

A Celebration of Ministries

Annual Report
26 January 2020



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St. Bede's Annual Parish Meeting - January 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order by the Very Rev'd Chad Vaughn at 11:53 a.m. Chad led the opening prayer.

Amanda Vaughn was appointed clerk of the Annual Parish Meeting.

The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Candidates for vestry presented and approved: Issa Ackell, Lisa Main, Julie Mizell, Erica Valdez

Comments from Wardens

Connie Coralli: thanked the parish for her time on vestry and as senior warden, she's been blessed by relationships made. She expressed her appreciation for facilities improvement, women's retreat, growth of ESL/immigration and social justice, CAT survey, listening sessions, coming Bede Plan, joining together more the English and Spanish speaking members of the St. Bede's community, outreach projects, and the Invite, Welcome, Connect initiatives. Chad thanked Connie for her vestry service.

Laura Martin will be senior warden 2019

Envisioning St. Bede's Update – Jody Klien and Carol Kempker

Jody – Thanked the parish for participating in survey. They formed committee to dig deeper over meals and conversations. The foundation is strong, we've done the work and are ready to envision how we want to grow and know who we are. There is a copy of report in Annual Report booklet that will be used to help formulate plan. There will be listening sessions in March and April of 2018.

Carol – Thanked the parish and explained that it was an extraordinary experience. St. Bede's is poised for more. If anyone has questions, please ask Carol Jody or Connie. Next step is to develop the Bede Plan – who do we want to be more of and actions on how to get there. The Bede Plan Committee is Connie Coralli, Carol Kemker, Rob Townes, and Chad Vaughn. Thanks to Nancy Ward for providing meals for listening sessions.

Stewardship Update – Muriel Diguette reported (Cheryl Murphy, Orisha Parsons, and Martha Padron shared in leadership)

John Whitt designed logo. We kicked off the English language campaign on November 4 with Greater Good BBQ luncheon after church. The Spanish language campaign kicked off with a stewardship dinner on Nov. 11 that Orisha helped organize with Martha Padron. Stewardship stories were shared during church on Sundays that followed. The 2019 pledge goal was \$440,000. As of January 20 \$433,320 had been pledged by 115 people. This included 17 new pledges totaling \$22,000 and 45 pledge increases totaling \$26,000 – for a total of \$48,000 in new or increased pledges.

Treasurer's report – Will Mizell

We ended 2018 with an operating surplus of \$33,000. Non-pledged income was significantly higher than budgeted – even though we budget for it but are conservative.

Expenses mostly tracked to the budget, some were slightly over (unanticipated plumbing repairs and new bookkeeper expense), some were under (electricity, personnel). The surplus will be reserved in a "Surplus Reserve Fund". The Vestry can use these funds for projects or as a cushion for next year.

Balance sheet – Our mortgage was refinanced in 2016 with a loan from the Diocese of Atlanta – it is a conventional 15 year mortgage at 3% interest. The current balance is \$191,000 and it is on schedule to be paid off in full by 2030 – although accelerated debt reduction payments to the principal are always welcome.

Water Bill – DeKalb county did not bill us for water for almost 2 years. We began getting bills again 4 months ago. We had been reserving funds to pay for the water usage while the billing was not occurring.

We currently have \$13,000 in reserve for capital improvements/maintenance. We reserve \$8,000 per year from the budget to this fund.

Budget for 2019: \$503,000 revenues, \$501,000 expenses – thanks to Chad for keeping balanced budget, non-pledged income conservative \$50,000 (received \$61,000 2018). Expenses up \$28,000 – restructure staff (bookkeeper, Parish Admin is overtime exempt part-time position, facilities/HVAC upkeep, and a portion of the children’s minister position will be added to budget each year for the next three years as the endowment will provide support for the balance of the position for three years).

Will Mizell also reported on the Endowment Committee: Sue Ellen, Lisa Main, Fred Murphy, Tom Vail, Will Mizell (chair) and Pat Pickett, Lisa secretary – 3-year commitment to children min - \$6,000, now \$8,000, then \$4,000, then out. The endowment stands at \$189,000. The 5% draw on the trailing average allows us to use up to around \$8,000 per year for ministry projects. Our Endowment is managed as part of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta Common Fund.

Rector’s Comments

Chad thanked Tom Vail for his leadership of the endowment committee.

Chad thanked the off going vestry members – Jody Klein, Cheryl Murphy, Lois Shingler, and Connie Coralli.

Chad thanked the continuing vestry members: Laura Martin, John Branan, Steve Hadler, Alex Mungia, Anita Montelione, Veronica Noess, Orisha Parsons, and Jeff Swoope. He also recognized and thanked Tyler Busch - Youth Representative, Will Mizell - Treasurer, George Shingler Chancellor, and Cathie Eckterhoff - Clerk (along with Nancy Ward who serves as our back-up Clerk). Chad thanked and recognized the Parish Staff, Office Volunteers, and Ministry Leaders. He also recognized our delegates to Diocesan Council – Nina Daniel, Molly Graves, Lois Shingler, and John Branan.

Chad celebrated the work of the Envisioning St. Bede’s Team and thanked them for their vision and leadership. He also recognized the great work of the Facilities and Interiors Committees. We celebrated a great year of continued improvements – particularly in the Mission Wing where we received a grant of \$19,000 grant from Episcopal Community Foundation to support the continued success of the ESL program in that space.

Staff changes:

Caroline Magee has asked to reduce her weekly time commitment to St. Bede’s to 12 hours per week as she continues to work bi-vocationally as an attorney. Paula Curl, our long time parish administrator, retired in December 2018. Amanda Vaughn has begun serving as the interim parish administrator while the process to find a new permanent parish administrator will begin in the Spring. Alyssa Sali was appointed as the Dir of Children & Family Ministries, while Beth Cannon has taken on the new title Dir of Youth and Family Ministries.

We are excited to finally be transitioning from the Envisioning process to generating the Bede Plan (strategic plan for St. Bede’s) which will help guide the future growth and success of St. Bede’s.

Over the 20 years since our “new” Nave was built, some plans never came to fruition and temporary compromises stayed in place. Jan Swoope and Pat Pickett talked about nave enhancements, that would fulfill original intentions that were not completed because of financial limitations at the time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Nominees for Vestry



Nancy Bruce

I have been a member of St. Bede's since the early '80s. I have served on the vestry twice, once when John Porter was rector and once when Janice Chalaron was rector. I am currently involved in the following committees: greeter, Bede counter, reader, Bible Study group, Net Food Pantry and have been active in the Sisters of Bede projects. I have also served as an usher. I am retired and, in addition to St. Bede's, I volunteer in NICU at Scottish Rite. For enjoyment and recreation I play ALTA tennis, walk/jog, do jigsaw puzzles, solve Sudoku, and read. I look forward to taking on a leadership role in our parish.



Molly Graves

Molly Graves, a life-long Episcopalian, has been a member of St. Bede's since 2001. Soon after, Molly became a Sunday school teacher and joined the team that brought Godly Play to St. Bede's. Over the years, ministry to the young children of our parish has been very important to Molly. She has taught Godly Play, co-chaired the Children and Youth Ministries Committee, and coordinated VBS. In addition to hanging out with the kids in the Godly Play room, Molly enjoys occasional outings with the Youth Group and regularly learning and growing with the adults in Bible, Books and Banter, the Wednesday evening Bible Study group, and the Just Faith group. On the Diocesan level, Molly has represented St. Bede's numerous times as a delegate to Annual Council, most recently in November 2019. Currently, Molly volunteers as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor and with the ESL

Children's program. Molly has been married to the wonderful Dr. Taylor Graves for over 30 years, and they have two college-aged children, Reyn and Anna. Having previously been on the vestry from 2009-2011, Molly is excited to join a strong vestry that is committed to discerning God's vision for St. Bede's and using our resources faithfully to build a strong future together.



Sebastian Barahona Ramirez

I am Sebastian Enrique Barahona Ramirez and I have been a part of the St. Bede's church community since the end of 2017. I was born in Santiago, Chile and a month later moved to Puerto Rico and live there for 8 years and then moved here to Atlanta in 1992. My background has been mainly in automotive and just recently in the past 2 1/2 years have a primary job in the sales and technical support team at Drillco Tools, Inc. in Atlanta, GA, which deals with the mining industry. I am also starting up my own luxury car rental/rent-to-own business along with many aspects related to automotive. I graduated Parkview High School in 2004 and I am currently attending Gwinnett Technical College to graduate with my Automotive Technology Degree and going back in the Summer/Fall for my Business Degree with a concentration in Logistics. I have a brother who is 3 years younger

than I. I have no children at the present moment, but do intend to one day with my lovely girlfriend Ashley Ortega. We both belong to this same church community along with the ministry classes CETLA and I was helping Ashley for some time with the children's Catechism at St. Bede's with the children in elementary school. I'd like to join the vestry as I figured my input on a lot of aspects of the church and new ideas can help bring about more members, planned activities, and further enhance the services in English and Spanish with Padre Fabio Sotelo.



Judah Sali

Judah Sali and his family moved to Atlanta in 2017 after living in Mexico for ten years. He joined St Bede's and was received into the Episcopal church in 2018. Judah is an usher and teaches ESL and afternoon confirmation classes. He has served on the Envisioning St. Bede and Bede Plan committees and also enjoys chopping down the occasional English Ivy. Judah is married to Alyssa. They have two teenagers: Lane and Ashley.

2020 Budget Summary

	<u>Budget 2019</u>	<u>Actual 2019</u>	<i>Actual 2019 vs. Budget 2019</i>	<u>Budget 2020</u>	<i>Actual 2019 vs. Budget 2020</i>
Pledged Income	435,000	418,126	(16,874)	445,000	26,874
Non-Pledged Income	50,000	88,051	38,051	60,000	(28,051)
Special Offering	9,000	5,057	(3,943)	5,000	(57)
Other Income	9,000	13,855	4,855	10,000	(3,855)
Church Investment Income	<u>100</u>	<u>488</u>	<u>388</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>(188)</u>
Total Revenues	503,100	525,577	22,477	520,300	(5,277)
Clergy Compensation	192,635	189,492	(3,143)	187,106	(2,387)
Lay Staff Salaries/Tax/WC Ins.	<u>99,297</u>	<u>100,989</u>	<u>1,692</u>	<u>105,751</u>	<u>4,762</u>
Total Personnel	291,932	290,481	(1,451)	292,856	2,375
Worship Support	1,068	698	(370)	1,068	370
Music	5,730	4,671	(1,059)	5,730	1,059
Total Worship	6,798	5,369	(1,429)	6,798	1,429
Community Support	10,380	9,975	(405)	18,339	8,364
Hospitality	2,800	2,443	(357)	3,050	607
Total Serve	13,180	12,418	(762)	21,389	8,971
Christian Formation	7,225	4,868	(2,357)	10,940	6,072
Evangelism	1,000	512	(488)	1,000	488
Total Grow	8,225	5,380	(2,845)	11,940	6,560
Administration	15,396	17,331	1,935	15,746	(1,585)
Diocesan	46,943	46,823	(120)	48,805	1,982
Facilities	35,919	40,978	5,059	36,015	(4,963)
Mortgage	25,345	25,345	0	25,345	(0)
Finance	16,700	16,420	(280)	19,200	2,780
Resource Development	3,000	2,543	(457)	2,500	(43)
Utilities	29,111	33,400	4,289	31,994	(1,406)
Vestry	3,200	4,533	<u>1,333</u>	3,200	(1,333)
Total Other	175,614	187,374	11,760	182,805	(4,569)
Total Expenses	495,749	501,023	5,274	515,788	14,765
Net Income (Deficit)	7,351	24,554	17,203	4,512	(20,042)

Review of 2019 Actual Financials

We ended the year with a **\$24,554 surplus**. The primary reason for the surplus is that actual revenues were \$22,477 greater than budgeted. Expenses a little over budget by \$5,274.

Highlights of the **Revenue section** (\$22,477 greater than budget):

- Pledge collections of \$418,126 were \$16,874 less than budgeted
- Non-Pledge Income of \$88,051 was \$38,051 greater than budgeted
- Christmas and Easter Offerings of \$5,057 was \$3,943 less than budgeted
- Other Income of \$13,855 was \$4,855 greater than budgeted driven by Building Use and Quinceañera Fees

Highlights of **Expense section** (\$5,274 over budget):

- Clergy Compensation was \$3,143 under budget driven by Caroline's transition to Priest Associate
- Administration expenses were \$2,085 over budget driven by higher than expected supplies, copier expenses, and upgrades during the Parish Administrator transition.
- Facility expenses were \$5,059 over budget driven by restroom, plumbing, and pest control repairs
- Utility Expenses were \$4,289 over budget driven by the cooler winter and higher rates for electricity.

Items of note from the **Balance Sheet and Funds**:

- Diocesan Loan – In January 2016 we borrowed \$275,000 from the Diocese to pay off the mortgage from UCB. The Diocesan Loan is a 15 year, 3% interest loan and will be paid off no later than December of 2030 (earlier with further principal reduction gifts). The current balance is \$175,855.
- Bentley Loan - In January 2016 we also borrowed \$30,000 from ourselves (i.e. the Bentley Fund) to pay off the mortgage from UCB. The terms of the loan are the same as the Diocesan Loan so we are paying ourselves interest at 3%. The current balance is \$15,670.
- There is a Water Bill Payable amount of \$1,576 for which we accrued for \$150/month when Dekalb County was not billing us for services. Dekalb started billing in the latter half of 2018 so we'll keep the funds on the Balance Sheet through 2019 in case Dekalb "back-bills" us for services. At the end of 2019, we'll probably credit the Annual Surplus Fund any amounts leftover.
- There's \$12,844 in the Capital Improvement & Replacement Fund as we have accrue \$667/month (\$8,004/year) to have a "set aside" fund for large capital maintenance expenses, i.e. major roof work, replacement of HVAC units, etc.
- The Annual Surplus/Loss Fund currently has a balance of \$16,368. From time to time the Vestry may decide to fund projects using this fund or elect to keep it to absorb potential year-end losses.
- The current balance of the Bentley Fund is \$67,578.
- Over time we have accrued \$7,220 in the Organ Maintenance Fund in anticipation of future major maintenance on the organ.

Review of 2020 Budget

The budget has a **\$4,512 surplus**.

Here's a summary of the **Revenue** budget assumptions/issues:

- Budgeting **\$520,300 in revenues** (actual revenues were \$525,577 in 2019)
- Assuming \$445,000 in pledges based on good results from campaign. That's up from last year's budget of \$435,000 and last year's actuals of \$418,126.
- Conservatively projecting \$60,000 in Non-Pledged Income, the actual was \$88,051 last year on a budget of \$50,000.
- Projecting \$10,000 in Other Income conservatively anticipating less Building Use and Quinceañera Fees.

Here's a summary of highlights or significant changes of **Expenses**:

- **Budgeted expenses are \$515,788** compared to last year's actual expenses of \$502,364.
- Personnel costs for Clergy and Staff include a 2% "cost of living" raises and respective 2020 health insurance rates.
- The position of "Associate Rector" is no longer budgeted at this time as Caroline Magee has transitioned to Priest Associate.
- Children's Ministry was added in 2018:
 - In 2018, the Endowment funded \$6,000 which was implemented half way through the year
 - In 2019, the Endowment funded \$8,000
 - In 2020, the Endowment will fund \$4,000, which means the budget will be the remaining \$8,240 (\$4,000 higher than 2019)
 - In 2021, the budget will fund 100% of the Children's Ministry program
- Community Support (Outreach) budget is \$18,339 which is an increase \$7,959 driven by budget increases for:
 - Funding for the ESL Program has increased by adding the two paid part-time positions of ESL Program Coordinator and ESL Children's Program Coordinator. These two positions are part-time (4-5 hours per week) and will seek partial funding for the first three years from the Endowment (in a similar way that the position of Director of Children and Family Ministries position was launched).
 - Greater financial support of ministry partners in the community, diocese, and world.
 - Support for Theological Education (new) for \$1,000.
- Christian Formation Budget increases to \$10,940 which is an increase of \$3,715 driven by \$1,090 more in Children's Formation, \$1,800 more in J2A, and \$800 for the Women's Retreat.
- Diocesan Pledge increases by \$1,862 to \$47,845.
- Audit Expenses increases by \$2,800 to \$6,000 due to the Diocesan requirement for a more detailed since revenues are more than \$500,000.
- Budgeted Utilities increase by \$2,883 to adjust for gas and electricity costs.

Ministry Reports

✠ Committees of the Vestry

Administration Committee

The administration committee was involved in the following personnel changes in 2019:

- Amanda Vaught completed her temporary tenure with us as Parish Administrator early in the summer. Amanda served aptly in this position, instituting some new and needed systems and organizational processes. This was a good interim solution for our Parish and her input was greatly appreciated.
- Muriel Diguette accepted the role of permanent St. Bede's Parish Administrator in June and she has quickly gotten up to speed in her new position. The office is running very smoothly and we feel very fortunate to have her experience and skills in this role.
- Randy Minor resigned from his long-term tenure with us to enjoy family and retirement time. We celebrated with him as he and his wife joined us for a reception following Sunday services on his last week.
- Jerry Simmons accepted the role of Custodian following Randy's retirement and quickly took over keeping our interior spaces clear and ready for services and all the activities that take place within our walls. We are grateful to have him.
- A new position of ESL coordinator was created to support one of our largest community engagement efforts. Erica Valdes accepted that position, working on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, to assist the students and teachers.
- The Children's Program that serves the ESL students on Thursday and Thursday nights was expanded and proved to be unexpectedly popular demonstrating a need that had gone unrealized and one which exceeded the wonderful volunteer army that serves these children. Beth Cannon expanded her hours to coordinate that program and she is assisted by a dedicated group of volunteers.
- Caroline Magee continues her bi-vocational ministry with us, but in a new capacity as Priest Associate. In this new role she will be with us on Sundays and at other celebrations, but will not have administrative, pastoral, or programmatic duties on the staff.

Connie Coralli

Endowment

The end-of-year value of the fund was \$209,323.20, a net increase for the year of \$20,045.36 due to market gains.

The Endowment Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved, an expenditure of \$8,000 to pay for 2/3 of the Children's Ministry program. The committee has also approved funding for the program of \$4,000 in 2020. The maximum amount that can be spent from the Endowment in 2020 is \$10,005. The focus for 2020 is Parish education and content development for the "Morning Star Society."

The committee met four times during the year. The Committee members for 2019 were: Sue Ellen Lampros, Lisa Main (Secretary), Will Mizell (Chair), Fred Murphy, and Pat Pickett. For 2020, all 5 will remain on the Committee. Lisa Main rolls off after 2020.

Will Mizell

Facilities — Property

The Facilities Committee meets on a regular basis to address ongoing needs. The committee includes the Memorial Garden committee (Dixie Snyder), Building / Property (Jim Helms and Jeff Swoope), Grounds (Taylor Graves), and Interiors committee (Barbara Helms and Nancy Ward). The group schedules and organizes parish-wide workdays on a quarterly basis to address landscaping work and interior tasks that need attention. Also, they are routinely involved with our contractors for various plumbing, electrical and mechanical issues and assist the parish in managing and budgeting for that work.

In 2019, the Committee completed several major capital improvements to the facilities and grounds. Those improvements include:

- Completion of landscaping and upgrades to the Memorial Garden area (see Dixie Snider's report included with this Annual Report)
- The upper and Lower Parking lots were repaired, resealed and restriped.

Further improvements and / or facility repairs for the year have included:

- Upgrading of existing lighting in several areas with LED lighting
- Various HVAC repairs and replacement of one unit in the Mission Wing
- Cleanout and inspection of the Kitchen grease trap
- Repairs to sanitary drain lines
- New toilets in the Mission Wing
- Pest control outdoor sealing of the building and structures

The Facility Committee is also actively involved with the ongoing Campus Master Planning effort discussed in a separate section of this report.

Jeff Swoope, *chair, Facility Committee*

Jim Helms, *chair, Property*

Facilities — Interiors Committee

The Interiors Committee has undertaken and completed several projects in 2019. We are also in the process of preparing a list of new objectives for 2020.

Parish Hall

The walls in the parish hall received a much-needed new coat of paint.

Front Office

Our Directors of Youth & Children Ministries have been moved to new offices in room C102.

The furniture in the front office has been rearranged boosting the welcoming appearance of the front office.

The office workroom has been cleaned and all the supplies organized.

Closets

The closet across from The Julian of Norwich center has been cleaned out and all the paperwork from that closet is now organized and store in the closet next to room M110. This closet is now being utilized by our Directors of Youth & Children Ministers.

The shelving in the closet next to M110 has been adjusted to better utilize the storage space.

Commons

The Commons have two new matching trashcans.

There are also two new umbrella stands by the front door to contain all the wet umbrellas on those rainy days.

There is a new “Connect Center” on the wall next to the kitchen. The slat wall system neatly contains all announcements, bulletins and other communique in one place. Beneath the slat wall is a shelving system to handle all our donations and collections in a central location.

Mission Wing

The renovation of the Mission Wing is nearing completion. Room M108 has received new flooring, paint and furnishings. This has created a lovely space for quiet reflection. A very special piece of furniture in this room is the worn drop leaf table that was in the commons. Jeff Swoop refinished the table back to its former glory and it now looks incredible.

The hollow core doors have been replaced with solid wood doors, new handles and locks. This assists with quietening the noise from the hallway and other rooms.

Rooms M101 & M104 walls and ceilings have been painted.

A floor mat was added in front of the door coming in from the upper parking lot. This helps to keep the new carpet clean.

The small office area in the back of the Mission Wing and the adjoining hallway has been cleaned out. This room has been repurposed to host a community music school.

Barbara Helms and Nancy Ward, *Co-Chairs*

Facilities — Landscape and Grounds

The Parish Work Days were the highlight of the Landscape and Grounds activities this past year. We had 4 very successful work days in 2019:

March 9, 2019 - Creek cleaning, removing ivy from trees, hedge trimming.

June 1, 2019 - Pruning azaleas in the Memorial Garden.

July 20, 2019 - Playground clean-up. This was our best attended event and by all ages!

November 9, 2019 - chopping down dead trees, pruning and general grounds improvement.

I would like to give special acknowledgement to the following people:

- Judah Sali and Steve Hadler, for clearing English Ivy from a large number of trees on the grounds.
- Jim Helms, who on his own is constantly doing grounds maintenance, keeping the parking lots and paths free of leaves, etc.
- Dixie Snider, who prunes and maintains our roses in the planted beds.

Taylor Graves, Chair

Memorial Garden

2019 saw significant changes and improvements to the Memorial Garden. Jim Helms spent considerable time on the brick walkways. They had become uneven due to weather and roots. So he leveled them and made other improvements. Last spring on a workday, a group of volunteers pruned back the azaleas in the garden area. They had become overgrown, i.e., they were thick and 10-13 feet tall in many places. Now that they are pruned, it will be easier to care for them or any new plantings in the area.

The most visible change to the Memorial Garden in 2019 was the creation of a new, attractive landscaped and hardscaped area for interment of cremated ash remains of parishioners or their families. The work was done by Curl Landscapes which is owned and operated by Dave Curl, a fellow Episcopalian from St. Bart's. Although the completion of the work was somewhat stymied by unexpected plumbing work and the need to combat invasive plants, everyone agrees it was well worth the investment.

The Memorial Garden Committee has completed a draft brochure about the Garden and a set of draft policies and procedures for its operation for action by the vestry. However, the Garden has already been used successfully for interments. Although work on the Garden is virtually complete, additional enhancements may be possible in the spring.

Arrangements for the interment of ash remains may be made by completing and signing the application form provided by the parish office. A fee of \$400.00 is payable to St. Bede's Episcopal Church. This fee covers interment, purchase of a nameplate, and perpetual care of the Memorial Garden.

Dixie Snider

Resource Development —Stewardship



St. Bede's annual stewardship campaign for the 2020 budget year kicked off on All Saints Sunday, November 3, 2019. Our theme this year was "Blessed to be a Blessing," based on God's words to Abraham in Genesis 12:2. The logo for the campaign was beautifully designed by John Whitt. The campaign kicked off with a parish-wide luncheon organized by the capable hands of Nancy Ward, Cheryl Murphy, and Orisha Parsons, and catered by Greater Good BBQ. 2020 Stewardship Committee Chair Colin Brown was this year's speaker for the lunch. He shared his own journey with stewardship, as well as the ways in which he has experienced St. Bede's as a blessing during his time here.

In addition to the luncheon and letters to the congregation from Colin and Chad, several members of St. Bede's graciously agreed to speak at the 8:00 and 10:45 services, sharing the ways in which the St.

Bede's community has blessed them in their lives. Thanks so much to Drew Spires, Lois Shingler, Ron and Connie Aylor, Orisha Parsons, John Whitt, and Claude Oakley for sharing your inspiring stories.

Our 2020 pledge goal is \$460,000. To date, we have received eighty-nine pledges, for a total of \$418,000. Of these, there are thirteen new pledges totaling \$36,760. In addition, forty-four families increased their pledges. These increases, combined with the new pledges, give us a total new income of \$54,540! There are still several folks who pledged last year from whom we have not (yet) heard this year, and if everyone who pledged last year who hasn't pledged yet this year responds at their 2019 rate, we will well exceed our 2020 pledge goal. Remember, it's never too late to turn in a pledge card!

Thanks so much to all of you for your faithful generosity. It is because of you that St. Bede's continues to be a blessing to its parishioners, its community, and its diocese.

God's peace,

The Rev. Colin Brown, Orisha Parsons, and Cheryl Murphy

✠ 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 and Misty Dumas-Patterson

Altar Guild – Jean Tate

Bread Guild – Jody Klein

Flower Guild – Nancy Ward

Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers – Lisa Main

Choir/Instrumentalists – John Whitt

Ushers – Will Mizell

We have been blessed to have had Pat Pickett as the coordinator for our liturgical ministries for many years. This year, while she continues to serve on her own Sunday team, she has handed over the ministry of general liturgical ministry coordination to Lisa Main.

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

Lisa Main

Music Ministry

There for ever and for ever alleluia is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken is the feast day of the Lord
all is pure and all is holy that within thy walls is stored

— 15th century Latin hymn

The Hymnal 1982, #622

Music plays an active and ongoing role in the liturgical life of St. Bede's, and we are fortunate to have the support of the people at St. Bede's for that music on every vital level, instrumental, choral, and congregational. 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.

The choir is happy to have welcomed a number of new singers this past year, and there is always room for more. The choir is open to anyone at any. Ability to read music is helpful, but not mandatory. Simply talk to John 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.

If you're not a singer, but perhaps play an instrument, 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 now and then, we learn some music.

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
- we also provide a musical outreach to the community by hosting a community music school.

Yours faithfully,

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

✠ Serve

Community Engagement Committee

In 2019, disbursements were made in the following amounts in support of ministry partners in the local community, the Diocese of Atlanta, and more broadly in the world:

Emmaus House (General Support)	\$500
Emmaus House (Thanksgiving at Home)	\$800
Grant Park Health Clinic	\$500
Church of the Common Ground	\$500
Holy Comforter Episcopal Church	\$500
The Net Food Pantry	\$300
Nicholas House	\$500
El Refugio (Program)	\$500
El Refugio travel assistance	\$100
Tutu Desk Tops Project in Africa	\$500
Easter Egg Hunt Designations	\$200

The ESL Program rounds out our Outreach spending:

ESL Program	\$1,500
ESL Support	\$2,880
ESL Children's Program	\$900
Total Outreach Designations	\$10,180

Report on the School Lunch Outreach Program

This past summer the Community Engagement Committee discussed making the issue of hunger the theme for this year. One of the ideas that came out of this theme was to teach our children and youth about hungry children in our midst. We asked the children and youth to do chores and raise money to pay off school lunch debt at the nearest elementary school, Henderson Mill. A total of \$1,459.00 was raised thanks to the children, parish members and an anonymous donor who more than doubled the original contribution. Not only did we pay off the carry over debt from the 2018 – 2019 school year for both Henderson Mill and Hawthorne Elementary, we also paid off first semester debts for Henderson Mill, Hawthorne and Evansdale Elementary schools, disbursing a total of \$1271.85 and leaving a balance of \$187.15 in the School Lunch Outreach Fund. Our plan is to have another fundraising event during Lent so that these schools can finish the year in the black, and every child who needs a complete lunch will receive a complete lunch.

Claudia Fedarko & Alyssa Sali

English as a Second Language (ESL)

The English as a Second Language program began in January 2013 and is beginning its 7th year. Registration has grown from 20 students initially to 60+ students. We continue to teach 4 levels during two evening classes and one daytime class. It serves the valuable function of improving students' abilities to communicate in English and it is rewarding to see students progressively become more proficient.

In addition to English class we offer a nursery for ages birth – 4 years and a newly expanded childcare program for ages K-5th grade. This new program, in which children get homework assistance, play games and develop a relationship with an adult, has been very popular and clearly serves an unexpected and important role.

The adult and children's programs function with almost 30 volunteer teachers and coordinators, about half of whom are from St. Bede's with members from all three Sunday services assisting in this program. Other teachers come from the surrounding community, usually by way of word of mouth. This year we added two paid employees: an ESL assistant to assist with administrative functions and a coordinator for the children's program. We continue to have two regular paid childcare workers for Tuesday and Thursday evening classes.

In 2019 we used the \$19,000 grant received in 2018 from Episcopal Community Foundation (ECF) to remodel and furnish spaces used by the program. The classrooms used by ESL have been painted, carpeted, and furnished with tables and chairs which can remain in the Mission Wing greatly facilitating classes. All the doors in the Mission Wing have been replaced with solid core wooden doors. The nursery got a wonderful facelift. These changes have made teaching easier and the learning spaces much more inviting and conducive to learning. This work is completed and we are very grateful to ECF for making this possible. As all of these classrooms are multifunction, so everyone using the Mission Wing will enjoy and benefit from these changes.

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

Claudia Fedarko & Connie Coralli
Co-coordinators

The Rev. Fabio Sotelo
Priest Associate & Hispanic Missioner

Hospitality Ministry

St. Bede's has a long tradition of celebrating feast days and special occasions by joining together for a meal or reception. Many gatherings were held in 2019: Annual meeting lunch; Holy Week receptions; Pentecost picnic; VBS suppers; Virgin of Guadalupe fiesta – to name a few. There were also a number of receptions held in thanksgiving and remembrance of special parishioners. This was a year for some work on the operation of our much used kitchen. Basic kitchen use guidelines were developed; purchase of supplies was coordinated with the Latina hospitality team; storage space was reorganized to designate cabinets for the Youth, Latina, and Sisters of Bede ministries. Maintenance of some appliances was completed: the large oven was repaired; ice maker was cleaned; vent hood was inspected; grease trap was cleaned out and inspected; tablecloths were replaced. Thanks to all who have helped with the many tasks needed for our Hospitality Ministry activities.

Nancy Ward

Pastoral Care Ministries

The members of the Pastoral Care Team of St. Bede's continue to generously 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 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 Jim Handsfield and Cindy Huston, which continues to provide home-cooked and/or take-out soup or casseroles 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 as 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.

Daughters of the King, led by Nina Daniel, which offers our parish the ministry of daily prayer for all those who have asked the church to include them on 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, which continues to provide home or hospital-bound parishioners with the Eucharist as well as the comfort of the presence of a caring visitor. Orisha Parsons 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 visit by delivering flower arrangements created by the Flower Guild.

St. Bede's Scribes, Claudia Fedarko and Ray Callaway continue to write thoughtful, pastoral handwritten notes to members of our community at times of celebration—a birth or adoption or a wedding—as well as at times of grief when a member of our parish is mourning a death of a loved one.

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, *Priest Associate*

✠ Grow

Strategic Plan for St. Bede's AKA "The Bede Plan"

St. Bede's began a strategic planning process in 2018 starting with the Church Assessment Tool (CAT survey). Since that time numerous listening sessions were held to collect more detailed information about the hopes and dreams of St. Bede's. A committee consisting of Carol Kemker, Rob Townes and Connie Coralli was appointed to collate that information and glean what goals were most important to our Parish. Later additional members were added to the planning committee: Jeff Swoope, Will Mizell, Judah Sali & Jan Swoope.

From the large amount of information collected, the following goals & strategies were identified as priority for St. Bede's and these were approved by the Vestry as areas on which we are committed to moving forward:

- To be a growing & thriving Church that empowers and encourages Christian maturity
 - Eliminate debt to free up funding for programs.
 - Examine and expand endowment funds for long term support of mission and programs (Music, Community Engagement, Special Programs (Theological speakers, Community events, Evangelism/Communications, Unrestricted/Most Urgent Needs
 - Increase diversity in music
 - Foster ongoing connections & common interests
 - Communications
- To cultivate disciples who bear Christ into the world and who also seek-out where God is already active in our neighborhood and through our neighbors
 - Intentionally engage & energize the Parish and community in outreach
 - Organize St. Bede's Community Engagement efforts around specific areas
- To be committed to stewardship of all the gifts we have received from God
 - Develop a cohesive facility plan for the grounds and building taking into account function, beauty & communication.
 - Seek a conservation minded partner to share in the development and conservation of a portion of our land. The conservation and development goals include:
 - Protection of the watershed
 - Connectivity with the surrounding community
 - Outdoor space for fellowship and worship.
- Model within the Diocese of Atlanta for being an inclusive parish that is committed to welcoming and serving all of its community
 - Multicultural worship
 - Intentionally developing and supporting opportunities for multicultural service together
 - Provide opportunities for developing relationships between the English and Spanish speaking parishioners
 - As followers of Christ – welcoming people regardless of race, gender identity, age, culture, ethnicity, sexual orientation, education, economic circumstances, family configuration, or physical ability. We believe Jesus the Christ to be the incarnation of God's love – the God who is reconciling and offering hospitality to the whole world. Communicate the unique attributes of welcoming all that St Bede's is known for to the parish and community. Intentionally showing ourselves to others.

Where are we with these goals & strategies?

The planning committee and Vestry always envisioned that other ministries or specially appointed tasks forward would develop and implement the actions for each of these strategies. The Bede Plan Group has started some efforts, but we need **YOU** to lead or participate in one of these if we are to be successful.

Master Campus Planning

Developing a Campus Master Plan was felt to be the first priority (although work on all these can move forward simultaneously); to this end, Jeff Swoope agreed to head up this group. Other members are

Dixie Snider, Jan Swoope, Orisha Parsons, Jim & Barbara Helms, Connie Coralli, Carol Kemker, Laura Martin and Chad Vaughn. A local architect with lots of church experience, Randy Young has been hired to design the Master Campus plan and he has had an initial meeting with the committee. The goal is to have a design in place by April. Stay tuned.

Communications

A revitalized communication ministry has met and is developing plans for improved communication both internal and external. This group is under the direction of Will Mizell and he is joined by Leslie Joiner, Cheryl Murphy, Sam Cannon, Sylvia Abraham, Ray Calloway, Muriel Diguette and Connie Coralli. Two projects to this end are currently underway. The first is to post photos and stories of various members on our website so that we can show visitors to the site what wonderful and diverse people constitute St. Bede's. Three members have already been interviewed for this (and Jim Hansfield will be the photographer for this project). The second project, also for the website to show more of St. Bede's, are short videos (3 minutes) illustrating some of our programs. This project will begin soon and ESL will be the first program included.

Increased diversity in Music

John Whitt, Chad Vaught and Connie Coralli have been working on this area. Ideas that rose to the top from the strategic planning CAT survey and listening sessions include:

- Ongoing addition of various styles of music in worship
- Inviting a Jazz mass group to a Sunday morning service
- Incorporating other instruments, particularly those of our own members, in worship
- Increased involvement of children & youth
- Identification of resources for a children & youth music program
- The addition of musical opportunities outside of worship such as a concert series

We are currently looking for a group of people to work with John on these ideas. Please let John, Chad or Connie know if you are interested.

Model Inclusivity

- A group of Spanish and English speaking parishioners from all three services, the Íntegro Group, has met several times to discuss multicultural worship, opportunities for multicultural service together and how to develop opportunities for relationships between these communities. We are looking for two people to co-chair this group so if you're interested please let Chad or Fabio know
- Also identified as a desire was to be more visibly supporting and welcoming of LGBTQ members. Judah Sali has agreed to head up this group and he will be getting together with parishioners/families of LGBTQ members to discuss how best to do this.

This report is not intended to convey everything that is currently happening with the Bede Plan, it only presents snippets of where there has been the most activity so far. There is more. **What part can you plan in implementing the plan for the future of St. Bede's?**

Connie Coralli

Adult Christian Formation

Attention and time are among our most precious resources. The many formation offerings at St. Bede's offer a range of styles and opportunities for us to give our attention and time to God and to one another in the way of Jesus. We kicked off 2019 with the series, "Living our Liturgy", imagining how worship forms us and shapes us for mission. During Lent we explored "letting go", including renunciation mediation with Dana Goldman (MS, NCC, LPC), letting go of pretty much everything to follow a vocational call with now-Deacon Colin Brown, letting go of relationships through divorce with Rev. Caroline Magee, and letting go of youth with Rev. Lynnsay Buehler; communication and listening with our resident life coach, Jody Klein; conversations on gender and spirituality with Lisa Main and Alyssa Sali; and thoughts on creation care with Carol Kemker. We also enjoyed a number of discussions of scriptural texts including texts of terror and genocide and parables of Jesus. We at St. Bede's continue to express interest in studying scripture and the Episcopal tradition as well as studying the scriptures and traditions of different faiths and we also enjoy conversation and practices about theology a part of everyday life. Outside of the Sunday morning classroom hour, formation continues with visual displays such as the altar of remembrance for Dia de los Muertos, experiences of where God reveals herself through film in the ongoing Popcorn Theology series, and through small group experiences such as Wednesday night bible study, trips to El Refugio at the Stewart immigration detention center, and the Just Faith study group for close attention to Christian teaching and justice in the world. We are always eager to hear what you are curious about – please let any of the clergy or Junior Abraham know if there are topics you would like to explore or teach/facilitate in Christian formation. If you are interested, you are likely not the only one!

The Rev'd Caroline Magee, *Priest Associate*

Children's Christian Formation

It has been my privilege in my first full year as the Director of Children's and Family Ministries to continue to partner with dedicated volunteers (seasoned and new), staff members, families, and parishoners to offer our children opportunities to explore and expand their spirituality and experience the love of God through the love of their church community. Thank you to all who value and nurture the little ones who lead us.

Ongoing:

Nursery/childcare:

- Sunday mornings, birth to 3 yrs old (Christine Lanier, Dee Aycock)
- ESL Classes on Tuesday/Thursday evenings
 - Christine, Dee, Luz Zúñiga, and volunteers took care of all children (spring) and the under 5 crowd (fall)
 - Anita Montelione transitioned Path to Shine resources into a wonderful homework support/childcare program for elementary aged children of ESL students, handing off her responsibilities to Beth Cannon and volunteers as the program went into full swing.
- Sunday formation classes--
 - *Godly Play for children ages 3 through 2nd grade*

Godly Play is intended to help children become more fully aware of God's presence in their lives through a form of teaching that uses stories, handmade materials, and the imagination of the

children. In Godly Play, children experience our Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - and then reflect on these through play.

(Teachers: 9:30 am, Molly Graves, Jean Tate, Junior Abraham, Nancy Waring, Maggie Kottke (fall), Samantha Cannon (spring); 5pm “Children’s church”, Junior Abraham, Orisha Parsons)

- *9:30 am Intermediate class for 2nd/3rd through 5th/6th grade*

The Intermediate had a curriculum update this fall. Living the Good News follows the lectionary, helping these older children connect on a deeper level to the readings they will hear in church. This also allows for kids who just drop in or who attend less regularly to never feel behind or out of the loop. The curriculum includes art, story, writing, and many other ways to enter into the scripture lessons.

(Teachers: Nancy Ward, Terry Cannon, Jim Helms)

- *4pm Elementary Class (First Communion)*

Primarily attended by children whose families wish to celebrate first communion, the class this year expanded to include Godly Play stories along with the traditional, themed lessons (prayer, baptism, etc.).

(Teachers: Ashley Ortega and Sebastian Barahona, Junior Abraham, Alma Maldonado)

- *Intergenerational Worship*

Children--with all their movement and noises--are welcome at St. Bede’s, whether they are on the rug in the “Pray Ground” or in other seats in the Nave. Our hope is that intergenerational worship helps children develop their identity as part of a community that worships God, and that the rhythms of our worship will bring our children peace many years from now. This year, with the help of generous shoppers, we added quiet toys, drawing supplies, lap/kneeling desks, and a breastfeeding pillow to the soft space. (Teachers: All of us)

Annual highlights:

- Burying and resurrecting the Alleluias (beginning and end of Lent)
- Easter Egg Hunt (Easter Morning) supporting Nicholas House, Trevor Project, and Stand Up for Kids
- Festive liturgy led by the children and youth to mark the end of the Sunday School year
- Second annual All-Ages, Bilingual Vacation Bible School--dinner, activities, teaching and celebration in a multi-generational, bilingual, lay-led, week long event. Thanks again to Jody Klein and his robust crew of volunteers.
- August Rally Day and Teacher Commissioning, with “Peace be upon you” backpack tags, and a child-led collection for paying off lunch debts at our neighborhood schools
- Intergenerational Morning formation events: Labor Day Thank You notes to workers in our lives, Pride Sunday banner making, Godly Play for all ages, and Advent Wreath Workshop
- Bilingual Guadalupe Pageant, with youth and children acting and dancing
- Las Posadas bilingual eucharist, followed by the decorating of the tree by our children
- Baby Jesus Baskets project to collect baby supplies for new mothers in need
- Celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas with a special visitor, treats, and take-home cards
- English-language Christmas Pageant held at 4pm on Christmas Eve with reception afterwards
- Spanish-language Christmas Pageant held at 7pm on Christmas Eve
- Christmas party for children who attend the 5pm service, with gifts for each child

Alyssa Sali, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*

Youth Ministries

The youth program of St. Bede's serves the young people of our parish between the ages 11-18 years and their families. The purpose of the Youth program is to guide young people between the grades 6th-12th as they journey through their teen years and into adulthood. We believe we are all on a long life journey of questioning, exploring and discovering together. We strive to invite, inspire and affirm mindfulness, faithfulness and equip young people in their lives and communities. We utilize the Journey to Adulthood program for our Sunday school curriculum, which includes the Rite-13, J2A and Young Adults in Church (YAC) classes. On a typical week our young people have the opportunity to engage in the life of the church thru Sunday school, worship, youth group, fellowship and stewardship.

The Sunday School Teachers for the 2019-2020 school year are:

Young Adults in Church (YAC – 11th-12th grades) –Taylor Graves, Cheryl Murphy, Fred Murphy and Julie Mizell

Journey to Adulthood – (J2A – 9th-10th grades) – Beth Cannon and Bo Bancroft

Rite 13 (R-13 – 7th-8th grades) – Samantha Cannon and Julia Dalbom

Youth Group/Program Highlights of 2019:

- **January** –Ice Skating, Rite-13 Dinner honoring the members of our Rite 13 class, Urban Adventure with the J2A class, MLK Service Day
- **February** – Bump and Run Game Day, Journey to The National Center for Civil and Human Rights and The Varsity, Hunger Walk to benefit the Atlanta Community Food Bank
- **March** – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Visit the Depung Loseling Monastery
- Grounds Day, Lock-In/Out
- **April** – Participating in the Taize Service and Walking of the Labyrinth, Stuffing of the Easter eggs, Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt,
- **May** – End of the Year Party, Youth Liturgy, Senior Homilies, Pilgrimage blessing
- **June** – J2A Pilgrimage to San Francisco 7th-15th – Leaders – Beth Cannon, Taylor Graves and Jan Swoope
- **August** – Youth Group Kick off @ The Busch's lake home- planning meeting for fall, Sunday School Kick-Off
- **September** –Pilgrimage Reflections, Grounds Day, Greek Orthodox Festival
- **October** – Participated in Gay Pride Parade, Created Bede's bags to feed those in need, Hiking Eucharist at Sweetwater, Banana Rugby
- **November** –Pumpkin Destruction Day, Emmaus House Fill the Bag Challenge, Honey Baked Ham gift cards sales began, Christmas Tree/Wreath sales, Viewing of Harriett, the movie
- **December** – Christmas tree and wreath delivery day, Baby Jesus Baskets, Members served as Readers of the annual Christmas Pageant

Beth Cannon, *Director of Youth & Family Ministries*

The Julian of Norwich Center

January 2019--December 2019 Summary of Activities for the Annual Parish Meeting

71 individuals seen for **Spiritual Direction**

50 Episcopalians: 7 from St. Bede's; 43 from 17 other parishes in the Diocese of Atlanta,
1 in Tennessee, 1 in Canada, 1 in North Carolina
21 from other denominations: United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic,
AME Zion, non-Denominational
50 women, 21 men

1 couple seen for **Premarital Counseling**

2 Episcopalians (Anglicans from Canada) from another parish
1 woman, 1 man

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

12 members in 2018-2019
12 returning from last year plus 1 new member in 2019-2020
9 Episcopalians: 4 from St. Bede's; 4 from 4 other parishes; 1 searching
4 from other denominations: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, African Methodist
Episcopal, Presbyterian
13 women, 0 men

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

7 members in 2018-2019; 1 graduate
6 returning from last year in 2019-2020 plus 1 new member
5 Episcopalians: 4 from St. Bede's; 1 from another parish
2 from other denominations or religions: Presbyterian, Hindu
5 women, 3 men

43 people served through **four Quiet Days** offered through the Center:

Lenten, 4/13; Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, 4/27; EfM, 5/4; Advent, 12/7
34 Episcopalians: 18 from St. Bede's; 14 from 6 other parishes
9 from other denominations or religions: Roman Catholic, African Methodist Episcopal,
Presbyterian, Hindu
39 women, 4 men

10 people served through a Spiritual Formation Group offered through the Center for Candler School of Theology Episcopal Studies Students and Spouses, January 27—March 31

42 people served through offerings at other locations:

- Teaching a class on Contemplative Prayer, Community of Hope (Pastoral Care Team), St. Anne's, 3/3
- Leading a Quiet Day for the Community of Hope, St. Anne's, 10/26
- Serving as Chaplain, The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, 2018-present (a national Episcopal Women's Prayer Group)
- Presiding at 1 wedding, Dunwoody, 2/23 and assisting with another, Richmond, VA, 2/16
- Presiding at 2 House Blessings: 5/1 and 7/28

St. Bede's parish served: **3 Popcorn Theology gatherings** serving 77; **working with the Pastoral Care Team**; visiting in hospitals and retirement homes; teaching a class for **Adult Formation**; 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*

St. Bede's Ministries in Spanish

The Hispanic ministry in Saint Bede continues growing and being more committed into our parish life. As a fruit of the assessment the parish was part of this year, several parishioners that attend service in English and others who attend our service in Spanish created a group named "integrow." As the name indicates, this group's goal is to get to know each other in the parish community and find ways to grow together. They are meeting once a month to plan activities together. Back in September they offered to the parish community and neighbourhood our first integrow "Festival of Saint Bede." They sold food of all sorts and collected funds for our ministries.

Our Lady of Guadalupe this year has been the best celebration so far; parishioners and visitors came to pray, sing, dance and eat in this joyful festival.

Several worship services continue being offered at Plaza Fiesta and Hunting Terrace apartments: Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Our Lady of Guadalupe, posadas and others. These celebrations are opportunities we offer outside of our buildings so new people get to know our Episcopal faith and traditions.

In October we joined Saint Edwards and Christ Church in Norcross to celebrate our First Latino Episcopal October Festival. We started with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, then had lunch, and play games together. We estimated that about 250 participated in this festival.

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

Invite - Welcome – Connect Ministry

Invite-Welcome-Connect has been busy this year making our presence felt in the community with our St. Bede shopping bags as well as with our newcomers. In addition to being at the front door greeting newcomers and "seasoned" parishioners, we have continued with dinners for the newcomers to dine with the "seasoned" parishioners. We hosted three dinners in 2019 and have another scheduled for January 2020. It is always a music to my ears when I hear a newcomer say that felt very welcome at our church. This parish is so very welcoming which makes the work of the Invite-Welcome-Connect ministry easier.

The greeters at the front door for the 8:15 and 10:45 am services meet everyone with a smile and hello. A huge thank you to those who welcome all to St. Bede's. What is equally important to the hellos is giving directions and answering questions to newcomers. This great group of people are Junior Abraham, Helen Ackall, Connie Aylor, Nancy Bruce, Eve Doolittle, Jim Handsfield, Anita Maloof, Anita Montelione, Pat Pickett, Donareen Oakley, and Loretta Vail.

A letter of welcome is sent by Cathe Echterhoff to everyone that signs the Visitor book. She directs requests to the appropriate group or information concerning joining the church.

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 and in fact, has become our signature dessert for the dinners. Suzanne Shapiro, Fran Snider and Loretta Vail are the bakers. Would you like to bake a small loaf of bread? We need more bakers! Just let Loretta know.

We provide a shopping bag with St. Bede's logo to the newcomers. We sold all the larger bags and hope they are being seen by the community as we shop. Umbrellas were purchased to assist anyone coming into the church during rain. The greeters will assist you inside to keep your head covered!

The committee: Donareen Oakley, Debra Cannon, Connie Coralli, Cathe Echterhoff, Susan Reef, Suzanne Shapiro and Loretta Vail, Chair

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 2019 included assisting with renovation improvements within the church; 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; assisting the Sister of Bede's with their annual Art from the Heart event and outside grounds maintenance and clean up. We spent several Saturdays working in the playground and Memorial Garden area. 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 got to do is show up when you can.

Jim Helms

Parish Life Ministry — Sisters of Bede

As we look back on 2019, we can proudly say: The Sisters were busy!!!

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 collected at Bunco in December to the Clarkston Health Clinic. If you're 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 over \$5,200.00. Money from the tea will be applied to the continued improvement of the Mission Wing. Make sure you mark your calendars for the Tea scheduled for Mother's Day Weekend this year.

The Casserole Sale, normally held before the holidays, was postponed until the Spring of 2020. We currently do not have freezer space to proceed with the casserole sale. If you have freezer space for 10-12 casseroles, or can donate a freezer, please contact Lois Shingler.

Once again, we held our Advent Bake Sale adding over \$1,00 to the coffers. We sold pesto along with all the home-made goodies made by so many in the Parish. The Attic Christmas Shoppe sale that accompanied the Advent Bake Sale returned by popular demand.

And finally, the Sisters presented ART FROM THE HEART in cooperation with the Church of Our Saviour. Thirty-nine artists participated in the Opening Party and two-day event. Seven of our own parishioners had their own booths (Ron and Connie Aylor, Hilda Bell, Tripti Yoganathan, Barbara Helms, Fran Snider and Lois Shingler). Church of Our Saviour donated all printed material and signage, as well as food and drinks for the Café. Many contributed appetizers for the Opening Party and we had a good turnout for the party. Most of the artists have indicated that they want to return next year, and many of those who attended told us they enjoyed the atmosphere, the quality of the art offered for sale and the shopping. We accomplished our goals. We raised over \$3,000.00. shared with the Church of Our Saviour; we brought neighbors and friends into our lovely church; we provided a format for parish involvement; and we supported the art community in our area. Plans are underway for next year.

All women of St. Bede's are members of the Sisters and are invited to attend all functions!

Lois Shingler

Parish Life Ministry — Mostly Mysteries Book Club

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 2019, we read 10 books (9 mysteries and 1 non-fiction) and attended a lecture by Delia Owens, an author whose book was one of the 9 mysteries. Our favorite books of the year were *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *The Silent Patient* and *Educated*.

We welcome new members. We also miss our former members. We hope that many are reading along with us.

Cathe Echterhoff



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