St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church
Huntington Beach, California

Parish Profile

October 2020
Guiding Prayer

O Lord God of our salvation, let our prayer come to you. We seek your wise counsel as we search for a new rector. As you sent the guiding light for the wise men, send us the light of your understanding and compassion that we may care for all who will be considered for this position. As your light shown in the conversion of St. Paul, let that light continually convict us, so we may see your presence and know your will in all we do. As we are mindful of the many blessings you continually bestow upon us, help us choose with wisdom and discernment the blessed person you will send us. During this time of transition and expectancy, keep us all under your protection as the hen keeps her chicks under her wing. Let all that we think, say, and do be according to your will. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

As you will see in this profile, St. Wilfrid’s hopes that a call to be rector will fill our new pastor with the joy and commitment that bring us together to do God’s work in this holy place.

St. Wilfrid’s is a place that creates opportunity for all persons to know Christ. We are a welcoming family united in Christ Jesus that celebrates in worship our common commitment to God in Christ. St. Wilfrid’s is a refuge where each person and every family may grow spiritually. St. Wilfrid’s is a place of friendship and fellowship, and a place to come home to.
Our History

St. Wilfrid of York began in 1947 with a small group of dedicated women who were members of St. James in Newport Beach. They dreamed of an Episcopal church to be located in Huntington Beach. This group first met on May 23, 1947, at the home of Mrs. Michael Nichols in Huntington Beach for the purpose of forming a Guild. The Guild chose the name of St. Anne. The first meeting of St. Anne’s Guild was held on June 4, 1947. St. Anne’s Guild continued to meet on a regular basis, holding fund raising events and keeping their vision of building a church in Huntington Beach alive.

Thirteen years later on February 10, 1960, approximately 70 men and women met at the Huntington Beach Women’s Club to discuss the proposed Episcopal Mission. On April 24, 1960, the new Mission’s first service was held at Smith Mortuary. St. Wilfrid’s quickly outgrew the Smith Chapel facility and moved to meeting at the VFW Hall in June 1961. At the same time the new Mission was going forward with its plans to locate and purchase the “right” piece of land for the rapidly growing Mission.

The first annual meeting was held on January 13, 1962. At that time the congregation was informed that the “right piece” of property for the new church had been found. The property known as the Vogel Ranch, consisted of five acres of land, a farmhouse, bunkhouses and other assorted metal buildings. Taking a huge leap of faith, the property was purchased for $81,000. In order to secure the $71,500 loan, several families guaranteed the payment of the loan for the first year.

During 1964, St. Wilfrid’s launched its first building campaign with the slogan “Be a St. Wilfrid’s Square.” Members pledged $14 per square foot. The building campaign was a success and resulted in what we now know as Sacquety Hall. The groundbreaking ceremony for the “new church”, as the Sacquety Hall building was known, was held on February 21, 1965. More than 200 parishioners and guests were present for the dedication of the new church located at 18631 Chapel Lane in Huntington Beach. The new church was a labor of dedication and love. The 64 pews, kneelers, and altar were constructed, sanded, and stained by parishioners working nights and weekends. Dedication, deep spiritual belief and prayerfulness, St. Wilfrid’s became a full parish on January 15, 1975.

Over the years the parish continued to grow in size. The dedication and spirituality of the original parishioners deepened resulting in an increase in membership requiring new and bigger facilities. As the church grew, the original members of the St. Anne’s Guild branched out to become active members in various new guilds and the Vestry. A new building program was launched in 1992 to accommodate the growing parish. Largely due to the foresight of the original founding families in purchasing five acres, a portion of the original property was sold, and those revenues combined with the building fund, “Building to Serve” resulted in the campus we have today.
No history of St. Wilfrid’s Episcopal Church would be complete without a mention of what occurred with our last rector. After much investigation, it was ascertained that the rector had committed financial malfeasance. The rector was summarily dismissed two years ago, causing great shock to the parish as he had been well liked and admired. However, the congregation has pulled together through three interim rectors and the COVID pandemic.

“I think St. Wilfrid’s has the potential for again becoming a leading parish in the Diocese.”

- The Rev. Canon Charles Sacquety, Rector Emeritus

St. Wilfrid’s foundation is built on a solid rock. The foundation of St. Wilfrid’s was seen in the many women and men whose hearts were filled with faith, courage, determination and a love of God who had a vision for the future. They never lost sight of their vision and worked relentlessly to bring St. Wilfrid’s into being. That same dedication, deep spiritual sense of community and love of God continues today as the parish weather the storms of change ever moving forward to serve the needs of its members and its community.

Huntington Beach... Our Home

St. Wilfrid of York Episcopal Church is located in Huntington Beach, California, in northwest Orange County near the shores of the Pacific Ocean. The climate of sunshine and ocean breezes help maintain ideal weather for year-round outdoor activities which many of our members participate in.

Los Angeles is 35 miles to the northwest, and San Diego is 95 miles to the southwest. Nearby cities are Westminster, Fountain Valley, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Sunset Beach and Seal Beach. Our parish draws from all of these areas.

Huntington Beach has a colorful past. Early in the 1830’s, the area was part of a large Spanish possession known as the Nietos Grant. In 1834 a 21 square mile section of the Nietos grant was split off, and became known as Los Bolsas. This area now contains the cities of Huntington Beach, Westminster and Garden Grove. Orange County was created in 1889. In 1902, Henry Huntington and others bought a portion of Los Bolsas known as Shell Beach and renamed it Huntington Beach. The city was incorporated in 1909. Ranching, farming and oil were the economic base of the new city.

Today, Huntington Beach encompasses 27 square miles and has a resident population of over 200,000 people. With a median age of 42.3, Huntington Beach is a young city that offers a diverse variety of housing ranging from one-of-a-kind waterfront homes with private docks to neighborhoods of single family and multifamily homes on tree lined streets. Modern apartment buildings are interspersed with Victorian-style homes. Ninety percent of the residential
dwellings are less than 25-years. Of the 81,215 residential units, 57% are owner occupied with a median value of $831,000. The median household income for Huntington Beach is $94,991 ranking it about 25% higher than the median household income for California.

Huntington Beach is noted for its excellent elementary and secondary schools. Three school districts serve the City’s students, Ocean View School District, Huntington Beach Elementary School District and Huntington Beach High School District. The City also has several parochial elementary and high schools which offer private religious education to parochial preschools which offer extended day care and summer programs.

Huntington Beach, also known as Surf City, is home to a wide variety of activities from its famous surfing beaches to shopping at Pacific City. The Downtown with its restaurants and shopping is a mecca for both tourists and local residents. Events such as the US Open of Surfing, the Pacific Air Show and the largest 4th of July Parade west of the Mississippi add a great deal to the flavor of living in Huntington Beach.

The city has a strong economic base with over 22,860 businesses. These businesses are engaged in technology, aerospace and defense systems, electronics, computer hardware and software and automobile services.

People immigrating from Latin America and Asia have been a dynamic factor in the population growth of the City. The opportunity exists for Wilfrid’s to reach out to these population groups.

While the city is the envy of many Southern California beach cities, it is facing challenges from the pandemic, homelessness, and an ever-changing economy. It is into these challenges that St. Wilfrid’s stands ready to serve to meet the needs of our community and our parish.

Worship

“Something I can count on week in and week out to create an anchor that connects me to Christians from the past, binds me to my contemporaries, and creates a link to those who will come after me.”

- Parishioner comment on Parish Profile Survey

Worship at St. Wilfrid’s is clearly important to everyone. Irrespective of personal views or socio-economic standing we love to pass the peace and gather together at the altar rail—everyone is welcomed. Worship, as one parishioner said, “Begins my week on a positive note.”

Liturgy at Wilfrid’s has a traditional dignity and could be described as finding itself slightly to the “high church” side of Episcopal worship. The Eucharist is the main focus of our three Sunday services. An early morning 7:00 AM Rite II spoken service, an 8:30 AM Rite II contempo-
rary service with a praise band and informal atmosphere, and a 10:30 AM Rite II Choral Eucharist featuring our choir and traditional music. We recognize and collectively pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, as well as asking God’s blessing on those who come forward with special concerns.

On Wednesdays an early morning informal spoken Eucharist is celebrated. Other special services are held during the year. Evensong, offered from October to June is a magnificent act of worship that provides an opportunity for praise, prayer, reflection, and congregational song. This service of scripture and music has been sung daily in many cathedrals and parishes around the world for over 500 years. A Healing Service is held on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Concerts by parish and local performing arts organizations are an integral part of life at St. Wilfrid’s. Please refer to our web site (http://stwilfridschurch.org/worship/music) for concerts and our evensong services this season.

We seek a priest with strong leadership skills, whose sermons inspire the congregation by sharing the good news of Christ as revealed in scripture, and focuses on how parishioners can apply Christian principles in their daily lives. While we appreciate a Gospel understanding of contemporary issues, we wish to avoid the language of partisan politics in the pulpit. We desire music that inspires and provides opportunity for singing.

Our Parish Team

St. Wilfrid’s has a talented and passionate parish team supporting our *Interim Rector Rev. Dr. William Doggett*:

**The Rev. William Wells, Associate and Minister of Music**, joined St. Wilfrid’s clergy staff in 2017. Bill has many roles – overseeing the music program, serving as organist for the 10:30 service, delivering sermons, and performing hospital chaplain duties. He is a world class musician whose musical background includes serving at the Crystal Cathedral as staff member, recitalist and organist for the Glory of Christmas, service organist at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, and Dean of the American Guild of Organists.

**The Rev. Steve Swartzell, Associate Minister**, joined St. Wilfrid’s clergy staff in 2018 for his field education and was ordained to the diaconate on June 13, 2020. We were delighted to have him join us on a full-time basis as Associate Minister on July 1. Steve leads our Children and Youth Ministries and provides support to worship, formation, outreach, and communications activity.
The Rev. Nancy Sinclair, Pastoral Care, has been a member of St. Wilfrid’s since 1979. After retiring as Vicar at St. Theodore's in Seal Beach, she returned in 2018 to the clergy staff at St. Wilfrid's, her sending church and her spiritual home. She oversees our Care Team.

Terry Roberts, Parish Administrator, has been a member of St. Wilfrid’s since 2004 and has served as Parish Administrator since 2011. His responsibilities include finances, payroll, scheduling, facility management, interface with parishioners, vestry and outside groups, Diocesan reports, and all church correspondence.

Debbie Pratt, Preschool Administrator, joined our staff in 2010 and has guided the successful growth of our preschool enrollment and the addition of our kindergarten, after school, and chapel programs.

Jamond McCoy, Minister of Music for the Table Service, joined our staff in 2018 and leads the musicians at our 8:30 Table Service. He is an improvisational jazz and gospel influenced vocalist, pianist, composer, arranger, session singer, and accompanist.

Dustin Nguyen, Director of Communications, Outreach, and Intergenerational Ministries, joined our church staff in 2018. He has several roles – most notably as editor of our “This Week at St. Wilfrid’s” email newsletter and our virtual Sunday worship services.

The Reverend Canon Charles Sacquety, Rector Emeritus, served as rector of St. Wilfrid's from 1978 – 1998. When requested, Charles has returned to St. Wilfrid’s, assisting where needed and providing his warm smile and contagious laugh to the community and campus he worked so faithfully to build.

Our Campus

We are very proud of our three-acre campus, which is located in a residential neighborhood adjacent to a public park (Helme Park). Visit our campus any day of the week and you’ll find parishioners, support groups, musical groups, and community members enjoying the peaceful
place for fellowship and meditation that our campus offers. Our campus is heavily used by community groups, such as school choral concerts and twelve-step programs. Ample parking is available in our 100+ space lot and on neighborhood streets.

Facilities are well maintained, with major assistance from the active volunteers in our “St. Wilfrid’s Maintenance Division.” In our recent parish survey, 90% of respondents stated that the buildings and grounds are very well or well maintained – the second highest satisfaction rating across the sixty-five ministry statements in the study.

“Our crew works tirelessly and devotedly to keep St. Wilfrid’s humming. As the congregation is the heart of our community, the grounds crew is the circulation — they keep our structures and systems moving and breathing. From maintenance to artistry, from fixing a leaky pipe to creating a stained glass window, all is done with a higher purpose — to serve God and Christ and each other.”

A parishioner

In 2017, we conducted a capital campaign (“Rekindle the Flame”) in order to address existing and future needs for our campus. Parishioners showed their commitment to our church and its mission by pledging $758,000. Several significant projects have already been completed, including air conditioning, exterior painting, a new commercial-grade kitchen oven, and preschool flooring, and other projects are in the planning stages.

Our campus buildings include:

Sanctuary/Chapel (10,494 square feet) – Built in 1992/1993, this beautiful building has capacity for 400 people in the sanctuary and 75 people in the chapel. The sanctuary was designed with acoustics to highlight our musicians. The sanctuary, chapel, and narthex are enhanced with stained glass windows crafted by some of our talented parishioners. A memorial garden is located adjacent to the building, commemorating parishioners who have passed away.

Sacquety Hall (4,532 square feet) – Built in 1965/1966, this was the main sanctuary from 1966 to 1993. When the new sanctuary and chapel were constructed, the old sanctuary was converted into the parish hall. Redesigned with a kitchen and bathrooms with showers, it has become a profoundly multi-purpose space! It is used for fellowship, social events, adult education, coffee hour, preschool, meetings, training, Boy Scouts, and special occasions such as weddings and funerals. It was named Sacquety Hall in honor of our long-term rector who spearheaded the building and remodeling of the current campus).

Education/Office Wing (13,229 square feet) – Built in 1992/1993. While this building seems fairly calm on Sunday mornings, it is a hive of activity the rest of the week! It includes offices for our clergy, administration, and preschool, plus our preschool classrooms. These rooms are
also used for meetings of community groups, support groups, and our own administrative meetings.

**Youth Center** (2,175 square feet) – This building dates back to the old Vogel Ranch, and it served as our original church building from 1962 to 1966. It has undergone several upgrades and includes a kitchen. It is now utilized as our youth center, and is also used for meetings and preschool activities.

## Our Preschool

St. Wilfrid’s Episcopal Preschool and School has been an important outreach ministry to our local community for over forty years. It is governed by our vestry and an active Preschool Commission.

“We absolutely love it here! The teachers, director, and the office staff are amazing! We could not ask for a better environment for our little girl to grow up in. We have been here for two years and wish she could stay forever!”

- Parent review of Preschool on Yelp

Our school serves children ages two through six in preschool, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten as well as a Japanese immersion preschool class. Afterschool and summer camp programs enroll children through fifth grade from area charter and public schools. We are open year-round from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm to meet the needs of our families.

In the spring of 2020, our school enrolled 150 preschool through kindergarten, 30 afterschool, and 20 in our Japanese after-school program. After a ten-week closure for COVID, we are steadily rebuilding our enrollment. We are proud that our school’s reopening guidelines have been used as a model by the National Association of Episcopal Schools. Our talented staff is led by Debbie Pratt, who over her ten years at St. Wilfrid’s has guided us from a small 27-student half day preschool to the success it is today. Our school’s reputation is well-established and respected in the church and community. In 2019, our school won a city of Huntington Beach award for best preschool.

Our students enjoy weekly chapel services, visiting with our chaplain as well as working with our art teacher, Spanish teacher, and in the school garden. We believe that a child’s first school experience is a partnership between the parent and the school. St. Wilfrid’s is not just about preparing young children for school, but helping children get ready for life.

In the recent parish survey, the preschool earned the highest satisfaction rating among the 65 ministry statements - 91% responded they were very well or well satisfied.
Historically, a few preschool families have been members or attended St. Wilfrid’s Church. Recently we have started to see an increase resulting from our emphasis on actively reaching out to the school’s families. Every month, Preschool Commission members from the Vestry have a “grab and go” coffee for the families during drop-off. This provides an opportunity to talk about the church and give a hand-out on upcoming services and family activities. We are continuing to find ways to increase this relationship.

**Stewardship**

“How do we get parishioners more engaged with time, talent, or treasure is the big question. We have a good Stewardship Ministry but we have to encourage action.”

- Parishioner comment on Parish Profile Survey

The parishioners at St. Wilfrid’s recognize that stewardship is a spiritual practice. Stewardship is emphasized at St. Wilfrid’s throughout the year by highlighting its different aspects – time, talent, and treasure.

Several years ago, in an effort to separate the time and talent aspects of stewardship from the finance side, we moved our ministry fair to the spring - so it wasn't held at the same time as the annual pledge drive. We’ve experimented with several forms of the ministry fair but our main desire is to highlight opportunities for parishioners to get involved in worship, service, and outreach.

Pledging acknowledges the abundance of blessings bestowed on us and shows that the church and its goals are important to us individually and to the community. The number of pledges (pledging units) had been increasing until a diocesan issue with a nearby parish in 2015. The number of pledges declined again in light of the financial impropriety of the former rector.

Pledge income has shown a steady decline not only due to decreasing pledges but the fact that as long-time parishioners retire and move away or pass on, the pledges that replace them come from younger families and, as is usually the case, are smaller.
We are confident that the number of pledges and pledge income will rebound once a new rector is installed.

In 2014, the Vestry had the foresight to set up a Legacy Circle. We currently have twelve parishioners who have pledged to make bequests to St. Wilfrid’s in their Wills and Living Trusts.

**Financial**

2020 has been challenging for our nation, our state, for Huntington Beach and for St. Wilfrid’s. Through this all we have experienced God’s presence and leadership — we are strong, and we will prevail and succeed.

St. Wilfrid’s showed negative Net Income in four of the past five years, even before the challenges caused by the dismissal of our previous rector in 2018. The Vestry and Finance Commission have worked hard to improve our financial situation and have placed strong financial management procedures in place. We are coming back after a significant (for us) loss of money and parishioner confidence.

Our financial outlook for 2020 was looking positive until COVID-19 hit, which resulted in lost revenue from rental income and preschool financial contributions.
The 2020 budget approved before COVID showed projected revenue of $765,000 and a balanced budget. In June, we applied for and received a $297,000 Payroll Protection Program loan. We expect this loan to be forgiven as a grant, as we used the funds for approved payroll and expenses to support the preschool and church employees. We have tightened our belt and reduced expenses in Operations, Outreach, Personnel, and Program Costs. We were able to keep our Personnel Costs lower than budget through increased use of our wonderful volunteers.

There are many positives. We are blessed to have paid off the mortgage on the Sanctuary and campus buildings in the early 1990s. We are completing a three-year Capital Campaign to fund major repairs and to upgrade our buildings and grounds. The initial pledge was $758,000. We have received $596,000 through June 2020, and several parishioners are still contributing towards their three-year pledge. In addition, we have set aside a reserve of $76,000 from operating funds for Building and Maintenance.

In spite of the difficulties we have faced, our balance sheet remains strong. We have a reserve balance of $266,000. Over the past decade, St. Wilfrid’s has received bequests totaling over $1,000,000, including a new unrestricted bequest of $525,000. The current bequest balance is $723,000. These funds are primarily unrestricted.

The St. Wilfrid’s Preschool and School supplements the church budget every year. However, 2020 has been challenging due to COVID-related enrollment decreases. Preschool finances are expected to improve this fall, as the school year resumes.

Despite declining pledge income over the past five years (see Stewardship section), we believe parishioners can be counted on when needed. For example, even though we were unable to have an in-person Easter service this year, over $15,000 in offering was given by our parishioners.

We have suffered and we are bouncing back. We need a leader who will stimulate giving and who also has strong administrative skills to manage our resources wisely.

**Our Mission Statement**

“I have always felt so welcome even from my first time, and I still appreciate the love and friendship I have found in this congregation

- Parishioner comment on Parish Profile Survey

St. Wilfrid’s is a Christian community seeking to know and unconditionally share God’s unfailing love.
We are a community.

- A comfortable, safe, authentic place
- Open and affirming
- Caring and real
- We gather together
- You are welcome, just as you are.

We seek discovery.

- Listening, guiding, processing
- Questioning, doubting, exploring
- Conversing, communicating, celebrating
- Dialoging, challenging, accepting.

We share with one another.

- Fresh ideas about faith and families
- Our experiences and ideas
- A spirit of abundance and love
- A passion for Jesus
- A desire to empower and equip each other and the world to do good.

We have a purpose.

- To offer acceptance and belonging
- To connect with people
- To repair relationships, experience reconciliation and cooperation
- To spiritually nurture; discerning gifts and building character along the way
- To serve Jesus and to serve others through the giving of ourselves.

In our recent parish survey, 73% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that St. Wilfrid’s is fulfilling our mission statement.
Our Ministries

“Making a positive impact on lives of fellow parishioners and local community”
- Parishioner comment on Parish Profile Survey

St. Wilfrid’s is dedicated to serving our parishioners and local community in a number of ways, supporting over 50 programs and ministries. For all these ministers, activities at church and in the world stem from one source—a common desire and commitment to love our God and our neighbor. We believe that Christ’s life-changing love is too great for any one of us to hold within; that it comes to us on the way to someone else, and that these ministries are our way of letting it flow through us.

These ministries fall into three categories which support our mission statement: Building a Community of Faith, Creating a Sacred Space, and Outreach. Parish survey respondents feel we have been most effective in building Sacred Space ministries and least effective in Outreach ministries:

“St. Wilfrid’s is . . . a Christian community”

Building a Community of Faith, where relationships are nurtured, and loving care is provided for everyone.

Of the very first Christian community, the Book of Acts records, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers... and day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” St. Wilfrid’s strives to be a contagious community of faith, where relationships are nurtured, and loving care is provided for everyone.
Associated Ministries: Brotherhood of St. Andrew • Care Team • Celebration of Wisdom • Children, Youth and Families Ministries • Lay Pastoral Visitors • Moms’ Ministry • Parish Nurses • Partners in Prayer • Prayer Chain • Prayer Request Board • Rad Dads • Sunday Hospitality Team

Ministry Highlights:

**Brotherhood of St. Andrew** is an international ministry of men within the Episcopal Church and the broader Anglican Communion. The Brothers Andrew are governed by three Disciplines: Prayer, Study, and Service. We seek to involve men and boys more and more into the life of the Church, and in the process, win more of them to Christ. In addition to Christian fellowship, the Brotherhood offers the spiritual support men need in order to live out their faith. The group meets in Sacquety Hall the second Saturday of each month for breakfast.

**Care Team** seeks to ensure that everyone receives the care and support they need within a smaller circle of caring friends. Within the Care Team there are units made up of 10–12 members. The members or more aptly, the ministers in each unit care for each other by keeping in touch in an intentional way—either by phone, text, email, tweet or just a special “Hi, how are you?” on Sunday morning.

**Celebration of Wisdom** is a monthly fellowship group for all who are 55 or older (although open to all), with guest speakers, musical programs, and active participation of the members in discussions and programs. The group meets September through June on the third Saturday of the month for lunch.

**Moms’ Ministry** is a place for parish, preschool, and community moms and caregivers to connect with each other with no interruptions, to build each other up in our parenthood journey, and to candidly laugh with one another about the many ups, downs, twists and turns of motherhood. Various events include painting and wine tasting, yoga, parenting workshop, self-defense class, and Mom’s night out.

**“St. Wilfrid’s is . . . seeking to know God’s unfailing love”**

Creating Sacred Space, and opportunities within that space.

It is impossible to share what we have not experienced ourselves. Experiencing God’s love requires creating sacred space, and opportunities within that space, where both our hearts and our minds can encounter the Divine. Such experiences shape us into Christlikeness and equip us to live lives of love in our world.
Associated Ministries: Acolytes • Adult Forums • Altar Guild • Baptismal Preparation Classes • Bible Study • Choir and Music Guild • Confirmation Classes • Cursillo Education for Ministry • Eucharistic Ministers • Evensong Services • First Look Classes for Newcomers • Flower Guild • Godly Play • Healing Prayer Services • Intercessors • Lectors • Sound Crew • Stewardship • Small Group Ministries • Vacation Bible School

Ministry Highlights:

Choir is an important part of worship at St. Wilfrid’s. Our Table musicians perform contemporary selections at the 8:30 service. Our Choir performs traditional selections at the 10:30 service and has sung evensong services at St. Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

Godly Play Sunday School Program is based on Montessori principles. Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language, and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Godly Play meets each Sunday from September to June and serves children through early, middle and late childhood and beyond.

“St. Wilfrid’s is . . . unconditionally sharing God’s unfailing love”

Outreach becoming the heart of God in loving action at home and around the world.

The natural response to an experience of love and grace is to share that same love and grace with others. At St. Wilfrid’s, that means moving beyond the walls of our church, becoming the heart of God in loving action at home and around the world.

Associated Ministries: A Ministry of Sharing (AMOS) Nicaragua Health and Healing Missions • Boy Scout Troop 555 • Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays, and Straights (EFLAGS) • Greeters • Laundry Love • Self-Help Interfaith Program (SHIP) • Ushers

Ministry Highlights:

Boy Scout Troop 555 has been sponsored by St. Wilfrid’s since 2016, and it currently has 40 Scouts. Troop members have helped with events (Preschool Trunk-or-Treat and Spring Fling and Scout Sunday), and with service projects (painting courtyard benches, building Preschool flower boxes and sandbox)
Episcopal Fellowship of Lesbians, Gays, and Straights (EFLAGS) maintains an environment that allows lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Christians to grow in spiritual formation and Christian identity. It provides spiritual support, presence and fellowship to members, their friends, and families. The ministry promotes dialogue, inclusion, participation, and service within St. Wilfrid’s, the Episcopal Church, and the community at large. The group meets quarterly in Sacquety Hall for a potluck lunch.

Laundry Love provides regular opportunities to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry. Laundry Love partners with groups and local laundromats in cleaning clothes and linens of low-income or no-income families and individuals. We see the laundromat as a place where strangers become friends, people are known by name, hope is hustled, and the worth of every human being is acknowledged and celebrated.

Who We Are

Worshiping God in a Faith Community and Furthering my Spiritual Growth are the top reasons for membership at St. Wilfrid’s, based on our recent parish survey. Few people attend due to Sense of Obligation or Serving the Larger Community Outside St. Wilfrid’s:

Our Strengths

- A strong associate clergy staff – Bill Wells, Steve Swartzell, and Nancy Sinclair
- A small but solid core of parishioners who guide our ministries
- Attractive, well maintained parish facilities with no mortgage debt, supported by our recent capital campaign
- Outstanding music program, with traditional choir and table musicians
- Our award-winning preschool
- A growing Godly Play program
- Huntington Beach is a family-oriented community, with many things to do
Our Challenges

- An aging and shrinking congregation
- Reduction in pledge income over the past five years (pre-COVID)
- Need to attract young families and build youth group membership
- Parishioners feel less connection to the church after three interim priests
- Outreach and community involvement have weakened during this transition
- Some burnout, as many of the same people are involved with numerous ministries

Our church has experienced a great deal of turmoil over the past three years – the sudden departures of two associate clergy, the dismissal of our rector due to financial misdeeds, the instability from having three interim priests, and the constraints due to COVID. Yet, despite these challenges, our parishioners continue to support our church. We have continued to worship with our online Sunday and Wednesday services. Pledge income has been remarkably steady since the COVID closure. We have endured. We are strong.

There is a strong sentiment that this is OUR church. We are ready to welcome a new rector – not one who defines us but one who can help lead us into the future.

What We are Looking for in a New Rector

St. Wilfrid’s parishioners express strong, consistent opinions regarding the qualities we seek in our next rector. There are some minor differences in rank order between parishioners from the different services, but the qualities shown below are important to those at all services:

**Preaching** was identified as the most important quality for our next rector in the survey and in group discussions. Parishioners want a rector whose sermons are inspiring, faith-based, apolitical, and relevant to our everyday lives. We want an excellent speaker, and we clearly do not want someone “who reads their sermons” from the pulpit.

**Connection** to our parish is essential. The rector needs to be inclusive and to build interpersonal relationships with our parishioners and our community. Someone who lives close to our campus, who plans to be here long term, and who gets to know the broader Huntington Beach community.

**Enthusiasm** is a key quality, and it was mentioned by parishioners across all age groups. Someone who is energetic, inspiring, passionate, and who embraces St. Wilfrid’s.

**Appeal to Youth and Families** is critical to future membership growth. We want our rector to be young at heart, and able to connect with and inspire youth and young families.

**Teaching and Spiritual Guidance** are important qualities, especially for our younger parishioners. We want a rector who can help us learn and live the Christian Faith.
Pastoral Care and Crisis Ministry are important qualities, especially for our older parishioners. We want someone with a pastor’s heart.

Visionary Leadership is a key quality. We want someone who can lead us into the future, while ensuring that the needs and wants of the parish are taken into account.

Organizational Skills are necessary. We aren’t looking for a bureaucrat or a corporate manager but we do want a rector who is accountable and can manage the staff, programs, and finances of our parish.

Support of Musical Preferences is very important. Our survey showed that there is a clear need for a service with traditional music and a service with contemporary music.

Would You Like to Learn More?

We welcome you to visit our website (stwilfridschurch.org) and Facebook page to learn more about St. Wilfrid’s worship, ministries, music, and beautiful campus.

The process of calling our new rector recognizes the need for us to meet each other and discern that the Holy Spirit is bringing us together. If you wish to learn more about us after reviewing our parish profile, we invite you to apply and to discuss how the Spirit might be guiding us toward a new ministry together.

If interested in the St. Wilfrid’s rector position, please contact: The Rev. Tom Quijada-Discavage, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
e-mail: tdiscavage@ladiocese.org
phone: 213.482.2040, ext. 220
Appendix

Parish Survey

An online parish survey was fielded, using Survey Monkey. The survey was fielded from June 17 to July 18. We received 145 responses (43% response rate based on 339 email addresses in our records). A summary of the survey results can be requested from the church office.

Ministry of our Priest

An important component of the survey is “The Ministry of our Priest” question, a ranking of twenty categories that designate the pastoral specialties our parish believes are most important for the next rector to possess. Using the same question, each applicant rates his/her pastoral specialties. Comparing the two will provide a meaningful way to assess the possible fit.

Survey results indicate seven specialties that are most important to our parish: Preaching, Administration, Teaching, Youth Work, Spiritual Guidance, Crisis Ministry, and Pastoral Care:

![Bar chart showing % Yes for various ministries.]

Key Ministries of Our Parish

Survey questions included rating 65 ministries on a five-point scale, rating a series of questions first as “most important” and then the same question on “how are we doing.”

Among the 25 most important ministry qualities, 12 are ranked average on satisfaction and four are ranked below average (weaknesses that need to be addressed). For example, the most important quality is “The rector and congregation maintain open communication,” and this quality is ranked average on How are We Doing?
Survey results were supplemented with four targeted group discussions - youth group, young parents, long-time parishioners, and choir members. This provided some additional “why’s” to help explain the “what’s” from the survey.
The Parish Profile Committee

The Parish Profile Committee was appointed in April 2020 and began meeting on May 11, 2020. The final document was presented to the Vestry on September 4, 2020 and approved on September 18, 2020.

The members of the Parish Profile Committee include:

- Patti Nunn, Chair
- Jeff Campana
- Joe Lim
- Bill Lindsey
- Stewart Lumb
- Dustin Nguyen

Gretchen Hughes, Editor