

The Comprehensive Campaign for St. Bede's Episcopal Church

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

– from Psalm 1

Dear Ones,

It is indeed a blessing and a delight to have been with you on the journey for such a long time now as your Rector – in our fifteenth year together. It is a blessing and delight because, indeed, St. Bede's is a special place and a special people – beloved of God and sharing God's love with the whole world.

As God's beloved at the corner of Midvale and Henderson Mill Road, we have been entrusted with sacred ground and sacred space that is ours to tend and steward for a season – just as the Henderson family did before we were planted here and just as the Muscogee and Cherokee peoples did centuries before them. People have been gathering on this land near the living waters of our beautiful creek for generations for rest and refreshment, for exchanges of goods and resources, and for worship and renewal.

The Psalmist tells us that God's people shall be "like trees planted by streams of living waters, bearing fruit in due season…everything they do shall proper". We are God's people planted here in this space for this season and it is our faithful obligation to bear the fruits of God's love for each other, the community, and the world.

Our *Planted by Streams of Living Waters* Comprehensive Campaign is our generations' invitation to respond to God's goodness and generosity that has been shared with us. We seek to make capital improvements to the interiors of our buildings and to our grounds that echo and reflect the spirit of love and welcome that resides in the hearts of the people of St. Bede's. We also seek to eliminate the long-term debt on our beautiful Nave to release operational monies (that have been used to service that debt) for the greater purpose of sustainably supporting our mission and vision.

I hope that you will enjoy and appreciate the scope of this effort as outlined in this brochure. I also hope that you will feel moved to make a gift to support this effort – a gift that represents, to your ability, how much St. Bede's means to you and to the greater community. If you have any questions about the campaign, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to our wonderful Campaign Co-Chairs, Jan Swoope & Steve Hadler.

Blessings and Peace,



Chad

St. Bede's – Who We Are

For over 65 years, St. Bede's Episcopal Church has been a community incarnating God's love and hospitality in our local, diocesan, and global community. Planted in Mr. Henderson's "Jesus Patch" at the corner of Midvale and Henderson Mill Roads, God's people gather regularly between the living waters of the creek which bisects our property, and the living waters of the baptismal font that flows in our beautiful Nave. St. Bede's is a community called to live God's love in the world through our baptism, and these living waters are a constant reminder that God's love flows through us and all of creation.

As a "missionary outpost" of the Diocese of Atlanta, St. Bede's proclaims this radical love and hospitality to the world through our welcome statement:

> *St. Bede's is a sacred place because it is a place where God and the human pilgrimage meet. It is a welcoming community because this is 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.*

Inspired by St. Bede the Venerable, a monastic who dedicated his life to prayer, study, and scholarship, we continue to embody a faith that is thoughtful and deeply rooted.

Our Origins

St. Bede's began as a faithful mission outreach from St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. First gathering at Briarlake Elementary School, St. Bede's soon acquired property on Henderson Mill Road on part of what had once been the large Henderson Farm. Mr. Henderson had long envisioned a church somewhere on the property and had pledged part of the land as a "Jesus Patch" for God to take root and do God's good work there. The first "Butler Building" was erected in the early 1960s and is what we know today as the Mission Wing. By the end of that decade, a new building containing offices, classrooms, and a new worship space was constructed for the growing community. This building is what we now know as the Parish Hall. In the next decade, the two structures were joined by a connecting building that has been known as the Commons since that time. This building also contained new offices, a kitchen, and a parish hall. To this day, the Commons is the crossroads for all that goes on at St. Bede's. Then, in the 1990s, a vision for a new worship space emerged – a vision deeply grounded in the liturgical principles of the *Book of Common Prayer*. In 1997, St. Bede's constructed the new Nave where God's people have gathered now for over a quarter-of-a-century to praise God, celebrate life's milestones, welcome new members into the Body of Christ, offer joyous music, and be formed and fed for ministry.

St. Bede's Today



St. Bede's is a vital witness to God's love for the world. It is also a place where the faithful gather as God's pilgrim people on the journey of life together, committed to love and support each other, and to join God who is present and active in the world. At St. Bede's, people's lives are transformed by finding a supportive community to help navigate life's joys and challenges. When newcomers arrive at St. Bede's for the first time, they are often moved by the spirit of welcome that is present in the community. They feel God's radical love incarnated in God's people and, in connecting, they share their gifts and love which further reflects God's presence here.

St. Bede's is also a multicultural community that offers worship and witness to God's love in two languages. Our community is enriched by this cross-cultural engagement and we are drawn deeper into our covenant to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" through these relationships.

The beautiful worship that we offer to God each Sunday also feeds and fills us to go forth in mission and ministry in the world. As we are sent forth, our deacon reminds us that although "Our worship has ended, the ***service*** always continues." Such service finds expression through outreach opportunities like providing gasoline gift cards for families who travel to visit loved ones held in the Stewart Detention Center; like filling "Baby Jesus Baskets" for homeless mothers and children served through Our House; like providing "Thanksgiving at Home" meals for members of the Peoplestown community through our partnership with Emmaus House; and by our youth participating in the Episcopal Community Foundation's Hunger Walk that supports the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

It is said that we can only reach out as far as we can reach in. At St. Bede's, our dedication to outreach is equaled in measure to our "in-reach" through the pastoral care that is extended to our community. And through the Julian of Norwich Center, St. Bede's offers spiritual direction and hosts Quiet Days for those who are intentional about strengthening their prayer life and deepening their faith.

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright
Bishop of Atlanta

Fall 2026

Greetings Beloved in Christ,

As your bishop, I am delighted by the decision of your Rector and Vestry to launch a special campaign to help St. Bede's steward its resources in such a way as to help the parish grow.

Your parish has long been known for its special charisms of *Drawing the Circle Wider* and welcoming all God's children, serving those in the margins, speaking pastorally and prophetically, and deepening spiritual connectedness to God - qualities that Jesus displayed while walking this earth. Thank you for this powerful witness.

I will be praying for you during your campaign that God will intensify your generosity and expand your ministry in such a way that St. Bede's can welcome even more seekers into the worshipping ranks of our beloved church.

With every blessing,

+R. C. W.

The Right Reverend Robert C. Wright
Bishop of Atlanta

What is a Comprehensive Campaign?

Our **Comprehensive Campaign for St. Bede's** involves a "triple ask" for three different types of giving:

Annual Giving – First and foremost, the parish needs your support for annual/ordinary giving. Annual giving **helps a parish GO**. Specifically, we are asking all communicants to make a gift or pledge to support the parish's 2027 ministries. This form of giving, typically derived from earned income or one's cash flow, supports the operating budget of the church which in turn funds its mission and ministry.

Capital Giving – Over and above one's annual giving contribution, we are also requesting your support for our capital campaign. Such capital/extraordinary giving **helps a parish GROW**. This special effort, infrequently undertaken, helps fund projects that annual giving alone can't support. Typically, contribution amounts to a capital campaign are more in line with a person's true giving capacity. As such, this giving involves money derived not only form one's cash flow, but also from one's asset base, like stocks and securities.

Legacy Giving – The third request is to seek legacy/ultimate giving support. About 90% of these gifts come to the church in the form of death-time transfers, and therefore are referred to as deferred gifts. This type giving is the most selfless form of support in that the donor will not be around to enjoy the benefits. Legacy gifts can be unrestricted to support a church's most urgent needs, or restricted to support endowments, whose derivative funds help "institutionalize" important programs for building the body of Christ and serving others in Christ's name. As annual giving helps a parish GO, and capital giving helps a parish GROW, legacy giving **helps a parish STAY** to benefit the ministry of future generations of saints.



The Capital Campaign

Within the Comprehensive Campaign, St. Bede's seeks to conduct a capital campaign to shape its grounds and facilities into spaces that better reflect the hospitality, love, and welcome that is experienced and known through our people. We also seek to position St. Bede's sustainably for its next season of ministry by retiring our debt and growing our endowment. What does this look like?

Exterior and Grounds Improvements **$297,000**

- **Covered Pavilion** – an outdoor gathering space, a classroom, a worship space, a place to meet a friend for lunch, and place our neighbors can sit-a-spell while walking a dog, a shady space from the Sun. There are so many uses for an outdoor covered space designed to accommodate a mid-sized group.
- **Children's Interactive Playscape** – not just a play-*ground*, but an interactive space that is woven into our landscape with stations to engage children's senses through sight, sounds, and play.
- **Welcoming Landscaping to support the Pavilion & Playscape** – landscaping to help integrate and root the Pavilion and Playscape into the grounds of St. Bede's.
- **Parking Lot Repaving** – Replacing the paving in our upper and lower parking lots to give them a new life for their next long season of use.
- **Roof** (already realized) – in 2025, we replaced the roof on the Parish Hall, Commons, offices, and kitchen. This new roof was needed immediately, but imagined as a component of this upcoming campaign. It was temporarily financed through an internal loan from reserve funds that will be repaid.

Interior and Ministry Upgrades **$240,000**

- **Commons Upgrades** – new comfortable, accessible, and durable furniture and finishings will make the Commons brighter and more welcoming as folks gather and linger to connect around worship, fellowship, formation, and outreach.
- **Main Bathrooms Remodel** – bathrooms will get a new look with more reliable fixtures and fittings.
- **Parish Hall Upgrades** – our dining and gathering hall will get new flooring, a small stage, audio-visual upgrades, brighter finishes, and acoustical enhancements to support how we use the space, for fun, formation, and fellowship.
- **Youth Area Renovations** – our Youth Group is thriving, but the space on the Garden Level has not been updated since the Parish Offices moved out in the 1970s. Rooms will be upgraded and brightened, AV will be added and a new "Youth Commons" space will be opened up for group gatherings.

Debt Elimination **$63,000**

- We will retire the balance on the debt from the construction of the Nave in 1997.

Total Campaign **$600,000**

Capital Giving Range of Gift Chart
Goal – $600,000

# Gifts	Range	Total	Cumulative
1	$75,000	$75,000	$75,000
3	$50,000	$150,000	$225,000
6	$25,000	$150,000	$375,000
12	$10,000	$120,000	$495,000
18	$5,000	$90,000	$585,000
Many	<$5,000	$15,000	$600,000



How can we reach our goal of $600,000?

Through your generosity and your faithful response.

The chart above shows how a cumulative series of gifts from individuals and families can add up to make our $600,000 goal attainable.

Questions & Answers:

1. Who planned and organized this Comprehensive Campaign for St. Bede's?

Members of St. Bede's Vestry planned and organized this undertaking. The Vestry engaged a fundraising consulting firm to gather information on the desirability and funding feasibility of the proposed initiatives of the parish. After prayerful consideration the Vestry agreed to proceed with a comprehensive fundraising effort that involves raising funds for annual giving, capital giving, and legacy giving.

2. What are the objectives of the comprehensive campaign?

- **Annual Giving Objectives**
  The purpose of the annual giving effort is to raise $460,000 to fund the 2027 budget.
- **Capital Giving Objectives**
  St. Bede's seeks to raise $600,000, total over five years, over and above what is raised for the annual operating budget, to fund the capital giving priorities outlined on page four.
- **Legacy Giving Objectives**
  In addition, the comprehensive campaign will seek to identify and secure legacy gifts that will greatly benefit the parish years into the future.

3. Who will be asked to support the campaign?

St. Bede's Vestry, Staff, Steering Committee, all remaining members of the parish, and parish friends will be asked to participate in this fundraising effort.

4. How long is the pledge period?

A pledge period of five years ('26, '27, '28, '29, and '30) has been established to facilitate the generous levels of giving necessary for the success of the campaign.

5. May I make a contribution other than cash?

Yes. Gifts of appreciated stocks and bonds, real estate, life insurance and charitable trusts will be gratefully received. A planned giving expert will be made available upon request to help you understand the benefits of different methods of giving.

6. How much should I pledge to the campaign?

Only you can decide how much to give. Your pledge should be based on your ability to give, your understanding of the need, and your belief in the mission of St. Bede's Episcopal Church.

7. May I make a gift to honor someone?

Yes. A gift may be made to honor or memorialize someone. A special packet will be prepared for the honoree referencing the fact that a gift has been made in their name.

8. Will I be notified when the payments on my pledge are due?

Yes. Regular reminders based on the pledge program you requested will be sent to you.

ST. BEDE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Campaign Co-Chairs

Steve Hadler and Jan Swoope

Campaign Steering Committee

Muriel Diguette
Heidi Klein
Barb Pettitt
Robin Schreiber
George Shingler
Jeff Swoope
Paul Werner

Chad Vaughn, *Rector, Ex Officio*
Jim Handsfield, *Senior Warden, Ex Officio*
Gwen Heaton, *Junior Warden, Ex Officio*
Nigel Poland, *Treasurer, Ex Officio*

Fundraising Counsel

Sinclair, Townes & Company
Atlanta, Georgia

Vestry

Jim Handsfield, *Senior Warden*
Gwen Heaton, *Junior Warden*
Muriel Diguette, *Junior Warden*
Martha Robert, *Secretary*
Larry Bing
Shane Hunziker
Paul Martin
Kelsey Murray
Miriam Needham

Church Staff

The Very Rev'd S. Chadwick Vaughn, *Rector*
The Rev'd Raymond Walker, III, *Priest Associate*
The Rev'd Lynnsay A. Buehler, *Priest Associate*
The Rev'd E. Claiborne Jones, *Priest Associate*
The Rev'd Iñaki Guevara, *Deacon*
Barbara Annobil, *Seminarian*
Henry Lee, *Interim Director of Music*
Laura Pittman, *Parish Administrator*
Molly Graves, *Director of Children & Family Ministries*
Beth Cannon, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Ellen Hopkins, *Bookkeeper*
Jerry Simmons, *Sexton*

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.

2601 Henderson Mill Road, NE ✠ Atlanta, Georgia 30345 ✠ www.stbedes.org

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