

# ST. WILFRID'S CLARION

## Time—God is in charge

I have heard from many over the years that the older you get the faster time seems to fly. As a seven-year-old, Christmas never arrived fast enough and the time between birthdays was almost unbearable. At 47, birthdays are far too frequent, and, now that I am an Episcopalian, Christmas is much too short... especially this year. Four weeks of quasi-penitential/anticipatory Advent hymns and carols... a beautiful, though brief celebration of the arrival of God's promised One... and now Lent is at hand.

As I spent most of my free time in Advent and Christmas preparing for and taking the General Ordination Exam, I am tempted to feel cheated. The demands of every day life, the work that is necessary in preparing for the future, the infamous "tyranny of the urgent," all seemed to conspire to rob me of the awareness of God in the present, the joy of life in the moment. Add to everything else the worst case of the flu I've had in many, many years, and I found myself questioning what God could possibly have had in mind in these past few months.

And of all things, HOW could a LOVING God allow LENT to begin just 31 DAYS after the Feast of the Epiphany? If ever liturgical whiplash has occurred in the church, this is it.

Now that I am almost back among the living, God in all of this is becoming increasingly clear. After all, God is always present. I am simply not always aware of that Presence. In my cries to God to "*slow down so I can catch up!*" I've heard the Spirit saying, "*Relax, my child, I've never left you.*" The priceless lesson for me has been that though life goes on at sometimes break-neck speed and sometimes agonizingly deliberate speed, I can neither lag behind nor run ahead of God. *(continued on page 2)*

**February 2008**

### Inside this Issue

- 2** The Nicene Creed: Fr. Lee Walker's continuing series on the Eucharist explores this important statement of Christian belief
- 3** Fair Trade products offered as Valentine gift suggestions; S.H.I.P. team will reorganize
- 4** Tanzania missionary visits planned school site
- 5** Volunteers—the heart and soul of St. Wilfrid's
- 6** Celebration of Wisdom group will welcome The Rev. James Lee Walker to February meeting
- 7** Parish calendar of upcoming events

# God is in all seasons

*(continued from page 1)*

The Creator of time is also the Lord of time. The Giver of life is also the Sustainer of life. Seasons come and seasons go, and God is in them all.

As a parish, we have seen this lesson lived out over and over again. Yet, possibly more than any year in recent memory, 2007-08 will be a year in which God demonstrates that we are never alone. Life happens... planned and unplanned, expected and unexpected. God with us in the midst of it all, sustaining and comforting, encouraging and challenging, is one of the great realities of the Christian faith.

Lent, though it arrives much quicker this year than most, is an opportunity to pause and look for where God is at work in this world. It is also an opportunity to consider how we might join God in that work. My prayer for all of us in this season is that we will not be overwhelmed and anxious, but increasingly trusting of God at work among us. As we see God at work, may our hearts be encouraged. As we join God in that work, may our world be a more peaceful place. As this season of reflection gives way to the celebration of Easter, may our faith that God is forever with us increase and flourish... in Jesus' name.

Together in the Service of Christ,

Pastor Michael Archer  
Senior Pastoral Associate

*Fr. Lee Walker*

## Nicene Creed summarizes Christian beliefs

In the last few issues of *The Clarion*, I have briefly described how we prepare for the Eucharist as worshipers. So let's recap "the story so far:" We have examined how we: 1) Prepare for the Eucharist even before we arrive at the place where it is celebrated; 2) Begin with prayer and then turn to the Holy Scripture's

to hear the record of God's revelation to the People; and 3) Respond to the Scripture readings.

Having heard the record of God's revelation, we are invited to make a public, corporate affirmation of our belief in that revelation. This is most commonly done by reciting the Nicene Creed. This creed is probably a distilled version of the basic Baptismal teaching of the early church. In those days of few books, such brief "outlines" were used as a framework for more extensive discussion and teaching. No one wrote a creed which then evolved and was edited into its present form. It was a process where the teachings of the earliest generations of Christians were rather quickly put together into a short statement which represented the universal teaching of the Christian Church.

The Nicene Creed was formally adopted in 325 A.D., in the city of Nicea during one of the Seven Oecumenical Councils of the Church, the Council of Nicea. In 381 A.D., it was slightly edited into the form we know today. This was during the Oecumenical Council at Constantinople.

The Seven Oecumenical Councils are so called because they were the councils of the Church where all of Christendom was represented. They were held before the unhappy divisions and schisms began in the Church. Thus, when the bishops assembled at Nicea, they were in a position to make a summary of the Faith in the name of the entire Church because virtually the entire Church was represented at the Council of Nicea. The Fathers of Nicea wrestled with the issues of the Trinity and the definition of who Jesus of Nazareth is. They chose what had been believed "at all times, in all places, by all people in the Church" and enshrined it in the Nicene Creed.

The Book of Common Prayer requires that the Nicene Creed be recited at all celebrations of the Mass held on a Sunday or any of the Major Feast Days. For nearly 17 centuries, it has stood as the summary of the faith for the vast majority of Christians from Methodists to Copts, from Episcopalians to Orthodox, from Roman Catholics to Lutherans. It is not an exhaustive definition of the faith. It simply holds forth what is necessary in order to be an orthodox Christian.

To me, it is simply an awe-inspiring moment in the Mass and in life when I am reminded by the Nicene *(continued on page 3)*

# Confirmation classes will examine Nicene Creed

*(continued from page 2)*

Creed of the unity we share in Christ. I often am deeply moved as I recite the Creed at Mass and think of all the other Christians of so many traditions who are reciting the same words all over the globe. I think of how geography cannot separate believers any more than the grave can separate me from those who said the Creed before I was conceived in my mother's womb.

Confirmation classes begin on Sunday, Feb. 3 following the 11 a.m. Mass. At our second class on Feb. 10, we will examine the Nicene Creed in detail. Come one, come all whether you have already been confirmed or not!

Peace, Father James Lee Walker +



# Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate offer hope to plantation workers

Valentines Day is coming!

Give the gift of freedom for Valentines Day by giving fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate.

I watched the movie *Amazing Grace* recently. The DVD of this wonderful movie included supplemental material depicting the face of modern slavery. These scenes reminded me of my own visit to a Guatemalan

plantation. A priest took our group on a tour of a coffee plantation in the mountains near Antigua. He showed us the huts where people lived. Children received education only if the plantation owner allowed it. Women gave birth in mud birthing huts without medical care. What people lacked most on that plantation was freedom.

I remember the poverty, the fear. I am glad our church supports Fair Trade Coffee. By giving small farmers a fair deal for their coffee, we allow them to live a life of dignity.

As God's people, your fair trade gift is an act of "...doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God." Micah 6:8

Andi and Jamie Douglass, Earth Ministry

# S.H.I.P team to meet March 2

The Self Help Interfaith Program (S.H.I.P.) ministry will meet at church on Sunday, March 2 between the 8:45 and 11:00 services. The meeting is being held to reorganize the S.H.I.P. ministry at St. Wilfrid's—to set up a small team of people to run this ministry during the S.H.I.P. guests' next visit (April 12—26) and in future years.

S.H.I.P. churches have one or more church coordinators as the congregation's key person for the ministry at the church. The coordinator is the church's liaison with the S.H.I.P. program, and is responsible for organizing S.H.I.P.'s visit to the church. Coordinators' tasks include signing up parishioners to bring meals and stay with the guests at night and on weekends, arranging moving days, troubleshooting issues that come up during the guests' stay, and generally making sure that things happen.

For the past several years, Dave Garlick has been the church coordinator for the S.H.I.P. program at St. Wilfrid's. Much of this ministry's success here has been due to Dave's and Nancy's work, which tapped into the generosity and compassion of parishioners to welcome and support S.H.I.P.'s guests during their stay with us.

*(continued on page 4)*

# S.H.I.P. will reorganize to continue providing needed services

*(continued from page 3)*

The Garlick's are moving to Pennsylvania in the near future, and it's time to regroup. Don Dorsett will take Dave's place as church coordinator, but the work needs to be shared among several people. The purpose of the meeting in March is to go over the tasks that need to be done when S.H.I.P. visits, and to identify people willing to take on responsibility for a part of the work.

Please come to the meeting if you believe God may be calling you to help your homeless sisters and brothers by helping to guide this ministry.

*Note: For information about how the S.H.I.P. program works to help homeless men and women get off the street and begin new lives, please visit the S.H.I.P. website ([www.shipinoc.org](http://www.shipinoc.org)) or call Don Dorsett (714-397-0947).*

## Cheryl Kyle—Notes from Tanzania St. Wilfrid's missionary visits prospective Tanzania school site

Delays at LAX turned my "two-day" journey to Tanzania into three grueling days of travel as I was rerouted through Kenya. Once I landed in Nairobi at 6 a.m. and watched the fog part and the sun come up over the savannah I knew I was back home in Africa. Even the clouds lifted their skirts as our prop plane flew by Mount Kilimanjaro on our way to Arusha so I could see the tiny bit of snow remaining on the mountain.

The first week in Arusha, Tanzania was filled with prayers for the safe arrival of Bishop Simon and Martha Makundi, friends dropping by to say hodi (hello), and planning for the second St. Wilfrid's Mission Trip arriving Jan. 25, 2008.

Today started at 7 a.m. when Bishop Simon, Martha, Tolito and I departed for a safari to Lokii to see the plot of land designated for a school near Tolito's Maasai village.

I expected to see a barren plot with some scrub, but instead the Maasai had staked the site, dug a trench for the foundation, hauled rocks and drawn a simple plan for a two-room school. The village elders and the ward counselor were waiting for us in a circle of white plastic chairs under a tree. Prayers and a meeting followed a tour of the site. They are very serious about educating their children in a safe environment near their village.

Presently the children walk seven kilometers to school. How can St. Wilfrid's help? You already have in so many ways with your prayers, school supplies, and donations. Next week I will receive the estimated cost for building one room. To be continued...

The sun is out, the white clouds beautiful, the horn bills are flying overhead and the monkeys are hanging from the trees near the diocesan office. Life is full.

Cheryl Kyle

## St. Wilfrid's database due for updating; parishioners will be asked to review information

You probably have never even wondered how many times each day the shepherds of old counted their flocks. Maybe it was done continuously throughout the day. Maybe each time they completed an inventory of their entire flock, they started all over again. Similarly, you have probably not given much thought to how and when St. Wilfrid's (and all the other Episcopal Churches) counts its flock. The answer to "when" is once each year. The answer to "how" is a little more complicated.

You may be thinking, "There *must* be software that does the counting automatically." Right? Well, yes, there is a church membership software that has been in

*(continued on page 5)*

# Parish database update will ask families to confirm or correct information

*(continued from page 4)*

use for several years. And yes, it is capable of automatically providing the information requested by the annual diocesan census. Unfortunately, at the moment, it is not programmed to support the annual report. And that is on the verge of change.

This past year, the database has been getting a lot of attention. It has been thoroughly reviewed with two goals in mind: to be able to automatically complete the annual report to the diocese and to get more familiar with the flock. The clergy, administrative staff, vestry and ministry leaders are best able to tend to the congregation's needs if they are familiar with the members as individuals and groups. The membership software is a powerful repository for a great deal of information about the congregation. However, it is currently woefully out of date.

In the coming weeks, each family will be asked to review the information that is currently contained in the database about themselves. We hope you will support our effort to update the database by correcting information that is in error and providing information that is missing. Much of the information pertains to contact information and some pertains to sacramental milestones. The rest is information that can be used to review the demographics of the congregation. All of it has the potential to assist us in "tending to the flock."

Sara Zak

# St. Wilfrid's volunteers are ... angels

Our volunteer corps is the glue that keeps the church office and physical plant together, running smoothly day to day. From office-related tasks to physical plant maintenance, our Office Angels, Building & Grounds crew and Treasurer gave more than 4500 hours of their time and talent in service to St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church in 2007. It's an impressive number in itself, but when you think of the additional parishioners who volunteer in all the ministries of our church that aren't counted in the above hours, the actual number of hours given in service to God and our church is amazing!

Thank you to all of you who give of your time and talent as well as your treasure to our church and parish family!

Say thanks the next time you see our **Office Angels**: Sharan Mercer, Carol Spencer, Elsie Rhoads, Jeanne Hayward, Mikki Mellevold, Marge Stemple, Sharon Alfonso, Wendy Miller, Teresa Smith, May Breault, Jim Graham and Sara Zak. Thanks to our **new Office Angels**: Iris Gilliland, Mary Hiber, Meg Watson, Ida Mae Gillen, Dorothy Cunningham, Denise Kaprielian and Anne Snyder for volunteering. Thanks to Dick Sneary and to Roger Brandt who lead our **Building & Grounds** ministry and are here Monday through Friday each week. And special thanks to Terry Roberts, our **Treasurer**, for his expertise in administering our finances and for doing it all as a volunteer.



# Souper Bowl of Caring asks St. Wilfrid's family to remember hungry community members with donations

Last year, our church was part of a grassroots movement that generated more than \$8 million for local charities across the country. The Souper Bowl of Caring began with a prayer ("Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.") and a single South Carolina youth group. In that year, 22 churches in Columbia, South Carolina were involved. Last year, more than 15,000 groups in all fifty states and some other countries participated.

The concept is simple: Each worshipper is asked to donate one dollar or a can of soup to help fight hunger in the local community. All money and food collected will go directly to Beach Cities Interfaith Services. The amount collected will be reported to [souperbowlcaring.org](http://souperbowlcaring.org) so the national aggregate can be determined.

The 2006 Hunger and Homeless Survey determined that "thirty-seven percent of people requesting emergency food assistance are working citizens." The Food Research and Action Center states, "Thirty-five million working families are considered food insecure in the U.S."

This year's Souper Bowl of Caring is Feb. 3, 2008—Super Bowl Sunday. Look for the BCIS shopping cart in which to place your soup donations or you may place your money donation in the baskets at the altar. Won't you be a part of sharing God's love?



# Fr. Lee Walker to address Celebration of Wisdom group at Feb. 16 meeting

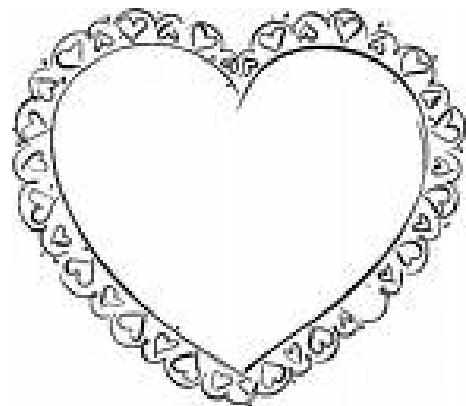
St. Wilfrid's Celebration of Wisdom is a program for those over 60 who want to get to know their peers better or just to share some laughs and love.

When Fr. Lee first came to St. Wilfrid's, he spoke to the wisdom group, and we very much enjoyed his interaction with the group. I asked him to speak on any subject he felt moved to present, and also talk about the Pastoral Care Program.

This will be our Valentine party so bring your sweetheart, wife, husband or anyone else you would like to get to know better. See ALL of you on the Feb. 16 in Sacquety Hall.

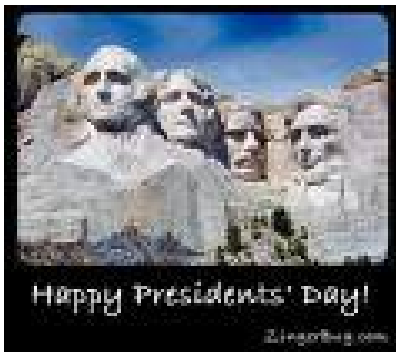
Please remember to bring an item that could be used by a member of the armed services serving overseas. Contact Bill Hutchinson at 714-964-6973 if you forgot the items we can send.

Paula Hulse



# Parish Calendar Highlights

## February 2008



- February 2** Ice cream social in Sacquety Hall begins at 6:30 p.m. sponsored by the small groups. Special performance by Alleluia Angels!
  
- February 3** Souper Bowl of Caring – BCIS ingathering of soup and cash donations for the homeless.  
  
Confirmation class begins after the 11:00 a.m. service in Sacquety Hall
  
- February 5** Mardi Gras Shrove Tuesday dinner party and Burying of the Alleluia in Sacquety Hall begins at 6:30 p.m.
  
- February 6** Ash Wednesday services at 7 a.m., Noon and 7 p.m. with imposition of ashes.
  
- February 8-9** Vestry Retreat
  
- February 10** EFLAGS luncheon  
Parish Nurses here today  
Parish Database information update begins today – all events in Sacquety Hall
  
- February 16** Wisdom Luncheon meeting celebrating Valentine's Day in Sacquety Hall begins at 11:30 a.m.
  
- February 18** Presidents' Day – Office closed

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## TIME DATED MATERIAL

### Worship at St. Wilfrid's

#### Sundays

Holy Eucharist 7:30 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Christian Education Hour 10:10 a.m.

Childcare 8:45 – noon

#### Weekdays

Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Eucharist 7:00 a.m.

### About the Clarion

The Clarion is a publication of:

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