

A Celebration of Ministries

Annual Report

28 January 2018



Table of Contents

p. 4 Minutes from 2016 Annual Parish Meeting

p. 5 Nominees for Vestry

p. 6 St. Bede's 2018 Budget

Ministry Reports

p. 7 Committees of the Vestry

Administration: Connie Coralli

Endowment: Tom Vail

Facilities

Grounds: Taylor Graves

Interiors: Barbara Helms & Nancy Ward

Memorial Garden: Cheryl Murphy

Property: Jeff Swoope

Finance: Will Mizell

Resource Development

Communication: Nancy Bruce

Website: Ray Calloway

Stewardship: Cheryl Murphy & Orisha Parsons

Strategic Planning: Jody Klein & Carol Kemker (2018)

p. 11 Worship

Liturgical Ministries: Pat Pickett

Music Ministry: John Whitt

p. 13 Serve

Community Engagement Ministry: Melissa Biegler

English as a Second Language (ESL): Connie Coralli, Claudia Fedarko, Fabio Sotelo

Path to Shine: Anita Montelione

Hospitality Ministry: Nancy Ward

Pastoral Care Ministries: Lynnsay Buehler

p. 15 Grow

Adult Christian Formation: Caroline Magee

Children's Christian Formation: Caroline Magee

Youth Ministries: Beth Cannon

Spirit Led Innovation: Jan Swoope

Julian of Norwich Center: Lynnsay Buehler

Hispanic Ministry: Fabio Sotelo

Invite – Welcome – Connect Ministry: Loretta Vail

Parish Life Ministry

Men of Bede: Jim Helms

Sisters of Bede: Lois Shingler

Mostly Mysteries Book Club: Cathe Echterhoff

St. Bede's Annual Parish Meeting

January 22, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 11:52 am by the Very Rev'd Chad Vaughn. Chad led the opening prayer.

Cathe Echterhoff was appointed as recording clerk of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Candidates for Vestry were presented and approved: John Branan, Laura Martin, Alex Munguía, Orisha Parsons.

Chad shared a Powerpoint, addressing the Purpose and Vision for St. Bede's. The five guiding values of St. Bede's are seeking, inviting, welcoming, serving, and growing.

Chad applauded the committees working to rejuvenate and renew the church building. He recognized Barbara Helms and the Interiors Committee which is starting work on the Mission Wing. Chad noted the changes in the Parish Hall and recognized Eagle Scout Mike Lampros as well as Loretta Vail and the Parish Hall Committee.

Chad spoke of the Liturgical changes to the morning services as well as possible future changes.

Chad stated that the Vestry is pursuing sound systems/amplification for the nave. An acoustical study of the nave and a sound system design by Wayne Lee of Lee Sound Designs have been completed.

Chad recognized the Vestry for their tremendous work on building foundations. He recognized these ministries: Christian Formation; Pastoral Care; Outreach; Social Justice and Just Faith; Property and Grounds; Worship and Music; Resource Development, Stewardship and Finance; Welcome, Evangelism and Communication.

Chad recognized the outgoing Vestry members, Carol Kemker, Molly Seif, Dixie Snider and Pat Pickett and thanked them for their service. Chad also recognized the continuing vestry. Connie Coralli will be the new Senior Warden.

Chad recognized the ministries and service of the clergy and staff, the Rev'd Caroline Magee, the Rev'd Lynnsay Buehler, the Rev'd Fabio Sotelo, the Rev'd Nora Cruz-Diaz, John Whitt, Paula Curl, Beth Cannon, Randy Minor Sr., Raymond Walker, Samantha Burke, Barbara Helms, office volunteers, Taylor Graves, Diocesan Council Lay delegates, and Diocesan Board members.

Senior Warden Pat Pickett expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and do good work for the church.

Junior Warden Dixie Snider thanked Pat and Chad and recognized the repair work of Heriberto Lopez.

For Stewardship, Chad reported that we have pledges of \$404,000 toward a goal of \$410,000 which includes the 5:00 service.

Treasurer Will Mizell stated that for 2016, St. Bede's has a surplus of \$16,000. For 2017, a sabbatical reserve has been added. There will be a 1% cost of living raise for the staff.

The meeting was closed with prayer and adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Submitted by Cathe Echterhoff, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Nominees for Vestry

Stephen Hadler



Stephen Hadler has been a member of St. Bede's since 1985. He has spent most of his life working in public health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from which he is retiring from full time work next month. At St. Bede's, Steve has sung in the choir for almost 30 years. Steve was on the vestry from 2010 through 2012, serving as senior warden during 2012. He also served on the St. Bede's rector search committee in 2004. Steve has mentored in Path to Shine since 2013 and has been active in Men of Bede for many years. He also participated in Habitat Humanity builds with St. Bede's parishioners, and coordinated our participation in the Habitat build in 2014. Steve is married to Claudia Fedarko who is also an active member of St. Bede's, and is the father of two wonderful daughters - Rachel and Amelia - who are married and living in Philadelphia and Cleveland, respectively. Steve is excited about serving on the Vestry to help envision what St. Bede's can do for our parishioner family and community.

Anita Montelione



Anita Montelione has been a member of St Bede's for 30 years. Before retiring she served as a product and project manager for AT&T and managed clinical research for Emory's School of Medicine. Over the years she has served St Bede's in various capacities: Sunday school teacher, Bede counter, discernment committee, lay reader, and currently a member of the Altar Guild and coordinates the Path to Shine program. She has served as a team leader in the Vocare movement and had been active in the Cursillo movement in the Diocese of Atlanta. She is a math tutor and mentor for Dekalb County International School for the past seven years and this past year served on a team with Global Volunteers in St Lucia working with elementary school children. She is the mother of two adult daughters that have grown up at St Bede's as their church home. She is excited to serve on the vestry and be part of the planning for the growth and development of St Bede's.

Veronica Noess



Veronica Noess has been a member of St. Bede's for over 5 years and started attending after her move to Atlanta from Minnesota. She spent the first years of her adult life as an Amy officer, living in Germany, and deployed to Iraq in 2003-2004 before transitioning to her current employment in international transportation for a Children's clothing company. At St. Bede's Veronica has been involved in supporting the Godly Play program and teaching English as a Second Language. In addition to church and work service, Veronica is activity involved in her son's school as the co-president of the PTA. She is married to Steven Noess and they have one child, Victor. Veronica feels that St. Bede's is an extraordinary church and looks forward to serving on the vestry as an additional way of service to both the church and local community.

Jeff Swoope



Jeff has been a member of St. Bede's since 1986. Jeff is an electrical engineer and has spent most of his career working in the engineering consulting and construction business, primarily serving the power, utility and energy market with Amec Foster Wheeler, where he is currently Manager of Projects. While at St. Bede's, Jeff has served on various committees and groups, including Path to Shine, Men of Bede, Building and Grounds, Guitar Guys (as John Whitt calls us), and has previously served as a vestry member. Jeff is married to the lovely Jan Swoope, also a member of St. Bede's. Jeff and Jan are the parents of two grown children, Chris and Amy, and have 3 grandchildren, ages 2 to 13. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys music, hiking, travel and doing home improvement projects. Jeff is excited about serving on the vestry and looks forward to continuing growth at St. Bede's.

St. Bede's 2018 Budget

	Actual 2017	Budget 2018	2018 Budget 2017 Actual
Pledged Income	406,866	415,500	8,634
Non-Pledged Income	48,640	44,000	(4,640)
Special Offering	7,285	8,000	715
Other Income	5,335	5,000	(335)
Church Investment Income	164	100	(64)
Total Revenues	468,290	472,600	4,310
Clergy Compensation & Benefits	199,338	201,548	2,210
Lay Staff Salaries/Tax/WC Ins.	91,713	89,072	(2,641)
Total Personnel	291,051	290,620	(431)
Worship Support	750	1,068	318
Music	4,238	5,080	842
Total Worship	4,988	6,148	1,160
Community Engagement	5,177	10,380	5,203
Hospitality	2,277	2,100	(177)
Total Serve	7,454	12,480	5,026
Christian Formation	4,357	6,350	1,993
Evangelism	117	500	383
Total Grow	4,474	6,850	2,376
Administration	15,274	14,255	(1,019)
Diocesan	45,304	46,273	969
Facilities	28,215	30,632	2,417
Mortgage	25,345	25,345	0
Finance	3,843	3,900	57
Resource Development	1,806	2,500	694
Utilities	29,682	29,531	(151)
Vestry	2,351	2,300	(51)
Total Other	151,820	154,736	(202)
Total Expenses	459,787	470,834	7,929
Net Income (Deficit)	8,503	1,766	(3,619)

Ministry Reports

✠ Committees of the Vestry

Administration Committee

The Administration Committee

- Created job descriptions for the nursery workers
- Updated job descriptions for the Parish Administrator and for the Sexton
- Began work on personnel policies for all Parish Staff
- Updated leave policies
- Will continue to work on updating job descriptions and personnel policies in the upcoming year.

Connie Coralli

Endowment

The end-of-year value of the fund was \$202,025.55, a net increase for the year of \$16,039.12. The Endowment Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, an expenditure of \$8000.00 to help pay for the new lights in the Parish Hall. The committee met four times during the year and resolved several administrative issues regarding the amount of money available to disperse in each year. March 31 is the 2018 deadline to submit requests from the Endowment Fund. Committee members are: Sue Ellen Lampros, Lisa Main, Will Mizell, Fred Murphy, and Tom Vail.

Tom Vail

Facilities — Landscape and Grounds

The Landscape and Grounds Committee oversees the maintenance and improvement of the grounds at St. Bede's. The budget includes a grounds-keeping expense, for a professional lawn service to periodically mow and edge the lawn, and to help with cleaning up leaves in the fall. We take care of everything else. By having a regular schedule of grounds maintenance, we keep the outside of St. Bede's looking good throughout the year. These jobs include: clearing out overgrowth, trying to control the English Ivy, keeping up the established beds, hedge trimming, weed eating, laying down mulch, raking and bagging leaves, picking up trash and downed branches, and maintaining the paths and walkways. This year we acquired new wooden benches for the front entrance patio.

I would like to highlight the activities of 2 people who have provided much service to Landscape and Grounds in 2017, all on their own initiative.

Dixie Snider's expertise in roses is very helpful, because he fertilizes, prunes, and maintains the heritage roses at the church front entrance, as well as the knockout roses in other beds. He also assists in generally cleaning up the planted beds and Memorial Garden area.

Jim Helms has been notably industrious, taking on many outdoor projects.

These include:

- Regularly blows leaves from the parking lots and front entrance area
- Shovels the dirt and grass that accumulates in the corner of the lower parking lot

- Pressure washed the wooden pedestrian bridge
- Put down anti-slip strips on the wooden bridge and stairs on the side entrance to the church
- Repaved and cemented the brick walkway in the Memorial Garden, a tremendous undertaking, after fixing the sinkhole that had developed there
- Pressure washed the church front entrance patio and sidewalk

Thank you to Dixie, Jim, and others who have helped in keeping the outside of St. Bede's attractive and safe.

Taylor Graves, *Chair*

Facilities — Interiors Committee

The Interiors Committee has been hard at work in 2017. We have completed many projects and have started work on several others.

- The Closet Committee has identified all closet/storage space and
 - All items in those spaces were inventoried.
 - Any unwanted items were either donated or discarded.
 - Two closets, the Janitor's closet and the Undercroft closet have been completely cleaned out and reorganized.
 - This reorganization will continue in 2018.
- The Mission Wing has seen some major changes.
 - Both restrooms were remodeled, with all new fixtures.
 - The two rooms at the end of the hall have been combined into one medium room. The remodel also included new lighting, paint, and carpet.
 - Two of the rooms in the mission wing have been painted and one received new lighting.
 - The hallway was also spruced up with new paint and carpet.
 - A new Liturgical Guild & Arts room is in the process.

Please make sure to visit the mission wing and see the changes for yourself.

Mission Wing Restroom



Before



After

- The Parish Hall has new lighting.
- The Master Campus Plan is in the final stages.

Keep your eyes open, because more changes will be coming in 2018.

All of this could not have been completed without the hard-working members that include: Ray Callaway, Julia Dalbom, Claudia Fedarko, Sue Ellen Lampros, Nigel Poland, Lois Shingler, Jeff Swoope and Loretta Vail. If you see any of them be sure to give them a big thank you.

Barbara Helms and Nancy Ward, *Co-Chairs*

Facilities — Memorial Garden

The Memorial Garden received the most wonderful gift of time, talent and faithful labor from our own Jim Helms. Prompted by the development of a sinkhole adjacent to the side stairway, Jim proceeded to take up the existing bricks and fill in and reposition them. The repair led Jim to complete the renovation of the entire upper tier walkway and it looks fantastic! Please thank Jim at every opportunity for taking on this project.

Plans are still in the works for landscape beautification, easier access and the updating of written materials pertaining to our Memorial Garden.

Cheryl Murphy

Facilities — Property

It has been a good year for St. Bede's as far as property and facility maintenance go. We have had no major issues and all systems have functioned well. Maybe a slight knock on wood is required here or "thanks be to God!" This year our vestry put into place an annual maintenance and cleaning contract for the roof which should help us keep roof leaks from recurring. We have made some improvements to outdoor lighting at the entrances to provide enhanced safety and security. Jim Helms has completely rebuilt the brick walkways in the Memorial Garden area to make that space more accessible. We completed the update of the Parish Hall lighting with new energy saving LED fixtures that provide greatly improved and more flexible lighting for the multiple uses that occur there. Humidity control in the undercroft area has eliminated the musty odor and has made that space much more useable. And lastly (but certainly not least), the Mission Wing improvements including new bathrooms, carpet, paint and rework of the rooms provide us with additional useable space for meetings and other parish activities.

Jeff Swoope

Resource Development — Communication and Website

St. Bede's has several communication elements: weekly email, web site, Sunday bulletin announcements, and Facebook page. These tools seem to work quite well.

Our team is working on two projects this year:

1. A redesign of our web site.
 - a. The team has met several times and are evaluating several software companies.
2. Implementing an app for smart phones that interfaces to our church software. This will enable our members to look up other members and phone, message, or email directly from the app. Also, by clicking on the address a map will come up with driving directions.

We are an informal group and are open to suggestions to improve our church-wide communications.

Nancy Bruce

Resource Development — Stewardship

Good Hearts, Good Harvest

*“And the seeds that fell on the good soil
represent honest, good-hearted people
who hear God’s word, cling to it,
and patiently produce a huge harvest.
(New Living Translation)*

The annual fall stewardship campaign for the budget year 2018 commenced on October 29, with the theme *Good Hearts, Good Harvest*. Once again, we are grateful for the creative talent of John Whitt. John helped with the logo design and the welcoming banner inviting us to consider the Good Hearts at St. Bede’s and the Good Harvests we have shared for over 55 years together. Inspired by Rev. Claiborne Jones and nurtured by Rev. Chad Vaughn and our committee the theme encouraged us to reflect on the seeds sown in abundance over the years and the faithful hearts of all our parishioners for the ministries that have taken root and mirrored the God in each and every one as we serve the parish and community.

As of January 22, we have received 104 pledges totaling \$414,000. Thank you all so much! If you have not yet made a pledge of financial support to St. Bede’s for 2017, we would love to hear from you.

On Sunday, October 29, 2017 we celebrated the start of our three-week campaign with a moving sermon from parishioner Taylor Graves. Taylor shared that his 10 years of tending the grounds at St. Bede’s have not only transformed our overgrown property to well-kept areas of gardens, paths and bridges, but how that faithful service helped shape him as he traveled along his personal spiritual journey. His connection to the earth on the outside and to the youth program within our doors captured this year’s theme so wonderfully. His story highlighted that as our Good Hearts serve others Good Harvest follows.

Following the service, we gathered for a parish lunch. Thanks to Jean Tate we enjoyed a special meal catered by Zoe’s Kitchen. Chad roused our appetites with a video presentation and pledge packets were distributed. Each packet contained a heart shaped seed packet and bags of St. Bede’s soil were given out with the encouragement to plant your seeds and imagine what new harvests might be in store for the future! Packets were mailed to those unable to attend the luncheon.

Thank you to Jim Handsfield for sharing his personal story during the campaign. Thanks also to Orisha Parsons for joining the committee this year. We look forward to developing a long term and year-round model to incorporate stewardship as a guiding concept as we do ministry throughout the seasons.

The Stewardship materials were translated into Spanish and the Rev’d Fabio Sotelo led our 4:00pm congregation in their campaign. It is indeed amazing to witness *All the Good Hearts producing Good Harvest* as we seek, through our generous giving, to support our church, each other, and the wider community. The seeds of Gods generosity are abundant beyond our imaginations!

As always, thank you to everyone for your generosity to St. Bede’s in 2017! Again, if you have not yet made your pledge for 2018 it is never too late. Please contact Chad, Cheryl, or Orisha for a pledge packet or to ask any questions.

Cheryl Murphy, *Stewardship Co-Chair*
Orisha Parsons, *Stewardship Co-Chair*

✠ Worship

Liturgical Ministries

- Would you like to use your voice to enhance our wonderful choir?
- Would you be willing to bake bread for our Eucharist?
- Is your gift reading aloud?
- Would you like to serve a chalice?
- Could you take the time to help with the Altar preparations and cleanup?
- Would your children enjoy serving as acolytes?
- Would you like to help usher during services?

Members of the various liturgical ministries have the opportunity to serve God and St. Bede's and also get to know their co-workers on a personal level. These ministries strive to enhance the liturgical experience for the congregation by consulting with the clergy and providing support for the liturgy. If you are looking for a way to become more involved at St. Bede's, please consider joining one or more of these ministries – many just need your help one Sunday a month. Among these groups are:

Acolytes – Julie Mizell willandjulie@mindspring.com

Altar Guild – Jean Tate atlantatate@mac.com

Bread Guild – Jody Klein jodyheidi@gmail.com

Flower Guild – Nancy Ward nlbward@comcast.com

Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers – Pat Pickett pat103pic@aol.com

Choir/Instrumentalists – John Whitt organist@mindspring.com

Ushers – Will Mizell willmizell@wafflehouse.com

New members are always welcome – please contact the chairperson of the group and they will train you and put you to work!!

Pat Pickett

Music Ministry

*How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!*

— Fred Pratt Green

The Hymnal 1982, #420

Music plays an active and ongoing role in the liturgical life of St. Bede's, and I am thankful for the continuing support of the people at St. Bede's. It is a moment of grace when as musicians, we learn that we have touched someone's spirit in the rendering of an anthem, hymn or piece of instrumental music.

I repeat my annual appeal for more participation in musical opportunities at St. Bede's:

- The St. Bede Choir (adults and advanced high schoolers)
- The St. Bede Choristers (3rd grade and up, boys with unchanged voices and girls through high school). This past year we have unfortunately not had enough children to field a full time Choristers' program, but we continue to plan for the future.
- Instrumental support for Christian Education and Children's Church (guitarists and others, occasional main liturgy participation as the need or desire arises)

The choir is open to anyone at any time. Simply talk to Mr. Whitt or any choir member about becoming part of our music program. We are a supportive community within a community and have a good and rewarding time together preparing for worship at St. Bede's.

The choir is in particular need of new members. This past year has seen some work conflicts and health issues put a few of our faithful members on the sidelines. While we pray that this is all temporary, we're also aware that a vital ensemble such as ours must see the occasional infusion of new blood. All musicians and those with an interest in music are welcome, regardless of previous experience. Ability to read music is helpful, but not mandatory. Ask any of our current membership! If you have instrumental experience but haven't sung, you may be a better singer than you think. If you've ever sung in a choir, in school or church, consider joining ours. We want to get to know you and welcome you into our community.

If you're not a singer, but perhaps play an instrument, please speak to Mr. Whitt and make yourself known. We don't know who you are if you don't tell us!

Musical participation at St. Bede's offers many benefits:

- It is a way to experience a caring community within the larger community
- Choir explores the history and function of the music we sing, which helps to deepen its meaning and significance of its place in worship
- Choir provides an opportunity for leadership and participation in worship life and the opportunity to deepen the meaning of worship for others
- It's leadership and service rolled into one package
- It's fun. We enjoy each other's company and laugh a lot.
- And finally, we sing occasionally.

There have also been recent scientific studies pointing to the benefits of music to one's life in general, and particularly choral music, including:

- reducing stress and improving mood
- lowering blood pressure and improving breathing
- reducing perceived pain and improving the immune system
- improving your sense of rhythm
- promoting communal bonding and forging lasting memories
- providing a sense of motivation, empowerment, and well-being

Music as Outreach

Discussions are ongoing, and plans are being considered for how St. Bede's may use music and the arts to offer back to the community and attract community interest on several levels, including but not limited to:

- sponsoring concerts, including organ recitals
- providing a space for rehearsal and performance by outside organizations or individuals
- practice opportunities for organ students on one of the city's more unique instruments
- artist/ensemble-in-residence or internship opportunities

Interesting ideas and thoughts along these lines are welcome. Please talk to John Whitt if you have anything you wish to share about this. Musical offerings and opportunities for both in-reach and out-reach will hopefully also become a part of the strategic planning process.

Yours faithfully,

John J. Whitt, *Organist & Choirmaster*
organist@mindspring.com

✠ Serve

Community Engagement Ministry

The Community Engagement Ministry has been in exploration mode this year. We've discussed the on-going and historical ministries of the parish, as well as opportunities noted by committee members. On this front, our primary activity this year has been helping to plan and organize adult education opportunities that reflect this exploration. The series is expected to continue into the spring. We hope that this will lead us to a robust discussion about how we are called to engage with our community, and where our resources might best be focused. In addition, many good folks at St. Bede's have continued to lead and participate in engagement with a variety of ministries to and with the community.

Melissa Biegler

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The English as a Second Language program began in January 2013. During that first semester we had approximately 20 students who registered and attended classes. We have now finished our fifth full year of classes, and we had over 60 registered students in 2017. Our annual Christmas party to celebrate the end of the semester was held on Thursday, December 7th with 88 people (students, partners, and children) in attendance. We continue to offer three (and sometimes four) levels of English. In the fall of 2017 we offered a new day and time for class at the request of several students who felt uncomfortable driving to St. Bede's in the evening. We now offer a beginning class on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30.

Given the current political climate regarding immigration, we have endeavored to provide a safe and supportive environment for our students. We have offered several opportunities for them to hear from experts about immigration issues. We have also begun to work with individual students to help them get passports for their children, etc.

This program follows guidelines mandated by the Episcopal Church and its safe practices policies (Safeguarding God's Children). We have two regular paid childcare workers for Tuesday and Thursday evening classes, and two student workers, both of whom are bilingual.

Our program has been blessed with volunteers and financial support from within and outside of our St. Bede's community. The teachers and co-directors are all volunteers. Donations, large and small, combine with budgeted funds from the church to make this work possible.

Connie Coralli
Claudia Fedarko
Fabio Sotelo

Path to Shine

Path to Shine is in its fifth year at St Bede's. The program serves children in elementary school assisting them in academic work, exposing them to the holidays and customs celebrated in the US, and to cultural and sporting events through field trips. When a child appears to have difficulty in a subject we are in communication with their teacher to serve as an advocate with the parent for additional testing. The program has a potential of doubling its size however we are limited by the number of adult that volunteer as the maximum ratio is 2 children per adult. This year we have 13 children in the program with an equal number on the waitlist.

Anita Montelione

Hospitality Ministry

Welcoming hospitality continues to be an integral part of our parish life at St. Bede's. Throughout the year, the committee has organized and hosted many occasions. A few highlights were: celebrations on Feast Days – Easter Day reception, Pentecost picnic; meals/refreshments for special services and events – Annual Parish Meeting, Maundy Thursday, Rally Day, 20th Anniversary of the Nave, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Las Posadas; and receptions to honor the work and lives of parishioners and clergy - A set of kitchen use guidelines is being refined along with the re-organization of the storage space for supplies and equipment. Many hands have helped with the work needed to provide for our many fellowship activities and all the wonderful helpers are thanked for their faithful commitment to our ministry.

Nancy Ward
nlbward@comcast.net

Pastoral Care Ministries

The members of the Pastoral Care Team of St. Bede's continue to offer caring, compassionate acts of service to and presence with members of the parish as they become aware that a member of our community is experiencing a time of transition, illness, surgery, loss, grief, addiction or a time of celebration such as a birth of a new member of the family or a graduation. This loving ministry is offered through:

Share the Care, overseen by Laura Martin, which continues to provide home-cooked and/or take-out meals as well as other support in times of need.

Prayer Shawl Ministry, guided by Cheryl Murphy, which continues to create, bless and enfold parishioners at poignant moments in their journey. In the past year, shawls were given to our graduating seniors, as well to many people experiencing their own illness or the illness of a spouse, the loss of a job, the death of a loved one, or a move.

Caregiver Support Group, convened by Barbie Olsen, which continues to gather to offer support for those who currently have or at some time have had significant responsibilities providing care for a person in their life.

Daughters of the King, led by Nina Daniel, which offers our parish the ministry of praying daily for all those we have asked the church to include in the weekly prayer list. The Daughters also serve Emmaus House on our behalf through the making of sandwiches at each of their meetings.

Eucharistic Visitors, overseen by Carol Kemker, which continues to provide home or hospital-bound parishioners with the Eucharist as well as the comfort of the presence of a caring visitor. Junior Abraham, Jim Handsfield, and Barbie Olsen received training this year to join the other Eucharistic Visitors of the parish. Again, this past Easter and Advent, the EV's also served the ones they visited by delivering flower arrangements created by the Flower Guild.

St. Bede's Scribes, Claudia Fedarko and Ray Callaway continue to write handwritten notes to members of our community at times of celebration—a birth or adoption or a wedding—as well as at times of grieving a death of a loved one.

The Pastoral Care Team sponsored a **Pastoral Care 101 Workshop** for the parish on April 8th. The Rev. Martha S. Wright, Chaplain, Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor and Pastoral Educator led the workshop which was attended by team members, several parishioners and friends of the parish.

All these ministries are described in greater detail in the Pastoral Care Ministry brochure which may be found in the Commons area as well as on the St. Bede's website.

The Rev'd Lynnsay Buehler

Adult Christian Formation

What an amazing year of learning in 2017...and we're already feeling the Spirit during our adult formation "hour-ish" (from 9:45a until like 30 seconds before the 10:45 service...we never want to leave!). The Rev'd Lynnsay Buehler and the Rev'd Caroline Magee were excited to plan our 2017 offerings. Highlights included: Dr. Catherine Meeks, a national leader of the Episcopal Church in healing racism; our own Vilma, sharing her story of coming to the U.S. from El Salvador; art & the parables with Dr. David Gowler; our own Lisa Main & Harrison Fair sharing the blessings and challenges of the transgender journey; conversations with the Rev'd Lynnsay Buehler about grief, contemplation, and how to have difficult conversations; and the Rev'd Claiborne Jones' continuing series on being Episcopalian (all levels of experience welcome). In 2018, we hope to develop an advisory team from our St. Bede's community to help design and schedule our formation time. Your ideas are always welcome!

The Rev'd Caroline Magee

Children's Christian Formation

We've continued our intentional nurturing of our youngest worshippers and their formation program. During spring 2017, we benefited from a series of conversations among the children's formation leaders about how best to structure our teaching. To align with today's child development patterns, we now offer Godly Play for preschool through first grade and then shift to discussion-based education for second - through fifth-grade students. The members of our amazing Children and Youth Formation Committee, after SEVEN YEARS of enthusiastic and creative service, helped us transition to exploring a less committee-dependent structure for children's formation. We worked with Ellen Mintzmeier, a children's formation consultant, on simple ways to integrate children's gifts into our church life in new ways – stay tuned! Our volunteer teachers continue their deep attention to helping our children connect their own stories to the story of God in scripture and encouraging our young people to express and respect themselves in all aspects of their lives. THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of the adults who support our children's formation. We're better able to come to Jesus as little children if our little children can show us the way!

The Rev'd Caroline Magee

Youth Ministries

The Christian Formation Council Youth Program coordinates Christian programs for youth ages 11-18 years. The purpose of the Youth program is to guide the young people of our parish grades 6th- 12th as they journey through their teen years. We do so by helping and encouraging them to develop their own individual relationships with God, themselves, and our community as a whole. Our youth participate in the Journey to Adulthood program, which includes the Rite-13, J2A and Young Adults in Church (YAC) classes. On a weekly basis our young people participate in the J2A program (Sunday School), worship, and youth group.

The Sunday School Teachers as of September 2017

Young Adults in Church (YAC – 10th-12th grades) – Cheryl Murphy, Fred Murphy and Julie Mizell
Journey to Adulthood – (J2A – 8th-9th grades) – Taylor Graves and Jan Swoope
Rite 13 (R-13 – 6th-7th grades) – Julia Dalbom, Jordan Yaeger, Bo Bancroft

Youth Group/Program Highlights of 2017:

- January – MLK Service project in Decatur

- **February** – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Labyrinth Walk with Lynnsay
- **March** –Hunger Walk to benefit the Atlanta Community Food Bank
- **April** – Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt
- **May** – Youth Liturgy, Senior Homilies provided throughout the months of May & June
- **June** – Pilgrimage 2017 thru the Southwest. Beginning in Salt Lake City we traveled to Bryce Canyon, Horseshoe Bend, Lower Antelope Canyon, Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Santa Fe, NM and finally Albuquerque, NM.
- **August** – Youth Group Kick off - planning meeting for fall
- **September** – Youth Kick-Off – Group planning meeting and beginning of Sunday School
- **October** – Low Country Boil Fundraiser for pilgrimage and scholarship funds
- **November** –Emmaus House Fill the Bag Challenge, Honey Baked Ham gift cards sales began, Game Day
- **December** – Christmas tree and wreath delivery day and Honey Baked Ham gift cards sales continued

Beth Cannon, *Director of Youth Ministries*

Spirit-led Innovation Team

Prior to Pentecost, 2017 (one-year after its formation), the Spirit-led Innovation Team reaffirmed its commitment to exploring ways to “find God in the neighborhood” by “being Church”.

Here are some of the innovative opportunities embarked upon last year.

- The Taizé service, organized by Muriel Diguette and Tommie Thompson, offers the community another spiritual worship experience on the first Sunday evening of each month. It is held in the Parish Hall where a labyrinth walk is offered for those attending.
- Muriel also began a women’s Interfaith Book Club with the Almadiyya Muslim Community of Norcross. They meet monthly, rotating between St. Bede’s and the mosque, and explore a variety of literature offerings.
- Several team members, Muriel Diguette, Carol Kemker, Jimmy Tate and Jan Swoope gave brief “Innovation Moment” talks during the summer and early fall during the worship service.
- The innovation team headed up plans for the Nave Anniversary Celebration on October 1, 2017. Jan wrote a brief six-part series, “Nave’s Nuggets”, about the history of the building and its furnishings. At the event, there were photographic displays of both the church and organ construction. Former rector, the Rev’d John J. Porter, gave the homily, reflecting on the design and construction of the nave. Also attending was former rector, the Rev’d Milton Murray. Most of the hymns and readings were from the actual dedication on Sept. 14, 1997. Nancy Ward and the hospitality committee organized a lovely reception.
- The big innovative opportunity was the Outdoor Worship Experience at Medlock Park on Sunday, October 22. The liturgy and logistics were planned by Carol Kemker, assisted by the Rev’d Caroline Magee. This experience was highlighted by a variety of readings, followed by reflections in small groups. Holy Eucharist in the outdoors concluded the worship. There are hopes for more optional worship opportunities in 2018.

Thanks to Spirit-led Innovation Team members, Muriel Diguette, Carol Kemker, Laura Martin, Veronica Noess, and Jimmy Tate for their insight, wisdom and spirit!

Jan Swoope

The Julian of Norwich Center

57 individuals seen for **Spiritual Direction**

39 Episcopalians: 7 from St. Bede's; 32 from 14 other parishes in the Diocese of Atlanta,
2 in Tennessee, 1 in Alabama
18 from other denominations: United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic,
Disciples of Christ, Cooperative Baptist, Non-denominational
45 women, 12 men

12 people served through the **Contemplative Living/Centering Prayer Group**

11 members in 2016-2017
11 returning from last year in 2017-2018
1 new member, 2017-2018
9 Episcopalians: 4 from St. Bede's; 4 from 4 other parishes; 1 searching
3 from other denominations: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, African Methodist Episcopal
12 women, 0 men

10 people served through the **Education for Ministry (EfM) Group**

9 members in 2016-2017
9 returning from last year in 2017-2018 and
1 new member, 2017-2018
7 Episcopalians: 4 from St. Bede's; 3 from 2 other parishes
3 from other denominations or religions: Presbyterian, African Methodist Episcopal, Hindu
8 women, 2 men

69 people served through five **Quiet Days** offered through the Center:

Lenten, 3/4; EfM, 4/29; SCHC, 5/6; SCHC, 10/14; Advent, 12/2
56 Episcopalians: 14 from St. Bede's; 10 from 5 other parishes
13 from other denominations or religions: Roman Catholic, African Methodist Episcopal,
Presbyterian, United Methodist, Searching, Hindu
63 women, 6 men

115 people served through **Offerings in other locations:**

Teaching new Heads of Staff, Presbyterian, Atlanta Presbytery, 5/4
Leading Enneagram Workshop/Consultation, staff of N. Decatur United Methodist Church, 10/28
Leading Quiet Day, The Cathedral of St. Andrew, Jackson, MS, 11/4
Teaching Adult Formation, The Cathedral of St. Andrew, 11/5
Serving as Chaplain, The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, 2017-May 2018
(a national Episcopal Women's Prayer Group)

St. Bede's parish served: **four Popcorn Theology gatherings** serving 85; **working with Pastoral Care Team;**
working with Caroline Magee to design and to offer **Adult Formation classes, teaching 5 classes;** participating in
the liturgical life of the parish.

Many served through providing referrals to spiritual directors, retreat centers, spiritual direction training
programs, peer supervision groups and therapists.

The Rev'd Lynnsay Buehler, *Director, The Julian of Norwich Center*

Ministry Report from the San Beda Service in Spanish

I am pleased to report that our Latino community of St. Bede's is doing very well. Our number of families is increasing and there is a deeper sense of commitment in time, talent, and treasure in our members. This year Alex Munguía was elected as vestry member to represent this part of St. Bede's community.

In numbers, we had 35 baptisms, 50 confirmations, and 6 weddings. It was very remarkable that the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe brought to the celebration over 200 people, and the feast of the Epiphany 310 people.

To respond to the crisis in immigration in United States, St. Bede's has become very active in helping people who are being affected by the new measures adopted by the new administration. A great number of parishioners got involved in several projects including visiting detainees in Steward Detention Center, collecting items for deportees, attending court sessions for immigrants, participating in different forums, writing letters supporting immigrants, and attending listening sessions to be more informed on what is going on. To help immigrant families, we have brought immigration attorneys, and organizations that assist people to get to know their rights and develop a plan of emergency. We opened an emergency fund for immigrants and refugees who are suffering the consequences of deportations; through this fund we have been able to help several people particularly mothers. At the Diocesan level St. Bede's is considered number one in ministering to immigrants.

We thank God, Fr. Chad, the vestry and each one of our parishioners that are bringing our ministry to a good and solid ground.

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo, *Hispanic Missioner and Priest Associate*

Invite - Welcome – Connect Ministry

The Invite-Welcome-Connect Team is doing well with the welcoming portion of this call to service. There is a strong body of greeters at the door for the 8:15 and 10:45 am services. A huge thank you to those who stand at the door to welcome all to St. Bede's by giving directions and answering questions to newcomers and noting if they are visitors. They are Junior Abraham, Helen Ackall, Connie Aylor, Nancy Bruce, Eve Doolittle, Jim Handsfield, Anita Maloof, Anita Montelione, Pat and Hollis Pickett, Donareen Oakley, and Loretta Vail. A loaf of banana bread is offered to visitors to express our thanks for worshipping and breaking bread with us at St. Bede's. This act seems to be well received by our visitors. Suzanne Shipiro and Loretta Vail are the bakers. Would you like to bake a small loaf of bread? We need more bakers!

A welcoming luncheon is being considered in the near future for our recent newcomers.

Plans are being made to more fully develop the Invite and Connect portions of this ministry. The team will attend a meeting at All Saints' on February 3 to learn more about how to do this.

Loretta Vail

Parish Life Ministry — Men of Bede

The Men of Bede (MOB) is an organization of men that is built around helping, assisting and service. We welcome men from all age groups to join us in fellowship and camaraderie. We come together as a group monthly for breakfast at the Northlake Old Hickory House. We are a no-guilt group with an informal organization and we always show up with helping hands when the need arises.

Some of the MOB activities in 2017 included assisting with renovation improvements in the mission wing area; helping with the annual parish picnic; moving furniture around the church; helping set up for events at the church, changing lights and minor repairs when needed; and outside grounds maintenance and clean up. When called upon, we also come together to help out and assist our fellow parishioners with their personal needs.

We enjoy our time together and we seek to actively welcome and include new members. When a call goes out for assistance, all you have to do is show up when you can.

Jim Helms

Parish Life Ministry — Sisters of Bede

The Sisters of Bede were busy in 2017.

- We continued our Bunco tradition, with new members joining us throughout the year. At our Christmas Bunco get together we voted to send the extra money that we collected at Bunco over the year to Foster DFCS Secret Santa Program recommended by Clark Howard. Anyone interested in joining the Bunco gatherings, let Lois Shingler know.
- Our Mother's Day Tea was beautiful and well attended. With the help of our Men of Bede servers and all those who baked and prepared goodies, we raised \$3,750.00.
- We sponsored a Casserole Sale that included a "Cook Off" to determine which casseroles we would make and sell, and a day of putting those casseroles together. The sale was well received and we made a profit of \$1,000.00, learning along the way what to do, and not to do, next year.
- Once again, we held our Advent Bake Sale and Holiday Decoration Market. We sold pesto, made from our own garden grown basil, and with all the homemade goodies made by so many in the Parish, we made a profit of \$1,055.00.
- With members of the Vestry we started sponsoring Game Night and have made it a regular event.
- With the money we raised this year we purchased white boards for ESL classes, bought wooden frames and supplies for our garden and contributed to the Easter Egg Hunt charities.
- We continue to disburse funds raised through BB&B, paying for much of the work done in the Mission Wing and the Parish Hall.

In 2018 we will continue to look for fun things to do together and to raise funds together. Anyone with ideas for social or fundraising events let Lois Shingler know. All women of St. Bede's are members and are invited to attend all functions!

Lois Shingler

Parish Life Ministry — Mostly Mysteries Book Club

St. Bede's Mostly Mysteries Book Club meets once a month on the 4th Monday of each month. We meet at someone's house or at a restaurant. We read mostly mysteries.

In 2017, we read 11 books (9 mysteries, 2 non-mysteries) picked by the book club attendees. We read some favorite authors like Ann Cleves and William Kent Krueger and read some new authors like Margaret Coel. Our favorite books of the year were The Midwife of Hope River and Ordinary Grace.

We miss our former members and hope they are reading along with us.

Cathe Echterhoff

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

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