

50 the Meadian



A newsletter published for families, friends and residents of St. Anne's Mead / Celebrating 50 Years of Providing Loving Care

DECEMBER 22, 2016

'Here we go a-caroling'

Made Famous by Nat King Cole, favorite Christmas Tune Was Written by One of Our Own

Some 50 years ago, Wihla Hutson and her mother were two of the first residents to move in to St. Anne's Mead. A resident for more than 35 years, Wihla passed away in 2002, but not before words she had written as Christmas greetings became world famous lyrics for songs like "Caroling, Caroling" and "Sleep, Baby Mine."



Resident Wihla Hutson in 2001

Born in 1901, in East Gary, Ind., Wihla was an only child. Her family moved to Detroit in 1913 where she had a private tutor for piano and organ, studied at the Detroit Conservatory of Music, and graduated from the College of the City of Detroit, now Wayne State University. Wihla never married and lived with her mother after her father's death, working in the Diocesan office of the Episcopal Church.

In 1929, Wihla became the organist at All Saints Church in Pontiac. The pastor at All Saints was the Rev. Bates Burt. "Aunt Wihla" became a close friend of the Burt family for the rest of her life.

Reverend Burt wrote music and lyrics for the family Christmas cards from 1922 to 1941. His son Alfred Burt, or Al, took up where his father left off and began writing music for the Burt family Christmas cards in 1942.

While Al developed the new melody, his wife Anne secured the artwork, had the cards printed, and updated the mailing list which at one time numbered 450. In 1949, when Anne was expecting their only child, she asked Wihla to write a lyric that could double as a lullaby as well as that year's carol. "Sleep, Baby Mine" began the Burt-Hutson collaboration that would last until Al's death in 1954. The first eight bars of "Sleep, Baby Mine" were used in March 1950 to announce the birth of Anne's daughter Diane.

After Al's death in 1954, Wihla began writing lyrics and music for her own Christmas carols, 18 of which were printed in 1982.

In December 2001, she was honored at a performance of her work by the choirs of St. David's and All Saints Episcopal Church in Pontiac.

Wihla died March 24, 2002 a few days short of her 101st birthday.

Edited from information supplied to alfredburtpcarols.com by Brenda Huntsinger-Williams, and from Dave Bradshaw who also supplied the most recent photo of Wihla Hutson.)

Capital Campaign Can Benefit from Year-End Giving

'Tis the season for giving and before the year ends, taxpayers can simultaneously support a worthy charity and save on taxes due in 2017. It has been reported that charities such as St. Anne's Mead receive on average, 41 percent of their total contributions in the last few weeks of the year.

According to Paul Pepler, St. Anne's Mead accountant, people tend to give at the end of the year because of the nature of the holiday, bonus time and a desire to reduce taxes owed on income.

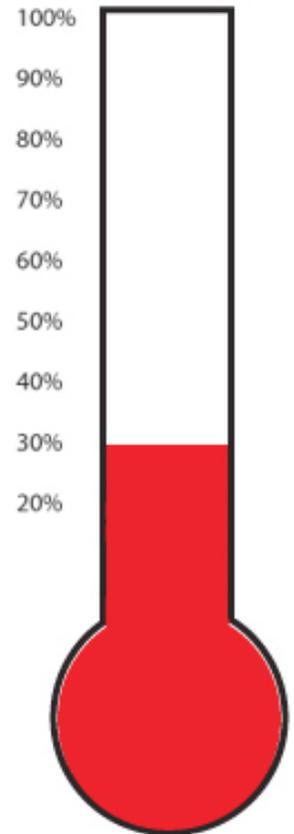
Says Paul, "The holiday season and its traditions are based on gratitude, generosity and a spirit of helping others. Charitable giving not only offers tax advantages, it provides those who have been richly blessed a truly wonderful opportunity to demonstrate gratitude and compassion.

Deductible gifts will reduce an individual's taxes owed based on the income tax bracket they are in. "For example, says Paul, "someone in the 33% tax bracket will have a \$33 tax savings on a \$100 charitable contribution."

In any event, Paul says it is always best to consult your tax adviser to maximize the benefit of your charitable giving.

Since the launch of St. Anne's Mead Capital Campaign earlier this year, more than \$230,000 or about 30 percent has been raised toward a goal of \$750,000. We are grateful beyond words for all the very generous gifts that have brought us to this total already this year.

Thank you!!



Worth Repeating

Here's what they're saying about St. Anne's Mead

One of our parishioners has found a wonderful, warm loving environment at St. Anne's Mead. A variety of activities and a caring staff have brightened her spirit.

-- Gary Priskorn, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

STAY CONNECTED



Be sure to check our Facebook page for photos, videos and comments.

CONTACT

Jane Collins, Executive Director
or
Jennifer Stone, Life Enrichment Coordinator
St. Anne's Mead
16106 W. Twelve Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48076
248-557-1221 office
248-557-3142 fax
jcollins@stannesmead.org
www.stannesmead.org

Our Mission

St. Anne's Mead mission is to provide compassionate and professional health care and supportive services to seniors in a safe, secure, and loving home.

In keeping with our faith-based traditions, we endeavor to serve the unique needs of individuals and their families while preserving dignity and enriching lives.