ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.
– from Psalm 1

November 1, 2026

Dear Ones,

St. Bede's is a special place – indeed, we meet on holy ground. When you walk onto the property, the living waters of the creek gurgle and bisect our property. When you walk into the Nave, the flowing waters of the font cascade into the pool below – reminding us of our baptism. We are planted – rooted – in these living waters, and, as people of faith, we know that God moved over the waters in creation to create and share with us all that is.

This is a very important time in the life of St. Bede's parish. For the first time in our history, we are undertaking a Comprehensive Campaign intended to 1) secure gifts and pledges to fund 2027's ministries through **annual giving**, 2) fund interior and exterior projects, and debt elimination through **capital giving**, and 3) grow our Endowment through **legacy giving** to secure a long and vital future for St. Bede's.

Enclosed is our campaign brochure which explains in more detail the purpose of our undertaking. In it you will discover that our **capital giving goal is to raise $600,000**, total over five years. Through this effort, **four interior projects** (Commons Upgrades, Parish Hall Upgrades, Bathroom Renovations, and Renewed and Reinvigorated Spaces for our Youth on the Garden Level) and **five exterior projects** (Repaved Parking Lot, Playscape, Pavilion, Landscaping, and the recent Roof Replacement) will be funded. We will also **eliminate the long-term debt** on our beautiful Nave.

In addition to capital giving, **requests for legacy gifts** will be made. Support for this aspect of giving need not cost you any money now, as 90% of legacy support comes in the form of death-time transfers through provisions made through one's will or life insurance policy.

But first and foremost, this comprehensive campaign is undertaken to raise gifts and pledges to fund next year's ministries. Gifts to the capital and legacy efforts should only be made above and beyond your financial support for annual giving.

PLANTED BY STREAMS of LIVING WATER

We cannot allow our 2027 ministries to wither while raising additional funds for capital giving. **In 2026, we received pledges of $445,000 from 87 pledgers** – making our average pledge of around $5,115 (or $98 per week) higher than that of most Episcopal churches.

Thank you so much for your faithful commitment to St. Bede's. In the days ahead, I hope that you will consider faithfully growing your response to all that God has shared with you by making a pledge of financial support to St. Bede's for 2027.

We are asking that you contemplate this pledge in terms of a weekly amount you would offer back to God thus allowing you to put this pledge in context with other weekly financial patterns in your life. Although the pledge is made in the form of a weekly amount, you may pay on any schedule (weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, or through a transfer of stocks or securities or an IRA disbursement).

Our pledge goal for 2027 is $460,000. We hope that we can stretch to achieve or surpass this goal so that we can continue and grow the ministries and opportunities that have blessed us for so long. We also hope to grow and imagine new ways of serving God and others as we live into the fullness of God's dreams for St. Bede's. **Please help us meet this goal by searching your heart and giving thanks and glory to God from all that you find there in your searching.**

Within the packet are forms to use to pledge your financial support for annual and capital giving, as well as a form to use to identify your legacy intentions. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. We'll be happy to help in any way we can as you discern the size and shape of your giving.

We hope that as you pray and discern about you gift, you will be able to respond with your pledges to the annual, capital, and legacy giving appeals by **Sunday, December 13, 2026**.

Please give as generously as you can to these vitally important campaign initiatives!

Thank you, in advance, for all the ways you are helping to make this comprehensive campaign a success by empowering our ministry, now and for the future.

Gratefully,

Chad Vaughn, *Rector*

Jim Handsfield, *Senior Warden*

Steve Hadler, *Campaign Co-chair*

Jan Swoope, *Campaign Co-chair*