



a CELEBRATION
of MINISTRIES

annual report
January 13, 2013

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St. Bede's Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting

January 8, 2012 – Minutes Summary

Each parishioner was given a booklet with detailed reports from the Vestry Councils and the Financial Reports.

Following Holy Eucharist, the Rev'd Janice Chalaron convened the meeting at 11:20 am

The edited 2010 annual meeting minutes were accepted.

Candidates for the 2012 Vestry were presented. They are:

Larry Bing
Cheryl Murphy
George Shingler
Natalie Updike

Bruce Lampros was appointed by the Vestry to serve as the Youth Delegate to the Vestry beginning in the summer of 2012 when the current Youth Delegate, Bill Mizell, begins college.

The slate was closed with no nominations from the floor. The slate of candidates was elected by voice acclamation.

The rector introduced members of the Vestry Councils for updates:

Christian Formation – Julie Mizell
Music – John Whitt
Outreach – Joan Ballard
Facilities – Jack Weems
Youth – Bruce Lampros
Jubilee Gardens – Lois Shingler
Landscapes and Grounds – Taylor Graves
Parish Life – Cecilia Cohen
Newcomers and Outreach – Jean Tate
Ministry of Money and Commitment – Molly Graves and Will Mizell

The new and returning Vestry members were commissioned.

The meeting was closed with prayer and a hymn, followed by potluck luncheon in the Parish Hall.

Minutes submitted by:

Jean Tate, *Clerk of the Vestry and Recording Secretary for the Parish Meeting*

Senior Warden's Report

2012 has been a year of unexpected developments, celebrations, and new energy at St. Bede's. Our Annual Parish Meeting on January 8, ushered in change, as we were informed that the Rev'd Janice Chalaron had received a call as Priest-in-Charge at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in South Carolina. Janice's new call brought her and Pierre a welcome closer proximity to their children and grandchildren. On Feb 12, the parish celebrated Janice's and Pierre's 8 years with St. Bede's with congratulations from parishioners and gifts of a copy of the St. Bede's icon for Janice and a chainsaw for Pierre.

In early February, St. Bede's welcomed the return of the Rev'd Laura Bryant from sabbatical. In September 2011, Laura was blessed by the Diocese' call to develop the Episcopal Service Corps, working half time on the new Diocesan program to bring recent college graduates to provide service to needy in the Diocese. In addition to this new call, Laura continues to serve half time at St. Bede's as Associate Rector.

The news of Janice's new call triggered the Vestry to begin a search for a new rector, with the support of Bishop Neil Alexander and Canon of the Ordinary, the Rev'd Rick Calloway. After soul searching and consultation with the parish, the Vestry elected to call a Priest-in-Charge, who will serve the parish for a 3 year contract, with a mutual discernment after 1-2years to determine whether the Priest-in-Charge will be called as "permanent" Rector. The Vestry was provided names of 11 candidates from the Diocese, and after initial telephone interviews, we selected 4 candidates for in person interviews. By the grace of God, in June the Vestry agreed unanimously to call the Rev'd S. Chadwick Vaughn, then Rector at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Macon. We welcomed Chad to the parish on August 19.

During the search process, St. Bede's was blessed to have the Rev'd Bill Deneke, retired Rector of Holy Trinity Parish in Decatur, serve as interim rector (part time) from April through early August. Fr. Deneke brought a warm and nourishing spirit and leadership to our parish beginning with the Easter season. Fr. Deneke reestablished the greeting team, and led our welcome of the Rev'd Fabio Sotelo as new missionary for St. Bede's Hispanic congregation with his Reception into the Episcopal Priesthood celebrated on May 27 in a joint service led by Bishop Alexander and many staff from the Diocese. We celebrated the first joint service and luncheon for our English and Hispanic congregations on June 25, led by Fr. Deneke and Fr. Fabio, and we hope this closer link between our congregations will be sustained and grow during the coming year. We expressed our thanks to Fr. Deneke in a celebration on August 12, and once again shared a copy of our lovely icon as memento for his leadership.

Spring also saw many signs of new energy, including a joint cleanup day sponsored by Sisters of Bede and Men of Bede on March 23, in which over 30 parishioners worked to brighten up every corner of the church. This included a welcome facelift of the outdoor woodwork, led by Larry Bing and the facilities committee, to clean and paint all the woodwork, and rebuild crosses on the West and North faces of the church. Other traditional festivities such as pancake breakfast, Seder supper, Easter breakfast, Mother's Day tea, and Children & Youth Sunday all served to bring the parish more strongly together during the Lenten and Easter Seasons.

Our new Priest-in-Charge, the Rev'd Chad Vaughn arrived in Atlanta with his wife Amanda and 10 month old twin daughters in early August, and was able to find a new home within 1 mile of St. Bede's. Fr. Chad's first service on August 19 introduced him to the parish, with all witnessing his energy, faith, devotion to the liturgy, and his evangelist spirit. In addition to expanding the greeting and

communications teams, he quickly convened a strong 2013 stewardship campaign, led by Rob Townes and a steering group of a dozen St. Bede's parishioners. The goal of the campaign is to reach \$400,000 in pledged funds, to allow St. Bede's to continue to provide the worship, pastoral care, Christian education and outreach that it has done for many years, without financial deficits that we have endured in recent years. As of December 23, approximately \$340,000 had been pledged, with an additional \$97,000 committed to reduce our mortgage debt.

Fr. Chad continues to bring great leadership, energy, warmth, and humor to our parish; to foster increased joint participation with our Hispanic congregation; and to rejuvenate the parish office, website and communications. Among the highlights of the fall were the 10th successful BBB in October, and the confirmation of 4 young adult parishioners at The Cathedral in December.

This year we have been blessed by the devotion and resilience of so many of our fellow parishioners: the weekly efforts of the flower guild to make exquisite flower arrangements; of John Whitt and choir to provide music for our liturgy; of Beth Cannon and Julie Mizell and Molly Graves to lead Christian Formation for our children and youth; of the St. Bede's Parish Administrator Paula Curl and volunteers who keep St. Bede's running smoothly; the fellowship of the Men of Bede and their support for the facilities and cleanup; the tireless grounds work of Taylor Graves; the leadership of the Sister's of Bede's in supporting parish life and the many celebratory events this year; and the work of the Outreach Council to share our abundance with those in need both within and beyond our Atlanta community. We offer our deepest thanks to all who share in the work of our church, councils and guilds that sustain our wonderful community.

With leadership of Fr. Chad as our Priest-in-Charge; our new Hispanic missionary Fr. Fabio, and the dedication, fellowship and energy of so many devoted parishioners, St. Bede's can look forward to 2013 as a year of continued faith, rejuvenation and growth.

Steve Hadler, *Senior Warden*

Finance Council

The mission of the Finance Council is to oversee, as directed by the Vestry, the financial activities of the Parish. The Finance Council met 3 times in 2012.

The members of the council include:

Chad Vaughn, <i>Priest-in-charge</i>	Steve Hadler, <i>Senior Warden</i>
Will Mizell, <i>Junior Warden/Treasurer</i>	Brad Joiner
Kelly Jurgens	Carlin Lutz, <i>Sisters of Bede and Endowment</i>
Stan Meiburg, <i>Men of Bede</i>	Molly Graves
Nigel Poland	Fran Snider, <i>Sisters of Bede and Endowment</i>
Barbara Helms, <i>Bookkeeper</i>	

The responsibilities of the Council include the following:

- Meet at least quarterly to review and provide input to the Vestry on the financial status of the budget
- Coordinate preparation of operational and capital budgets
- Supervise the annual financial audit that we are required to perform
- Review applications for fundraising and program expenses
- Monitor activities of Endowment Board
- Direct communication of financial status and performance to the congregation

Highlights of the Council's activities in 2011 include the following:

- Reviewed the financial performance to ensure that the intent of the budget is followed while recognizing our short term challenges and maintaining our long term viability
- Worked with the Vestry and the Diocese of Atlanta to request a reduction in our Diocesan Pledge for 2012 resulting in our obligation for 2012 being reduced significantly from 10% to 7%.
- Proposed 2013 Budget to the Vestry

Will Mizell, *Junior Warden*

Landscape and Grounds

The Landscape and Grounds Committee continues to oversee the maintenance and improvement of the grounds at St. Bede's.

Our efforts for this past year have concentrated on consolidating the beds where we have done new plantings in the last 5 years, and on providing upkeep of the cleared out and planted areas. We received more rain this past year, so things grew faster and this required more time devoted to trimming and controlling overgrowth.

The areas needing ongoing maintenance are:

1. beside the creek, including the Jubilee Garden
2. the bed with the giant cross
3. the valley at the corner of Henderson Mill and Midvale
4. the entrance drive, including the path leading to the valley
5. the upper parking lot bed (Gowler bed) and church front entrance
6. the Memorial Garden.

And the intrepid Sisters of Bede, community gardeners, and Flower Guild continue to oversee the Jubilee Garden, Community Garden, Herb Garden, and raised flower beds.

There are still plans to do more plantings and grounds improvements, when time and circumstances permit. Let me know if you like to play in the dirt, or if you have ideas on how to make the grounds look better.

Taylor Graves, *Chair*

Facilities Committee

The purpose of the facilities council is to oversee the daily maintenance and management of maintenance expenditures required for our worship space and all common area buildings.

Serving on the Facilities Council:

Jack Weems, *Chair*

Taylor Graves

Steve Hadler

Fred Murphy

Larry Bing, *Vestry Liaison*

Drew Spires

Jeff Swoope

2012 was a busy year for the facilities committee. Early in the year we decided to tackle some overdue maintenance issues to improve the overall appearance of the church and assess long term needs with regards to major maintenance expenses for the foreseeable future. During this year we elicited the help of many parishioners but we owe a special thanks to Stan Meiburg and the Men of Bede. We were able to accomplish much this year with a lot of time and talent while keeping expenses low.

Listed below is a list of the completed projects:

Prepped and stained all exterior wood siding

Installed new kitchen exterior door

Painted kitchen, electrical room exterior doors and downspouts

Replaced white crosses inset in siding

Installed New Freezer

Replaced heat exchanger and heat shield on left side HVAC system above Nave

Cleaned debris from roof and gutters

Cleaned Ice Maker

Replaced veneer on exterior Nave doors

Replaced damaged ceiling tiles in Commons

Roof leak repairs

Cleaned chandeliers and replaced bulbs in Parish Hall

Re-wired overloaded circuits in Parish Hall

Adjusted Rector's closet shelf and closet bar

Rerouted drain line in front of Day School wing

Removed two dead trees from outside the nave

Replaced damaged wood, sanded and sealed playground equipment, and spread mulch

Updated street sign with web address and Hispanic service information

Replaced commode in Day School wing

Replaced kitchen garbage disposal

We hope to repair, prep, and paint all the wood trim around the windows and the Parish Hall along with a few doors early next year and are currently gathering information as to the life expectancy and replacement costs for a new roof over the Nave and HVAC system.

If you would be interested in helping out on work days or with other facility related projects please contact Jack Weems at jweems@gwdesigngroup.com 770-938-5263 or Larry Bing at lbings@grpkg.com 404-274-6500

Thank you,
Larry Bing, *Vestry Liason*

Worship Council

The Worship Council is made up of seven distinct groups that act in support of our Clergy.

The groups and their Chairpersons are:

Michael deCamp	Bread Guild
Julie Mizell	Acolytes
Will Mizell	Ushers
Pat Pickett	Eucharistic Ministers & Lay Readers
Nancy Waring	Altar Guild
Nancy Ward	Flower Guild
John Whitt	Music

Each of these people work in concert with our priests and each other to provide a worship space and service not just on Sundays but other special occasions. With the change in our clergy this past year there has been a smooth transition as new situations have arisen. One such situation has been the closer connection to our Hispanic Community, especially the combined bilingual services. New events and services will surely arise in the coming year as new things are tried as St. Bede's grows spiritually and physically. New members of each of the groups are encouraged and most welcome.

Mike Daniel, *Vestry Liaison*

Music Ministry *A Year of Giving Thanks*

When in our music God is glorified, How often making music we have found
And adoration leaves no room for pride, A new dimension in the world of sound,
It is as if the whole creation cried "Alleluia!" As worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise,
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!

— Fred Pratt Green (b.1903)

Words that remind us what music allows us to do. Words that remind us what music does for us. Words to guide us in our offering of worship—for a chorister, for an organist, for the faithful. Words that express the approach to music at St. Bede's.

As Organist and Choirmaster, I have much to be thankful for. And I believe that the things I am thankful for are those which uphold all the people of St. Bede's in our worship life.

I am thankful for the continuing support of the people at St. Bede's. It is a moment of grace when as musicians, we learn that we have touched someone's spirit in the rendering of an anthem, hymn or piece of instrumental music. Thank you for telling us about that.

I am thankful for continued support of the clergy and lay staff for good music in the parish. This past year has seen many changes, partings and welcomings. I am grateful for the support I received from Janice Chalaron, awakened by the enthusiasm and creativity of Bill Deneke during the interim, and delighted to receive support and encouragement from our new Priest-in-Charge, Chad Vaughn.

Barbara Helms, her family, and the Men of Bede: Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your help in re-organizing the nave storage space for the music department and for help in moving music stored in the undercroft to that space. Thanks, Paula Curl, for all your help and support with matters administrative and liturgical layouts; Beth Cannon for her creative and moral support; and to Lynnsay Buehler for her calming presence.

And finally, thanks to all those singers (and parents of young singers) and players who give of themselves to such a vital part of our worship life. We couldn't do it without you, and we invite any and all interested in contributing their musical talents to explore opportunities with St. Bede's music ministries. Although choirs are enthusiastic and perform their ministry with excellence, we always have room for more membership, especially the St. Bede Choristers (treble/children).

I am always interested in speaking with anyone interested in offering their musical talents in worship, whether as a singer, or as an instrumental player. I would welcome a phone call, or an e-mail from anyone interested.

Choir membership offers many benefits:

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

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

Newcomers/Evangelism Council

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What a wonderful year this has been for us at St. Bede's!! *"Through Christ and with Christ all things are possible and can become new."* The Mission of the 2012 Newcomers Council is to integrate newcomers and visitors into the parish. In addition, to provide hospitality, promote fellowship, receive and assimilate newly transferred members into the church, and the growth and support of members through shared fellowship and faith.

The members of the Newcomers/Evangelism Council are:

Vestry Liaison (2012)	Donareen Oakley
Chair	Loretta Vail
Priest-In-Charge	The Rev'd S. Chadwick Vaughn

To achieve the council's objectives, work is facilitated through three principal subcommittees:

Greeters - Mission is to welcome newcomers and visitors to St. Bede's

Callers - Follow-up with visitors and newcomers

Office Volunteer - To provide administrative support

The Committee is dedicated to increasing membership for the parish, as a whole, but more specifically to embrace friendship, community, and fellowship particularly to newcomers and visitors. For the year under review, we accomplished this by building on the events and practices already in place, while creating a few institutions of our own in the process. The Greeters Committee was put in place to warmly welcome persons visiting with us, and to simultaneously make them feel "at home" the very first time they step into our place of worship. To complement our ministry, we established a Calling Committee whose primary purpose will be, to make follow up calls to visitors identified on Sunday mornings, and to visit them at times mutually convenient. Hence, in the final analysis, the idea is to increase church membership. Nancy Greene, our office volunteer, has additional responsibility of assigning the names of visitors to the Calling Committee for additional follow up actions. The Clergy also participates in the process.

In our recent meeting, the Newcomers' Council explored the ideas of the parishioners wearing name tags, implementing newcomers series, providing web link for newcomers on the St. Bede's website, displaying board for visitors to learn more about the Episcopal Church as a whole, but St. Bede's in particular, having the children's classes make welcome cards/book marker with the St. Bede's website information, service times, and providing telephone numbers for newcomers. We are also going to present visitors with a loaf of bread to thank them for visiting with us and breaking bread with us. In this regard, we invite you to share new ideas with us that you feel can help to increase church membership, be a more welcoming community, and let St. Bede's become more visible in the wider community.

Finally, on June 10, 2012 we had our first Newcomers' Lunch at which time we officially recognized 6 newcomers to St. Bede's. At our last committee meeting on November 18, 2012, the records indicated that from August to November 2012 we had a total of 12 newcomers.

I take pleasure in providing you with this brief report which addresses our accomplishments during the year just ended. Admittedly, there is more to be done.

As your Vestry Liaison, I am indebted to the Committee members, to the Clergy, Church Office staff, and Parishioners for their support and guidance in ways too numerous to highlight. Thank you!

Donareen Oakley, *Vestry Liaison*

Communications Council

In 2012, a newly formed Communications Council was established with the following members:

Ray Callaway	Lois Shingler
David Knope	Sandy Spires
Muriel Knope	Natalie Updike
Bruce Lampros	Amanda Vaughn
Donareen Oakley	Chad Vaughn

Highlights of the Council's activities in 2012 include the following:

- Discussed and assessed the goals and call of the Communication Council, including: to spread the good news of Christ, and of St. Bede's Church; to oversee the use of various communication tools; to enhance communications within the parish; and to increase St. Bede's visibility in the larger community to draw newcomers to our parish.
- Maintained the website as an informational and promotional tool, including regular updates to keep parishioners and the wider community apprised of parish events. Ray Callaway has agreed to serve as the webmaster for stbedes.org and has been instrumental in improving the functionality of the site, as well as making regular content updates. Improvements to the website include the addition of a webpage devoted to St. Bede's Hispanic Ministry, as well as dual translation of the homepage welcome message in Spanish and English.
- Launched the St. Bede's Facebook page, establishing the parish's social media presence, with assistance from Sam Lenaeus, Sandy Spires, Amanda Vaughn and Chad Vaughn. Facebook administrators (Sandy Spires, Amanda Vaughn and Chad Vaughn) have been assigned to monitor the page on an ongoing basis.
- Developed a Communication Form with assistance from Sandy Spires. The form is designed to make it easier for parishioners and community members to make announcements for inclusion in the bulletin, newsletter, website or Facebook page, with guidelines for required information and details.
- Evaluated methods for making sermons available on the website, a feature to be launched in 2013.

Natalie Updike, *Chair*

Adult Christian Formation

The mission of Adult Christian Formation is to help us grow as Christians as we deepen our understanding of our faith, thereby equipping us to carry on the work of all the baptized: To represent Christ and his Church, to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given to them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world.

The members of the council are:

Natalie Updike, *Chair (through March 2012)*

John Branan

Laura Martin

Michael DeCamp

Muriel Diguette

Connie Aylor

Cheryl Murphy, *Vestry Representative*

Ron Aylor

The Rev'd Laura Bryant, *Clergy Representative*

The responsibilities of the council are to organize and oversee Adult Christian Formation classes on Sunday mornings, as well as ongoing study groups and special programs throughout the year.

Highlights of the 2012 council activities include:

Sunday Morning Classes

Living the Questions

How Liturgy Gives Meaning to our Lives led by our Interim Rector, Bill Deneke

En Fuego, On Fire, led by our priests:

Chad Vaughn, Fabio Sotelo, Lynnsay Buehler, Laura Bryant

The First Paul, by John Crossan a book discussion led by committee members

Special Offerings

Instructed Seder led by Emory Professor, Bill Gilders

Ongoing Study Classes

Tuesday morning book study and reflection group, Books, Bible and Banter, continues to meet twice a month, and is led by the Rev. Laura Bryant.

Wednesday Night Bible Study meets twice a month and is led by Drew Spires.

Education for Ministry, mentored by the Rev'd Lynnsay Buehler and Jo Marie Lyons

Youth Ministries

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

The members of the Youth Council are:

Beth Cannon, *Director of Youth Ministries*

Julie Mizell, *Christian Formation Council Chair*

Cheryl Murphy, *Vestry Liaison*

The Sunday School Teachers:

Young Adults in the Church (YAC–11th & 12th grades) – Taylor Graves, Claudia Fedarko

Journey to Adulthood (J2A–9th & 10th grades) – Beth Cannon

Rite 13 (7th & 8th grades) – Leslie Joiner & Molly Seif

Youth Group/Program Highlights of the year 2012:

January–MLK service project in Decatur

February–Shrove Tuesday; Hosted farewell luncheon for Rev'd Janice Chalaron

March–Hunger Walk

April–Easter celebration and egg hunt

May–Youth Liturgy, Senior Homilies (Bill Mizell, Kelcie Sellers)

June, July & August–Summer off

September–Kick - off at the Weem's lake house with 21 of our kids

October–BB&B cookout fundraiser

November–Urban Adventure, Birmingham, AL;

Christmas Tree, Wreath, Honey Baked Ham, St. Bede note card sales

December–Delivered Christmas trees, served as readers for the pageant, toys for tots toy drive;

J2A is preparing for Pilgrimage to Jarrow and Wearmouth in June of 2013.

Children and Youth Christian Formation Committee

For many years the Rev'd Laura Bryant led the Children and Youth Christian Formation Committee. Her ministry was one that identified and nurtured lay leaders from our parish. In 2012 that ministry transitioned to those lay leaders who assumed the responsibility of organizing and guiding the Children and Youth Christian Formation Committee. Under the leadership of committee chairs, **Julie Mizell** and **Molly Graves** our children and youth continue to thrive and grow in God's love!

Children and youth are full and important members of the church family at St. Bede's. Our mission is to help them along their spiritual journey through age-appropriate and inspiring Christian Formation programs and activities. To accomplish this mission, the Children and Youth Christian Formation Committee focuses on strengthening Sunday School programs, recruiting and recognizing volunteers, promoting the involvement of children in worship and liturgy, and providing opportunities for children to participate in outreach.

We continue with the **Godly Play** curriculum for ages 3 through 3rd 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. We are blessed with an experienced Godly Play faculty.

Godly Play teachers are as follows:

2012-2013: Jean Tate (cluster leader), Molly Graves (cluster leader), Bo Bancroft, Cecilia Bryan, Julia Dalbom, Molly Graves, Alyson Hart, John Hutton, Jody Klein and Nancy Waring.
2011-2012: Jean Tate (cluster leader), Bo Bancroft, Cecilia Bryan, Julia Dalbom, Molly Graves, John Hutton, Lisa Main, Marrie Tronolone and Nancy Waring.

Our **Intermediate** class generally includes 4th and 5th graders and uses the *Crossings for Kids* curriculum, which explores a range of Bible stories. As with Godly Play, we have been blessed with an experienced Intermediate faculty.

Intermediate teachers are as follows:

2012-2013: Nancy Ward, Terry Cannon, Paul Hart
2011-2012: Nancy Ward, Terry Cannon, Laura Sellers

We offer **Children's Worship** year round during the first half of the 10:45 service for children ages 3 through 3rd grade. Children's Worship is staffed by the Godly Play teachers and a rotation of parent volunteers during the school year. Children are offered a snack, given time to play, and participate in a simple liturgy. The Children's Worship experience is enhanced with music provided by a group of talented volunteer guitarists led by Jimmy Tate. During the summer we have a simplified format that does not include a liturgy. Summer Children's Worship was ably led by Kelcie Sellers who was assisted by parent volunteers.

We also provide a **Nursery** for our youngest members year round beginning with the 8:15 service through the conclusion of the 10:45 service. Christine Lanier and Carol McNabb are our long-time, experienced nursery staff members.

Annual highlights include Rally Day to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School year, the Intergenerational Advent Wreath Making Workshop for all ages, the Baby Jesus Baskets project to collect baby supplies for new mothers in need, the Christmas Pageant, burying and resurrecting the Alleluias, and the Easter Egg Hunt. We celebrate the end of the Sunday School Year with our annual

festive liturgy led by the children and youth. In June 2012, we continued our tradition of offering an exciting and dynamic Vacation Bible School with the *Baobab Blast* curriculum thanks to a large group of wonderful volunteers led by Molly Graves, Leslie Joiner and Molly Seif.

The Children and Youth Christian Formation Committee wishes to thank everyone at St. Bede's for their support of the programs for children and youth. Additionally, the committee thanks all the wonderful Sunday School teachers for their gifts of time and talent; our nursery workers, Christine and Carol, for their devotion to and tender care of our youngest members; and all of the parents and volunteers who help in large and small ways to make our programs possible for the children and youth of St. Bede's.

Current members of the Children and Youth Christian Formation Committee:

Cheryl Murphy, *Vestry Representative*, Jean Tate, Sandy Spires, Sue Ellen Lampros
Molly Graves and Julie Mizell, *co-chairs*

The Pastoral Care Council

The Pastoral Care Council consists of four committees:

Eucharistic Visitors	Daughters of the King
Share the Care	Caregiver Support Group

The **Eucharistic Visitors** are headed by Michael deCamp. They bring the Eucharist to members of the parish who are homebound or recovering from surgery or illness. Sacrament was provided 74 times by four Eucharistic Visitors this year.

The **Daughters of the King** are headed by Nina Daniel. A Daughter of the King dedicates herself to a life of prayer and service. They share in a community ministry as well. They assist clergy in providing care and assistance to grieving families upon the occasion of a funeral and provide food for a reception following the service. They compile a prayer list for those who are ill and pray daily for these members, family members and friends.

The **Share the Care Committee** is headed by Cheryl Murphy and Laura Martin. They organize the delivery of meals to parishioners who are sick, bereaved, or after the birth of a child.

The **Caregiver Support Group** is headed by Claudia Fedarko and Patsy Baxley. Its members have significant responsibilities caring for a parent, child, spouse, or other, who has special needs.

The Pastoral Care Council, with the help of the Flower Guild, distributes flowers to homebound or hospitalized parishioners at Christmas and Easter.

Cecilia Cohen serves as Vestry Liaison to the Pastoral Care Council.

Parish Life Council

2012 saw Janice Chalaron leave after 8 years as our Rector; Laura Bryant, our Assistant Rector, return from sabbatical; the Rev'd Bill Deneke spent 4+ months with us as our part-time interim priest, and Chad and Amanda Vaughn arrive among us to begin our journey with Chad as our Priest-in-Charge. It was a busy year for the Council and, in particular, the subcommittees whose members did all the heavy lifting:

Kitchen Committee – maintains the church pantry, and the organization and cleaning of the kitchen and its appliances.

Special Events – oversees the planning and recruitment of volunteers for events involving food, lunches and receptions.

Men of Bede – meet one Saturday a month for a fellowship breakfast at Hickory House. The Men of Bede also get plenty of sweat-equity fellowship through various maintenance activities around the church.

Sisters of Bede – come together for special projects. They coordinate Bargains, Bangles and Bede's autumn sale, the pre-Christmas Bake Sale and other activities.

The coordinating of the following events required the participation of many, including the Vestry, the Sisters of Bede and the Men of Bede:

Jan 8 – Annual Parish Meeting and Potluck Lunch
Feb 5 – Reception welcoming back the Rev'd Laura Bryant from Sabbatical
Feb 12 – Celebration of the ministry of the Rev'd Janice Chalaron, gift of framed copy of St. Bede's icon, purse; comments by former senior wardens (Stan, Nigel, Jack, Eve)
March 24 – Clean-up Day with Sisters & Men of Bede and many others
March 25 – Seder Dinner with 50 parishioners
April 1 – Palm Sunday Hot Cross Buns
April 5 – Maundy Thursday supper
April 14, 21, May 19 – Outside cleanup and painting – Larry Bing, coordinator
May 13 – Mother's Day Tea
May 20 – Children & Youth Sunday
May 27 – Reception of Father Fabio into the Episcopal Priesthood and Celebration of the Hispanic Ministry of St. Bede's
June 24 – Service and luncheon with Hispanic Ministry – a great success
June 25-29 – Vacation Bible School
Aug 12 – Farewell Celebration for Bill Deneke – gift of framed copy of St. Bede's icon
Aug 19 – Reception welcoming the Rev'd Chad Vaughn
Oct 21 – Stewardship Luncheon
Oct 26-27 – Bargains, Bangles & Bede's
Dec 23 – Christmas Tree Decorating Party

The coordinating of potluck meals, receptions, picnics, BB&B, etc. requires the efforts of many, especially the Sisters and men of Bede. Thank you to the Kitchen Committee, Elaine McClean and Nancy Ward, for keeping the kitchen stocked with supplies. Thanks to everyone who moved furniture, washed table cloths, dish towels, setup the Parish Hall and Commons, prepared meals, cleaned the kitchen, and generously gave of their time to get it all done.

Jean Tate, George Shingler, *Vestry Liaisons*

Outreach Council

During the past year, the Outreach Council of St. Bede's with the invaluable help of our fellow parishioners has tried to make a difference to the lives of the needy and less fortunate people, locally, nationally and internationally. I often think of a quotation attributed to William Temple, who was the Archbishop of Canterbury during the Second World War. He said, "*The church is the only society that*

exists for the benefit of those who are non-members". I have certainly given that quote a lot of thought, every time we make another appeal.

Once again, the recession has been felt and boundaries were challenged. An enormous debt of gratitude is owed by the Outreach Council to our fellow parishioners who have risen to the appeals with such grace and provided us with the resources to help those in need. At times, the appeals must have felt over-whelming, but I think we can justly take some pride in what we have achieved this year as a church. We as the Council for Outreach are fully aware that none of the following could have been achieved without the support of the church and its members. A sincere thank you is offered to each and every one of you who provided materials, time, energy, prayer and other support to our various outreach efforts.

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In **January**, Debbie Betsill, the Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development introduced us to "Nets for Life." Since then, we have been collecting money for this most worthwhile project and to date, we have raised \$2,459 which means that we have purchased 204 mosquito nets for the people of sub-Saharan Africa. One of the 8 millennium goals agreed to by 189 heads of state and governments from around the world in the year 2000 was to combat malaria.

On the 10th of **February**, our commitment to the Reverse Mission Trip came to an end. I am happy to report that Nanda la Domanti and Bikash Kharel are happily settled in Clarkston and are acclimating to their new lives. They continue to be grateful for the wonderful start that St. Bede's helped to give them by stocking their pantry, paying their rent for 3 months and furnishing their apartment.

Our commitment to the **NET Food Pantry** is ongoing and we are obligated to provide the pantry with approximately 120 jars of jelly every month. In 2011, it was brought to our attention that we were spending \$1200 per annum on this item and the finance for it came out of the Outreach budget. After thoughtful consideration, it was decided to re-implement "Jelly Sunday" and the response from the congregation has been so successful, that money that would have been spent on jelly can now be channeled elsewhere. Twice a year, volunteers from St. Bede's man the pantry for the benefit of the clients who are in need of food assistance. To date, the church has donated in excess of 325 jars of jelly to the pantry. Nancy Ward and Lewis and Sally Cook are our representatives and they do a sterling job.

In **March**, Elaine McLean arranged for three teams from the church to prepare and serve the evening meal to the residents at Nicholas House. Three dates were chosen and the point people viz. Elaine McClean, Nancy Ward and John Hutton with their band of helpers including Meg Councilman, Loretta Vail, Nancy Greene, Laura Martin, Cheryl Murphy, Ray Piper, Cathe Echterhoff, John Ynpema, Heidi and Jody Klein, Julia Dalbom and Joan Ballard, provided meals for 23 adults and 26 children on each of those nights. Thanks must go to Elaine McClean for arranging the evenings for us and warm thanks to all who contributed food or gave of their time. As always, it was a heartwarming experience, especially meeting the residents.

In **April**, Cathe Echterhoff, Elaine McClean and Joan Ballard joined Deacon Carole Maddux and the members of Church of the Common Ground for a service under the sun. Elaine McClean provided the members of the church with 69 pairs of reading glasses, which are always in need. Before leaving St. Bede's for the service, we made 68 sandwiches for the members and were joined by Dee Weems and Nancy Greene for the task. This visit always leaves one feeling blessed and saying an extra prayer for the members of the church who often find themselves in unenviable circumstances. The Church of the Common Ground found itself struggling financially at the beginning of the year and in order to help

the situation the churches in the diocese were asked to contribute monetary aid towards this remarkable and important ministry. St. Bede's donated \$1,000 to help alleviate the situation.

The **Community Garden** yielded 230 pounds of green peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers this year and once again, the NET Food Pantry benefitted from the efforts of the gardeners. A herb garden has been added and hopefully it will be put to good use in the forthcoming year. Our resident duo of "gardeners in charge", viz. Fran Snider and Rita Gowler were ably helped by Lois Shingler and a new addition to the team is Muriel Knope, who brings expertise and fresh ideas to the project. Special thanks must go to everyone who helped with the watering during the long, hot summer months and to Jimmy Tate and Nancy Ward, for keeping the tank filled, so that watering could be facilitated with ease.

Mother's Day was blessed by having an in-gathering of canned food from the members of the parish and it was donated to the NETWorks Cooperative Ministry.

In **May**, Dee Weems organized a visit to Emmaus House, which proved to be most interesting and gave a glimpse into Dee's "other life". The functions of Emmaus House are numerous and it is well deserved of our support. Special thanks to Dee for arranging the visit.

To honor all fathers in **June**, we had yet another in-gathering of canned food for the NETWorks Cooperative Ministry. Once again, the response was favorable and the director of this ministry was delighted to be the recipient of our generosity.

MedShare International is an organization dedicated to recycling surplus medical supplies and equipment for use in developing countries. Occasionally volunteers from St. Bede's helped with sorting and packing of these items. In October, the 800th container was shipped to Haiti.

St. Bede's supports the development of **Peter and Paul's Place** and it is hoped that this mission, which is a work in progress for Lois Shingler, will become what she has envisioned for the project and will benefit people with disabilities.

The church continues to support the **NETWorks Cooperative Ministry**, which has gone from strength to strength since its inception and does a splendid job in our very own community. The ministry provides assistance with rents, utility bills and emergency food supplies. Fortunately, they are back on track again, after having to face a financial irregularity last year, which forced them to close for 4 months. Approximately 96 people are helped in some way, on a monthly basis. Elaine McClean single handedly keeps this ministry stocked with soft toys for the children of the clients and they have benefitted from the coats and sock drive that was held in October and November at the church. They were also the recipients of food from the Vacation Bible School, which was kindly arranged by Molly Graves. 19 local churches are involved in this ministry and they all pledge financial assistance, which keeps this ministry running. St. Bede's pledged \$1000 this year. The church also has 3 members of the congregation who volunteer at this ministry on a regular basis, viz. Nancy Ward and Nancy Greene and Joan Ballard, who also represents St. Bede's on the board at the NETWorks Cooperative Ministry.

Dee Weems has once again been instrumental in ensuring that the residents of **Peopletown** had a happy Thanksgiving. She appears to go about this task in a cool, calm and collected manner, despite the magnitude of the task. The parish provided 385 turkey dinners this year, which is no mean feat. Grateful thanks to Dee and everyone else who participated to ensure the success of this annual ministry.

As our **Christmas** Outreach mission this year, the council decided to ask the members of the church to donate toys. After some consideration it was felt that the toys should go to “Toys for Tots”, because they experienced a shortfall this Christmas and were not able to distribute as many toys as in the past.

Disbursements for 2012 are as follows:

Church of the Holy Comforter	\$600
Episcopal Charities Foundation	\$600
Grant Park Clinic	\$600

I would like to thank the Rev'd Laura Bryant for her guidance and wise counsel during the year and my fellow council members, Jan Swoope, Dee Weems, Elaine McClean, Lois Shingler, and Nina Daniel. I am happy to report that Lois and Nina joined us again at the beginning of the year, after taking a little break owing to pressure of outside circumstances. I would also like to thank Carol Kemker our Vestry Representative, who carried our thoughts and ideas back to the Vestry. I certainly could not have wished to be surrounded by a more gracious council, who brought many skills and talents to the table.

On a personal note, I shall be stepping down as Outreach chair and handing over the reins. The past two years have given me insight into another ministry of the church and has been most rewarding on all levels and has made me very aware of the generosity of the family of St. Bede's.

Go forth in Christ and do God's work.

Joan Ballard, *Chair*

St. Bede's Day School

The Day School is almost back to capacity after a few slow economic years. There are 79 families, with 89 students in attendance. Our pre-K program is full this year, and we have a few classes with wait lists. We have a dedicated staff of 14 wonderful women. The monthly tuition income is close to \$13,000.

Christine Humphreys, *Director*

Hispanic Congregation of St. Bede's

The Hispanic Congregation of Saint Bede is a growing community of 80 to a 100 Hispanic people who get together in the parish for Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 5 pm in Spanish. Many of them were baptized Roman Catholic, but were not attending any church. They are finding in Saint Bede's, hospitably, service and respect for their traditions such as the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. We are looking forward to opportunities to celebrate together our cultures, food and music. Three to four times a year we bring the communities together to celebrate a bilingual service, followed by food and fiesta.

Many of the members of this community are children. Therefore along with the celebration of the Eucharist, we offer Christian Formation for children and youth. In December twenty-five children received communion for the first time, and 15 youth were confirmed in their faith.

At the end of this month of January several parishioners of the English speaking congregation will begin offering free English classes for the Hispanic congregation.

The Rev'd Fabio Sotelo, *Director of Hispanic Ministries*

The Julian of Norwich Center

November 2011-December 2012 Summary of Activities:

- 61 Individuals seen for Spiritual Direction
 - 41 Episcopalians: 5 from St. Bede's; 36 from 16 other parishes in the Diocese of Atlanta
 - 20 from other denominations: United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Disciples of Christ, Moderate Baptist; 48 women, 13 men
- 10 people served through the Contemplative Living/Centering Prayer Group, 2011-2012
- 11 people served through the Contemplative Living/Centering Prayer Group, 2012-2013
 - 14 Episcopalians: 3 from St. Bede's; 11 from 6 other parishes; 7 from other denominations: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, African Methodist Episcopal; 21 women, 0 men
- 9 people served through Education for Ministry (EfM) Group
 - 7 members in 2011-2012; 2 new members in 2012-2013
 - 7 Episcopalians: 6 from St. Bede's; 1 from another parish; 2 from other denominations: Presbyterian, African Methodist Episcopal; 7 women, 2 men
- 3 people served through the Clergywomen's Spiritual Direction Colleague Group
 - 1 Episcopalian, from another parish in the Diocese; 2 Disciples of Christ; 3 women, 0 men
- 58 people served through four Quiet Days offered through the Center (Advent 2011, EfM 2012, Lent 2012, Advent 2012)
 - 42 Episcopalians: 20 from St. Bede's; 22 from 8 other parishes; 16 from other denominations: Lutheran, Roman Catholic, United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian; 52 women, 6 men
- 130 people served through two classes and a Quiet Day at sites beyond The Julian of Norwich Center office:
 - Class on "The Annunciation and Visits with Angels," Mary and Martha's Place, Atlanta;
 - Class on "Faith, Wellness and the Family: Emotional Well-being," St. Luke's, Atlanta;
 - Advent Quiet Day sponsored by the DOK, All Saints', Hilton Head, S.C.
- Many served through providing referrals to spiritual directors, retreat centers, spiritual direction training programs and therapists

The Rev'd Lynnsay A. Buehler, *Director*

Nominees for Vestry

Muriel Diguette



Muriel has been a member of St. Bede's for 2 ½ years, where she has been a Greeter, and served on the Adult Formation and Endowment Committees. She is in Year One of the EfM class. Muriel was Bishop Alexander's Executive Assistant for 5 years before becoming the Parish Administrator at St. Martin in the Fields, where she has been since May 2012. She is a native Atlantan, life-long Episcopalian, is married to Rick, and is mother to Andrew (age 24) and Sally (age 20). Muriel is looking forward to serving on the Vestry because it is the best way to get to know everyone in the parish!

Leslie Joiner



I became a member of St. Bede's in 2002 following the baptism of my son, Matthew. I became interested in St. Bede's because my mother, Nancy Keating, had joined St. Bede's and it just seemed like a natural thing to follow her. It took no time at all before we felt right at home and jumped into the children's programs. I taught Godly Play for a couple of years and became involved in the planning of Vacation Bible School. My favorite volunteer position at St. Bede's (so far) has been serving as the chair of Children's Christian Formation for four years. I am currently teaching Rite 13 for the second time and I am enjoying getting to know our middle schoolers...they are a fantastic group of kids and they offer conclusive proof that middle schoolers really do get a bad rap...most of the time. I have served on several other committees and work groups, most recently the Stewardship Committee. A native of Atlanta and a lifelong Episcopalian raised by the good people at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, I live in Decatur with my husband Brad, our two boys, Matthew (10) and Owen (almost 7), and a fat black lab named Lolo. I work part time at Decatur Presbyterian Children's Community as a preschool teacher in Parents Morning Out. My interests include running, reading, and cooking. I am honored to be considered for a Vestry position at this exciting time of growth and change at St. Bede's.

Stan Meiburg



Stan has been a member of St. Bede's since 1997. He previously served on the Vestry from 2000 to 2003 and was Senior Warden from 2001 to 2004. Stan has also taught in the Journey to Adulthood program, including the pilgrimage to New York City in 2009, and has been an organizer (if you can believe we are ever organized!) for the Men of Bede since 2004. In 2008, Bishop Alexander volunteered Stan to chair the Diocesan Commission on Environmental Stewardship. Stan is also a Lay Reader and Eucharistic minister, a second year student in the Education for Ministry (EfM) program, and hides among the other four tenors in the St. Bede's choir.

Stan was raised as a Baptist in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New York but began attending the Episcopal Church in the early 1970s, found a home here and was confirmed in 1979 while living in Baltimore. Since then he has also lived in Cary, NC and

Colleyville, Texas. Stan works for the Environmental Protection Agency's Regional office in Atlanta, and has just completed 35 years with EPA. To his great joy, he is recently engaged to Julie Johnson and they are planning a summer wedding at St. Bede's. He has a son, Jonathan (a musician), and a daughter, Dorothy (a high school English and Creative Writing teacher), and is looking forward to becoming a grandfather in early May.

Drew Spires



Drew has been a member of St. Bede's for just under three years when he and his lovely family moved to the Northlake area. Drew is married to the gorgeous Sandy Spires and has two beautiful daughters Savannah and Caroline as well as a handsome son James. His hobbies include reading books, playing guitar (generally LOUDLY in the basement), and jogging/strolling through the neighborhood. He helped lead a bible study at St. Bede's until recently, and currently plays guitar at children's church, helps out with the J2A group, reads lessons and meets and greets at the 10:45 service on 2nd Sundays. He enjoys eating and chatting with the MOB group on Saturdays. He's also currently in the process of seriously thinking about putting together a group of folk players at St. Bede's and plans on actually doing something to accomplish this within the decade.

Drew is currently a mathematics teacher at Parkview High School, and he's in his 13th year as a high school mathematics teacher, as well as in his 10th year teaching at the collegiate level. Drew is looking forward to serving on the Vestry because he thinks St. Bede's is a great community of people, and he'd love to be more involved in helping the church grow and become an even deeper, richer part of the community.

Jan Swoope



Jan has been a member at St. Bede's since 1986. She has served as the Day School Director, senior warden during the nave construction, outreach chair, stewardship chair, J2A leader, and is an EfM graduate. She has been on St. Bede's mission trips to Pearlinton, MS and Mendenhall, MS, and parish pilgrimages to the Land of Bede in Northern England with the choir (as a photographer, not a singer!); to Haiti with Food for the Poor; and the J2A pilgrimage to the Franciscan monasteries in California. Jan is in her 22nd year at St. Martin's Episcopal School where she is the Director of High School Placement and 6th grade religion teacher. Jan and Jeff have been married 40 years and have two grown children Chris and Amy, daughter-in-law Susan, and grandchildren Sydney and Tyler. Jan would like to serve on the vestry because she senses a

renewed energy and spirit at St. Bede's and hopes to serve our parish community faithfully with enthusiasm and cooperation. She also wants to thank the current vestry for its leadership and wisdom in calling Chad as priest-in charge.

st. BEDE's episcopal church

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