


CLARION

Advent 2012



Hurry and wait

*Advent, the expectant
season* **PAGE 3**

What are we waiting for?

*Let patience be our byword
until Christmas be upon us*
PAGE 4



CLARION

is a publication of

St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church
18631 Chapel Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-1831
www.stwilfridschurch.org

► **EDITOR/DESIGN DIRECTOR**
Kent K. Steinbrenner

► **PHOTOGRAPHY & ILLUSTRATION**
COVER: *Absolutvision.com*, photo #1G9999

► **CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME**
To submit articles for the Clarion, please submit all information either in Microsoft Word or Apple's Pages word-processing formats, or else as text in the body of an e-mail. Please e-mail all articles to kent@stwilfridschurch.org.

► **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

► **CONFIRM NOT CONFORM**
8:45 a.m., High school grades

► **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.

OUTREACH » BEACH CITIES INTERFAITH SERVICES

Going to Gothard

The city has requested that BCIS relocate its operations. A new site has been found near the Sports Complex, and the move could happen by late spring or early summer.

By Derek Wimmer

Support of Beach Cities Interfaith Services (BCIS) is one of the major ways that St. Wilfrid's supports the local community. For more than 23 years we have provided services to the homeless and low-income families out of city premises in downtown Huntington Beach. At the request of the city, we will be relocating our operations to a site on Gothard St., near the Huntington Central Park Sports Complex. It is anticipated that we will acquire a temporary use permit for the site which will be for a period of five years with a potential to renew. The plan envisages rental of two temporary buildings and a food and-clothing storage container from which most of the current activities will continue. The location may be less accessible for some of our homeless clients, but will be more convenient for many of the low-income families that we serve. Additionally, moving out of a residential area will limit interaction of our clients and concerned neighbors.

A big thank you goes to all of our wonderful kitchen staff that served dinner nightly—you did an awesome job!

For the last nine months, a team of St. Wilfrid's parishioners has been working with the BCIS Board of Directors and city and county staff to develop plans for the new site. Extensive meetings have been held with all city departments concerned to obtain staff approval of our proposal. We are in the final stages of obtaining city and county approvals and anticipate making a submission to the Planning Commission in December.



Assuming there are no other issues that we have not yet dealt with, a move could occur in late spring or early summer of 2013. Throughout the process, city and county staff have been helpful and supportive.

Special thanks to Di Botejue, Chris Christie, Larry Kaprielian, Bob Sjogren, and Derek Wimmer, who have done great work to get us to this stage of the project.

In the meantime our work continues. We continue to serve bagged lunches to the homeless, and to provide groceries and many other services every week. We will be providing Christmas gifts to more than 500 children. Please continue to help and support us as we serve those in need.

Thank you for caring by sharing!

Great anticipations

It's Advent—otherwise known as the 'hurry-up-and-wait' season.

Hurry up and wait. We all know that feeling . . . looking forward to something with great anticipation only to encounter barriers, obstacles, unexpected hindrances. The closer we get to that desired destination the more frustrating, even maddening the obstructions can be.

Recently, Cindy and I ventured north to Paso Robles, California for what has become a highly anticipated event for the women in Cindy's clan: the début of the latest and greatest epic vampire/werewolf/confused adolescent heart-throb thriller, "Twilight: Breaking Dawn, Part 2." My contribution to this Friday night/Saturday morning was to provide moral support and temporary escape for Cody, the lone grandson in that sea of frenzied females. The two of us decided to see the other epic motion picture debuting nationwide that day, Steven Spielberg's brilliant "Lincoln."

As Cindy would be working in Bakersfield that Sunday, I booked the Amtrak train home on Saturday afternoon. While I generally enjoy a leisurely train ride and the opportunity it provides for reading or napping or even catching up on work, this time I was most looking forward to being home and sleeping in my own bed.

Upon arrival at the depot in Paso Robles, I was informed that my scheduled train was delayed by more than 11 hours, due to a stalled freight train somewhere to the north. No problem. I was re-ticketed to a bus that would connect me to a different train in Santa Barbara. Roughly one hour behind schedule, I was still looking forward to arriving home that night.

Upon arrival at the depot in Santa Barbara, I was informed that my newly scheduled train was running approximately 45 minutes behind

due to crossing gate malfunctions between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. No problem. This was the



last train out, so it had to run even if delayed. Each passing minute found me longing a little more earnestly for home.

Finally on board the train in Santa Barbara, an announcement is made: "Due to the rain, several of the crossing gates are malfunctioning. The train will be required to come to a full stop at each intersection before continuing on, adding an additional 5–7 minutes to our journey for each stop." I am now officially frustrated. I just want to be home!

After picking up passengers in Ventura, the conductor announced that we would be making up some lost time by eliminating the scheduled layover in Los Angeles. Then suddenly a loud crash was heard and the smell of burning brakes filled the car. Someone had placed a shopping cart on the tracks. It took nearly 30 minutes to pull the shopping cart from under the train, assess the damage, test the brakes, and resume our journey.

Though certainly not the leisurely trip I had anticipated, I crawled into my own bed a little after 1 a.m.. It was worth the wait.

Advent is a hurry up and wait season. We reflect on a time in the life of the nation of Israel when they longed for the promised deliverer to restore their homes and free them from oppression. Many today read through the gospel lessons and long for the promised second coming of Christ to deliver them from their own oppression and to take them "home." For Israel, their Deliverer did not look like they had hoped, nor was his message what they wanted to hear. For us, the long expected second-coming may not look like we have been taught. Undoubtedly, there will be unexpected frustrations between now and then, but take heart . . .

It will be worth the wait.

What are we waiting for?

While others rush to put up Christmas trees and race to put holiday décor on the simplest of things—even disposable coffee cups—we as Christians enter the season of Advent, whose watchword is 'patience.'

Did anyone else notice the Christmas decorations in some of the stores as Labor Day came to a close? Forget about the Thanksgiving Creep, we just couldn't help ourselves from stocking up and buying into holiday cheer long before the Virgin Mary was even in her third trimester.

South Coast Plaza's 96-foot Christmas tree arrived on Oct. 15, while the temperatures outside hit record highs in the 90s. By Nov. 2, we could behold the red holiday Starbucks cups decking the hands of mocha and latte lovers alike.

Advent is upon us, Christmas is now just days

away. In the Episcopal Church, we continue to await the coming of Christ, not with the songs and prayer of Christmas, but those of Advent. Many of you by this point are asking, "What are we waiting for?"

The season of Advent is marked by the spiritual discipline of patience. We spend the days leading up to the eve that marks the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in joyful waiting. We nurture the growth of that same Christ within ourselves, that Christ might be born in us. We do that by singing songs and praying prayers of hope, of anticipation, and of the mystery of God that awaits us.

Mary had been told by an angel that she was carrying

within her very being the Son of God. I don't know about you, but if an angel of God told me that, I would be ready to see this child for myself, as soon as possible!

But what did Mary do? She found joy in the waiting. She visited her cousin Elizabeth, also expecting the birth of a child. Elizabeth delighted in the kicking within her womb as Mary approached. Mary took pause simply to dwell in the reality of God's glory within and all around her.

All they could do was wait, so they stopped and savored all that was growing and changing within them. They chose to spend time together, to celebrate the precious moments leading up to a reality yet unknown to them in antici-

pation, wonder, and great thanksgiving to and trust in God.

What is growing and changing within you? Have you stopped to take account of your hopes and dreams for a better life for this world, for your family, for yourself? What might be accomplished by the discipline of waiting?

The Christmas greenery and joyous songs of the birth of Christ await us on the evening of December 24. Until then, what exactly are you waiting for? Take pause and think about it.

May he, whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

O come, o come Emmanuel! Amen.





*“Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!”*

Laurentius Laurenti (1660–1722), tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823–1907).
From hymn 68, “Rejoice, rejoice believers,” in *The Hymnal 1982*.

The Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols: Hope and expectation in song

By Chris Gravis

As Episcopalians, we take great pride in the majesty and drama of our liturgy. Dignified verger-led processions, the swing of the thurible carrying billows of rich incense, the poetry of the Prayer Book, and glorious music that makes our heart soar; these are all components of a well-rehearsed act of worship offered to the glory of God, which engage our own senses heavenward. Indeed, many who step foot inside of an Episcopal Church, whether it’s the National Cathedral or a small parish church, fall in love with the overwhelming beauty of Anglican worship. And second only to the Paschal Triduum services, there is probably no more dramatic service than the Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols.

But participants beware! Don’t come expecting the strains of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing,” or “The First Nowell” to ring throughout the church. Bucking the trends of shopping-mall music, Santa Claus photo ops and Christmas trees set up the day after Halloween, we’ve got a journey to pursue

yet. Advent Lessons and Carols is so much more than a Christmas concert, and if you come and take part, you’ll find that it makes Christmas more meaningful. The Lessons and Carols service gives us the true reason and the hopeful expectation for Christmas. Here’s how it happens:

Symbolism and ritual are the key elements of the dramatic liturgy. The service begins in the darkened church. The choir sings from the west door: “Come thou, Redeemer of the earth.” As the procession wraps around the Church, and you are enveloped in sound and sight, we once again gather to ask God into our midst. We hear the Scriptural story of our fall from the Garden, and our human need for redemption. We hear the timeless words of prophets from ages past, and of God’s promise of Emmanuel—which means “God with us.” As the readings are told and the carols are sung, the choir moves from the back of the church toward the light, toward the altar at the east until all together we sing that ancient and haunting hymn, “O come, O come Emmanuel.”

The service ends in joyful expectation as all assembled sing “Lo! He comes with clouds descending.”

We invite you to join us as we once again prepare our hearts and minds for God to come into our midst. Come, be a part of this deeply moving and spiritually uplifting service. If this is your first time I invite you to join the tradition that will undoubtedly become a beloved yearly event in your life for years to come. All are welcome.

*We see him come and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart.*

—ROBERT HERRICK (1591–1674)

December 2 at 6 p.m. marks the third-annual Procession of Advent Lessons & Carols service at St. Wilfrid’s. This is a well-attended service, and the church fills quickly. Please plan to arrive early; the doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Great Lakes Scrip nets \$370 in first two weeks

The addition of this option, in addition to our existing Ralphs and Vons/Pavilions programs, provides even more opportunities to assist our Buildings/Grounds Fund.

By John Bailey

We continue to enroll parishioners in the Vons/Pavilions e-scrip program and the Ralphs Rewards program. If you haven't already enrolled in one or both of these programs, please speak with one of the Scrip Committee members and we'll assist you in enrolling in them.

Our first two Sundays of selling Great Lakes Scrip were successful! In these two weeks we made a profit of \$370 from selling scrip. Thanks to all of you who purchased scrip or asked questions and are contemplating participating in this

new program. We hope to surpass the first weeks' profit in the weeks to follow. If we can earn \$500 a month from this program we will earn \$6,000 during the year for our Building/Grounds Fund!

Here are some of the comments made by parishioners about the scrip program:

- ▶ "It helps me manage my grocery budget."
- ▶ "I'm going to purchase these cards to send to relatives across the nation for Christmas gifts."
- ▶ "These are really convenient to purchase."
- ▶ "I'll use this program to purchase grocery cards for BCIS."

▶ "I'm going to purchase scrip cards to pay for my monthly bill at Home Depot to help the church since I have to make the payment anyway."

Remember: Scrip cards make great gifts for Christmas, birthdays and other special occasions!

SCRIP TIP: You can shop online and pay with your scrip cards at checkout!

If you have specific questions about the program, don't hesitate to speak with one of us on the Scrip Committee (Ann and John Bailey, May Breault, Cynthia Grennan, or Roger Leachman). We will be available after the 7:30 and 10 a.m. services.

Scrip programs offered

▶ **Ralphs Rewards program** (must enroll each year)

▶ **Vons Club card or Pavilions ValuePlus card eScrip** (must enroll annually)

▶ **Great Lakes Scrip Program** (may be purchased each Sunday)

Visions, and more, of sugar plums on Dec. 7

Join us for this wonderful St. Wilfrid's Preschool "Sugar-Plum Fairy" tradition as families fellowship together by decorating Christmas cookies to share with friends and family on Friday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. The Sugar-Plum Fairy will perform, and it is sure to bring a smile to each and every one of you! This evening begins with dinner from 5:30-6:30 pm followed by cookie decorating. Please bring a friend or neighbor and enjoy the evening. A goodwill offering will be the cost of dinner. Please join us!



Preschool program offers schedule to fit just about any need

St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Preschool has a variety of schedules for both working and non-working parents. We are open from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we accept children from two to six years of age (and that even includes younger ones that aren't potty trained)! The preschool offers gardening, music, Spanish, chapel, sports and gymnastics. Throughout the year families gather for events, such as Grandparents' Day, Sugarplum, the Christmas program, Spring Fair, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and their end-of-the-school-year program. St. Wilfrid's Preschool is open year-round, even offering a summer camp program with a variety of activities and special guest all summer long!

Before, after-school program starts Jan. 2

With the urgent need of parents wanting to return to St. Wilfrid's after their child's preschool years have ended, we are excited to announce that beginning Jan. 2 we will be providing a before- and after-school program. If you are looking, or perhaps know of someone looking for an after-school or a summer camp program, why not send them to St. Wilfrid's? We will now be able to accommodate children from 2 to 12 years old. Help spread the word about the wonderful program we have here at St. Wilfrid's!

The school-age program will focus on assisting parents with before- and after-school care. The program is geared to helping children complete their homework after school, along with some fun and exciting after-school activities. Transportation will be provided to local schools for pickup and drop-off, as well as a drop-off to extracurricular programs. Please contact the preschool office for all your school-age childcare needs, at 714.654.3459.

St. Wilfrid's Calendar

DECEMBER 2012

- 2nd *The First Sunday of Advent*
Advent Wreath Making: 8:30 to 10 a.m., Sacquety Hall
EFLAGS (Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays, and Straights): 11:45 am, Youth Center.
Music Guild: Advent Lessons and Carols: 6 p.m., Church
- 7th **Sugar Plum Evening:** 5:30 p.m., Sacquety Hall
- 8th **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast:** 8 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 9th **Baby Basket Ministry Baby Shower:** 8:45 am, Sacquety Hall
Parish Nurses: 8:30 to 10 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 13th **Vestry Meeting:** 6:30 p.m., Sacquety Hall
- 15th **Celebration of Wisdom Lunch:** 11:30 a.m., Sacquety Hall
Parents' Day Out: 1 to 5 p.m., Sacquety Hall.
- 16th **Healing Service:** 5 p.m., Church *(Please Note Time Change)*
- 17th **Preschool Christmas Program:** 6 p.m., Church
- 24th *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
Ceremony of the Carols: 10:30 p.m., Church
Holy Eucharist & Christmas Vigil: 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 2013

- 1st *New Year's Day:* Church office closed
- 6th *The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ*
EFLAGS (Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays, and Straights): 11:45 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 8th **Vestry Meeting:** 6:30 p.m., Sacquety Hall
- 13th **Parish Nurses:** 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 18th **Church Potluck:** 6:00 p.m., Sacquety Hall
- 19th **Celebration of Wisdom Lunch:** 11:30 am., Sacquety Hall
SHIP Arrives for 2 weeks, Sacquety Hall
- 20th **BCIS Food Ingathering:** 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Patio
Healing Service: 6 p.m., Church
- 21st *Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday:* Church office closed.
- 27th **Annual Parish Meeting:** 6:00 p.m., Church

FEBRUARY 2013

- 2nd **Cursillo:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Youth Center and Chapel
SHIP Leaves
- 3rd **EFLAGS (Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays, and Straights):** 11:45 a.m., Sacquety Hall
Evensong: 6 p.m., Church
- 9th **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Breakfast:** 8 a.m., Sacquety Hall
- 10th **Parish Nurses:** 8:30 to 10 a.m., Sacquety Hall

OUTREACH » SELF-HELP INTERFAITH PROGRAM

SHIP to find safe harbor at St. Wilfrid's in January

St. Wilfrid's will host the Self-Help Interfaith Program (known to its friends as "S.H.I.P.") from Jan. 19 to Feb. 2. During that time, approximately four to six S.H.I.P. guests (formerly-homeless adults getting back on their feet, with the help of God working through this parish) will be staying in Sacquety Hall.

As St. Wilfrid's has done for over 15 years, we will welcome our guests with food and companionship. Please stop

by the S.H.I.P. table (outside the church between the 7:30 and 10 a.m. services each Sunday beginning Dec. 9) for more information about S.H.I.P.'s visit and what St. Wilfrid's does while the guests are here, and to sign up to help with dinners, night and weekend supervision and other needs.

For more information about S.H.I.P. and its ministry, visit the S.H.I.P. Web site (shipinoc.org) or contact Don Dorsett (714.397.0947, or dwdorsett@aol.com).



'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 a 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 Monday, 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. 9, 16, or 23. 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 directions.

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)

PARENTS' DAY OUT

What child is this who stays at church, while mom and dad go shopping?

Parents, are you looking for a chance to get out, do some shopping, or just enjoy some peace and quiet? The Youth Group of St. Wilfrid's is offering a "Parents' Day Out" on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 5 p.m., complete with snacks, games, and activities that will keep the young ones entertained all afternoon.

All funds raised from this event will support the 2013 Youth Pilgrims to the Holy Land. The cost is \$10 per hour per child, or \$15 per hour for families.

St. Wilfrid's Staff

Bishop Diocesan: The Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno

Rector

The Rev. Michael D. Archer
michael@stwilfridschurch.org

Associate Priest

The Rev. Allison English
allison@stwilfridschurch.org

Parish Administrator

Terry Roberts
terry@stwilfridschurch.org

Minister of Music & Arts

Christopher Gravis
chris@stwilfridschurch.org

Preschool

Deborah Pratt, Director
preschool@stwilfridschurch.org

Rector Emeritus

The Rev. Canon Charles W. Sacquety
emeritus@stwilfridschurch.org

Organist Jason Klein
Senior Warden Bob De Jong
Junior Warden Tom Wesley
Treasurer Derek Wimmer
Building & Grounds Dick Sneary
Sexton Amy Wilkerson
18631 Chapel Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-1831
www.stwilfridschurch.org
Phone: (714) 962-7512
Fax: (714) 962-4538
Preschool: (714) 968-3100
Emergency Pager: (714) 359-9441
Office hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F