

St. Bede's Parish Project - Keeping the Faith

The effects of the pandemic on our communal life of faith are undeniable. Over the past eight months, our churches have had to find new ways of staying connected with one another, and with the communities we serve. Yet while our worship and outreach expressions may have changed, one thing remains the same: God's presence with us. As Episcopalians, we have a rich tradition from which to draw strength during times of crisis. From the Bible to St. Bede, our ancestors in the faith have preserved the accounts of those that have gone before us. Their stories of faith, though many of them centuries old, reassure us of God's constant presence and provision in all circumstances.

As we are living through our own historical moment in 2020, we invite you to share your experience during the pandemic by participating in our parish project, Keeping the Faith. This project will provide an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us during this time and will allow us to add our own voices to the great cloud of witnesses that proclaim God's faithfulness to us through the things they have left behind.

Q: What is Keeping the Faith?

A: Keeping the Faith is a parish-wide project that invites people to reflect on their experience of the pandemic and the ways in which God's presence has sustained them during this time of uncertainty. These reflections will be collected and preserved for future generations to have as a tangible witness of God's presence in this moment.

Q: How will our reflections be collected and preserved?

A: The traditional stories and personal accounts of our ancestors in the faith are foundational to our Christian faith. Participants in Keeping the Faith are encouraged to use their creativity in preserving their own experiences for posterity. For many, this will take the form of a letter that records their experience of the pandemic. Others may wish to write a poem, draw, paint or stitch some expression of God's faithfulness during this time. The only limitations are size - 8 ½" x 11" or smaller – and stability - no macaroni art, please!

Q: Will my personal reflection be shared with others?

A: Yes – that's the point! We envision that our Keeping Faith project will be preserved at the church, sort of like a time capsule, and will be opened in the year 2060 to commemorate the centennial year of St. Bede's!

Q: What is the timeline for the project?

A: Reflections for the Keeping Faith project will be collected throughout the month of November. You can email (or deliver) your reflection to Carmie McDonald at cmcdonald@stbedes.org Your submission will be collected and stored at the church for future generations.

Q: How can I get involved?

A: We will provide some questions to get you thinking about your experience of God during this unprecedented year. Watch the Friday newsletter and Sunday announcements for more information. Please contact Carmie McDonald with questions: cmcdonald@stbedes.org or 770-354-7099.