

THE QUILL

Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, 2010-11



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve:

4:30 pm, Informal Christmas Service
for Children of all ages
10:30 pm, Festival Choral Eucharist:
The Christ-mass

Christmas Day:

St. Bede's does not have a service on Christmas Day. For those looking for a Christmas Day service, we would encourage you to attend the 11 a.m. service (with Music) at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 11555 National Blvd. (@ Federal)

Canon Jim's Jottings

This issue of the Quill covers the Season of Incarnation. That is, it covers my favorite seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany (Jan. 6) and Jesus' baptism (Jan 10). It is a season of Preparing & Expecting and then Finding & Celebrating.

It seems that here in the office, we are always living a season as we plan for it. Therefore, we have been talking about Advent & Christmas long before we get out the Advent Wreath or the Blue vestments. It is not unlike the overly long pre-Christmas season in secular society where candy canes, snowmen and Christmas trees immediately replace Halloween paraphernalia. We "Sing a Song of the Saints of God" and then immediately send up a flare so that the Three Magi will find their way yet again to the infant King.

ADVENT

We celebrate Advent beginning on November 28 and for the three Sundays following. The blue color of Advent reminds us of preparation; it also reminds us of Mary, the Mother of Our Lord. The early church called her *theotokos* ("Godbearer"). Each week, we light another candle to symbolize the growing expectation of Jesus' birth.

On that first Sunday, Cashel Mattson will be baptized at the 10 a.m. service. The next Sunday (Dec. 5), the 10 a.m. service will feature the Lessons & Carols of Advent highlighting in word and song the Old Testament prophecies in which the Christian community hears the promise of the Messiah.

Later in Advent, on Sat. December 18, children and adults will decorate the tree beginning at 3 p.m. After the decorating, the Kids of Bede will have a party in Luther Hall while the Adults will enjoy a festive Christmas jazz musical presentation.

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~"Jottings," Continued from Page 1

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

All of the preparation culminates on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the Christ candle and the white vestments and the explosion of color and song in our services. Vicki is coordinating this year's 4.30 p.m. service for "children of all ages." It will involve ALL of our children and feature several new musical numbers. We hope that all of you will come to celebrate with the youth of the parish.

The 10.30 p.m. service will be the traditional "Christmas," opening with a short service of Lessons & Carols as we live in the new light of Jesus. [Note: we do not have a service at St. Bede's on Christmas Day, but suggest that those interested attend the 11 a.m. service at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.]

The 12 Days of Christmas begin on Christmas Day and end on "the twelfth night," that is Wednesday, Jan. 5 - the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany. The Feast of the Epiphany marks the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles (symbolized by the Magi, the so-called "wise men"). On that Wednesday, we will gather after the service to share in the traditional King's Cake.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS & FOLLOWING

On the Sunday after the Epiphany (Jan. 9), we remember Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist (of whom we have heard a great deal on Dec. 5 & 12) and we baptize people and/or renew our own baptismal promises. In some countries the "Nativity Season" that surrounds Christmas does not end till the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Wed., Feb. 2). This year, we will have a special service that evening to end that time and to celebrate with me the 32nd anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood.

EVENTS

Every year, on the first Friday and Saturday in December, the Convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles is held in Riverside, CA. Our delegates are Kyle Ferstead, Jerry Hornof & Gina Turella and the Alternates are Annette Graw, Frank Basile & Carly Portalupi. This year, the convention will hear reports from our new suffragan Bishops on important issue for the Church - Diane Bruce on the new Disciplinary Canons and Mary Glasspool on the Anglican Covenant.

The 45th Annual Meeting will be held following the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, January 23. It will be preceded by a pot-luck luncheon (see article elsewhere). I encourage people to prayerfully consider running for the Vestry or to represent the Parish at the Convention and Deanery level.

On the 30th of January at 7.30 p.m., our next Friends of Music presentation will feature Brian Head, guitar, Paula Fehrenbach, cello and "friends." St. Bede's classical guitar series continues with chamber music for guitar and strings, including Boccherini's delightful guitar quintet.

STUDY

Adult Christian formation options include:

- The Bookworms of Bede, who meet on the 3rd Monday of every other month and are reading "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows (Jan. 17) and "The Pearl" by John Steinbeck (Mar. 21).
- Breakfast and Bible classes each Tuesday at 9 a.m. (Not on the last two Tuesdays in December).
- Wednesday evening classes following the 7 pm eucharist - the upcoming classes are listed on the last page of the Quill (not on the last two Wednesdays of December).

STEWARDSHIP

The Vestry is completing the Stewardship program for 2011. It is imperative that each member of St. Bede's return a pledge card even if they cannot make a financial pledge at this time. Even in this economic climate, we need to continue our "growth arc" so that we can both continue to offer the programs that we have begun and prayerfully consider new ways to reach both outside our parish "walls" and inside our parish program. It will determine both program and staffing for the next calendar year. Please prayerfully consider your pledge and return a pledge card if you haven't yet done so.

BUILDING

The roof work will be completed by mid-November. We will be adding a new gutter on the upper roof to replace the one that needed to come off in the fall work. We will also be adding the solar panels to revolutionize our energy footprint and help lead the "green way" here in Mar Vista. I am hopeful that one of our Bishops will come out to bless that project when it is complete.

~"Jottings," Continued from Page 1

DIRECTORY

Carly Portalupi is working on the new pictorial directory. Many thanks go to Penny Jennings and the photographic work that she has contributed. We soon will announce a date to add new parishioners (and new children) to the collection of pictures. I am hopeful that it will be ready by the Annual Meeting in January.

My best wishes and prayers for a blessed Advent and Christmas. The next *Quill* will come out in mid-February and will focus on Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

In Christ,

Jim Newman

Out and About Or Home on the Range

By Mthr. Vicki

Movie Night for Parishioners of St. Bede:

We will meet on **Sunday, December 5, at 4:00 p.m.** for potluck dinner and movie. We will be watching *Home Alone* with Macaulay Culkin, the 1990 comedy about a boy who is accidentally left behind during the Christmas holidays by his family bound for France. This is a wonderful time for fellowship and entertainment. Please join us in Luther Hall for this family friendly movie. Our next movie night will be in the **New Year, Jan. 16 at 4:00 p.m.**, movie to be announced. Questions? Call Mthr. Vicki at (310) 625-7364.

Kids of Bede and Parents of Bede:

Our annual Christmas Pageant is right around the corner! If you have not already marked your calendars, please do so for the following Sundays: Dec. 5 - costume fitting during coffee hour; Dec. 12 - lunch and

rehearsal; Dec. 19 - lunch and rehearsal. Our Pageant will take the place of the sermon at the Family Service on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m. Please do not forget that there will be no Sunday School on Nov. 28, Dec. 26, and Jan. 2.

Needlers of Bede:

Our Christmas commitment to the children at Hillside is almost complete. What a thrill to see all the beautiful scarves and hats that have been hand made with prayers and love! Our deadline for completion is December 12. A draped table will be placed in the sanctuary for both Sunday services that day to display all the items we are giving to the children. We want parishioners to see the wonderful work that has been accomplished through this ministry before it is blessed and sent out. Thank you in advance to all those who rose to this ministry occasion! Needlers will meet from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. in Luther Hall on the following Sunday dates: Nov. 21 and Dec. 12. We will break for Christmas and meet again in the New Year on Jan. 9 and 23.

Women of Bede:

Women of Bede met on October 24 for an Anglican Rosary Workshop. Under the guidance and generosity of Kathy Fairchild, fourteen women met to make rosaries for prayer devotion. It was a time blessed with creativity and spiritual refreshment! Our next workshop will take place during Lent: *Experiencing the Labyrinth*, date and time to be announced. Women of Bede will meet Nov. 14 in the Sanctuary from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and on Dec. 5 in Luther Hall from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. In the New Year we will meet Jan. 16 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Please consider joining us for this time of spiritual fellowship.

Last but not Least! Save the date: June 3 -5, 2011 for the second annual Women of Bede Retreat at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. Our retreat will again offer three different plans: a two night stay, a one night stay, or a commuter special. Details and sign-up opportunities will be offered in the New Year.





Sisters of Bede

Time to Start Thinking About Christmas!

The Sisters of Bede invite you to bring your friends young and old to a family event to get ready for the holiday season:

St. Bede's Tree trimming and Concert
Saturday, December 18, 4-7 p.m
Adults \$5, children free

Everyone will join in decorating the big Christmas tree in the church, decorating cookies and greeting Santa. Then, kids get to watch some classic Christmas favorites downstairs, with child care and a light kid-friendly meal, while adults upstairs enjoy grown-up refreshments and an hour-long concert by acclaimed jazz pianist Chris Dawson playing from his recently released CD "Stridin' Through Christmas." Please come and bring your friends!

Sisters Say 'Thanks to All'

The Sisters of Bede thank everyone for coming out to the Party of Parties on October 9, and all those who are hosting party venues during this current 2010-2011 series. Thanks to all of you, this fundraising effort to benefit our church, NYA and other charities has already raised well over \$5,000.



45th Annual Parish Meeting

The 45th Annual Meeting will be held in Luther Hall following the 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist and a pot-luck luncheon on **Sunday, Jan. 23**. The Annual meeting is a time when reports covering the year past are made to the parish, the Vestry reports on the 2011 Budget which will be passed by the Vestry in mid-December, and elections are held for open seats on the vestry & for St. Bede's representation to the Convention of the Diocese of Los Angeles.

The Nominating Committee of the Vestry will present a roster of candidates:

For Vestry (4-2 yr. Terms): Mike Mullins & Dean Pace will be "termed out" and Sharon Arthur has resigned due to her impending move to Missouri.

The Vestry meets monthly on the fourth Monday each Month and for a winter planning retreat (in 2011, 2/5). Members serve on at least one of the three main committees: Finance & Facilities, Outreach, and Program.

For Diocesan Convention Delegate and Alternate (2-year term): These people represent the parish at the Annual Convention of the Diocese (1st weekend of December, in Riverside) and at any meetings of the Deanery, as scheduled.

If you are interested in one of these positions, contact Mike Mullins, Dean Pace, Carly Portalupi or Rea Crane.

Because of the meeting, there will be one celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. The early service at 8 a.m. will be a service of Morning Prayer.

Preceding the Annual meeting, the Vestry will hold a potluck luncheon. To determine what you should bring, first determine the last digit of your home telephone number. If the last digit of your telephone # is, bring:

9-0-1, main course;
 2, bread;
 3-4, salad;
 5-6, vegetable;
 7-8, dessert.

The AIDS Ministry Lunch Program

By Jeanette Young

In 1992, Eugenia Eaton, Elsie Harter, Jean Boone, Bette Wallace, Patrick Fox, Lew Ehrich and Jeanette Young met at the home of Shirley Hutson to plan for an AIDS Ministry Lunch Program. Others who joined the group later were Don Thomas, Karen Kuchel, Christine Thomas, Jean Dahler, Paddie Harris, and Phyllis Morrison.

The Lunch Program was started by the Diocese of Los Angeles, The University Synagogue and several Temples on the Westside, as well as All Saints, Beverly Hills.

It was noted that clients at L.A. County/USC Outpatient AIDS Clinic had to wait in line for appointments and were not fortunate enough to buy food for lunch while waiting in line. As a result, the Lunch Program began its service. Three churches – St. Mary's Palms, St. Bede's and Holy Nativity – began the program serving lunch for outpatients at the L.A. County/USC AIDS Clinic.

The churches involved pledge \$150 quarterly to fund the program. After many years of service, Holy Nativity dropped out of the program. However, Grace Lutheran in Culver City is now part of the program, pledging \$200 quarterly along with St. Bede's and St. Mary's, to cover costs. Additionally, Pastor Josh of St. Andrews Lutheran Church and some of his parishioners are also active in the program.

Volunteers meet the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary's Palms, to prepare four kinds of sandwiches, deviled eggs, cookies, fresh fruit and juice. The volunteers carpool to County/USC and serve about 85 clients at the main clinic, and 25 clients at the Women's and Children's Clinic.

Before the holidays, volunteers donated material and sewed gift bags for Christmas gifts. However, the group now purchases bags so clients can use them for their personal needs. In November volunteers gather at the home of Jeanette Young for a potluck dinner and fill about 228 gift bags with collected gift items. The bags include toothbrushes, toothpaste (donated by the family

of the late Jean Boone), and toiletries. Toiletries are donated throughout the year by parishioners and friends.

The group also distributes \$10 gift cards for clients, donated by parishioners and friends for distribution at the holiday luncheon. Donated Christmas cards are also included in the gift bags.

Current volunteers from St. Bede's are: Jean Dahler, Phyllis Morrison, Don Shaw and Jeanette Young. Also in the group is Brice Martin from Saint James Church, Wilshire. This service is an ongoing project. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for this worthwhile cause is encouraged to contact Jeanette Young.

New Quill Schedule

The Quill will now be a quarterly publication.

Coverage and publication/deadline dates will be as follows each year:

Advent-Christmas-Epiphany

(Mid-Nov.-Mid-Feb – Deadline, Nov. 1)

Lent-Holy Week-Easter

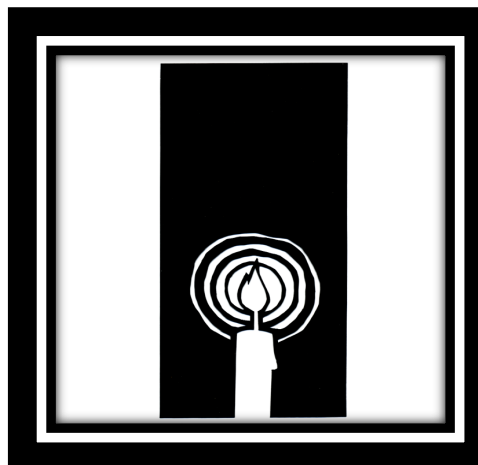
(Mid-February-Mid-May – Deadline, Feb. 1)

Pentecost-Summer

(Mid-May through Summer – Deadline, May 1)

Homecoming-Michaelmas

(Mid-September-Mid Nov. – Deadline, Nov. 1)



Bishop Bruce Presents Theological Reflection to House of Bishops

Focus is ministry in multicultural contexts

[Emphasizing the importance of effective ministry in multicultural contexts, Los Angeles Bishop Suffragan Diane M. Jardine Bruce delivered the following theological reflection to the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops on September 20, 2010.

Changing Contexts for Evangelism in the 3rd Millennium

Leadership Opportunities for New Demographics

Dear friends -- you should have on your tables a sheet of paper with a text from the book of Acts (2:1-8) along with an article from The New York Times on the changing demographics in Orange County, California -- where I happen to live and for which I have oversight as Bishop Suffragan. As a way of background and as you may well guess, the Diocese of Los Angeles is home to one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse populations in the United States. On any given Sunday, services are held in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Taiwanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog and English. We also have many English-speaking ethnic communities worshiping side by side with Anglo congregations. In addition, we have several "emergent" churches in which the language and structure of the liturgy are different from what we find in the BCP [Book of Common Prayer].

I first want to reflect on the Pentecost passage with you. As that gale force wind swept through the place where the disciples were staying, they had a choice -- to run, batten down the hatches, or go with it. They went with it. When they went with it, the Holy Spirit was able to do a great work in and through them. As a student of linguistics, it would be wonderful to say that a linguistic miracle occurred -- the undoing of the Tower of Babel story, if you will -- where all could understand

each other without taking a language course via Rosetta Stone or a local community college. How did this event transpire? What can we learn from it? Upon prayerful reflection and having spent time "in the field", so to speak, I have come to understand that we don't need to speak all the different languages that may be spoken in our dioceses in order to be successful leaders. There is only one language that we need to speak -- and I believe it was this language that was spoken at the first Pentecost -- it is the Trinitarian language of radical hospitality, listening and love. This is the language we need to recapture and honor today as we minister in a time of rapidly changing demographics in many of our dioceses.

As leaders in the church, the invitation to all of us is to understand who is living in our neighborhoods and to put into practice what our church signs say: "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You." How do we do this?

We honor and welcome those among us when we take the time to offer them RADICAL HOSPITALITY by walking among them, and opening our doors to them.

We honor and welcome those among us when we LISTEN to THEM and work to understand their stories and their cultural context.

We honor and welcome those among us when we take the time to learn what is burning on their hearts -- what are the needs of this community, and how can we work together, collaboratively, to fulfill those needs -- to show them the love of God in Christ that is the work of the church.

I have been around incredible groups of people where I couldn't speak their language AT ALL -- and I have studied 8 languages throughout my lifetime so far -- but, you know -- a smile, warm eyes, and an heart open to listening, learning and loving goes a LONG way to express not only God's love, but our faith. That, again, I feel, is the Pentecost language miracle -- the disciples were able to see people in a new light -- indeed, in a holy light -- through the lens of love of God in Christ.

Finally, we honor and welcome those among us when share the story of who WE are, and share our cultural context and needs.

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~"Changing Contexts,"
Continued from Page 6

Once we have heard each other, the real work begins.

How we welcome those of other cultures and languages into our congregations speaks volumes about how we can accommodate their needs linguistically and socially -- OR, worse case, how we force them to "be like one of us". "We need to be one church" is a frequent response to forcing non-English speakers into participating in part of a primarily English speaking service each Sunday. When we don't honor issues such as language needs and especially in Asian culture, the need for a communal meal directly after a church service, we are participating in the worst form of tokenism, and tying the hands of the new group instead of honoring them and setting them on a path to grow.

This applies also to the emergent church or fresh expression -- however you want to label this movement around the world. It is another form of worship and gathering communities that begs our same leadership and oversight - to nurture and support not only the people that are drawn to it, but to listen, love, and honor them by allowing them the flexibility to worship in the way that the spirit is moving them.

Our opportunity IS radical hospitality, listening and love. We've all had the opportunity to welcome people into congregations. Indeed, we've all made promises many times as we welcomed a new member into the body of Christ through the sacrament of baptism -- you know the words as we renew our own baptismal covenant -- "Will you respect the dignity of every human being?" I've always been struck by this particular promise we make -- and grateful for the response, "I will, with God's help."

We do need God's help. As leaders in the church, we especially need God's help as we help others live into the baptismal covenant. This means allowing that same gale force wind that the disciples experienced to blow through us and instead of shutting our doors against whatever is outside, we need to open our doors wide. We must allow the Holy Spirit to do her work. This means opening our doors and our hearts in a new way -- not tolerating the "other", but embracing

all as children of God. Not practicing tokenism and patting ourselves on the back because we have [put the name of the ethic or OTHER group here] in our congregations. It means we need God's help as we embrace and welcome the other, not to conform to OUR ways of doing things, but to understand and see that God is doing an incredible work in and through them -- if we but RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING. It also means that we need to rethink traditional seminary education and encourage our seminaries to develop special educational programs to help us identify, raise up and train lay leaders as well as clergy for these new ministries. We also, when we have clergy trained and ordained, need to ensure that there is parity in compensation among all clergy serving in our dioceses.

So, when people come before us looking differently or speaking a language we don't understand -- which, I want to remind us, can be English -- such as the 20 and 30 year olds that we long to have join our parishes or those who see the Emergent movement as the movement of the love of God in Christ and the Spirit in a new and exciting way -- we need to STOP. We need to think back to the Pentecost moment. Open our hearts, minds and doors -- let the wind blow and the Spirit move -- practice radical hospitality, listening and love. Then, only then, will we and the clergy in our dioceses be answering I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP to the question that is in our fortune cookies today. And it is THE question -- the answer, well -- that's up to us -- and to the people who serve in our dioceses.

Note to the reader: The text in the fortune cookie distributed to the members of the House of Bishops reads in Spanish and Chinese the following: *Will you respect the dignity of every human being?*



SERVICES & CLASSES

SUNDAYS: 8 am, Holy Eucharist (no music)
10 am, Church School and Nursery
10 am, Holy Eucharist (w/choir)
6 pm, Evensong or Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAYS: 7 pm, Holy Eucharist & Healing
7:45 pm, Adult Class

TUESDAY BREAKFAST & BIBLE:

9 a.m.: Breakfast and study of the upcoming Sunday's lessons
Not meeting on 12/21 or 12/28

WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM:

Advent Study: *An Adult Christ at Christmas* by R. Brown
12/1 The First Christmas Story (Matt.2-1-23)
12/8 The Second Christmas Story (Luke 2.1-21)
12/15 Jesus & the Temple (Luke 2.21-52)
12/22 & 29 NO CLASS

BOOKWORMS OF BEDE:

1/17: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
3/21 *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck

ST. BEDE'S STAFF & VESTRY

STAFF

RECTOR: The Very Rev. Canon James Newman
ASSISTANT: The Rev. Victoria Mouradian
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Frank Basile
VERGER: Michael Gallagher
HEAD SACRISTAN: Jeannette Young
FACILITIES MANAGER: Tom Ledsam
SEXTON: Joaquin Perez

VESTRY

Rea Crane ('12) - Senior Warden
Carly Portalupi ('11) - Junior Warden
Sharon Arthur ('11) Christoph Dugré ('12)
Michael Mullins ('11) Liz Mohler ('12)
Dean Pace ('11) Alice Short ('12)
Gina Turella ('12)
Annette Graw - Clerk
Christoph Dugré ('12) - Treasurer
Jennine Townsend - Financial Secretary

DELEGATES/ALTERNATES TO CONVENTION

Kyle Ferstead (D)/Annette Graw (A) ('11)
Jerry Hornof (A)/Frank Basile (A) - ('12)
Gina Turella (A)/Carly Portalupi (D) - ('12)

The Quill

St. Bede's Episcopal Church
The Parish of Mar Vista, Venice, Ocean Park, and Playa Vista

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