

# THE QUILL

## Lent – Holy Week – Easter, 2011



### Lent Study and Quiet Day to Focus on an Old Parish Friend

Bill Countryman is an old friend of St. Bede's. Twice before, books of his have been the focus of our Lenten study. In Forgiven and Forgiving we looked at one of Jesus' essential ministries and themes. In The Poetic Imagination we studied the theology of God through the inspired words of Anglican poets. In the midst of both of those studies, Professor Countryman was the leader of our Lenten Quiet Days.

In 2011, we will be reading Bill Countryman's new work Lovesongs & Reproaches: Passionate Conversations with God. Guided by a lesson plan being prepared by Dr. Countryman, we will focus the nature of God as perceived through his poetry. The comments from the back cover of the book give us a view of our experience:

### Canon Jim's Jottings

I need to start my thoughts with an apology. We use a set of the Prayers of the People developed by the Rev. Ormonde Plater, an Episcopal Deacon serving in the Diocese of Louisiana. Ormonde is an old friend and I have found his prayers helpful as we move through the themes enunciated by the flow of the Revised Common Lectionary. In the Christmas season, we had a series of prayers over the Christmas Sundays which troubled both me and several others. They said:

"For the conversion of the whole human race to our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Glory and praise to you, O living God."**

I find myself both repelled by and drawn to those words. The repulsion and also the reason for my apology is the fact that in our imperfect world and with our culturally conditioned ears, we can hear that petition diminishing the experience of God by many of our non-Christian brothers and sisters. We want and pray that they experience the joy that we have found in Jesus. However, we are also called to "respect the dignity of every human being" and if we are true to that, it follows that we respect the relationship that each person has with their God (or gods). True, it may not be OUR relationship with Jesus.

So, we are called "to be the only Bibles some people will ever read." That is a big calling. If someone is to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, it is not because we have gone out and hunted for "scalps". It must be because people see our joy and the fruit of that joy in the way we "do justice, love kindness, [and] walk humbly with [our] God.

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We have suffered the loss of two of our longest-time members at the end of January. Elsie Harter died at the age of 99 on January 27 and Canon Wes Hartley died at the age of 87 on

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*~"Jottings," Continued from Page 1*

January 28. It is hard for me to imagine this parish without those two people. Elsie was involved in our parish outreach and St. John's Guild for decades. For many, she was the parish "grandma" who loved to clean up the kitchen after the 10 a.m. coffee hour. Wes was the Senior Warden when I was called here in 1990 and worked for us and for the Diocese in so many ways.

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We are in the Season **after** Epiphany and all of Lent and Holy Week (essentially the months of February, March and April). Easter this year comes almost as late as possible (the latest is April 25). We will again have several occasions to gather both in worship, study and fellowship with our friends from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

#### ANNUAL MEETING ACTIONS

We had a good 45th Annual Meeting. We bade farewell to Vestry members Sharon Arthur, Mike Mullins and Dean Pace; and we elected Jerry Hornof, Cristine Reynaert, and Phil Schultz, and re-elected Carly Portalupi to the Vestry. We retained the two Wardens Rea Crane (Senior Warden) and Carly Portalupi (Junior Warden). The Vestry met to organize and set priorities on Saturday, February 12.

Last year I said that we were close to erecting the sign. I guess that it would follow that I could now say that we are closer. I will be talking with Councilman Rosendahl's office in the near future and I truly hope that I am not telling a lie that I intend to see it up by the Feast of St. Bede in May.

#### EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY

A new series of the **VIA MEDIA** class began on January 30th and will run for eight sessions at Noon on Sundays in the Library. This is a great class to attend if you are new to the Episcopal Church and/or if you wish to be confirmed or received into the Church and/or if you wish to reconfirm your baptismal promises because of changes or growth in your spiritual path when the Bishop comes for a visitation on June 26.

In Lent, we will be studying "Love Songs and Reproaches" a book of theological poetry by the Rev. Bill Countryman, New Testament scholar and a retired

professor from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, CA. We will discuss that on the Wednesday nights of Lent starting on March 16 (that night at St. Andrew's).

On Saturday, March 26, Dr. Countryman will be the presenter for our Lenten Quiet Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and he will also be the guest preacher on Sunday, March 27.

As I wrote last year, "Spirituality is hard to define. For some people, it is how they communicate with God. For others, it is about frequency of prayer or intensity of faith. For still others, it is about faith-driven service. One's spirituality may be based in silence while another's is based in tumult and mess. Sometimes it is organized and precise and sometimes it is chaotic. Lent is a time for allowing oneself to take a fearless, critical inventory and see what is working and what is not. Part of that process may be availing oneself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation of a Penitent (BCP pp. 446-452). Should you wish to meet with Mtr. Vicki or myself during Lent or Holy Week, please take the time to talk with us after the service both to discuss the sacrament and to schedule a time to meet. Lent is not a time for giving anything up. Lent is a time for taking something on. I would suggest that 'the peace of God that passes all understanding' be one of our goals. Being centered on and in our faith will give us balance and stability as we walk the path of Lent and Holy Week."

My prayers are with you as we walk this path together.

In Christ,

*Jim Newman*



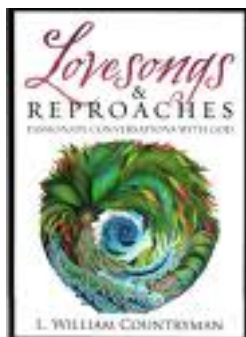
~"Lent Study and Quiet Day,"  
Continued from Page 1

"Bill Countryman has woven a tapestry in which poetry and theology and story-telling, celebration and lament flow together seemingly effortlessly. It makes compelling reading. Drawing us on with words that energize, and arresting images that will resonate like lectio in the heart and mind." -  
-Esther de Waal, author of *Living with Contradiction: An Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality*

"Bill Countryman shows us yet again what all of the great poets have shown us: that serious, first-level theological utterance requires poetic force with all its elusive, confrontive power. Countryman voices the real world and insists that the God whom he addresses pay attention and enter into the hurt alongside the rest of us. Those on the receiving end of this rhetoric will receive, as well, the gifts of courage and freedom for their own faith. It matters that God listens, as Countryman relentlessly insists." --Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

"Love poems always reveal as much about the lover as they do about the beloved. Certainly, in this deeply passionate, brilliantly phrased suite of poems, everyone who ever loved the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will discover himself or herself. For me, however, there is more than that in this shining collection: these fifty poems are as complete and satisfying a record as I have yet read of my own love affair with Him." --Phyllis Tickle, author of *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*

This Lent's Quiet Day will be led by Bill Countryman on Saturday, March 26 beginning at 9 a.m. and ending by 2 p.m. He will use themes from the book. He will also be the guest preacher at both services on Sunday, March 27. Dr. Countryman is a biblical scholar, an Episcopal priest, and retired professor from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, CA. He is the author of numerous books.



## Out and About Or Home on the Range

By Mthr. Vicki

**KIDS OF BEDE and PARENTS OF BEDE** - Our Sunday School is growing and our children are maturing. I'm thankful for all the parent suggestions during our Parent Meetings which are productive, creative, and caring! Our Sunday School Families will take turns assisting the **OPCC outreach dinners**, a vital lesson for our children in the act of caring for others less fortunate. KOB will be assisting Barbara Pace in **The Art of the Coffee Hour on February 6** after the 10:00 a.m. Service. They will help make our treats as well as serve and clean up. Our **Kids of Bede Movie Nights** will take on a new venue: Prior to each movie, the children will listen to a biblical story pertaining to the film told by one of our parents, Pammela Jackson. Since our Sunday School lessons are based on the Revised Common Lectionary gospel readings, this will give an opportunity for children to also hear some of the more famous and wonderful stories from the Old Testament. The movies will be followed by pizza and discussion led by Mthr. Vicki. Our **Movie Night on February 12** will be at the **Vaughn's** beginning at **4:00 p.m.** The KOB will watch **Evan Almighty**. Parents and friends are always welcome. We begin **Coffee Hour with Mthr. Vicki**, once a month for those children who are 10 years old or older. This will give Mthr. Vicki and the older children an opportunity to visit and discuss big questions. These meetings will be held in the **Library Room from 11:30 a.m. to noon: February 27; March 27; April 17; and May 22.** Parent meetings with Mthr. Vicki will continually be held in the Library Room on birthday Sundays, or the second Sunday of each month, during Coffee Hour. **Parent meetings will be as follows: February 13; March 13; and April 10.**

**WOMEN OF BEDE** - Women of Bede meet once a month for fellowship and workshops to deepen and strengthen personal spirituality. In January, WOB met for a workshop, *Preparing for Your Epiphanies*. This month, on **February 20, WOB will meet to explore ways in which music can effect spirituality.** We encourage you to bring CD examples of what makes your spirit soar or quiets your heart. Betsy Hiteshow will assist me in leading our time together from 1:00 -

3:00 p.m. in Luther Hall. **Future WOB dates: March 20; April 10 (a joint meeting with Movie Night for Adults beginning at 4:00 p.m.); and June 3-5 for our annual retreat.** Please invite family or friends. All are welcome! We are currently investigating a field trip in the spring to see our California wildflowers.

**NEEDLERS OF BEDE:** Needlers of Bede are excited as always to be knitting, crocheting, or looming for outreach! We decided at our January 23 meeting, that we will be concentrating on **two projects, one to benefit St. Bede's in general and the other to benefit Hillsides.** We will devote a half year to each. **Inspired by the beautiful icon of St. Bede hanging in our chapel, NOB will make items using colors found in this icon:** golds, browns, turquoise, teal, blues, cream, and forest green. We will be making hats, scarves, prayer shawls, shawls, and perhaps afghans. **Our St. Bede items will be on sale in the late fall in Luther Hall during coffee hours.** Money from this project will go to St. Bede's for urgent needs (for example, new roof in 2010). This will be a wonderful opportunity for St. Bede parishioners to do some early Christmas shopping! We will be identifiable by our colors (among other things of course). Our other project will once again benefit Hillsides, our Episcopal Home for children who do not thrive in foster care. We are currently planning a tour with lunch at the facility. We thank the St. John's Guild for again giving us a generous donation of \$200.00 for yarn to start off our year! **NOB dates: February 6, 27; March 13, 27; April 3, 17; May 1, 22; June 12.** We meet from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. in Luther Hall. Friends are welcome AND YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND MEETINGS TO BE A PART OF THIS EFFORT.

**MOVIE NIGHTS AT ST. BEDE** – We began our year with *The Young Victoria* on January 22. We look forward to more fellowship, movies, and potluck on the following dates: **March 6 at 4:00 p.m.; April 10 at 4:00 p.m.; and June 11 at 5:00 p.m.** We hope to see *The King's Speech* on March 6 and on April 10, we will meet jointly with Women of Bede to watch a spiritual film for Lent/Easter and have potluck dinner and discussion.

As always, I am deeply grateful to be working with such faithful and caring St. Bede parishioners. We journey together to do God's work in both the simplest and most complex ministries. Please call me (310) 625-7364 or speak with me at church if you any questions regarding our efforts and do share with me any time your suggestions or ideas that might benefit the greater good.

In Christ's love,

*Mthr. Vicki*



## Sisters of Bede News

Our 2010-2011 Venue Series is in full swing! The Sisters of Bede again thank all the parishioners who have hosted parties so far this year. All who attended had a great time! There is still plenty of space at many of our Spring Parties. If you would like to sign up for any of the events below, please e-mail Daphne at moote@mac.com. Here is the link to a list of all the venues:

[www.stbedesla.org/sisbede.htm](http://www.stbedesla.org/sisbede.htm). These venues give parishioners a chance to get acquainted and have fun in casual, intimate settings. Proceeds from these events will be given to the church and its charities.

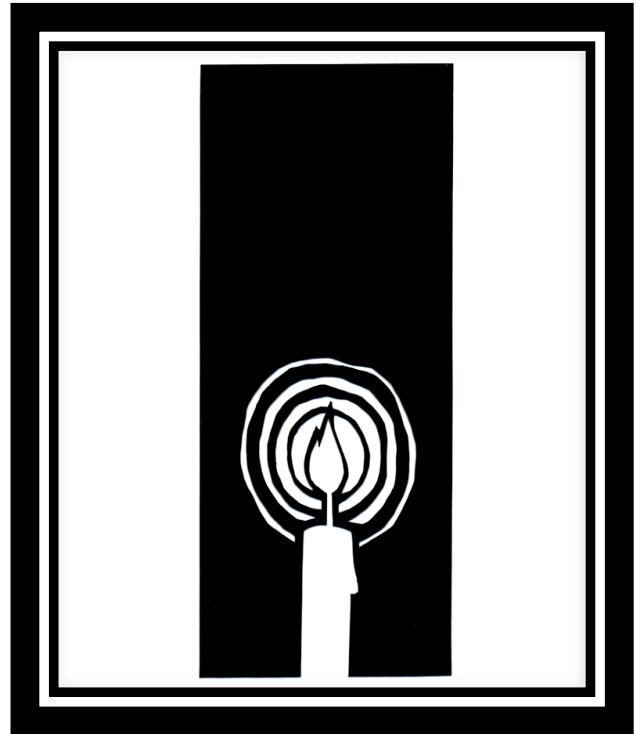
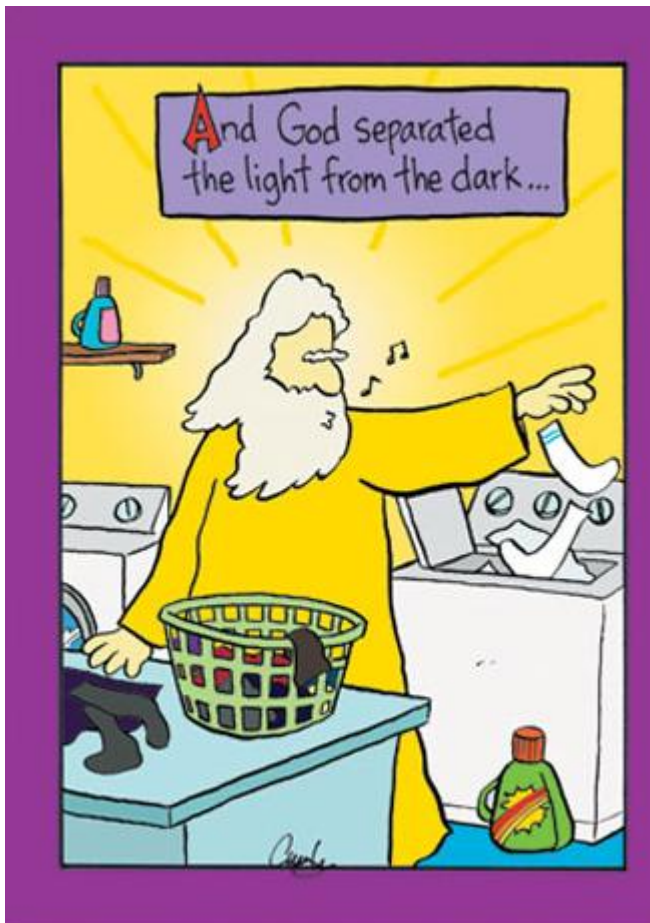
As we prepare for Easter, Ina Klem and friends are hosting a special event; A Seder Traditional Passover Dinner & Program. Guests will participate in a preparation for Holy Week by joining in this traditional spiritual fellowship. The Seder dinner is on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at Luther Hall. Please contact Daphne or Ina if you are interested in attending.

On Easter Sunday, we invite all to join us for our annual Easter Brunch. The brunch takes place between the two Easter Services, and is a lovely opportunity for all parishioners to celebrate together on Easter morning. Tickets are on sale at the coffee hour, \$5 for individuals and \$15 for families.

## Marble Remnants~

Following the installation of the new countertops in Luther Hall we have several pieces of left-over marble. Some are merely strips that could possibly be cut for borders or perhaps craft projects. There is one large piece that could become a small table top or several slabs for pastry making.

They are currently stored in the St. John's Closet. See Rea Crane if you want to see them.



## New Quill Schedule

*Reminder: 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**

**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 3/8 or 5/17

**WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM:**  
Advent Study: *An Adult Christ at Christmas* by R. Brown  
3/9 ASH WEDNESDAY – Introduction to Lenten Study  
3/16, 23, 30; 4/6 & 13 *Lovesongs and Reproaches: Passionate Conversations with God*  
4/20 HOLY WEEK – Tenebrae service  
“The History of Christianity in the Reformation Era” with Prof. Brad Gregory  
4/27 The Henrician Reform in England  
5/4 Defending the Traditional Order – Early Catholic Response  
5/11 The Rise and Fall of the Kingdom of Münster  
5/18 John Calvin & the Reformation in Geneva

**VIA MEDIA – Introduction to the Episcopal Church**

Began on 1/30 for 8 sessions in the Library at noon on Sunday  
**BOOKWORMS OF BEDE:**  
3/21: *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck  
5/16: *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East* by Sandy Tolan

**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  
NURSERY CARE: RoseMarie DiSalvo

**VESTRY**

Rea Crane ('12) - Senior Warden  
Carly Portalupi ('13) - Junior Warden  
Christoph Dugré ('12)- Treasurer  
Jerry Hornof ('13) Liz Mohler ('12)  
Christine Reynaert ('13) Phil Schultz ('13)  
Alice Short ('12) Gina Turella ('12)  
Annette Graw - Clerk  
Jennine Townsend - Financial Secretary  
Dennis Winston - Chancellor

**CONVENTION DELEGATES/ALTERNATES**

Annette Graw (D)/ Kyle Ferstead (A) ('13)  
Jerry Hornof (A)/Frank Basile (A) - ('12)  
Gina Turella (A)/Carly Portalupi (D) - ('13)

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## The Quill

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
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[www.stbedesla.org](http://www.stbedesla.org)