have very secure locks (ie, office) and change those rather than changing all the locks. This discussion will be continued next month. Meanwhile, be sure all doors are securely locked when you leave a building.
- **Painting Lehman Hall:** an estimate is forthcoming.

Compline was led by Laura.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. without objection.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sue Sartor, Senior Warden*



December 5 - Advent 2

- 8:00 a.m. Rite I, spoken
- 10:15 a.m. Rite II, Advent Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist

December 12 - Advent 3

- 8:00 a.m. Rite I, spoken
- 10:15 a.m. Rite II, sung

December 19 - Advent 4

- 8:00 a.m. Rite 1, spoken
- 10:15 a.m. Rite II, sung

December 24 - Christmas Eve

- 4:00 p.m. All Ages Pageant and Holy Eucharist

December 25 - Christmas Day

- 9:30 a.m. Rite II, spoken

December 26 - Christmas 1

- 9:30 a.m. Rite II, Christmas Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist

January 2 - Christmas 2

- 9:30 a.m. Rite I, spoken

Trinity School Update

Recently, we celebrated Diwali, collected home goods and toys for the needy, completed our first round of parent teacher conferences and prepared for initial vaccinations. Thanks to a joint effort with St Bede's, our families collected bedding, sheets and blankets for 15+ beds along with clothing and appliances for needy Afghani families. The agency was so appreciative that they asked our students to supply more toys – which we did! While inoculation will take several months, San Mateo County Health and the Office

of Education made vaccination centers available to kids ages 5 to 11. We have much to be thankful for and wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

-- Jon Poe, Trinity School Board of Trustees

Bedhead Book Club

Join us on **Wednesday, December 1st** at 9:30 a.m. for our monthly meeting via Zoom. In December, we will discuss *Intimacies* by Katie Kitamura. From the author of *A Separation*, this is an electrifying story about a woman caught between many truths. A young woman creates a new life in The Hague, where she acts as an interpreter for the International Court. But there are seeds of disquiet in her personal and professional life.

You can contact me at helen614@att.net for the Zoom link. All are welcome.

-- Helen Greenwood, Book Club Chair

The Season for Sharing!



Please join us for a special outreach project this Christmas! As we've done for the past several years, we will create Christmas stockings to give to teenaged boys and girls of families served by Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto. Toy drives for younger children abound at this time of year – and gifts for teens are often overlooked. Through your generosity, you can help spread some Christmas joy. Our goal this year is to prepare 50 stockings for teens. Here's how you can help: Fill a stocking (or two!) with small gifts and treats for a teen and top it off with a \$50 gift card from Amazon, Costco, Kohls, Target or Walmart (see a list of gift ideas below). Or, donate a \$50 gift card that can be added to a stocking that we prepare at our stocking-stuffer event in December. Lastly, you can make a cash contribution to the Seccombe Outreach

Fund that we will use to purchase gift cards or items for the stockings. The Community Outreach Steering Committee has designated \$1,000 from the fund for this project; we're asking you to help us double that amount and reach our goal of 50 stockings. Join the fun at our stocking-stuffer event on **Sunday, December 12**, where we'll fill stockings and get them ready to deliver to EHP on December 13. Should you wish to fill a stocking yourself or donate a gift card, we need those in hand on **Sunday, December 12** so that

we have everything ready for delivery to EHP the following day. Thank you for your generous support!

Gift Ideas for Teens

If you plan to assemble a Christmas stocking (or two!), here are some gift ideas to help fill your stocking.

- A baseball cap or T-shirt from a local sports team or college (Stanford and Berkeley are always popular)
- Puzzle book (for example, crosswords, Sudoku)
- Athletic socks or fun, funky socks
- Personal care items such as soap, body wash, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm
- Small notebook and nice pens or pencils
- For girls: cosmetics and small cosmetics case (those “gift with purchase” samples from Estee Lauder and Clinique are perfect!)
- Wallet or change purse
- Deck of playing cards or card games
- Healthy snacks like granola bars or dried fruit
- Key chain
- Fanny pack
- Movie tickets
- A paperback book. Consider one of these titles, or include one of your favorites: *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* (Judy Blume), *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* (Ann Brashares), *The Boys in the Boat* (Daniel James Brown), *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (Stephen Chbosky), *The House on Mango Street* (Sandra Cisneros), *The Fault in Our Stars* (John Green), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee), *Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend* (Susan Orlean), *The Martian* (Andy Weir).

Gift items should be new and in their original packaging. All stockings should include a \$50 gift card from Amazon, Costco, Kohls, Target or Walmart.

-- *Angela Sherry and Anne Vitullo, Community Outreach Steering Committee*

Celebrations: December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

5 Frederick Churchill
6 Robert Wood
10 Nancy Shurtleff
12 Annie Zhou
18 Elyssa Festing
19 Carol Brink
29 Lenox Yu
31 Alexis Reed

Anniversaries:

26 Lin Yu & Kelly Clarke

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, 8:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary (no Zoom);
10:15 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*
Claire Lawrence, *Sunday School Teacher*
Lina Jiang, *Nursery Caregiver*

Committee Chairs and Volunteer Leaders

Altar Guild: Elizabeth Bellock, Elaine Kreigh, Sue Sartor, Anne Vitullo
Buildings and Grounds: Miranda Pinckert, Mike Sartor, Richard Zeren

St. Bede's Choir:

sopranos: Orlia Budge, Catherine Clover, Rani Fischer, Nancy Stork ✧ *altos:* Naomi Braun (section leader), Dora Ho, Cathleen Josaitis, Kathleen Thompson, Becky Zeren ✧ *tenors:* Chris Brown, Liza Taft ✧
basses: David Chu, Joseph Krohlow (section leader), Quentin Long

Community Outreach Steering Committee:

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