A Celebration of Ministries

Annual Report for 2025

ST. BEDE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Parish Meeting
February 1, 2026

The Purpose of St. Bede's Episcopal Church

We invite and welcome *all* to worship, serve, and grow together
as we engage the story of the living Christ.

The Guiding Values of St. Bede's Episcopal Church

Seeking – We are a community blessed by God with inquiring and discerning hearts and with creative imaginations. As Anglicans, our faith is informed by scripture, tradition, and reason. Our faith is alive and living. Through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, God is active and present in all creation. We seek to join God wherever God is at work in our community and the wider world.

Inviting – We live our faith in a world that is hungry for Good News. We believe that what feeds us at St. Bede's is worth sharing with others. Therefore, we extend the invitation of God's grace and love gently and openly to all.

Welcoming – God's Table is central and open at St. Bede's. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. If you are seeking a way to get involved, there is a place for you to share your gifts!

Serving – True ministry begins when we are fed through worship and are then sent out into the world. St. Bede's is active and present in the community, in the Diocese of Atlanta, and in the world. Our witness is raised in Spanish and in English. We serve through charity, compassion, generosity, and advocacy.

Growing – We are a community of personal and communal transformation. Each time we gather – whether it be in worship, in fellowship, in a small group, or out in the community - we are opened more fully to grow in the knowledge and love of God.

A Vision for St. Bede's

The vision of St. Bede's Episcopal Church is to be a growing, thriving church that empowers and encourages Christian maturity. It is a church that cultivates disciples who bear Christ into the world and who also seek-out where God is already active in our neighborhood and through our neighbors. It is a church that is committed to stewardship of all the gifts we have received from God including our environment, our skills, and our financial resources. It is a church that strives to be a model within the Diocese of Atlanta for being an inclusive parish that is committed to welcoming and serving all of its community.

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St. Bede's Vestry Slate 2026

Larry Bing – My name is Larry Bing and I have been a lifelong Episcopalian. You may recognize me as the guy most often singing a different hymn then everyone else. I moved to Atlanta as a young teen and originally attended St. Martins in the Field where my father and stepmother were married. My family years were spent primarily in Acworth where I was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church Kennesaw for 15+ years. I moved to Tucker in 2007 and not long after started attending church at St Bede's. My first stint on the Vestry was as part of the search committee tasked with finding a new Rector culminating in Chad being chosen to lead our church. I have three grown children and six grandchildren all living in the metro area and a partner of about 10 years, Virginia Balbona. My interests include road cycling, mountain biking, fitness, spending time with family, traveling, sports, restaurant foodie and listening to live music. I work in Retail Packaging Sales a field I have been in for over 40 years. I consider my co-parishioners at St. Bede's my faith family and I hope to help grow this wonderful community of faith with my service on your Vestry.

Muriel Diguette – Muriel Hays Diguette has been hanging around the Diocese of Atlanta in a professional capacity since 1996. Along with working in five different parishes, she was the Assistant to the Bishop [Alexander] for five years, 2005-2012. She is an Atlanta native, and was confirmed by Bishop Randolph Claiborne a million years ago, at St. Anne's Episcopal Church. At St. Bede's Muriel has been active in co-facilitating programs such as Just Faith, and Sacred Ground Circle. She formed the Healing Our Racism book group, and more recently the two weekly support groups called Healing Our Divided Country. She has taken the EfM course, and is a member of the Contemplative Living Group. Muriel is the former parish administrator of St. Bede's, and first served on their vestry a decade ago. She feels ready to serve her parish in this capacity once again. Among the things that give Muriel great joy are good books, baking [and eating!] cookies, writing letters, doing jigsaw puzzles, discussing politics, getting together with her many friends often, and going to Green Bough four times a year on silent retreat. Muriel and her husband, Rick, have lived in Tucker for 38 years and are the parents of two "mostly adulting" children. They share their home with a cat, Rocky, who definitely thinks he's a dog!

Kelsey Murray – Kelsey moved to Atlanta in August 2024 and has been a member of St. Bede's ever since! Prior to moving to Georgia, Kelsey was raised in suburban Chicago, Illinois and has two sisters. Kelsey graduated from a Catholic Marianist university which inspired a call towards social justice; a field she has professionally worked in since 2016, most recently working for a non-profit serving immigrant youth.

Since joining the St. Bede's congregation, Kelsey has enjoyed being a member of the Outreach Committee, the Young Adults Ministry, and Sisters of Bede – her highlight being the High Tea! Kelsey is also a teacher with the St. Bede's ESOL program and has assisted with the children's Christmas pageant. While serving on the Vestry, Kelsey is looking forward to the continued growth of St. Bede's.

St. Bede's Annual Parish Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2025

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am by the The Very Rev'd S. Chadwick Vaughn.

Opening Prayer
The Rev'd Raymond Walker, III, Priest Associate, led the opening prayer.

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

Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Parish Meeting
Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Presentation and Election of New Vestry Members
Chad shared that the Vestry amended the bylaws regarding the number of Vestry members. There are currently 9 Vestry members. The Vestry Slate for 2025 was presented. The candidates are: Gwen Heaton, Shane Hunziker, and Martha Robert. The 2025 Vestry slate was approved.

Comments from the Senior Warden
Orisha Parsons, the Senior Warden, celebrated that the improvements that have been worked on for a long time are coming to fruition, including landscaping and roofing. She has been very involved in the 1:30 service and the ESOL program. The ESOL program was strong in the fall but the spring has seen decreased participation. Orisha shared that this past year has been a sad one for her with the loss of her mother and the illness of her grandmother. She appreciates all the love and support she has received.

Recognition of Off-Going Vestry Members
Chad recognized the off-going Vestry members – Fred Murphy, Jennie Couture, and Orisha.

Stewardship Update
Chad recognized the Stewardship Chairs, Steve Hadler and Claudia Fedarko, who set the theme, launched the campaign and oversaw the campaign. The pledge goal for 2024 is $440,000. Currently over $400,000 has been received in pledges from 77 people.

Report from the Treasurer
Nigel Poland provided the Treasurer's Report. Nigel first recognized Orisha Parsons for all she does. The current budget deficit is $6,280. Non-pledged income was 25% below the budgeted amount. Expenses were controlled to within .03% of the budget. Facilities expenses were over. Nigel stated that our mortgage loan is being refinanced through the Diocese to include the outstanding balance of the existing loan plus the money owed from the roofing project. He emphasized that we need to be good stewards of the funds received as well as the investments and facilities and plan ahead for what might happen.

Rector's Comments and Recognitions

- Chad looked back over the past year as we said goodbye to Mimi Guerra our associate rector, Ashley Brown our bookkeeper, and Bill McLemore our priest associate. We welcomed Ellen Hopkins our bookkeeper and Raymond Walker our priest for Pastoral Care and for Hispanic Ministries.
- Chad recognized leadership transitions: for ESOL, farewell to Claudia Fedarko and Connie Coralli and welcome to Orisha Parsons and Judah Sali; for Endowment Committee, farewell to Pat Pickett as chairman and welcome to Rob Townes; for Stewardship, farewell to Cheryl and Fred Murphy and welcome to Claudia Fedarko and Steve Hadler.
- Other great changes include the time change of our afternoon worship in Spanish to 1:30 pm to allow for shared meals and celebrations between the services and the new Ann Copperthwaite welcome sculpture donated by Nancy Bruce in memory of Jim Barton.
- Looking forward, the new roof on the Commons, kitchen, and Parish Hall will start on Tuesday. Thanks to Jeff Swoope and Jim Helms for getting bids, vetting bidders, and getting a signed contract. For the grounds, we have weekly maintenance and in the Spring we will put a planting system in place. Thanks to Matt Johnson for providing expertise in that area.
- Chad encouraged us to read the Annual Parish/A Celebration of Ministries Report.
- He recognized the ministries by clusters including Christian Formation; Pastoral Care; Outreach and Social Justice; Building, Grounds and Interiors; Music and Worship; Stewardship, Resource Development and Endowment; Finance and Ministries of Money; Ministries of Welcome, Hospitality and Parish Life.
- Chad recognized the off-going Vestry including Kim Padgett. He recognized the existing Vestry and stated that Connie Coralli will be the new Senior Warden.
- He recognized the Treasurer, Nigel Poland, the Chancellor, George Shingler, and the Clerks, Cathe Echterhoff and Nancy Ward.
- Chad recognized the Clergy: Lynnsay Buehler (longest serving), Raymond Walker, Iñaki Guevara, and Claiborne Jones.
- He recognized the Staff: Laura Pittman, John Whitt, Beth Cannon, Molly Graves, Ellen Hopkins, Jerry Simmons, and the office volunteers.
- He recognized the Diocesan Council representatives: John Branan, Junior Abraham, Judah Sali, and Molly Graves.
- He recognized the Worship Streaming Ministry.
- Chad closed by stating that this is his 13th year of ministry at St. Bede's and he wants to thank all for being the best ambassadors of God's love.

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.

Submitted by Cathe Echterhoff, Clerk of the Vestry

Financial Report for 2025

(with review of prior years)

	2022	2023	2024	2025		
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	+/-
Pledged Income	418,476	439,387	455,112	434,581	437,560	(2,979)
Non-Pledged Income	58,032	41,046	37,071	50,100	36,500	13,600
Special Offering	2,070	5,362	3,954	3,565	3,700	(135)
Other Income	4,440	2,902	8,198	4,850	6,900	(2,050)
Interest Income	390	4,053	10,064	10,176	10,000	176
Total Revenues	***483,408***	***492,750***	***514,399***	***503,272***	***494,660***	***8,612***
Clergy Compensation & Benefits	188,402	200,754	195,882	193,592	200,357	(6,766)
Lay Staff Compensation & Benefits	121,255	107,798	109,144	112,485	112,700	(215)
Total Personnel	***309,657***	***308,552***	***305,026***	***306,076***	***313,057***	***(6,981)***
Worship Support	352	553	664	589	300	289
Music	2,638	2,416	2,109	1,577	1,500	77
Total Worship	***2,990***	***2,969***	***2,773***	***2,166***	***1,800***	***366***
ESOL	2,163	3,680	3,759	2,011	4,100	(2,089)
Outreach	11,320	10,166	11,700	11,450	11,450	0
Hospitality	1,004	2,811	3,199	3,307	3,550	(243)
Total Serve	***14,487***	***16,657***	***18,658***	***16,768***	***19,100***	***(2,332)***
Christian Formation	2,605	1,997	1,907	2,162	2,600	(438)
Invite, Welcome, Connect	57	541	0	98	500	(403)
Total Grow	***2,662***	***2,538***	***1,907***	***2,260***	***3,100***	***(840)***
Office Expenses	13,121	15,771	15,604	16,152	16,042	111
Diocesan Commitments	52,726	52,406	50,572	50,030	49,930	100
Facilities	34,208	37,449	46,050	32,481	44,236	(11,755)
Mortgage	25,346	25,345	25,558	19,386	19,173	213
Finance (Booking, Audit, Fees)	5,988	6,427	11,438	12,657	12,400	257
Resource Development	169	252	1,554	140	750	(610)
Utilities	30,581	35,558	40,276	44,098	38,863	5,235
Vestry	0	244	1,630	688	400	288
Total Other	***162,139***	***173,452***	***192,683***	***175,632***	***181,794***	***(6,162)***
Total Expenses	***491,935***	***504,168***	***521,048***	***502,902***	***518,852***	***(15,950)***
Net Income (Deficit)	***(8,527)***	***(11,418)***	***(6,649)***	***370***	***(24,192)***	***24,562***

Recap of 2025 Financials

We ended 2025 with a $370 budget surplus.

Revenue Section Highlights:

- We **collected over 99% of pledges** - $435,000 of $438,000 budgeted.
- **Non-Pledged income was over $50,000** against a budget of $36,000, a 37% uplift largely due to your generosity as part of the **1,2,3,4 Campaign for Ministry – Thank You!**
- **The 1,2,3,4 Campaign for Ministry** brought in **over $23,000**.
- Christmas and Easter Offerings (Special Offerings) were very close to budgeted amounts.
- Building use income was $1,550 less than budgeted due to the cancellation of an event.

Expense section Highlights:

- **Overall expenses were $18,680 under budget** which represents about 4% of the total.
- **Most all ministry and operational areas were at or under budget for 2025.** Those areas that were slightly over budget were generally related to higher operating and administrative costs.
- Utilities were 13% over budget driven by the cost of water and sanitation.
- This controlling of costs is a reflection of how the staff and vestry are such good stewards of the funds we are entrusting with through our pledges and other monetary contributions.

Balance Sheet and Funds Highlights:

- **Diocesan Loan** – In January 2016 we borrowed $275,000 from the Diocesan Foundation to pay off the mortgage loan from United Community Bank. The Diocesan Foundation Loan was a 15-year loan and that was to be paid off no later than December of 2030. In January 2024, we rolled the balance of the 2016 loan into a new 15-year Diocesan Foundation Loan of $200,000 to pay for the cost of replacing the roofs on the Commons, Kitchen, and Parish Hall. This loan was viewed as a "bridge loan" until we can launch a Capital Campaign to pay for this project and eliminate the debt on the original Nave construction.
  The current total balance on the new loan is $191,000.
  Of that total balance, the balance on the original loan debt (Nave) is $65,000 (was $74,000 on 12/31/2024).
  This refinancing reduced the amount of debt service hitting our annual budget by $4,428.
- **Bentley Loan** - In January 2016 we also borrowed $30,000 from ourselves (the Bentley Fund) to pay off the mortgage from UCB. **The balance on this loan to ourselves is $2,677**.
- **The balance of the Capital Improvement & Replacement Fund is $23,000.**
- **The balance of the Annual Surplus/Loss Fund is $22,320**. 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 balance of the Bentley Fund is $83,340**.
- **The balance of the Organ Maintenance Fund is $9,600**. These are funds reserved for anticipation of future major maintenance on the organ.
- **The balance of the St. Bede's Endowment Fund was $263,926** on 12/31/2025 (was $225,475 on 12/31/2024). A significant legacy gift was received in 2025 from the estate of Kay Howington that will be added to the endowment – increasing its value to $378,537.

Ministry Reports

✠ Committees of the Vestry

Endowment

On Sunday, May 4, 2025, the Endowment Committee met for an important orientation meeting. Members of the Endowment Committee are: Rob Townes, Chair, Muriel Diguette, Laura Martin, Nigel Poland, and Paul Werner. Ex officio members are Connie Coralli, Senior Warden, Jim Hansfield, Junior Warden, and Chad Vaughn, Rector.

An eleven-item agenda was distributed to those present.

An investment report generated by the Episcopal Church Foundation was shared showing that St. Bede's held in its endowment a market value of $227,933.56. Some "expectancies" from deceased parishioners were referenced and, when they are realized, the dollar total of the endowment will increase. (In ECF's December 31, 2025 market report, the endowment balance totaled $263,926.39.)

Rob recommended that the name of the committee be changed from the Endowment Committee to the *Legacy Giving and Endowment Committee* which expands the intention of the committee from "banking" and stewarding endowment funds, to promoting a plan for increasing the number of gifts from parishioners that are directed to the endowment either before or at their deathtime.

A Legacy Gifts Program Plan was drafted by Rob and presented to the committee for their consideration. Also, an Endowment Policies and Procedures document, and a Gift Acceptance Policy, and a Spending Policy were presented to the committee. Those documents will require further discussion before a motion is made for their formal acceptance by the Vestry.

Persons who make a Legacy Gift to the parish will be recognized as a member of the Morningstar Society. To date, 17 parishioners have either made a death-time transfer of charitable support to the parish, or have made plans that, at their death, a transfer of charitable support will be made to the church.

An intentional effort to increase the number of legacy gift "expectancies" was not undertaken in 2025. However, plans are being considered to undertake a comprehensive campaign in 2026 which would involve the solicitation of annual gifts (for budget year 2027), capital gifts/pledges for the strategic priorities of the parish, and legacy gifts, 90% of which derive from deathtime financial transfers from church members to the parish.

Submitted by Rob Townes

Stewardship

The 2025 Annual Pledge Campaign
for St. Bede's
The 2026 Annual Pledge Campaign for St. Bede

Our Stewardship Theme for the 2026 Campaign:

Giving from the Heart

"For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:34

This year's stewardship campaign celebrates God's call to examine our hearts and imagine what we truly value in our lives. We hope that you count our St. Bede's community as one of those things that you love and value deeply within your heart. We also celebrate how as community St. Bede's gives from its heart to support our members and our local and global community. Thank you for all of your gifts from the heart that support St. Bede's.

We would like to thank the three members who offered reflections on what St. Bede's means to them and why they pledge. They are Martha Robert, Shane Hunziker, and Paul Martin.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have already
prayerfully considered and returned
your 2026 pledge of financial support to St. Bede's.

As of Tuesday, January 27, we have received **81 pledges totaling $410,000.**

So far, **44 pledgers have increased their pledges.**
We have received **8 new pledges.**

If you have not pledged yet and would like to do so, you may do so either online (there is a link in the weekly E-News and at the top of the homepage of the website) or by picking up a pledge packet at the church. Thank you for your generosity of time, talent, and money.

Faithfully yours,
Robin & Raz Schreiber, Co-Chairs

Facilities and Property

In 2025, the Building and Grounds group accomplished several activities regarding improvements and maintenance at St. Bede's. The major activity in 2025 was the replacement of roofing over the Parish Hall, Kitchen, Commons Area, Offices and Mechanical Room. This project replaced roofing that was over 25 years old and in poor condition. The work represents an investment of roughly $120,000 in the church facility and should last for the next 25 to 30 years! The Commons Area was repainted, new wall hanging rails were installed and the ceiling tiles were replaced, all providing a new fresh appearance. Facility signage on Henderson Mill and Midvale Roads was updated, as well as the signage at the Mission Wing and over the front entrance doorway, to provide a more welcoming appearance. Other maintenance included various HVAC, fire protection and plumbing tasks. The vestry, led by Paul Martin, investigated the feasibility of solar panel installation. That work continues currently with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light to discern steps forward. Parishioner Matt Johnson of Fox Hollow Gardens LLC continues to develop and implement a landscaping plan and provides routine maintenance of the grounds. Kelly Landscapes continues to provide grass cutting and leaf cleanup. Finally, Jerry Simmons, our Sexton, continues to provide twice a week services to clean and maintain our interior spaces.

Jim Helms & Jeff Swoope, *Co-Chairs*

✠ 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 share I serving communion?
- 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 of which just need your help one Sunday a month. Among these groups are:

Altar Guild – Helen Ackall & Anita Montelione
Bread Guild – Jody Klein
Flower Guild – Nancy Ward & Ray Callaway

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, & Acolytes – Raz Schreiber
Choir/Instrumentalists – John Whitt
Ushers – Jim Helms

Altar Guild

The mission of the Altar Guild is to prepare the altar for the various church services. This involves communicating with the bread guild, ordering wine, and any other supply in shortage.

In addition, cleaning and polishing the sacred vessels, preparing the elements to celebrate Holy Eucharist, and cleaning the linens that need to be laundered.

We are thankful for the dedicated members: Nancy Ward, Gwen Heaton, Anita Montelione, Helen Ackall, Ron and Connie Aylor, Suzanne Shapiro, Robin Schreiber, and Toni Graney.

We are always looking to add new members, if you are interested, please contact any of the team members, or co-chairs Anita Montelione and Helen Ackall, you will be assigned to one of four teams who serve once a month.

Flower Guild

The Flower Guild faithfully plans and creates altar and commons arrangements for Sunday services, special occasions, funerals, and holidays. Easter and Christmas bouquets are made for parishioners to deliver to shut-ins. Five teams rotate weekly to prepare our space for worship. Our Guild greatly mourns the loss of Carmen Camiro, a gifted and dedicated member whose work reflected her generosity, beauty, and kindness. New members are always welcome (no experience required), so please consider joining. St. Bede's Flower Guild ministry is supported solely by donations for special memorial and thanksgiving dedications and we thank all for their support this past year.

For more information: Nancy Ward – nlbward@comcast.net

Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, & Acolytes

The St. Bede's Liturgical Ministry supports St. Bede's Liturgy and the Eucharist. This lay ministry fulfills many of the typically non-clergy rolls of the Liturgy:

- Crucifer
- Eucharistic Minister
- Lector
- Intercessor
- Torch Bearer (when needed)

At St. Bede's the Liturgical Ministry's guiding principles are:
Holy and Simple, Reverent, and Uncomplicated

The Ministry is divided into four teams. Each team is responsible for liturgical support for one of the four Sundays in a typical month. For those months which have a 5th Sunday or for special services, liturgical support is on a volunteer basis from the entire ministry.

At the end of 2025 and into the beginning of 2026, youth members have started to return to the roll of Acholyte as readers, crucifers, and torch bearers. We welcome their participation and look forward to integrating them more fully into the ministry. The acolytes have been trained for their rolls by Judah Sali and Beth Cannon.

While membership in the ministry has declined, we are still able to fill our rolls in serving the service. Here are the Teams and members presently in the ministry. At present there is no official team lead for Team 4. The Ministry Coordinator serves as temporary Team 4 leader.

Ministry Coordinator: Raz Schreiber

Team 1
Orisha Parsons, Team Leader
Gwen Heaton
John Whitt
Larry Bing
George Shingler

Team 2
Raz Schreiber, Team Leader
Lucy Vaughn
Miriam Needham
Robert Townes

Team 3
Suzanne Shapiro, Team Leader
Susan Reef
Paul Martin
Junior Abraham

Team 4
Shane Huntziker
Caroline Spires
Nancy Bruce
Claude Oakley

Raz Schreiber, Ministry Chair

Music Ministry

Wherefore with my utmost art, I will sing thee;
And the cream of all my heart, I will bring thee.

— George Herbert (1593-1633)
The Hymnal 1982, #382

Music continues to play an active and important role in the liturgical life of St. Bede's, and I am grateful for a singing congregation that is appreciative and supportive of good music.

Those who participate in the music program and offer their musical gifts contribute greatly to the life of a healthy parish, as does the network of moral support from the families of those who share their gifts.

Choir rehearses each week on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 and sings every Sunday and major feast day throughout the "academic year," September through May usually (post-Labor Day through Pentecost or Trinity Sunday).

I repeat my annual appeal for more participation in musical opportunities at St. Bede's. The choir is open to anyone at any time and is in great need of new membership. All musicians and those with an interest in music are welcome, regardless of previous experience. Just speak to John Whitt or any choir member about becoming part of our music program.

Age needn't be a limiting factor either. We especially could use an infusion of younger singers. As we're not quite strong enough to support a full children's choir program, membership is open to anyone able to make rehearsals – so middle and high schoolers are welcome, too!

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 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, 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 sing things.

Concerts and Musical Outreach

We were fortunate to have a relationship with the Amethyst Baroque Ensemble, a local early music group who present two to three concerts during the year and will continue to make St. Bede's its Atlanta home. Unfortunately, some members of Amethyst have relocated and the group is not currently active. We hope that they will have a renaissance and may return to us in the future. The Amethyst gap has lately been filled by concerts organized by Brian Bishop, friend of our music department and occasional choir singer and organist. His

creative programming and superb ensemble performances have greatly enhanced St. Bede's musical profile. The next program will be on Saturday, March 21st.

Yours faithfully,
John J. Whitt, Organist & Choirmaster
jwhitt@stbedes.org

Worship Technology Team

The Worship Technology team continued providing a live stream to YouTube of the 10 AM and 1:30 PM services all year. Team members are Tina Kottke, Becca Love, Judah Sali, Katelyn Vaquero, and Molly Graves.

The internet connection and Wi-Fi in the building were upgraded this year. Those changes made it possible to add the Listen WIFI service which provides assistive audio through a smartphone app.

If you are interested in technology, join us!

Judah Sali

✠ Serve

Outreach

- We made 4 trips to El Refugio. 171 gas cards were collected for a total of $4,275.
- Sponsored an Immigrant Law Conversation with immigration attorneys in January.
- Volunteers worked one morning in February at Medshare sorting medical supplies.
- Networks Food Pantry ingathering in February. Collected 2,068 pounds of food.
- Volunteers prepared and served 80 lunches at Church of the Common Ground in April.
- We purchased 9,500 Red Cards in 5 languages with donations for Casa Alterna. 1,265 breakfast bars were also donated.
- 4 parishioners participated in a golf tournament fundraiser for Networks in May.
- Collected school supplies for Networks in July.
- Collected 275 pairs of diabetic socks for COTCG in September.
- Collected 210 bags for Emmaus House Thanksgiving at Home.
- Annual Baby Jesus Baskets for Our House in December collected 36 boxes of diapers and pullups, 26 boxes/pkgs of wipes, and 118 containers of ready to use formula, among many other items.
- Donated money to: Emmaus House, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Networks, El Refugio, ERD.

Respectfully,
Karen Werner, co-chair

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

The English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program began in January 2013 and is now in its 13th year. We began fall of 2025 with 80 students registering. We filled five levels (Basic, Levels 1, 2, 3, and Super Conversation). We are bursting at the seams so to speak! Our winter fiesta was well attended with over 80 students and family members and many from St. Bede's who support this ministry.

We continued to staff our nursery with two bilingual staff members (both related to family members who attend our Spanish language services) and others from our parish who volunteer to support this ministry. This wonderful service is invaluable in allowing many parents and families to attend ESOL.

ESOL functions with a large staff of volunteer teachers and coordinators with members of St. Bede's and other community volunteers assisting in this program. Of note, over the past 13 years over 70 have taught in our ESOL program.

We continue to enjoy the updated classroom space in the Mission Wing made possible in part by a 2018 Episcopal Community Foundation Grant. This renovation has made teaching easier and the classrooms much more inviting and conducive to learning. These classrooms are multifunctional, allowing everyone using the Mission Wing to enjoy and benefit from this renovation.

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

Orisha Parsons and Judah Sali, *Coordinators*

Hospitality Ministry

St. Bede's parishioners continued to enjoy gathering for refreshments and fellowship between morning service and Christian Formation class. Four teams cover the set-up, preparation, serving, and kitchen cleaning for our Sunday social times, special occasions, funeral receptions, and pot-luck luncheons. Committee members Peaches Flanagan, Cathe Echterhoff, Laura Martin, Pat Miller, Susan Reef, Rita Channell, and Maryjane Johnson are our ever-faithful volunteers. Working in the church kitchen is a great way to share time with Sunday friends while hosting a gathering of parishioners and visitors. We welcome anyone who would like to join a team. Thanks to all who have donated time, supplies, and funds this past year.

For more information: Nancy Ward - nlbward@comcast.net

Pastoral Care Ministries

Much like the expression of the church itself, pastoral care at St. Bede's is an intergenerational, ever-present, waterfall of love and deep care for the minds, bodies, and spirits of our members and community. You can witness a member of our youth group checking in on someone from our welcome committee almost as easily as you see our deacon carrying eucharist to a community friend. We care for each other as the needs arise through prayer, phone and email check-ins, and visits to homes, hospitals, and more. We walk with each other, celebrating and grieving, through deaths, graduations, moves, injuries, retirements, illnesses and all sorts of personal evolutions. Tangibly our efforts offer to meet the needs for food, comfort, prayer, eucharist, prayer shawls, rides, flowers, and love.

We are working to actively reinvigorate our direct pastoral care ministries and we welcome your involvement in any of the following:

Share the Care: a ministry of providing a meal to a parishioner in a time of need,
Prayer Shawls: a ministry of creating and blessing prayer shawls, either in one's home or at the group gatherings, to support parishioners through transitions.
The First Monday Prayer Shawl Group met each first Monday (moved for holidays) and knitted and crocheted shawls, hats, blankets, and anything else anyone wanted to do. Many people were blessed by receiving shawls, whether for illness, bereavement, joyful occasions, thank yous, or leave taking. Many let us know how much it meant to receive one. We were blessed by the fellowship and the beauty of our work. I invite anyone to join us, even if you have nothing to work on! – Junior Abraham, ministry chair
Daughters of the King: offer a ministry of prayer to and for our parish by at-large members within our community,
Eucharistic Visitors: a ministry offering eucharist during a visit to parishioners missing our community connection,
Flower Delivery: a ministry delivering a small vase of a fresh flower arrangement near Easter and Christmas to those who are homebound or need a bit of extra care from our community.

There are always opportunities to connect and offer care. Please be in touch if you feel led to participate in this ministry. I look forward to discovering how I might support you as we continue to care for all of us.

With love,
The Rev'd Raymond Walker III, *Associate Priest*

✠ Grow

Adult Christian Formation

Adult Formation takes many forms at St. Bede's – from various book and bible study groups to Popcorn Theology to Quiet Days to the Adult Sunday Forum classes.

Our 2025 Sunday Adult Formation offerings began with an Episcopal 101 Class led by Chad Vaughn and others. This class allowed for newcomers and long-timers to explore together what it means to be a Christian of the Episcopal variety. During Lent, we joined with Episcopalians around the Diocese of Atlanta as we were led through a series of meditations by Bishop Wright on the topic – "Growing Up". Various parishioners paired up to lead conversations on Bishop Wrights video meditations. In Eastertide, Lynnsay Buehler offered a class on new scholarship on Mary Magdalene (which paired with a prior Popcorn Theology offering on the film *Mary Magdalene*). We also welcomed outreach partner leaders Kenya Thompson, Vicar of the Church of the Common Ground and Anton Flores-Maisonet, Executive Director of Casa Alterna to learn more about these St. Bede's ministry partners.

This Fall, as we kicked off the program year, we explored the fundamentals of faith with an exploration of the "Outline of the Faith" (commonly called the Catechism from the *Book of Common Prayer*) in a class called Credo: We Give Our Hearts. We then had some fun learning about the Hymnal with John Whitt and "Hymns from a Hat". In October, we learned a bit about the "Gather, Transform, Send" model of Congregational Vitality from our group that had attended the College for Congregational Development and we had a potluck luncheon focused on how our parishioners are experiencing transformation in the lives. In November, we welcomed Fahed Abu-Akel who offered history and insight into the history of Palestine and Israel and offered us insight into the current state of affairs in Gaza. Deacon Iñaki kicked off Advent with a class on Marian appriation traditions from around the world. We wrapped up the Christian Formation with a visit from Catherine Meeks, Director of the Turquoise and Lavender Institute, who led us in conversations about racial healing and how to improve conversations across barriers of difference.

In the year ahead, we plan to offer many other opportunities to enrich our understanding of our faith. Please join us for a class, small group, quiet day, or a book or film discussion. Your voice and the sharing of your faith journey always enriches these conversations and offerings!

Social Justice – Healing Our Racism & Healing Our Divided Country

It has been an important year for social justice, and the political events surrounding our country in 2025 produced more enthusiasm for avenues of activism.

The Healing Our Racism book group, which was formed in 2020 in response to the racial injustice that erupted that summer with the murder of George Floyd, met for four years once a month on zoom. We read, studied, and discussed many books [mostly non-fiction] to try to understand the reasons for the continuing racial injustice in our country. This was always a small group, but it attracted some members from other Episcopal churches, and that was enriching to our discussions and to our connections with each other. The group disbanded in the Fall of 2024. It seemed there were more pressing issues to attend to with the re-election of our current President.

In November of 2024, immediately following the Presidential election, it was discerned that a support group might be needed to help people understand [once again] the path our country was taking. This group became Healing Our Divided Country. Our Rector, Chad, gave his full support in the forming of this group, and weekly announcements began to appear in our e-newsletter.

The Healing Our Divided Country support group met on Zoom for the first time on Monday, January 6th. It had been decided that we would meet on the first Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm. By the end of January we were meeting every Monday night, as people were requesting a forum in which to discuss honestly the actions of this new Administration, and to find the hope and healing provided by prayers and meditations. This group has met every single Monday night since January 6 th , and we have a core group of about a dozen people, some St. Bede's members and also not. Since we meet on Zoom we are able to offer this group to people in other locales [we have one member from New Orleans]. This group is co-facilitated by Muriel Diguette and Molly Graves.

A few members of St. Bede's asked for an in-person Healing Our Divided Country group. And so in March an in-person group was formed and began meeting every Thursday morning at Mint Coffee House on Lawrenceville Hwy. from 9 -10:30 am. We started as a very small group, but we have grown and now we have as many non-St. Bede's members as members. This group has taken on an activist spirit. We've protested together in local marches, and written postcards to encourage people to vote in elections near and far. In December we hosted one of our Georgia state senators, Kim Jackson, who is also The Rev. Kim Jackson! We are planning to invite other local politicians to inspire and inform us, and to get more involved in local politics. This group is co-facilitated by Muriel Diguette and Karen Werner.

St. Bede's is at the forefront in our Diocese of being active in social justice areas, from our superb Outreach to Adult Formation offerings, and now with these support groups. Everyone

is welcome to join us! We will meet every Monday and every Thursday as long as people feel they need this support.

Respectfully Submitted by Muriel Diguette

Bible, Books, and Banter

Our small group of current and former St. Bede's folks meets on Tuesday mornings twice a month, in person with a Zoom connection. We share our stories, as we try to discern God's presence in our lives. Books we've discussed this past year include: *In the Shelter*, by Pádraig Ó Tuama; *How We Learn to be Brave*, by Mariann Edgar Budde; *Alive and Loose in the Ordinary*, by Martha Sterne; *The Tears of Things*, by Richard Rohr. We welcome new participants.

If you're interested in inquiring about our group, please get in touch with Martha West, at mtwest@bellsouth.net.

Children & Family Ministries

In 2025, we offered two formation opportunities each Sunday for children ages 3 years old through 5 th grade: a "pull-out" formation time for children during the 10:00 am service and a longer class time from 11:45am-1:00pm between the services when adult formation classes and youth group were also meeting.

For attendees at the "pull-out" time during 10 am worship, children begin the worship time with their families and then process out early in the Liturgy of the Word, returning at the Peace, in time to celebrate the Eucharist. This allows about 20-30 minutes for a Godly Play story and some "wondering" time.

The children's formation time between the two services is open to all children ages 3 years old through 5 th grade but has mostly been attended by children whose families attend the 1:30 Spanish language service. This class is taught in English. Using Godly Play storytelling, books, and other resources, we focus on learning about what we do in church – the liturgy and the sacraments – in addition to experiencing stories about the people of God, stories about Jesus, and stories told by Jesus. In late May 2025, six children in this class participated in a celebratory communion service to acknowledge their growing in faith.

During worship time, our "Prayground" offers families with young children an inviting space to participate in worship, and we also invite them to use the unstaffed nursery room if they need an alternate space for either a quiet break or for louder play.

Other events, celebrations and resources offered in 2025 included:

- Illustrated Ministry micro-practices and prayers mailed weekly in the e-news and

- coloring pages and scripture story booklets in the Prayground,
- Evening Bilingual VBS for families with approximately 30-50 participants each night
- enjoying dinner, storytelling, music and crafts with an outreach project of collecting
- breakfast bars and small toys for Casa Alterna to distribute to families in line waiting for
- Immigration hearings,
- Advent Wreath-making Workshop offered in the morning and afternoon with a home
- worship booklet available in English or Spanish to help families observe a holy Advent
- and prepare for Christmas,
- Las Posadas and Christmas Tree Decorating,
- Christmas Eve Pageant with young children, teens, and adults who donned costumes and offered readings to help tell the Nativity story.

I am grateful for the entire St. Bede's community for supporting our ministry to families with young children through your prayers, financial support, hospitality, time, energy, and presence. Many thanks go to the awesome team of VBS volunteers who enabled us to have a wonderful week of fellowship, good food and fun this summer as we celebrated God's love for us! And finally, a special shout-out to Junior Abraham for being a faithful Godly Play co-teacher with me for many years.

Molly Graves, Director of Family and Children's Ministry

Youth & Family Ministries

2025 brought great growth and opportunity for the youth program here at St. Bede's, and that momentum continued throughout the year. We have remained committed to our "bridge-building" efforts, bringing all members of the church together by creating a youth program that includes not only fun group activities, but also Episcopal faith-based conversations, Confirmation instruction, meaningful outreach projects, and regular participation in Diocesan events.

To give you a clearer picture of life in the St. Bede's Youth Program, we…

- Created and distributed **327 Bede's Bags** to individuals in need of a meal;
- We pooled our collective financial resources and, with three teams of three young people each, spent **$163.86** to create **27 Emmaus House Thanksgiving bags**;
- A number of our Youth attended Diocesan Youth Events at Camp Mikell and around the Diocese:
    - **New Beginnings** (for middle schoolers) in Spring and Fall

- **Happening** (for high schoolers) in the Spring
- Honored our graduating seniors as they joined other high school graduates from across the Diocese of Atlanta at the **Diocesan 2025 Graduation Celebration**
- **Summer Camp** at Mikell
- Sent a team of **16 youth and adults** to participate in the **Atlanta Food Bank Hunger Walk**
- Our youth help lead worship and represent St. Bede's at the **Annual Diocesan Council** in October.
- **Winter Camp** at Mikell

AND we also managed to squeeze in…

- our first **Pancake Luncheon** on the Sunday before Lent began
- stuffing over **175 plastic eggs** for our annual Easter egg hunt
- reading the **Passion Narrative** on Palm Sunday
- a spring **grounds clean-up**
- possibly the most **AMAZING bowling game ever** at Midtown Bowl
- presenting **eight candidates for Confirmation**
- surviving one **EPIC lock-in**
- hosting our first **Karaoke Christmas Party** (during the *real* Christmas season)
- learning how to cook for ourselves!

And last, but certainly not least, none of what we do as a community would be possible without the adults that regularly show up for our young people. Both **Katelyn Vaquero** and **Orisha Parsons**, who regularly join us in our group shenanigans, always bring laughter, wisdom, questions and unconditional love. Thank you, ladies, I couldn't do it without you! And, of course, a special shout-out to **Judah Sali** for his unwavering willingness to do just about anything our youth challenge him to do (including dyeing his hair pink!). As the glue between our two communities, Judah shows up each week to walk alongside our young people as we laugh together, explore our faith, and share our journeys while growing in our relationship with God. I look forward with gratitude and joy to continuing to grow in faith and friendship alongside Judah and the young people of our parish in the years ahead.

As always - love, peace, grace, and grooviness.

Beth Cannon, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

[And…The Rector's very appreciative note on Youth Ministry in 2025 – St. Bede's own **Beth Cannon was awarded the Bishop's Cross at the Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta in November 2025 for 30 years of youth ministry leadership in the Diocese of Atlanta**. Yay Beth!!!]

Young Adult Fellowship

The new Young Adult Fellowship Ministry launched in July 2025 with an organizational lunch. We planned a calendar for fall events which included a game night, movie night, Halloween rubber duck and candy hunt, Friendsgiving/Trivia Dinner and Christmas crafts afternoon. Besides these events at the church, we also went to the Candler Park Fall Festival and the Christkindl Market in Lawrenceville.

Our planning team met in late November to evaluate the program. We decided to meet every other month with upcoming events to include lunch with the rector and inviting another group to join us for an interior/exterior service day around the St. Bede's campus.

All St. Bede's folks in the 20's – 30's age range are welcomed and invited to our events. We are looking forward to growing the group and having lots more fun in 2026. Of course, friends are always welcomed, as well. Please feel free to reach out to anyone in the group with questions or suggestions.

Sylvia Abraham, Kelsey Murray, and Annie Pittman

The Julian of Norwich Center

January 2025--December 2025 Summary of Activities for the Annual Parish Meeting

Most of the people with whom I have met this year are coming to St. Bede's to meet in The Julian of Norwich Center. As needed, I have met with a few people on FaceTime or Zoom, and with one person in the hospital.
Thanks to 3 generous donors, the Center was able to provide 45 scholarships totaling $1,125.00.

66 individuals were seen for Spiritual Direction
A few were seen one time, everyone else was seen regularly, once every 4-8 weeks
44 Episcopalians: 7 from St. Bede's; 37 from 21 other parishes in the Diocese of Atlanta, 1 in California, 1 in North Carolina
22 from other denominations: United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, UCC, Cooperative Baptist
45 women, 21 men
1 couple received Pre-marital Counseling
1 woman, 1 man

12 people served through the Contemplative Living/Centering Prayer Group
12 group members in 2024--2025
11 returning from last year in 2025--2026
8 Episcopalians: 6 from St. Bede's; 2 from 2 other parishes

2 searching
2 from another denomination: Lutheran
12 women, 0 men

Offerings in other settings:
Taught COHI group, Contemplative Prayer, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, 8 participants, 1/25/25
Led Lenten Quiet Day, "Welcomed Home by Mercy and Compassion," Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta, 11 participants, 3/8/25
Led Mini Lenten Quiet Day, "Lenten Journey with Etty Hillesum," Church of the Epiphany, 22 participants, 4/6/25
Led Diocesan DOK Retreat Day, "Darkness and Light," St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 25 participants, 10/25/25
Baptized my great-nephew, Christ Episcopal Church, Kensington, MD, 11/2/25
Led Advent Meditation, Maggie's Class at Mary & Martha's Place, Atlanta, 11 participants,12/11/25, 77+ served

St. Bede's parish served:
Lenten Quiet Day, "A Poet in the Camp: A Lenten Journey with Etty Hillesum," with Ms. Kristen Vincent, MTS,
25 participants, 3/15/25
"Embodying Loving-kindness: Yoga and Prayer," with Ms. Marie Hurley Blair, M. Div., 18 participants, 9/20/25
Advent Quiet Day, " Do Not Be Afraid: Practicing Hope in a Fearful World," with The Rev. Susan Lupo,
16 participants, 12/6/25
3 Popcorn Theology gatherings:
with Muriel Diguette, Molly Graves, Laura Martin and Rob Townes
"Mary Magdalene" 19 participants, 3/22/25
"CODA," 24 participants, 8/16/25
" The Six Triple Eight," 20 participants, 11/15/25
Participated in the liturgical life of the parish
Taught 2 Adult Formation classes:
Lenten series, "Loss," with Martha Robert, 26 attendees, 4/6/25
The current scholarship on Mary Magdalene: Mary the Tower, 27 attendees, 5/4/25
Made 4 silent directed retreats, including one 9-day retreat, Green Bough House of Prayer
Attended Spirituality Conference, Padraig O Tuama, The Cathedral of St. Philip, 10/18/25
Received monthly Peer Supervision for Spiritual Direction

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

Dios bendiga. Greetings friends, in the name of Christ, our Lord. I am humbled and grateful to have been serving as priest here at St. Bede's with the Ministries in Spanish for another year. I am grateful for the leadership partner I have in Deacon Iñaki who is instrumental in coordinating worship and events and caring deeply for the concerns of our community. Iñaki and I are further supported by the leading efforts of Judah, Molly, Beth, Orisha and a host of members who step forward to serve as needs arise.

2025 was a complex year that took our ministries through an array of emotions, spanning all the experiences of life. While we began the year with an average of about 70 people in attendance for Sunday afternoon worship, by the end of January our attendance abruptly shifted to an average of about 12 for much of the year. The sociopolitical climate felt by our faithful worshippers did not feel conducive to traveling to attend regular worship services. The feeling remains for some of them today. Please join us as we continue to pray for life in a community that feels safe for all to gather, worship God and return home, not in the fear of harm, intimidation, detainment or death, but instead buoyed by the grace, peace and love of God.

Through the year, families have intermittently attended worship in larger groups for celebrations and memorials. In grief and love we walked our sister Carmen home to God and celebrated her life with her family in July, expressing deep appreciation for her faithfulness to St. Bede's and the love she put into our ministries over the years. In all the ways we continue to gather and honor God, through joys, sorrows, fear and faith, I am encouraged by our faithful attendees who continue to come and invite friends and family to worship with us! Most recently, our Sunday afternoon worship attendance has grown to about an average of 25. We continue to invite God into our midst and stream online to reach folks who still cannot attend. Even with our challenges, here is how we have gathered and given glory to God over the year:

Baptisms: About 4 young people were baptized and their families welcomed into our community.
Presentations: There are two Hispanic traditions of presentation: at 40 days, recalling the presentation of Jesus in the temple; and at 3 years, to give thanks to God and the Virgin Mary for the life of the child. We presented about 4 children.
Confirmation: We celebrated the confirmation of about 9 youths.
Primera Comunión: We celebrated with 11 youth as they received Eucharist for the first time following the completion of their participation in community learning of our faith through experience and with deepened knowledge, understanding, and desire.
Quinceañeras: We celebrated about 5 quinceañeras praying with them as they move into this new season of life with God's help and the Virgin Mary's guidance.
Memorial Services: While I served in 3 funeral services, we had about 2 services in memory.

Day of the Dead: As a parish we remembered those who we love that are with us no longer, sharing in remembrance with pictures, writings, and tokens of our loved one's lives on an Ofrenda (Altar of Remembrance.) This year's Ofrenda was erected primarily by the youth, in Carmen's spirit and memory.
La Guadalupana: Our celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe was held on Thursday, December 11th featuring the Choir, Los Chinelos (Guerrero Dancers,) and The Mariachis, who played through our gathering to eat and fellowship. The youth's representation was great, as always! Many people came together to make this event a success as we welcomed about 100 people to celebrate with us. Deacon Iñaki's offered outstanding leadership, even as he was unable to attend, working diligently with Judah, Beth, Pedro, John, Molly, Yasenia, Victoria, the flower guild, and a host of folks who offered their time, skills, and strength to the worship, fellowship, dinner, celebration, and adoration.
Las Posadas: We shared a bilingual representation and journey of the story of Jesus' birth in a stable, following the path of Mary and Joseph as they looked for a place to stay, followed by songs and Christmas tree decorating!
Bilingual Services: St. Bede's continues to celebrate a number of holy days through bilingual services, where we are able to welcome folks throughout the whole parish and their families and friends into worship together. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is also bilingual, where we have intergenerational and multicultural fun learning about our faith and enjoying fun activities and crafts.
Etc: We continue to welcome visitors but recognize that some of our regular events were cancelled this year. Still, with God's help, I have blessed water, rosaries, children, celebrated birthdays and prayed as folks traveled. I am often deeply moved by the call of ministering to this community and remain proud of its members' work and grateful for their love and support as I continue this work.

Paz y amor y bendiciones a todos. (Peace and love and blessings to all.)
Rev'd Raymond Walker III / Padre Raymond

Invite – Welcome – Connect Ministry

The Invite-Welcome-Connect (IWC) Committee members are Sally Cook, Cathe Echterhoff, Gwen Heaton, Cindy Huston, Susan Reef, Suzanne Shapiro, Loretta Vail, and Jennie Couture.

Loretta Vail has served as a committed and passionate leader of the IWC Committee for many years. Under Loretta's leadership, many improvements have been made to create an intentional, warm and welcoming atmosphere. Loretta stepped down from her position this year but remains an active part of the committee. Please thank Loretta for sharing her time, talent and enthusiasm. We are grateful for the impact her hard work and dedication has made.

A wonderful group of greeters, led by Loretta Vail, meet every parishioner and newcomer attending the 10 a.m. Sunday worship. Please thank Nancy Bruce, Anita Montelione,

Suzanne Shapiro, Junior Abraham, Sally Cook, Loretta Vail, Pat Pickett, Helen Smith, Cindy Huston, Anita Maloof and Jennie Couture for always being there with a welcoming smile and greeting.

Gwen Heaton sent twenty-seven emails to welcome visitors who signed the guest book. Many visitors do not sign the book. If you meet someone please encourage them to sign the book. We are continuing to provide a loaf of banana bread and a St Bede's jar gripper to each person who visits. Huge thanks to Susan Reef and Suzanne Shapiro who bake the delicious banana bread.

Please consider joining the IWC team as new ideas are welcomed.

Jennie Couture and Gwen Heaton

Parish Life Ministries

Sisters of Bede

The Sisters of Bede had a very productive 2025. We continued our established programs, gathering most months for Bunco, organizing the Advent Bake Sale and Christmas Shop and the spring High Tea.

Bunco continues to be held on the third or fourth Sunday of the month depending on the host's preferences. We meet at 3:00 or 4:00 p.m. so that more of us can attend. Bunco is open to all the women at St. Bede's.

The 2025 Holiday Bake Sale & Attic Christmas Shoppe was a great success! This event is spearheaded by the Sisters of Bede but is a parish-wide endeavor. The Holiday Bake Sale has been popular with parishioners, friends & neighbors of St. Bede's for 15+ years. The Attic Christmas Shoppe is a recent but welcome addition to this event. The 2025 proceeds of $2,025.00 is allocated for the renovation of the Commons.

A new project, the "Art From the Heart Gallery", is in full swing with two very successful shows completed. Both shows included an Opening Night celebration and the Sisters provided the food for those events. Church of Our Saviour has been our partner in arranging and installing those shows, and we look forward to working with them on future shows. The next art installation is scheduled for April of 2026, the date to be determined

The High Tea was a success again this year due to the wonderful bakers and sandwich makers devoting their time to this great event. The Silent Auction was graced with beautiful baskets, arranged by the committee, sitting side-by-side with other lovely, donated items. Thanks to all who helped plan, prepare and serve during this event!

Lois Shingler

Men of Bede

The Men of Bede (MOB) is an organization of men that is built around helping, assisting, and serving. 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 2025 included assisting with renovation improvements within the church; 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. We spent several Saturdays working in the Memorial Garden area and other outside areas of the church grounds.

When called upon, we also come together to help 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

Mostly Mysteries Book Club

Mostly Mysteries Book Club meets once a month on the 4th Monday of each month. Currently we are meeting at St. Bede's during the day. Each month one of the members of the club picks the next book for us to read.

In 2025, we read 11 books (all mysteries). We enjoyed a visit from mystery writer Mike Ludden in March. Other books we read this year that took us around the world are Conclave by Robert Harris (Italy), The Secret War of Julia Child by Diana Chambers (South Asia), The Searcher by Tana French (Ireland) and The Sanatorium by Sarah Pearse (Switzerland). Most of the books we read were by authors who were new to us.

We welcome all who would like to join us. We also miss our former members and hope they are reading along with us.

Cathe Echterhoff

St. Bede's is a sacred place
where God and the human pilgrimage meet.
It is a welcoming community,
characteristic of the God we serve as followers of Christ
— welcoming and affirming people of every race, age,
sexuality, culture, ethnicity, gender identity, education,
economic circumstances, family configuration, and 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.

ST. BEDE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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