

CLARION

Advent 2013



**The
best is
yet to
come**

*Jesus still
comes into the
darkness of
our world and
offers hope.*

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CLARION

is a publication of

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► **WORSHIP & EDUCATION AT ST. WILFRID'S SUNDAYS**

Holy Eucharist : Adult Formation
7:30 and 10 a.m. : 8:45 a.m.

Nursery, 8:30–11:30 a.m. (Room 1)

Children's Christian Formation:

► **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
9:45–10:45 a.m., Level I (The Sheepfold, ages 3–6), Level II (The Vineyard, ages 6–9) and Level III (The Golden Thread, ages 9–11)

► **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY**
8:45 a.m., Grades 6–8

► **SUNDAY SCHOOL EXPLORATION TIME**
8:45–9:45 a.m., Atriums open to kids

Healing Service
Third Sunday of the month, 6 p.m.

WEEKDAYS

Wednesday Morning Eucharist, 7 a.m.

Youth activities gear up, mentoring to be explored

One of my roles at St. Wilfrid's is to oversee the youth program and mentor its leaders, and in just two months I have already attended a bonfire, a pizza party, a murder mystery evening and a youth vestry meeting. I have found that at every event the youth are ably led and cared for by youth ministry leader Brittany Bouvier (with assistance from Rachel O'Connell, Christina Rall and Eric Boekeloo). And parents, it has already become clear what an amazing bunch of teenagers you have raised. I have been impressed with their maturity, their humor, their respect and love for one another and their enthusiasm. We are blessed to have such a vibrant and engaged community of youth in our midst.

There is much more planned for the year to come including the "It's Almost Christmas" party Dec. 15, a lock-in in January and a spring retreat. Generally, the first Sundays of the month are for "Prayer and Pizza," a gathering for (obviously) pizza and topics that touch on teens' prayer life, "Impact Zone" on second and third Sundays where students are divided between middle school and high schoolers to go into deeper discussion (the next one will be "The Christmas Spirit" on December 8), and youth vestry on the fourth Sunday of the month where youth elect representatives and vote on important issues such as service projects that benefit the community. You should have received the fall/winter newsletter by email back in October, so please email Brittany (bbouvier89@gmail.com) if you need to be put on the list.

I also wanted to let you know that to help us gear up for the coming year, Brittany, Rachel and I went to the National Youth Workers Conference in San Diego, a four-day convention packed with seminars and resources.

We had a great time getting to know each other better and attending workshops on a wide range of topics including the use of social media in youth ministry, handling challenging behavior, experiential worship, the difficulties of being a suburban parent and much more. One thing that especially affected me was the expanded workshop I attended on intergenerational ministry. The current emphasis on intergenerational ministry springs from recent studies showing that young people who had at least five adults they were not related to who took active interest in their lives—teachers, coaches, mentors, family friends, etc.—were more likely to succeed in school and finish college and stay connected to their churches as well. This has inspired me to begin a program for mentors here at St. Wilfrid's matching adults (seniors particularly encouraged!) with our young people, beginning with middle schoolers. Mentors will commit to meeting about once a month with their youth, perhaps just for lunch after church, attending a soccer game or school play, etc. for the coming year. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a mentor or if you or your child would like a mentor.

A final note: our young adult (20s/30s) ministry is currently participating in the diocesan program "Versed," which offers young adults (and youth ministers) the opportunity to hear our bishops give talks on biblical topics and enjoy a meal together. This program continues through November, after which time St. Wilfrid's young adult ministry will re-launch. For more information, email Rachel at rachel.oconnell85@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone for your continued prayers and support for the exceptional youth programs at St. Wilfrid's, I look forward to continued fun in the coming year!

The best is yet to come

In one of my recent Rector's Bible Classes, I was reminded of something that happened on my very first visit to St. Wilfrid's, in the late fall of 2004. While I had never been to a service in an Episcopal Church, I was nonetheless being considered as a potential member of the staff of this parish.

My twin daughters, Andrea and Adrienne, were with me as we drove in from Northern California, having no idea quite what to expect, but being open to the possibility that God might be directing us to a very unanticipated future. We all were nervous. Part of me could not believe I would even contemplate moving so far away from my kids, but I knew it was something I had to explore.

While my daughters attended the Youth Sunday School class, I attended the Adult Forum, which on that particular Sunday was led by the Altar Guild. I learned a lot about what happens at the altar, the imagery and meaning. I was deeply moved by what I heard. The commitment of this wonderful group to prepare a sacred meal, week in and week out, was truly inspiring.

Then, together, we attended worship. This was a world the three of us had never entered before and it could not have felt more foreign. We looked around, more focused on not missing a cue to stand or sit or kneel than any-

thing else. Aware that the drive back to Northern California would not be a short one, the girls and I looked at each other and the clock earnestly hoping for an opportunity to slip out unnoticed.

That opportunity came—so we thought—as the congregation prepared for communion. As the ushers began releasing rows to go forward to the communion rail, we seized the moment and released ourselves to go out the back door. We, however, had not anticipated an unstoppable force... Head Usher David Dorff.

As we made our way to the door, David moved toward us, both hands extended in a manner suggesting that we stop. "Wait," he said. "We're just getting to the good part." At which time we returned to our seats and experienced communion with the rest of the congregation. Our anxiety had been met by someone who understood there was nothing to fear.

Advent takes us back to a very anxious time in the life of the nation of Israel. The past was littered with failure. The present was at times unbearable. The future was at best uncertain and at worse unthinkable. Where was God? With all the failure in their past, could they expect anything from God at all? If they were truly on their own, despair would win the day.

Into this dark world, God sent messengers, like the prophet Isaiah.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light," Isaiah wrote. "Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."

Some who heard these words scoffed at them.

Some who heard these words rejoiced at the promise they held.

Some who heard these words kept them like a flickering candle in the dark closet of their minds, wanting to believe, yet remained unable to fully release their doubts.

Jesus came into a similar world. His message of hope was met with the same mixed responses that greeted the words of Isaiah. Yet Jesus came anyway.

Whether we scoff or rejoice or mingle belief with doubt, Jesus still comes into the darkness of our world... and offers hope. Whether we scoff or rejoice or mingle belief with doubt, Jesus still offers hope to the dark world within our own minds and hearts.

Dare we hope? Dare we trust? Dare we release our doubts and fears and failures and let the light of God's love reveal the beauty of the person we were created to be? If we accept hope, we welcome wonderful possibilities. If we reject hope, we resign ourselves to life as it has been. The choice is ours.

May this Advent season, a season of anticipation, find you looking with eyes of hope... and may the light of God's love touch you as never before.



ST. WILFRID'S CHOIR TO BE IN LONDON NEXT SUMMER

A residency, a pilgrimage, and a great blessing



The interior of St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

► THE RESIDENCY

As many of you have heard, the Choir of St. Wilfrid's has gratefully accepted an invitation to serve as the official Choir in Residence at St. Paul's Cathedral, London for the week of August 11-17, 2014, a rare privilege for any American choir. We will sing Evensong services Monday through Saturday of that week, then sing three Sunday services August 17.

We look forward to singing in that glorious space, where choirs have sung for hundreds of years, surrounded by incredibly beautiful Baroque architecture, in the place where both Queen Victoria and Queen

Elizabeth II celebrated their Jubilees and where Prince Charles and Lady Diana were married. We have been given the opportunity to represent all of you, to share our music and to serve parishioners and visitors to St. Paul's.

► THE PILGRIMAGE: PLEASE JOIN US!

During our week at St. Paul's and in the week following, two pilgrimage tours are available to everyone at St. Wilfrid's, including friends and family, and we hope you will join us! You may arrive mid-week, sightsee in London and hear the choir sing, you may arrive at the end of the week and continue

on a pilgrimage, touring and tracing the steps of our Anglican heritage, or you may do both! And you will be accompanied by both Father Michael and Father Charles, our teachers and guides!

Tour #1 includes visits to the Houses of Parliament, Downing Street, Piccadilly Circus, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Hampton Court Palace, and sightseeing at your leisure with the use of a travel card which gives you access to all public transportation in London. It includes hotel accommodations for five nights and some meals.

Tour #2 follows tour #1 and sets out on excursions

to Canterbury Cathedral, the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion and seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, continues to Leeds Castle, residence of Catherine of Aragon, beautiful medieval Salisbury Cathedral, Wells Cathedral, Oxford and Christ Church College. Then on to Ripon Cathedral, founded by St. Wilfrid and built in AD 672 and his burial site, the Fountains Abbey, a World Heritage site, a visit to York and the York Minster Cathedral, on to charming Stamford, then back to London for a farewell dinner. This tour includes hotel accommodations for five nights, eight

The nave of Canterbury Cathedral, and the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, at right. Below, the exterior of St. Paul's Cathedral.



meals, bus transportation and sightseeing.

Our own Lynn Horton has been gracious enough to plan these pilgrimage tours for us. If you are interested in taking part in either or both of them, please contact Lynn at lynn@worldviewtravel.com for complete details and pricing.

One way you can help support the choir financially is to make an optional contribution when you make your travel plans. By “doubling your deposit”, (increasing it from the standard \$250 to \$500) you make a \$250 donation which goes directly to scholarships for our singers.

► THE GREAT BLESSING

In addition to the grandeur of St. Paul's, it remains a working church with hourly

prayer and daily services - a place where people from all walks of life, all faiths, every country of origin, tourists and natives alike come to visit and experience the life of the Anglican tradition, to hear the music, to attend the services, to see the stunning beauty and to immerse themselves in that very inspired and inspiring space. On a typical summer day, more than 500 people visit the Cathedral as the choirs rehearse, then many more return for services. It will be our job to honor that experience, and to do our very best to live up to the fine tradition of St. Paul's, to lift up beautiful music to God, and for the benefit of all who hear us.

This is a privilege and a blessing. Under the talented

direction of our Choirmaster Christopher Gravis, and along with our gifted organist Jason Klein, the choir will spend the next seven or eight months preparing the appropriate music, working on our ensemble sound and balance, learning the proper diction, vowel sounds, tuning and style that makes great Anglican music beautiful and meaningful, and we will be learning about the gifted composers who wrote it. We will learn how to process in that enormous space, we will learn Psalms and Evensong music, anthems and hymns. We will budget and plan our travel, tailor and press our vestments, build friendships and work very hard together. And next August we will board

an airplane and travel to London to represent St. Wilfrid's at St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

We want to go with your blessing and with your support, and we really hope you can join us! It will be an unforgettable experience, an opportunity for spiritual growth and evangelism and will be a wonderful time to learn together about our faith tradition.

Much of the music we will be singing at St. Paul's will also be sung during Evensongs throughout the 2013-2014 season. We invite you to attend those services, experience the beauty of the music, learn about the tradition, and then join us for a wonderful year of preparation and pilgrimage.

—ELAINE MEIGS



2 'Anglican Pilgrimage' tours offered

We are offering the opportunity to participate in 2 tours of England during the choir's trip, from Aug. 12-17 (tour 1) and Aug. 18-23 (tour 2). More details in the next issue.

PASSINGS

We all forged a link with Vic, on the course or off

Whether organizing the annual golf tournament, or reading in church, or simply being a friend, Vic Horton did it all with his million-dollar smile.

By Chuck Bartholomew

Vic Horton passed away recently. St. Wilfrid's has lost a great man, and it has been our privilege and pleasure to work (it wasn't really work when you were with Vic because you were always laughing) with Vic on the golf tournament.

When we re-instituted the golf tournament several years ago to raise money for the Catechesis Atriums, I was gung-ho, but had never run a

golf tournament before. Bob Mizer and Mike Ortt said I should talk to Vic Horton. I said I didn't know him, and they said "You know, the reader at church with the great voice and the big white mustache."

I really didn't know what I was doing those first few years, but with Vic's help we made it work and raised some money for catechesis, the youth group, the preschool and the choir. Vic had run several golf tournaments

over the years, and he knew practically everyone in the congregation, got his friends and sons to play, and knew who to contact and where to go for raffle prizes and trophies. The amazing thing is that he could do all this on the back of one envelope. The best part of the effort was the "planning dinners." Sometimes we even did some planning!

The 19th hole in heaven will be a lot more fun with Vic there.



'Painless' Christmas pageant set for early Christmas Eve service

This year we're aiming for simplicity—kids meet a half-an-hour before the 5 p.m. service (or at 4:15 for costume fitting if they haven't already picked one up

Children of all ages are invited to take part in the Painless Christmas Pageant, which will take place at the 5 p.m. service on Christmas Eve on Tuesday, Dec. 24. We need boys and girls to

serve as angels, shepherds, and kings, and in so doing, help to tell the Christmas story as we welcome Jesus Christ, born in the manger, on Christmas Eve.

Please pick up your costumes after worship on

Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, or 22. If you miss out on one of the pick-up times, please still join us and choose a costume on Christmas Eve. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve to go over the directions for the pageant.



Times to Remember

► 4:30 p.m.
Call time!

► 4:15 p.m. Last-minute costume fitting (if you don't already have a costume)

St. Wilfrid's Calendar

DECEMBER

- 1st: **The First Sunday of Advent.**
EFLAGS (Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays Straights): 12 noon, Sacquety Hall
Music Guild: Advent Lessons & Carols: 6 p.m., Church
- 6–7th: **Diocesan Convention:** Ontario Convention Center, Ontario
- 8th: **Parish Nurses:** 8:30 to 10 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 10th: **Grief Recovery Meeting:** 10 a.m., Youth Center
Vestry Meeting: 7 p.m., Room TBD
- 13th: **Sugar Plum Evening:** 5:30 p.m., Sacquety Hall
- 14th: **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast:** 8:00 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 15th: **Service of Remembrance (please RSVP):** 3 p.m., Church
- 20th: **Preschool Christmas Program:** 6:30 p.m., Church
- 21st: **Celebration of Wisdom Lunch:** 11:30 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 22nd: **Healing Service:** 6 p.m., Church
- 24th: **Grief Recovery Meeting:** 10 a.m., Youth Center
Christmas Eve: Church office closes at 12 noon.
"Perfectly Painless Christmas Pageant" and Holy Eucharist: 5 p.m., Church
Holy Eucharist & Christmas Carols: 7 p.m., Church
Music Guild: Christmas Carols: 10:30 p.m., Church
Holy Eucharist & Christmas Mass: 11 p.m., Church
- 25th: **Christmas Day:** Church office closed.
Holy Eucharist & Christmas Carols: 10 a.m., Church
- 31st: **New Year's Eve Day:** Church office closes at 12 noon.

JANUARY

- 1st: **New Year's Day:** Church office closed
- 5th: **The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ (tr.)**
EFLAGS (Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays, & Straights): 12 noon, Sacquety Hall



- 11th: **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast:** 8:00 a.m., Sacquety Hall
Ordination of the Rev. V.R. Marianne Zahn: Please watch the *Sunday Times* for more information.
- 12th: **Parish Nurses:** 8:30 to 10 a.m., Sacquety Hall
Holy Baptism at the 10 a.m. Eucharist: 10 a.m., Church
- 14th: **Grief Recovery Meeting:** 10 a.m., Youth Center
Vestry Meeting: 7 p.m., Sacquety Hall
- 18th: **Celebration of Wisdom Lunch:** 11:30 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 20th: **Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday:** Church office closed
- 26th: **Annual Parish Meeting:** 6 p.m., Church
- 28th: **Grief Recovery Meeting:** 10 a.m., Youth Center

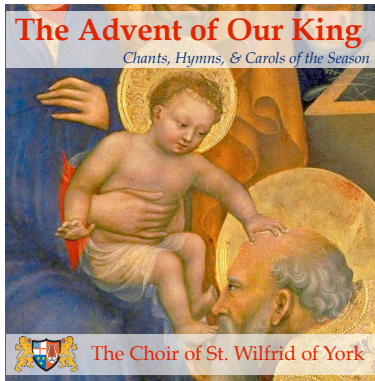
FEBRUARY

- 2nd: **EFLAGS (Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays, & Straights):** 12 noon, Sacquety Hall
- 8th: **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast:** 8:00 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 9th: **Parish Nurses:** 8:30 to 10 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 11th: **Grief Recovery Meeting:** 10 a.m., Youth Center
Vestry Meeting: 7 p.m., Sacquety Hall
- 15th: **Celebration of Wisdom Lunch:** 11:30 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 16th: **Healing Service:** 6 p.m., Church
- 17th: **Presidents' Day:** Church Office Closed

Hark! the glad sound, our CD is here

St. Wilfrid's choir is selling the disc of Advent, Christmas music to raise money for 2014 trip

The choir of St. Wilfrid's is proud to release their album "The Advent of Our King," featuring chants, hymns, and carols of the seasons of Advent and Christmastide! You'll recognize many beautiful and time-honored carols such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "The First Nowell," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and "Silent Night." This professionally produced CD makes a perfect gift this season, especially with all proceeds benefiting the choir's upcoming residency at St. Paul's Cathedral, London—it's the gift that keeps on giving! This is a limited-edition release, so be sure to pick up as many copies as you need while supplies last. You can purchase CDs on the patio after services for \$20 apiece.



'Scripmas' time is here, by golly; help the church by buying holly

... or whatever else is on your list; our Scrip Table offers inexpensive gift cards, too.

Scrip cards make excellent gifts for friends and relatives. We have many store cards and services available for purchase. Several companies offer "stocking stuffer" \$5 and \$10 cards available at this time of year. It is a great time, also, to purchase grocery store cards for your holiday cooking needs! Check out the offerings and ask questions at the Scrip Table after services on Dec. 1, 8, and 15.

Visions of sugarplums on Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for this wonderful St. Wilfrid's Preschool "Sugar-Plum" tradition, as families fellowship together by decorating Christmas cookies to share with friends and family—along with having dinner—on Friday, Dec. 13 from 5:30–8:30 p.m. There is a goodwill offering for dinner, so no need to bring anything else but yourself and your holiday cheer!



Notice our new van?

St. Wilfrid's Preschool is excited and proud to announce the purchase of our new van, which you have probably seen in the parking lot, that will be used for our after-school program as well as church activities. This was possible because of the support of St. Wilfrid's and the increased enrollment of our school. Thank you to everyone for their efforts in making this happen.



Japanese preschool starts in January

A Japanese-immersion preschool class is coming to St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Preschool in January 2014, and we are so excited to announce the launch of this program. The class is entirely in Japanese and will be offered Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:15 to 5:45 p.m. for ages 4, 5 and 6 years old. (We are currently offering Japanese lessons at our preschool and having such a great response.)

After researching our community we found an extreme need in Huntington Beach for a Japanese-language preschool. We've hired a Japanese teacher, Ms. Yumiko Sakamoto (pictured above with our preschool director Debbie Pratt), who is the mother of a 4-year old daughter who attends St. Wilfrid's Preschool. Yumi has worked in Japanese preschools for several years. The children will be introduced to famous Japanese stories, music, dancing, calligraphy, art, and history.

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