



January 2023 Bede's Journal

The monthly newsletter of St. Bede's Episcopal Church

Happy New Year to all! As we head into January, I am looking forward to preparing for our 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner on **February 4th**. It is sure to be a wonderful time, looking back at the early days of St. Bede's and looking forward to the next 60 years. If you would like to help with the preparations, please talk to me, Megan Ancker or Reverend Dan. The more helpers the merrier!

I am also looking forward to the Annual Meeting on **January 29th**, after our **10:15** service. This is a time to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and consider goals and focus areas for the upcoming year. I am so grateful for all that we put in place this year as we moved out of the depths of the pandemic. I hope you will join us on the **29th** to celebrate our successes. It has been a true pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden these past two years. St. Bede's is a remarkable faith community because of our commitment to collectively do God's work in the world around us.

– Sue Sartor, Senior Warden

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 **Letter from Rev. Dan Spors**
- 3 **Upcoming Events at St. Bede's**
- 3 **Vestry View** Laura Gable
- 4 **Save the Date! St. Bede's 60th Anniversary Party** Sue Sartor
- 4 **Music at St. Bede's** Vic De La Cruz
- 5 **Escrip** Angela Sherry
- 5 **Family Sharing UPDATE** Angela Sherry
- 6 **Trinity School Update** Jon Poe
- 6 **Styrofoam Drive Dropoff** Rani Fischer
- 6 **Bedhead Book Group Update** Helen Greenwood

Letter from Rev. Dan Spors

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'"
Revelation 21:5

Greetings in the Name of Christ,

When I was a child, my family joined with friends of ours to rent hotel rooms on New Year's Eve to celebrate. When we got back to our rooms, we stayed up about an hour longer before the clocks struck midnight, we all shouted Happy New Year's together, and the kids went to bed. Well, unbeknownst to the kids, while we were at the hotel pool some of our parents had gone back to our rooms and set our clocks three hours forward. We had celebrated New Years at 9:00 PM, and our parents were able to put us to bed so they could continue to party without us!

Have you ever thought about what a curious thing it is that we celebrate New Year's Day the way that we do? In this country and others around the world, there are celebrations at the stroke of midnight on January 1st with parties, fireworks, and church bells to ring in the new year. But why? What is so special about a new year that we feel compelled to celebrate?

Perhaps it is that we long for change, and the start of a new year brings hope that change for the better is possible.

The Christmas season, which spans these 12 days between Christmas day and Epiphany, is also a season of celebration. The date for Christmas was set in ancient times to coincide with the lengthening of days and how the earth is symbolically coming out of the darkness and returning to the abundance of summer. It is a celebration of life and hope that was given to us in the incarnation and birth of Christ. We who had been living in darkness have seen a great light; the light is dawning upon us who have been living in the shadow of death.

There is hope out of despair. There is restoration after brokenness. There is life after death. The cute, cuddly baby Jesus is the same person who 33 years later would die, be buried, and rise again so that we may have peace with God and life eternal.

Jesus did not come to deliver us from hardship and pain and suffering, but he came to journey with us through it, and to give us life after this life is over. And because he suffered in this life, he is able to sympathize with us in our suffering, and to give us hope in the midst of our deepest troubles.

So may you find strength and solace in the nearness of God, who has come to us living in darkness, and may you be full of hope in our Lord who is able to make all things new.

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

Dan+

Upcoming Events at St. Bede's

January

- 5 **Buildings & Grounds Committee**, noon, Ford Room
- 6 **Bede's Book Club**, 9:30 a.m., Zoom
- 18 **Pizza Theology**, 6:30 p.m., Lehman
- 24 **Vestry Meeting**, 7 p.m., Ford Room
- 22 **Copy Deadline for February *Bede's Journal***
- 29 **Annual Meeting**, 11:15 a.m., Lehman
- Collage Vocal Ensemble**, 4 p.m., Sanctuary

February

- 2 **Buildings & Grounds Committee**, noon, Ford Room
- 3 **Bede's Book Club**, 9:30 a.m., Zoom
- 4 **St. Bede's 60th Anniversary Dinner**, 5:30 p.m., Lehman
- 15 **Pizza Theology** Lehman
- 28 **Vestry Meeting**, 7 p.m., Ford Room
- 22 **Copy Deadline for March *Bede's Journal***
- 22 **Ash Wednesday Services**, noon and 7:30 p.m.

Vestry View

The following is a summary of the November 2022 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 Laura Gable at lwgable@hotmail.com.

As a retired priest newly returned to our parish, Jane McDougle is responding to the promise she sees in our community by taking on a non-stipendiary leadership role. Starting immediately, she will be Priest Associate in charge of the Godly Play program. Jane is currently training people to be leaders in Godly Play and is hopeful the program will grow.

Vestry approved a three-person task force, chaired by Joan Sanders, to bring forth a proposal for landscaping the main areas around the entrance and frontage on Sand Hill Road. Additionally, in December the Vestry will approve the one-year maintenance plan proposed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and B&G is also exploring the scope of responsibilities for a potential new-hire in maintenance.

— Nancy Stork, Clerk, and Laura Gable, Junior Warden

Save the Date!

St. Bede's 60th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
February 4th, 2023

We hope you will be able to join us for an evening of celebration and remembrances!

Please RSVP [here](#) if you plan to attend.

Invitations will be sent in the New Year.



Music at St. Bedes

Starting in Advent and continuing to Easter, the choir will present various portions of George Frederick Handel's Messiah. Surely, this is a work of which most congregants are at least vaguely familiar. However, some may have never encountered the work in its vast entirety and furthermore, may be unaware of several interesting facts of the piece originally performed in Dublin, Ireland.

The work, which never actually mentions its namesake, is a collection of biblical passages and sacred poetry which indirectly chronicles the birth of the Lord, their eventually death, and the promise of everlasting life created for humanity through their ultimate sacrifice. Unlike most oratorios (a sacred musical genre developed in the Baroque era which showcased staged music and was performed during the Lenten season to fulfill the void of opera which was banned at this time of year), the work contains no actual roles such as Mendelssohn's Elijah which has sung parts for biblical figures such as, well, Elijah. Instead, soloists take on unnamed roles who musically present the biblical poetry chosen by Handel.

Contrary to many modern performances, the original performance of the work had few performers, with the choir seemingly fielded by fewer than 20 singers. This likely changed over time as the work grew in notoriety (it was, after all, Handel's most commonly performed work in his lifetime, spanning many years, an anomaly when most composer's works never saw repeat performances in their lives), creating considerations for ensemble size in modern performance when aiming for authenticity of original intent. Its reoccurrence over time also saw many adaptations to the music as a result of changed forces, notably soloists of fame who Handel reworked music to accommodate their varied voice parts.

This is just the tip of the iceberg regarding the many facets of Handel's Messiah. One might find it to be a treasure trove of trivia worth exploring. After all, the work was composed by a man of German descent who changed the nationality of his own name to reflect his allegiance to the English court, perhaps a sign that one of his most beloved works would be at least equally interesting beyond its musical nature.

-Vic De La Cruz, Music Director

eScrip 2022

It's time to update or sign up for eScrip! eScrip is the best way to raise ongoing funds for St. Bede's Church. By shopping with participating merchants, these merchants pay it forward by contributing funds to St. Bede's. The dollars we receive monthly go directly into our Seccombe Outreach Fund. **eScrip** is very user-friendly by allowing members to list multiple organizations, local schools along with St. Bede's. If you have already signed up, please log in and go to MY eScrip to manage and make sure all your current credit cards are updated, and old cards are removed. If you have not signed up, please create an account by listing St. Bede's as your donating organization. Make sure you've registered any or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards to make earning automatic at more places you shop. You can reach out to Angela Sherry (zzbs@aol.com) if you have any questions or need help.

– Angela Sherry, Community Outreach Steering Committee



Update! Family Sharing and the Ecumenical Hunger Program

Holiday Teen Stockings

It was another stellar year with St. Bede's congregation and the Family Sharing Teen Stocking program. The third Sunday in Advent we all gathered at coffee hour in the Great Hall to fill stockings to donate to

teenagers at the Ecumenical Hunger Program. We created thirty-six stockings and another four were donated by individual families putting together their own version. This year was very lively with various families joining in and writing out Christmas cards to be put in the stockings. Upon arrival to donate, the forty stockings were greeted by EPH with their usual gratitude and enthusiasm. For me, this event is so endearing because St. Bede's brings such energy in helping and filling the hearts of others. Every Outreach event with our congregation seems to be a success, but I think bringing happiness to these well deserving teenagers is a very special event. Much thanks to all that participated this year. – Angela Sherry, Community Outreach Steering Committee



Trinity School Update

The Christmas pageant returned to its in-person celebration, singing of carols and tradition of the 5th Grade enacting the birth of Jesus and God's new hope to the world. As part of Trinity School's ongoing community service, we completed a holiday toy drive and food drive with St. Bede's Church. Ecumenical Hunger reported an all-time high demand for food this past holiday season (see www.ehpcares.org for their success stories and community programs). Thanks to all who donated and helped with transportation. We also achieved our \$510K fundraising goal and hope St. Bede's soon reaches its 2023 fundraising goal. Fingers crossed for 100% school-wide negative COVID tests and a healthy return of everyone on **January 4th**. As they say in my hometown: Mele Kalikimaka!. – *Jon Poe, Trinity School Board of Trustees*

Styrofoam Drive Dropoff

The Styrofoam Drive truck is nearly full! Please drop off your styrofoam at [Ladera Community Church](#), from **January 8-11**. The styrofoam collected will be compressed into bricks for building houses. Ask Rani if you would like more information. – *Rani Fischer, organist*

Bedhead Book Group Update

Bede's Book Club will meet on **Friday, January 6, 2023** at **9:30** via Zoom to conduct a planning session for the New Year including whether or not we will take the summer of 2023 off like we did in 2022. Please bring book suggestions and a willingness to lead discussions. Here is our reusable Zoom link for our Book Club:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89275115638?pwd=SHlNbms3QUlkQ3VheXF5SV2ExdlZ4dz09>

All are welcome.

– *Happy New Year, Helen Greenwood*

Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

4 Rev. Jane McDougle
5 Dora Ho
7 Anne Vitullo
12 Teddy Albert
15 Miranda Pinckert
17 Michael Pellegrin
26 Liza Taft
28 Michelle Swenson
29 Claire Lawrence

ANNIVERSARIES

Did we miss you? Please let the [Parish Office](#) know!

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MENLO PARK

Church Staff

Rector: The Rev. Dan Spors

Priest Associate: The Rev. Jane McDougle

Parish Administrator: Siri Huntoon

Music Director: Vic De La Cruz

Organist: Rani Fischer

Bookkeeper: Angela Sherry

Nursery Caregiver: Lina Jiang

St. Bede's Choir

Sopranos: Orlia Budge, Catherine Clover, Amy Spencer, (Section Leader), Rani Fischer, Vera Shadle, Nancy Stork

Altos: Naomi Braun (Section Leader), Cathleen Josaitis, Dora Ho, Kathleen Thompson, Becky Zeren

Tenors: Mark McNulty, Daniel Rios (Section Leader)

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

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, Ann Poulson, Joan Sanders, Sue Sartor, Anne Vitullo, John Wenstrand

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

Community Outreach Steering Committee:

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

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

Godly Play: Jane McDougle

Hospitality: Kathy Thompson and Anne Vitullo (*Captains*)

Deanery Delegates: Michael Graebner, Irene Lawrence, Laura Gable (*Alternate*)

Trinity School Board Representatives: Jon Poe, Michelle Swenson