



As we head into August, I'm sure many of you are savoring these last days of summer break. It won't be long before schools resume, and vacations are looked back on with fond memories. I encourage you to take advantage of these remaining summer days by attending one of the Bede's Backyards get-togethers. These casual gatherings provide an opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners a bit more and catch up on news and events. Thanks to all the hosts for welcoming us into their backyards. It's not too late to sign up! See the e-news or Sunday announcements for details.

– Sue Sartor, Senior Warden

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Letter from Reverend Dan

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:19-20)

Greetings in the Name of Christ.

I recall in college, being struck by the question of what it is that God wants of our lives—how does God want us to live, what values should drive our existence, and what are the things worthwhile for us to do with our time and with our choices to best honor the God who loves us and who sent Jesus to heal the rift between humanity and the divine. Without a doubt, my college experience was a bit different than those who graduated high school with me! At the heart of these wranglings was the question, To what extent is the life of those who profess Jesus as their savior to be different from those who have no such faith? After all, if Paul could write things about living fully for Christ who was crucified, such as in his epistle to the Galatians, what implications does that have for pursuits in life that are not directly related to our faith? Are those things now inconsequential, or even a hindrance, to living faithfully for God?

It makes sense, after all, that if these things are of such importance—up to and including eternal life or death—that one should take it seriously about whether or not one's life is so perfectly aligned with God's calling on our lives to share the message of the love of God for all people.

Because I lived the life, I can relate to the zeal that one may derive from such values, and from such beliefs about the Almighty.

But then I came to consider the lives of so many of the faithful in the centuries that have passed since Jesus gave that Great Commission to his disciples. For countless millions of people who heard the message of the Gospel and believed it, they took that message as a call to do exactly what they had been doing, and to do so faithfully. Not everyone took up the mantle of being clergy or a missionary. Some did, but most did not. Instead, most

continued to work their labors, to stay in their communities, and to live the same lives that they lived before. But the difference is that they did so while striving to be more loving, more kind, more patient, and more helpful. They felt the calling of God in their lives to mean the transformation of their hearts, and by extension the transformation of their relationships, their families, and of their communities.

And so that's the life that I wish to live, that in light of the Gospel message that God loved us and sent the only Son, the greatest calling on our lives is to be faithful. To love the Lord our God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. And to love our neighbors as myself, with kindness, patience, and helpfulness. That this is the life that is most pleasing to God, and the calling with which we have been called.

Dan+

Looking Ahead: Key Dates on our August and September Calendars:

August 3:	Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon, Lehman Hall Community Outreach Steering Committee, 6:00 p.m., on Zoom
August 23:	Vestry Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lehman Hall Copy Deadline for September <i>Bede's Journal</i>
September 1:	Community Outreach Steering Committee, 6:00 p.m., on Zoom
September 5:	<i>Labor Day - Parish Office Closed</i>
September 7:	Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting, noon, Lehman Hall
September 11:	Kickoff Sunday! Choral Evensong, 4 p.m.
September 14:	Pizza Theology, 6:30 p.m., Lehman Hall
September 20:	Vestry Committee meeting, 7:00 p.m., Lehman Hall
September 22:	Copy Deadline for October <i>Bede's Journal</i>

Vestry View

The following is a summary of the June 2022 meetings 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.

On June 2, the Vestry held a special meeting to discuss the listing of St. Bede's on the Menlo Park Housing Element, an identification of spaces where housing units could be built in compliance with California law. After much discussion, Vestry decided to petition the city to remove St. Bede's from this listing.

On June 21, Dan reported that our letter had been sent on June 4, but that there was a Council meeting prior to that date where it was decided to not remove any church properties from the Housing Element. We've also learned that properties could be listed on the Housing Element, but with a fewer number of units (from 15 down to 0).

– Nancy Stork, Sue Sartor, and Laura Gable, Vestry Clerk and Senior and Junior Wardens



A Summer Tradition Returns!

Join us for Bede's Backyards

Our Bede's Backyards gatherings continue this month, with events scheduled for **Friday, August 19** at the home of Sue and Mike Sartor, and **Thursday, August 25** at the home of Michelle Swenson. Bede's Backyards is an opportunity to connect with each other and with our rector, The Reverend Daniel Spors, in an informal setting. There's no formal agenda to these gatherings – just an opportunity to get together!

All gatherings are small with a limit of 10 to 12 participants at each. Children are welcome, but please leave your pets at home. So that we can accommodate as many parishioners as possible, we ask you to RSVP for one date only. Please see the weekly eNews for the link to the online Sign-Up.

Come join the conversation this summer – in one of our Bede's Backyards!

– Anne Vitullo

A Recipe for Success

How do you feed 110 hungry people on a late July evening? That was the question posed to the Community Outreach Steering Committee when it set a dinner date with First Step for Families, a LifeMoves shelter in San Mateo that serves 39 families experiencing homelessness. The answer turned out to be meticulous planning combined with an all-hands-on-deck approach. Julie Backlund spearheaded the project, and she credits Vicki Blayney and Anne Vitullo with helping her conceive a meal that was nutritious, appropriate for summer, and easy to scale and transport.

Other parishioners stepped up to get the plan off the ground: Anne Vitullo managed communication and recruitment, while Kathy Thompson joined Julie in massive shopping efforts.

The menu included cornbread, fruit salad, and veggie salad with a choice of either chicken or tofu as the protein topping. Imagine all of this multiplied by 110 servings and you can see why the Lehman Hall kitchen was a hive of activity all day July 31st. Volunteers were organized into three shifts, and their contributions are as follows:

Cornbread bakers included Helen Greenwood, Liz Bellock, Becky Zeren, Megan Sell and John Hickson.

Kitchen set-up was accomplished by Julie Backlund and Megan Sell.

Chicken was cooked on the Lehman Hall barbecue grill by Jon Backlund and Reverend Dan Spors.

The first prep team included Julie Backlund, Carol Stang, Megan Ancker, Liz Bellock, Megan Sell, David Sell, Jim Fisher, Kirk Festing, and Natalie Festing.

The second prep team included Julie Backlund, Wendy Wood, Susan Chan Egan, Lina Jiang, Anne Vitullo, Jon Poe, Sue Sartor, Joan Sanders, Ann Latta, and Kathy Thompson.

Loading and delivery was accomplished by Jon Backlund, Jon Poe, Liz Bellock, John Hickson and Laura Gable.

Many thanks to Julie for her outstanding ability to inspire and lead this complex effort! A by-product of the event was all the fun you can see in the photos below.

-- Laura Gable on behalf of the Community Outreach Steering Committee





LifeMoves

Deanery Report

On June 23rd St. Bede's had the pleasure of hosting the Deanery of the Peninsula. The Deanery treasury is in the process of being transferred from Union Bank to US Bank due to the poor service provided by Union Bank. The Deanery approved the transfer and related banking arrangements.

El Buen Pastor, an effort long supported by St. Bede's, is now an official mission of the Diocese. The mission now looks forward to celebrating its first confirmation this fall. Many members of St. Bede's have given liberally of their time in the effort to grow El Buen Pastor — our thanks to their continued generosity in this endeavor.

The Diocese is working on strengthening its ties with the Deaneries through the appointment of a stipendiary contact person for each Deanery. This individual will act as resource person for actions that involve finding the appropriate Diocesan office for issues that involve both Parish and Diocese - e.g. legal concerns regarding property usage. It is hoped that this will utilize the deep talent pool of the Diocese in support of individual parishes needing assistance in a timely and accurate fashion. Such action should also assist the Diocesan Nominating Committee in attracting a wider pool of nominees.

The meeting ended with a prayer and blessing.

– *Michael Graebner, Deanery Delegate*

A Note from Naomi

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the wonderful parishioners who have stepped forward to provide music this summer while our choir is on summer hiatus. A huge thank you to Hubert Kennemer, Dora Ho and Kathleen Thompson who are providing

instrumental music during Communion for most of the services this summer. As always, a special mention to Rani who has risen to the challenge to ensure the continuity of the music program over the summer by providing her usual stellar repertoire.

The choir will return regularly on Sunday, September 11. Anyone who is interested in singing with the choir in the fall should email me directly. Please reach out to Siri in the office to get my contact information.

– *Naomi Braun, Acting Music Director*

Trinity School Update

Summers find us updating current plans, policies and procedures. This summer we are reviewing our strategic, financial and curricula plans. We are also updating our COVID procedures based upon the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the San Mateo Department of Education, and the California Department of Public Health.

We expect a smooth transition at Kindergarten as we welcome Krystin Neuenfeldt who has been with Trinity since 2016, the last 2 years as Kindergarten's Teaching Assistant. FYI: Kindergarten's meet-and-greet is scheduled for noon on August 24 at the St. Bede's campus. Building upon our strong school curricula, Trinity created a 5th grade matriculation process that involves an external consultant, Christine Southgate of Next Step School Selection (<http://nextstepschool.com/>). Christine's process brings parents and students together to identify best-fit middle schools, make the admissions process authentic for the entire family, and assist each family toward a sound decision for school choice. We're hopeful that this process becomes a best practice in the years ahead.

– *Jon Poe, Trinity School board of Trustees*

Giving the Gift of Flowers

Donations from the congregation to support our weekly floral arrangements are most welcome. It's a wonderful way to honor a loved one, recognize a birthday or anniversary, remember a deceased family member or friend, or simply share your love of flowers with all of us. Donations are recognized in the weekly service bulletin, unless you ask to remain anonymous.

Here's the process for making a floral gift:

1. Sign up for the Sunday you wish to sponsor the flowers on the poster in the courtyard narthex. This poster is the "master list" of sponsorships for the year. Except at Christmas and Easter, we accept one sponsorship per week.
2. Pick up a donation envelope at the back of the church for your gift (cash or checks accepted). On the envelope please note if your flowers are in celebration of a special event, or in memory of someone who is deceased.
3. Place your donation envelope in the offertory plate on Sunday or drop it off at the church office during the week.

We request a donation of \$60 to underwrite the cost of one week's floral arrangements. Donations made during Advent are used for Christmas greens and flowers, while those made during Lent are used for Easter flowers. At Christmas and Easter, we accept multiple donations (as we spend a bit more for flowers and greens to decorate the church then) and we acknowledge all dedications in the service bulletins for those holidays.

Thank you for helping to bring the beauty of God's creation in our worship services each week.

-- *Anne Vitullo, Flower Team captain*

Bedhead Book Group Update

After many stimulating and far-ranging discussions, the book club is taking the summer off. We will reconvene on Sept. 2nd at 9:30 a.m. Ann Latta plans to lead us in a thoughtful discussion of Ann Patchett's *Truth and Beauty*. It is not a new book but a good one from this prolific writer. Join us -- all are welcome at our Zoom meetings on the first Friday of each month from 9:30 to 10:30-ish.

This reusable (save it!) link will get you there:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89275115638?pwd=SHINbms3QUlkQ3VheXFSV2ExdlZ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 892 7511 5638 Passcode: 953651 One tap mobile:

+16699009128,89275115638#,,,,*953651# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,89275115638#,,,,*953651# US (Tacoma)

– *Helen Greenwood, Book Club Chair*

Celebrations: August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

3 Kelly Clarke
 4 Elaine Kriegh
 8 Julie Backlund, David Chu
 9 Doug Ross, Megan Sell
 10 Alexandra Goodyear
 26 Orlia Budge
 31 Bill Harris

Anniversaries:

3 Michael and Bertita Graebner
 26 Randy and Elaine Kriegh
 29 Dora Ho and Pedro Lo
 31 Chris and 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.org

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

Staff

Rev. Daniel Spors, *Rector*
 Naomi Braun, *Acting Music Director*
 Rani Fischer, *Organist*
 Siri Huntoon, *Parish Administrator*
 Angela Sherry, *Bookkeeper*
 Lina Jiang, *Nursery Caregiver*

Vestry

Megan Ancker
 Jon Backlund
 Susan Chan Egan
 Laura Gable, *Junior Warden*
 Irene Lawrence
 Miranda Pinckert
 Joan Sanders
 Sue Sartor, *Senior Warden*
 Nancy Stork, *Clerk*

Altar Guild: Elizabeth Bellock, Elaine Kriegh, Sue Sartor, Anne Vitullo, John Wenstrand

Buildings and Grounds: Miranda Pinckert, Mike Sartor, Richard Zeren

St. Bede's Choir (Returns in September):

Sopranos: Orlia Budge, Catherine Clover, Amy Spencer, (Section Leader), Rani Fischer, Vera Shadle, Nancy Stork
 Altos: Naomi Braun (Section Leader), Dora Ho, Cathleen Josaitis, Kathleen Thompson, Becky Zeren
 Tenors: Chris Brown, Gabriel Ellis (Guest Section Leader), Liza Taft

Basses: David Chu, Joseph Krohlow (Section Leader), Quentin Long

Community Outreach Steering Committee:

Julie Backlund, John Hickson, Sue Sartor, Angela Sherry, Anne Vitullo and Becky Zeren

Finance: Julie Backlund, *Treasurer*;

Randy Kriegh, Irene Lawrence, Hal Louchheim, Jon Poe, Angela Sherry, Michelle Swenson, *Assistant Treasurer*

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