



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

H  ωνη
THE KOINOTHTOS

VOL. 73 • NO. 534

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL • 600 EAST BLVD • CHARLOTTE, NC 28203 • 704-334-4771

www.htgo.org

JUL/AUG 2013

Our Vision: With the Grace of God, to provide a loving and caring Community where all belong to Christ, through worship, sacramental life, everyday spiritual discipline, sanctification, education, witness and fellowship.

Vacation Bible School 2013



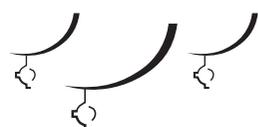
Our Mission

Our Mission is to become faithful followers of Christ and thus active Greek Orthodox Christians by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE....

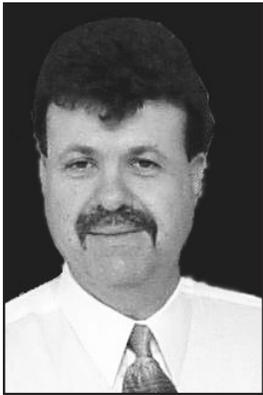
Remarks from Father Michael.....	3
Message from the President George Karres.....	4
No Excuses by Father Tommy	7
Vacation Bible School.....	8
Preschool News	12
Greek School News.....	15

HOLY TRINITY
Greek Orthodox Cathedral
600 East Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28203



Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Charlotte, NC
Permit No. 871

A Message From The Editor



Hello Again, Everybody,

At the time of this writing, I want to welcome everyone back from a nice summer vacation, especially the Sunday School, Preschool, and Greek School teachers and students. Father Michael tells me that registration is very high this year. I want to wish our 2013 graduates the best in college or as they pursue other plans.

This year's 2013 Yiasou Greek Festival was a success. We had four beautiful days of weather. In the next issue we will talk more about the festival and provide pictures of the events of the weekend.

Our community hosted the National Forum of Church Musicians during their annual meeting in July. The annual choir conference for the Atlanta Metropolis was held in Tampa this year and several of our own choir members attended. It was a great success.

Thanks to Effie Dounis for her years of service as co-editor of The Voice and welcome to Lucy Pappadakes for taking over that role.

Welcome to John Georgopoulos as our new Youth Director and Building Supervisor.

The IRRC is going forward with plans to raise money for the courtyard improvements and Cathedral elevator.

That's it for now. Take care and be safe.

Angelo Pete Politis



EASTER LAMBS AND GOATS
KARRAS FARMS
 APVAKIA & KAT6IKAKIA
 DAIRY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE
 ORGANIC LAMBS
ANDY KARAGOUNIS
 704-778-2032

Voice Editorial and Business Staff

Voice Committee Members:

Angelo Pete Politis, Editor; Lucy Pappadakes, Co-Editor; Effie Dounis, Despina Kaltsounis, Stephanie Kaltsounis, George Andrews

Contributing Writers

Fr. Michael Varvarelis, Dean of the Cathedral
 Fr. Tommy Vlahos, Priest – Religious Reflection
 George Karres - P.C. Presidents Message

Ministry Writers:

Diane Christides – Sunday School
 Larry Peroulas – Greek School
 Maria Kleto – Preschool
 Viola Weber – Philoptochos
 Olga Yamalis – Choir News
 Cathy Chicklistas – Forever Young
 Tom Ganatsios – GOSA
 Georgia Georgoulakos – Around Charlotte Town
 Johnny Couchell – Athletic Program
 John Georgopoulos – GOYA-HOPE/JOY
 Loula Kontoulas – Heritage Preservation Committee
 Gloria Kontoulas – Education, Culture and Youth Diakonia, Around Charlotte Town
 Helen Beleos – Community Profiles
 Andrew Karras – Spiritual
 Dr. Taki Hondros – Health
 George Politis – Professional Services – Daughters of Penelope
 N. Markos Kontos – AHEPA

Number of Parish Families – 875

Clergy/Staff:

Rev. Fr. Michael Varvarelis, Dean of the Cathedral; Helen Karras, Office Manager/Secretary; Angelo Tatsis, Building Assistant; John Georgopoulos, Youth Director/Building Supervisor; Larry Peroulas, Greek School Director; Maria Kleto and Cindy Balatsias, Preschool Directors; Lucy Pappadakes, Choir Director; Toni Karnazes, First Sevice Choir Director; : Dr. Philip Thevaos, Baritone Choir Director; Irina Monzolevskaya, Organist; George Politis, Effie Fotopoulos, Sunday School Directors.

2013 Parish Council:

George Karres, President; John Karagiannis, Vice President; George Andrews, Treasurer; Spero Koufaliotis, Assistant Treasurer; John Tsumas, Secretary; Peter Thomopoulos, Assistant Secretary; Dr. Takie Hondros, Member; Dino Pappas, Member; Margaret Nixon, Member; Caleb Russell, Member; Angelo Kefalas, Member; Dimitri Dounis, Member; Jimmy Georgiou, Member; George Limbanovnos, Member; Angelo Spero, Member.

Cathedral Foundation:

Harry Stathopoulos, Chairman; , Nickolas Ballas Vice-Chairman; Mathew Karres, Secretary; Chris Karres Tresurer; Nick Kantsios, Assistant Sec./Tres; George Watson, Nick Nixon, Members.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral bi-monthly publication is published 6 times per year. Church Telephone: 704/334-4771; Preschool: 704/333-4961

Check out the latest news and photos on the web
www.htgo.org

BALLAS
CHIROPRACTIC
 at Northcross

John J. Ballas, DC
 Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician®
 • Wellness Care • Relief Care
 • Acupuncture • Corrective Care
 • Sports Injury Care

The spine serves as the root of the human body. To optimize your health, you must always go straight to the root.



Neck Pain? Back Pain? Headaches?

CALL FOR A CONSULTATION.

Most Insurance & Medicare accepted

Call now for appointments
(704) 896-8080

Conveniently located at Exit 25 across from Target
 9718-D Sam Furr Rd • Huntersville

"Reasonable Prices With Prompt, Dependable Service" **FREE ESTIMATES**

Gus's
Tree Service

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
 LICENSED & INSURED

Over 19 Years
 Experience
 in Europe
 & USA

24 Hour
Service

704-896-5200 • 704-713-2673

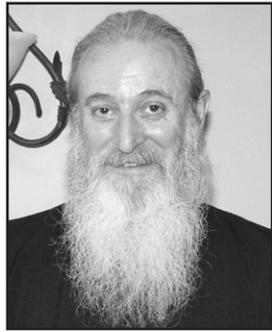
- Tree Removal
- Lot Clearing
- Trimming
- Topping
- Hauling
- Bushhogging
- Deadwood
- Firewood
- Pruning
- Stumps



Kostas Holevas - Owner

Pager: 704-520-2695

Remarks From Father Michael



by Father Michael Varvarelis
Dean of the Cathedral

My Fellow Parishioners and Friends,

We are entering into the New Ecclesiastical Year on September 1st and we hope and pray to be especially blessed. May the Lord help and strengthen us to faithfully follow the way of life described in the gospels, in the Canons of our Church and in the teachings of the Saints so that we may become sanctified members of His Church practicing His divine Will and the Sacramental life of our Holy Orthodoxy.

Once again we start the sacred ministry of teaching at our Sunday School which includes more than 400 students, along with the F.O.S. Bible Classes, the spiritual gatherings, Retreats and other spiritual opportunities. We are asking for your participation in these opportunities and where you choose to attend as more spiritually beneficial to you. Thus the spiritual effort that we undertake in our home as a family and as individual persons is encouraged and

receives more motivation.

We hope that all our children regularly each and every Sunday come to Church and to Sunday School. May the Lord grant this blessing this year. The Sunday School starts on Sunday, September 22nd from 10:15am till 12noon.

Since our Sunday School will soon start along with other spiritual endeavors and since already the public and private schools have started, as well, for the new school year, we pray and wish to our students to enjoy a good, productive and fruitful new school year. Moreover, I would like to add the following distinguishing remarks that St. Isaac of Syria makes concerning the important and enormous area of knowledge. He separates three different chapters of knowledge and explains how we may help others spiritually.

The first knowledge is of the body, physical. The characteristics of this element is greed, wealth, relaxation of the body, the study of intellectual wisdom which expands in this visible world and it has to do with research, inventions, establishment of trade, science, school learning and education. If this knowledge is not

That is why the education which does not include these three aspects of knowledge and is limited only to the physical knowledge, it develops stress, depression and it increases all the problems that torture our modern life and society.

accompanied by the other two then the person develops insecurity, stress and fear in front of death.

The second knowledge is that of the soul. This is combined together with our struggle against the passions, our release from the outside thoughts that disturb us, the cultivation of virtues, the reading of the Holy Bible and more. This knowledge warms our soul

and gives us the deep meaning and goal of the existence of man.

The third knowledge is the spiritual knowledge. It is connected with the sight of God, with the communion of God. With this knowledge man is able to be refreshed inwardly, to develop his inner spiritual senses, to enjoy the spiritual resurrection of his soul and to experience the future resurrection and glory of men and in this way man surpasses death.

If man stays only at the first stage of the physical knowledge and he doesn't progress to the others, he will be unsuccessful in all aspects of his life. That is why the education which does not include these three aspects of knowledge and is limited only to the physical knowledge, it develops stress, depression and it increases all the problems that torture our modern life and society. Especially they have a bad effect generally on the youth that are seeking for something more in depth and substance.

These guidelines on the subject of knowledge that St. Isaac of Syria mentions and are the official teaching of the Church, let us keep them under our consideration as we take charge of our spiritual work in the beginning of this new Ecclesiastical Year. Indeed the above described position gives meaning and direction to our yearnings with our spiritual formation and goal.

I hope that we will strive to reflect and practice these directives with patience and discipline, so that we may bring the mercy and grace of our Lord to our lives.

May, my beloved, the Lord grant to us all a good year with spiritual progress, prosperity and achievement. Amen.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Michael

Αγαπητοί εν Χριστώ αδελφοί,

Νά ευχηθούμε ο Πανάγαθος Κύριος νά ευλογήση τή Νέα Εκκλησιαστική Χρονιά πού αρχίζει τήν πρώτη Σεπτεμβρίου. Νά επιτρέψει ο Πανάγιος Θεός μας νά ακολουθήσουμε πιστά τόν τρόπο ζωής πού μάς περιγράφει τό Ευαγγέλιο, οι κανόνες τής Εκκλησίας μας καθώς και οι διδασχές τών Αγίων μας ώστε νά είμαστε τίμια μέλη τής Εκκλησίας Του ασκούμενοι στό θείο Του θέλημα, στήν μυστηριακή ζωή καί στή ευσεβή ζωή τής Αγίας Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας Του.

Ολη η Ιεραποστολική προσπάθεια αρχίζει καί πάλι. Πρώτα τό Κατηχητικό μας Σχολείο πού πο αποτελούν πάνω από 400 μαθητές. Μετά έχουμε τίς Αγιολογικές Μελέτες, τίς Συνάξεις, τίς περιοδικές πνευματικές ευκαιρίες κ.ο.κ. Παρακαλούμε γιά τήν πρόθυμη συμμετοχή όλων εκεί πού θεωρείτε ότι θά καλλιεργηθήτε πνευματικά καλύτερα. Ετσι η πνευματική προσπάθεια, πού καταβάλλομε στό σπίτι μας σάν οικογένεια καί σάν πρόσωπα ξεχωριστά, ενθαρρύνεται καί τονίζεται ακόμη περισσότερο.

Ελπίζομε ότι όλα τα παιδιά μας νά προσέρχονται ανελλιπώς κάθε Κυριακή καί στήν Εκκλησία καί στό Κατηχητικό Σχολείο πού αρχίζει τήν Κυριακή 22 Σεπτεμβρίου 10:15πμ μέχρι 12μσημέρι. Επίσης ελπίζομε ότι τό Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο νά περιλάβη όλα τά παιδιά τής ηλικίας τού Δημοτικού ώστε νά μαθαίνουν τήν Ελληνική μας γλώσσα.

Καθώς στρεφόμεθα πρός τήν μάθηση καί μέ τό ξεκίνημα τής Ιεραποστολικής Χρονιάς αλλά καί μέ τό άνοιγμα τών Σχολείων γιά τούς μαθητάς κάθε βαθμίδος εύχόμαι καλή χρονιά σέ όλους.

Θά ήθελα νά παραθέσω τά διευκρινιστικά σχόλια πού ο Άγιος Ισαάκ ο Σύρος θέτει υπ' όψιν μας στόν τεράστιο τομέα τής γνώσεως. Ξεχωρίζει ο Άγιος γενικά ότι υπάρχουν τρία κεφάλαια γνώσεων καί ότι βάσει αυτών τών γνώσεων πρέπει νά βοηθούμε τούς ανθρώπους.

Η πρώτη γνώση είναι σωματική. Τά χαρακτηριστικά της στοιχεία είναι η πλεονεξία, ο πλούτος, η ανάπαυση τού σώματος, η μελέτη τής λογικής σοφίας πού επεκτείνεται σ' αυτόν τόν αισθητό κόσμο καί έχει νά κάνει μέ τίς έρευνες καί τίς εφευρέσεις τεχνών, επιστημών καί μαθήσεων. Αν αυτή η γνώση δέν συνοδεύεται από τίς άλλες δύο δημιουργεί ανασφάλεια, άγχος καί φόβον ενώπιον τού θανάτου.

Η δεύτερη γνώση είναι η ψυχική. Συνδέεται μέ τόν αγώνα μας γιά τήν θεραπεία από τά πάθη, γιά τήν απαλλαγή μας από εσωτερικούς λογισμούς

...η παιδεία πού δέν επεκτείνεται σ' αυτές τίς τρεις γνώσεις καί περιορίζεται μόνο στή σωματική, δημιουργεί άγχος, μελαγχολία καί μεγαλώνει όλα τά προβλήματα πού μάς βασανίζουν στήν σύγχρονη ζωή καί κοινωνία.

πού μάς βασανίζουν, γιά τήν καλλιέργεια τής αρετής, τήν ανάγνωση τής Αγίας Γραφής κ.ο.κ. Αυτή η γνώση καί τήν ψυχή μας θερμαίνει καί μάς προσφέρει τό βαθύ νόημα στόν σκοπό τής υπάρξεως τού ανθρώπου.

Η Τρίτη γνώση είναι η πνευματική γνώση. Λέγεται ανάπαυση. Συνδέεται μέ τήν θεωρία τού Θεού, μέ τήν κοινωνία μέ τόν Θεό. Μ' αυτή τήν γνώση ο άνθρωπος αναπαύεται εσωτερικά, αναπτύσσονται οι εσωτερικές πνευματικές του

αισθήσεις, η ψυχή του ανασταίνεται καί βιώνει τήν μελλοντική ανάσταση καί δόξα τών ανθρώπων καί έτσι ξεπερνά τόν θάνατο.

Αν ο άνθρωπος παραμείνει μόνο στήν πρώτη τήν σωματική γνώση καί δέν προχωρήσει στίς επόμενες είναι αποτυχημένος σέ όλα τά επίπεδα τής ζωής. Γι' αυτό η παιδεία πού δέν επεκτείνεται σ' αυτές τίς τρεις γνώσεις καί περιορίζεται μόνο στή σωματική, δημιουργεί άγχος, μελαγχολία καί μεγαλώνει όλα τά προβλήματα πού μάς βασανίζουν στήν σύγχρονη ζωή καί κοινωνία. Ιδιαίτερος έχουν άσχημη επιρροή στους νέους οι οποίο αναζητούν κάτι βαθύτερο καί ουσιαστικότερο.

Αυτά πού αναφέρει ο Άγιος Ισαάκ ο Σύρος καί πού αποτελούν τήν διδασκαλία τής Εκκλησίας μας ας τά έχουμε υπ' όψιν μας καθώς αναλαμβάνομε τήν πνευματική εργασία στό ξεκίνημα τού Νέου Εκκλησιαστικού Έτους. Πράγματι αυτή η τοποθέτηση καί ανάπτυξη δίνει νόημα καί προσδιορισμό στους πόθους καί στους κόπους.

Ευχόμαστε νά δουλέψομε καί νά ασκηθούμε μέ υπομονή καί μέ συνέπεια, γιά νά ελκύσομε τό έλεος τού Θεού, γιά νά ορθοποδήσομε πνευματικά καί ο Κύριος, η Αγία Τριάς δι' ευχών πάντων τών αγίων νά μάς σκέπει, νά μάς κατευθύνει, νά μάς στηρίζει, νά μάς αγιάζει.

Καλή Χρονιά, καλή πρόοδο καί καλή προκοπή. Αμήν.

Μέ τήν εν Χριστώ αγάπη,

Πατήρ Μιχαήλ

The President's Message



by **George Karres**
Parish Council
President

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome and I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! The summer has been extremely busy at the Church, with preparations for the Yiasou Festival and the arrival of our new youth director Mr. John Georgopoulos. In addition, a magnitude of thanks to our Choir, who have been extremely busy in preparation for hosting the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. I would like to express my gracious gratitude to all those that have been involved with making this an excellent year for our Church.

Furthermore, I ask for your continued support in your Stewardship Program. Thus far we have experienced great success in the Stewardship Program. Remember the goal is to become "Festival Free". In doing so we would be able to use the proceeds from the Festival for capital improvements, repairs and

renovations and not a means of paying our bills. Please do not forget to complete your Stewardship Pledge Card and return it to the office.

With the community's continued love, support and understanding, the Improvements Repairs and Renovations Committee is continually reviewing our facilities and identifying items that are in need of being repaired or replaced, I would like to reach out to you, the community, for your support in donating to the Building Fund. In giving to the Building Fund, you are investing in your Church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This will ensure our continued growth at 600 East Boulevard for future generations.

Please remember that it is again time to begin preparations for the Festival. In the coming weeks and months we need your help. Please make every effort to help support your community. Make time in your schedules to help at the festival with your talents. Look for preparation schedules in the bi-weekly bulletin and remember, without you, our Festival would not be a success.

As always, the Parish Council and I are always here to listen and discuss your suggestions and ideas in making our Church a safer and more enjoyable place for future generations.

I Remain Respectfully Yours in Christ,
George Theodore Karres
Parish Council President

www.htgo.org Visit today!

Remarks on Memorial Services

Given at the National Forum
of Greek Orthodox Church
Musicians' Annual Meeting

Rev. Michael E. Varvarelis, Dean of
Holy Trinity G.O. Cathedral

Charlotte, NC July 11, 2013

Dear All,

Memorial Services follow the falling asleep of our beloved persons. It is true that many of our faithful do not know the great benefits that they can bring to our beloved deceased ones. The memorials are a series of different expressions of love and care of the living for our deceased. These expressions begin with the well-known memorials with kolliva (boiled wheat), the Trisagion, the charities, the Divine Liturgies and finally the commemorations of their names at the oblation table. All these expressions of love are concluded with our personal prayers which may be the most important part.

1. Μνημόσυνα -- Memorials

The word μνημόσυνο (memorial) derives from the verb μνημονεύω and it means: "I bring back to memory" (ανακαλώ εις τήν μνήμην), "I remind" (υπενθυμίζω), "I refer to" (αναφέρω), "I remember the event" (μνημονεύω τό γεγονός). In the Church's language and understanding, the word μνημονεύω means that I pray for the deceased in name.

In the book of Apostolic Orders (Αποστολικές Διαταγές), which refers and reflects in the worship tradition of the Apostolic era, we find the names "Τρίτα" (Three days), "Ενατά" (nine days), "Τεσσαρακοστά" (forty days) and "Ενιαύσια" (one year) that describe the time we should hold the memorial services. The memorial services are: 1)

Memorials with kolliva connected with offerings of gifts and performance of the Divine Liturgy; 2) Memorials with charity and philanthropy; 3) Memorials without kolliva and with frequent visits of the relatives at the graves of the deceased; 4) Memorials by keeping the mourning (bereavement) for a long duration of time as has been established in the particular geographic area and local customs.

With the above mentioned ways, the relation continues to be maintained of the deceased with the living. Moreover, all these mentioned ways comfort the pain of the living and are the needed time and implemented space for bereavement.

St. Dionysios (Αρεοπαγίτης) stipulates that we need to have memorials, charities, and Divine Liturgies for the deceased, since all these give comfort and bring great benefit to the living. The Apostolic Orders mention: «Εν ταίς μνείαις αυτών (δηλαδή τών κεκοιμημένων) μετά ευταξίας εστίασθε καί φόβου Θεού». At the memorial meal or Makaria of the deceased ones, we gather orderly and with fear of God to share in this common meal.

St. John Chrysostom underlines "The commemoration of the deceased at the Divine Liturgy when the dreadful mysteries are held, and this has been established by the Apostles... How could not the Lord become merciful, when clergy and laity are praying and intercede for the deceased at the bloodless sacrifice?" And St. John, referring to the benefits of the Memorial Services, says: "If we wish the punishment to be light of the one who left from here with sins, we must offer constant prayers and give offerings to the poor. And even if the deceased is unworthy God would have pity on us and will give grace. If God saved others because of Paul's prayers, and thus God has pity to others through

Fr. Michael Continued on page 5

Carolina
Funeral Service
&
Cremation Center



5505 Monroe Rd
Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023

www.carolinafuneral.com

Dignity Afforability Simplicity

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director



Coffee And More...

S&D Coffee & Tea is more than a great coffee roaster with 8 decades of experience. We are also the number one iced tea provider to the foodservice industry and offer premium juices for a complete beverage solution for your operation.

But we're not just about supplying product, we believe in partnering with customers to help them grow their business by offering state of the art brewing equipment, service, training and marketing support. Contact Deborah Thevaos or Stephanie Thevaos Dwyer.

800.933.2210 • www.sndcoffee.com

Living the Orthodox Life:
Putting Christ first in
our lives through prayer,
worship and partaking
in the Sacraments thus
building and growing
spiritually, His Kingdom
on earth.

2107 SOUTH BLVD.
George and Pamela



Dizes,
Owners

375-4318



Fr. Michael Continued from page 4

others, how the Lord will not do what we are praying for?"

St. Cyril of Jerusalem says: "We believe that the most important benefits will come to the souls of those for whom the dreadful and bloodless sacrifice of the Divine Eucharist is offered." For this reason, there has been established the Tradition in the Orthodox Church to commemorate the names, for the comfort and rest, of the deceased at the Holy Oblation Table where the Priest reads the names of the deceased and places the bread particles (ψιχουλα) on the Holy Paten.

St. Makarios of Egypt having the dialogue with the deceased pagan Priest elaborates the benefits that reach them when St. Makarios was praying for them, "we are able to see part of the face of the other."

Also the memorials are benefiting the living. Those living continue to love their beloved deceased and thus are able to express their love. The Memorial Services provide this opportunity and give direction to their bereavement and mourning proceedings. Often memorials in the beginning and during the year plus the Saturdays of the Souls are helping the pain from the separation of the deceased. St. Symeon of Thessaloniki is noting that, except that the Memorial Services benefit those deceased that are going to Hell, we need to especially know that the Memorials are benefiting those who go to Paradise by making their cleansing and purity greater and their ascent to God easier. Moreover, the closeness with God becomes greater and their intercessions and giving of the divine light more bright.

We read for St. Makarios of Egypt when the Angel of the Lord visited with him to respond to some of his questions. When St. Makarios asked about the Memorial Services and why do we have them the Angel responded: "The

three day memorial is being done since the soul for the first time is reaching the Lord to worship Him, we offer the 3-day Trisagion as our gift that we send to the Lord for that soul. After the worshipping, the Angels return the soul back to earth and show to the soul the places everywhere the soul was, during the earthly life and they are reminding the soul of all the evil and good acts until the 9th-day, when the soul is taken up to God for the second worship of the Lord, as it happened at the third day. The Trisagion on the 9th day serves as a reminder to the Lord for the soul to be received with mercy. Afterwards the Angels bring and show to the soul Paradise, the bosom of Abraham, the dwelling and comforting places of the righteous. Then the Angels are taking the soul to the place of punishment of sinners. After seeing all this, the soul is taken up again to the Lord to worship Him on the 40th-day when the Lord will make His final decision according to the acts, the faith and commitments to the rules of the Lord the soul observed in the earthly life. Thus, the soul is going to the place that the Lord will assign until the day of the common resurrection when the body will be resurrected, as well and unify with the soul to receive forever the appropriate judgment."

St. Athanasios writes "...pray to the most gracious God, for those departed relatives, acquaintances, enemies and friends. Whatever good is done for them it is taken by the Lord like it is done by the departed ones..."

Concluding these remarks of the Memorial Services, we may point out that the prayers and memorials are the only means of communicating with our beloved persons who have departed from this present world. This is helping us, as well, to remember the vanity of this world and earthly realities which help motivate us to have a virtuous life, and encourage us to help, benefit and do good to others.

St. John Damascene emphasizes: "God wants us to benefit each other living and deceased, since we offer Christ asking forgiveness for our own sins and for those who have fallen asleep."

2. Kolliva

The Memorial Services for the deceased are offered with or without kolliva. When with kolliva, they may be blessed in the Church or away, for instance in the cemetery or in the house of the deceased. Also the making of kolliva by the faithful may be a good side work which, with careful study and understanding, may contribute to our salvation. For this reason the practice of this good custom of the preparation of kolliva at the house of the departed is not simply a return to our traditions but it is an act that helps our own soul, as well.

The kolliva is boiled wheat that today has the appearance of a decorated tray with almonds, walnuts, raisins and mainly sugar. We offer kolliva in memory of our dear beloved persons who have departed this life. In the first Christian years, at the memorial services, it was the custom to give money which custom was connected with charity for those who departed to the Lord in their Memorials. These charities were usually coming from the funds of the deceased, and given to the poor, to relatives, to friends of the deceased, to Priests and to Deacons.

The word kolliva with the meaning of the boiled wheat and other seeds was used in Ephhaeta (Ευχάϊτα). We read in the Synaxarion the miracle with the kolliva of St. Theodore of Tyro where the Saint is ordering the Patriarch of Constantinople Evdoxios (Ευδόξιος) in 362AD to give to the faithful kolliva and when the Patriarch is asking what are these the Saint responded "Wheat and other seeds. All boiled well. We call this kolliva in my province of Ephhaeta."

What is symbolized with this custom:

The kolliva are symbolizing the common resurrection of all of us at the second coming of the Lord. Today the Memorial Services with kolliva is a must for the Orthodox Church. We should never replace the kolliva with other substitutes such as koulourakia, paximadia or loukoumia. Kolliva has a concrete and traditional way to be prepared; this is boiled wheat which will be dried out and then placed on a tray with some other materials. Usually these materials along with mainly the wheat are: almonds, walnuts, figs, raisins, baked flour, baked sesame seeds, parsley, pomegranate seeds and especially sugar, which is a must. In our times, sugar-coated almonds (κουφέτα) are used along with some silver decorations which also help us write the initials of the names of the deceased.

St. Symeon Archbishop of Thessaloniki explains the symbolism in the 15th century of these materials for the kolliva. "We make kolliva for the Memorial Services and we use different seeds (fruits). These fruits signify that man is like a fruit from the earth and going back to earth now as wheat again and with the power of God will be resurrected and will sprout again in the future at the Second Coming of Christ. Exactly as the seed is buried in the ground and it sprouts out later and grows and produces rich fruition, with the same way, man is buried in the ground at the time of death and will again be resurrected." Even Christ noted for his Body "unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain" (John 12:24).

In some places, besides wheat & sugar, they are using four more materials: almonds, pomegranates, parsley and raisins. Parsley with the green color symbolizes the (χλόη) green pasture and comfort as we chant in the Memorial Service. The raisins with their black color symbolize that after death and Resurrection of Christ, death has obtained sweetness and it is not anymore bitter. The almonds with their white color symbolize the bones-relics and finally the pomegranate seeds symbolize the return of the body in the earth as we state at the funeral "you are earth and in earth you return."

3. When are Memorials done?

When do we have memorials with or without kolliva? As we already have mentioned, we offer memorial services on the 3rd, the 9th, the 40th day and one year. Some also do 3 months and 9 months. However, this practice does not stop the faithful to have Memorial Services on any given opportunity for

Fr. Michael Continued on page 6



BROWNLEE JEWELERS

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD JEWELER!

We offer a large selection of quality jewelry at affordable prices as well as watches that include *Citizen, Seiko, Bulova, Swiss Army, Skagen* and more. We have full service jewelry and watch repair to care for your treasures!

Brownlee Jewelers is a Charlotte tradition specializing in excellent customer service for over 70 years!

For more information on what is offered at Brownlee as well as additional store locations:

www.brownleejewelers.com

MICHELLE PAVLAKOS
Μιλάμε Ελληνικά
store manager and graduate gemologist

Park Road Shopping Center
4147 Park Road Charlotte, NC 28209
704-527-1717
Hours: M-F 10-7, Sat. 10-6

Restaurants/Coffee/Quick Serve:

Charlotte, NC \$229K + Inv, GR \$499K
Chic/Fish/Sand/Plates

Chapel Hill, NC \$129K, GR \$210K
Elegant Indian Restaurant

Greensboro, NC \$60K w/Inv, GR \$98K
Coffee Shop

Wilson, NC \$649K, GR \$660K
Seafood Rest, Mkt, w/Real Estate

Charlotte, NC \$75K + Inv, GR \$264K
Pizzeria

Charlotte, NC \$425K + Inv, GR \$550K
Italian

Raleigh, NC \$899K, GR \$1.4M
Soda Shop/Dairy Bar style
Includes Real Estate & Equip

Commercial & Investment Property

Charlotte area, NC \$6.1M + Inv, GR \$4.5M
New shopping CTR

Jefferson, NC \$150K, 5000 sq ft, 11.5 Acre
Warehouse

Lexington SC \$3.2M 35,684 SF, 3.88 Acre
Shopping CTR



County South Realty & Business Brokers

303 Indian Trail Road South
Indian Trail, NC 28079
www.CountySouth.biz
(704) 821-8888

www.htgo.org

Visit to-day!



ΠΕΝΘΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ

Vasiliki Tasios "Bessie"

CHARLOTTE - Mrs. Tasios, 84, of Charlotte died Thursday, August 15, 2013, at her residence, surrounded by her family. She was born October 26, 1928, in Megalo Horio, Evrytania, Greece, a daughter of the late Panayiotis and Ekaterini Makrigiannis. Vasiliki was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She enjoyed cooking, gardening and especially spending time with her family. Mrs. Tasios will be missed dearly by her family and friends. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Tasios was preceded in death by her brother, Haralambos Makrigiannis. Survivors include her loving husband of 56 years, Georgios Vasilios Tasios; daughters, Athena Balosos and husband, Christos, and Catherine Poulimenos and husband, Chris; son, Bill Tasios and wife, Kalliroe; sister, Fotini Makrigiannis and brother, Dimitrios Makrigiannis, all of Charlotte, NC. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Jimmy and George Koutsopoulos; Cassandra Balosos; Diana, Spero, Vickie and Alexander Poulimenos and George and Demetri Tasios. The Trisagion was held Friday evening August 16, 2013, at 7:00 PM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The funeral service was also at the Cathedral on Saturday, August 17, 2013, at 11:00 AM. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Presbyterian Hospice and Palliative Care, PO Box 33549, Charlotte, NC 28233-3549. May her memory be eternal. Arrangements were in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service 1111 East Blvd. Charlotte, NC. Please share condolences online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

Fr. Michael Continued from page 5

their beloved deceased person(s).

Also we participate in the memorials held in the Church on the Saturdays of the Souls. The Church has established days dedicated to the departed ones. 1) Once every week on Saturday, which day is dedicated to those who have fallen asleep. 2) The Saturdays of Souls. Besides these, the Church has given the right to the faithful to hold Memorial Services and Trisagion whenever they wish.

- Three Day Memorials or Trisagion may be done with or without kolliva. The number three symbolizes the 3-day stay in the tomb of our Saviour Jesus Christ (St. Isidore Pilousiotis). St. Symeon of Thessaloniki says that the 3 day Trisagion is held since man received his existence from the Holy Trinity. In some places the kolliva for the three days are very simple to prepare. Just a plate with only boiled wheat which symbolizes the mourning and resurrection.
- Nine Day Memorials – St. Symeon says "We pray on the 9th-day for the spirit of the deceased as immaterial and of the same nature of the Angels to be numbered with the Holy Spirits of the Angels who are nine orders..."
- Forty Day Memorial – The Apostolic Orders say: "Even 40 day memorial they are offered according to the old law. When Moses died the people were mourning on the 40th day..." St. Symeon of Thessaloniki writes that "the Forty Day Memorial is offered for the Savior's Ascension, which happened the 40th day after His Resurrection." **We must have kolliva for the 40-Day Memorial Service.**

All Saturdays are dedicated to the

departed persons. The reason is that the seventh day of Creation, man had fallen and dealt with death and we continue to be in this state of death. This is the reason that the Holy Fathers established Saturday, that is the day of death, they stipulated for us to have the Memorials and not on Sundays, the day of the Resurrection. In fact all Saturdays have a series of hymns (Ωδές) with prayers only for the departed ones in the book of Parakletiki. We moved the memorials to Sundays only for practical reasons since people are working on Saturdays and it would be difficult for them to come to Church, while on Sunday it is easier to be in Church and have more people participate and pray for their departed family member(s).

4. Saturdays of the Souls and why they have been established by our Church

The Saturdays of the Souls have been established to offer prayers for all departed persons from "the beginning of Adam, to the present day." Many of them had passed away in foreign countries, or in the Ocean, or in the mountains or in ravines. Perhaps some have been very deprived and have not received memorial services. The Holy Fathers being merciful have established the Saturday of Souls to commemorate all the departed persons. The Saturday of Souls is a silent walk to yesterday, a visit in the gracious reality of Memory, where we find "friends together and relatives and every man who has faithfully observed the earthly responsibilities." It is the special time we dedicate to prayer for those "getting up from the night of life" to be with the Grace of the Lord and become "children of the unending day."

Saturdays of Souls are held: On Saturday before Meat Fare Sunday, on Saturday before Cheese Fare Sunday, on Saturday of the first week of Great Lent (St. Theodore of Tyro Miracle), and on Saturday before Pentecost.

5. Importance of commemorating names of our deceased at Divine Liturgies and the established custom of 40-day Divine Liturgies

Besides the information that I gave earlier, I read the profound point made

by Fr. Savas of Mt. Athos. Fr. Savas, a spiritual father of Mt. Athos +1908 was commemorating names at the Oblation Table for 2 to 3 hours. He wrote the reason just before he passed away. As a young Priest in 1843 he was given many names to commemorate for 40-Day Liturgies. Once when he was at the 40th day and waiting for his spiritual father to come and then proceed with vesting and starting Proskomidi, he closed his eyes and was asleep. He saw himself vested and staying in front of the Holy Altar where the Holy Paten was full of the blood of Christ. He saw an angel of the Lord in the form of a Priest take a paper with the names from the Proskomidi and approach the Holy Altar. He placed the paper with the names close to the Holy Paten and with the spoon dipping in the blood of Christ, he erased one of the names from the paper and again dipping in the blood erased another one, until all the names disappeared from the paper. His spiritual father said to him when he explained what he saw in the vision, "You are not worthy for the sins to be forgiven of those who commemorated the names. With the faith they received the forgiveness of their sins." That was the dream for which Fr. Savas was commemorating the names of all.

6. What offering should we make at a Memorial Service with the Divine Liturgy?

- Spiritual preparation to receive Holy Communion
- Prosforo
- Wine
- Olive Oil
- Incense – Charcoal
- Beeswax candles for the Holy Altar
- Names of the departed with a cross on the top and with a written inscription "For the repose of the departed"

Thank you for your attention. I hope that I brought to your attention some points that are helpful as we continue to remember, honor and stay close with our beloved deceased ones.

In Christ,
Fr. Michael

Now Offering
 DJ Services for Weddings
 & Special Events
 Greek & American Music

APOLLO VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

Weddings • Baptisms • Engagements

Photo's to Video • Video to DVD

We can now video your special event in the 16 to 9 format for today's wide screen televisions.

International video conversions

We convert foreign video
DVD's/VHS tapes (PAL/SECAM)
to American (NTSC) or vice versa.



- HD DVD Quality
- 3D Graphics
- Digital Effects
- Custom Wedding Albums
- Over 20 years experience



Wedding Specialist

704-814-8899

www.apollovideoclt.com

Member of Carolina's Professional Videographers Association
& Wedding and Event Association



South 21's
Super Boy
Hamburger
"A Meal In 'itself"

(704) 844-1004



THE OASIS
OF THE
HAMBURGER

HOURS:

Tuesday - Thursday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm

Friday - Saturday 11:00 am - 9:30 pm

*Closed Sunday & Monday



SOUTH 21
MATTHEWS

11450 E. INDEPENDENCE BLVD.
MATTHEWS, NC

NO EXCUSES

By Fr. Tommy D. Vlahos

Man, my brothers, does wrong. His wrong actions are small or great. The wrong actions are the violation of the will of God. And as long as man relieves the will of God, he sins. All of us know the violation of the will of God and this is a reality. We wonder who of us can claim and to say that he does not sin? "If we say that we have no sins, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" says the Apostle John in his first Catholic Epistle (A:8) They know it and they do not doubt it, but they always try to find some excuse for their mistake. With every argument they try to justify themselves and to convince themselves that the other people around them that they are not guilty and this so that they will extenuate themselves. And this way one excuse follows the other, such as : That was not a sin! And that it was not a serious thing ... How many in our days do this and much more? .. Today the society is such that you cannot do differently ... ! All of them either try to put the responsibility to others, their relatives, their co-workers their neighbors or their friends .. Or to the "bad hour", the environment, the difficulty in which they were found, etc. Even when they visit their spiritual father and confess their sins, even then they are trying consciously or not to cover their fault and to lighten their position ..

Man has the possibility to find such justifications. Justifications which remind us of the justifications of Adam and Eve in paradise. Excuses which they were saying not to some man, but to God, their creator. Surely this act is justified when we think that the instigator of this act was the mean snake, satan himself, who plots everything for the destruction of man.

Excuses and excuses! They are very handy. One follows the other very easily! But with these excuses man does not lighten his position, He does not relieve himself, He does not rest. And even if he is able to convince the others that he is innocent he himself remains with the taste of guilt. And this because his conscience cries out and distresses him night and day. Therefore that is found in a continuous secret martyrdom and on account of this he cannot find anywhere calmness and tranquility.

There is something even worse, and this is: Since the sin remains thus inside him, the sin eats up his entrails, the

inner man, and sin is made permanent. It becomes a habit for him, it becomes a passion, it becomes a sick situation, it becomes established, and man bound by this condition walks from bad to worse and it is a crime, really, for man to remain in this condition and he has in front of him ,the easy way of putting everything in order and to be in peace. And it is a crime really for man to remain in this condition, and he has in front of him the easy way of putting everything in order and to be in peace. He has the means of tranquility and of purification, the sincere and humble recognition full of repentance, the confession of them.

Yes, my brothers, we are people and we sin every day. All of us make mistakes, some more some less, Some from ignorance and others from weakness. But we must try, it is a need for us to try not to sin. But when we sin it is the duty of every one to break up the work which the cunning devil started to create inside us. We must "trample on Satan". And the first step is for us to admit immediately our sin. To admit everything that happened and exactly how it happened. We must say "I made a mistake, I am guilty". We must admit, as David was saying: "I sinned to God", (Basil. B 12:13).

Then, my brothers, when inside us only we will admit our fault, then we will feel the first relief, the first lift off of the weight, and this recognition will turn our glance to the Lord and He will easily put in our lips the : "I have sinned Lord", for us to ask from the God of love the forgiveness. This way, with the proportionate sensation, we will take the road to the place of confession and we will confess, with all our sincerity, our sins, and our mistakes, and then by the forgiving prayer that the clergyman will read to us , God will give us the serenity, the forgiveness, and the pardon of sins. And along with them He will give us the complete peace, joy and the comfort of our soul.

Therefore we saw and we surely understood what each faithful person loses when he interposes excuses for his faults and his sins. The unfortunate one is left with physical dramas and conditions, full of anguish for many years. Without being able to find anywhere peace and tranquility. For this reason, my brothers, we must acknowledge our mistakes and to confess them to our confessor exactly the way they happened, so that we may calm down. AMEN.

ΟΧΙ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΕΣ

Ο άνθρωπος , αδελφοί μου, σφάλει . Δηλ. Τά σφάλματά του είναι μικρά ή μεγάλα . Σφάλματα δέ είναι η παραβίαση του θελήματος του Θεού . Καί εφ' όσον ο άνθρωπος παραβαίνει τό θέλημα του Θεού , αμαρτάνει . Ολοι μας γνωρίζουμε ότι η παραβίαση του θελήματος του Θεού είναι μία πραγματικότητα . Αραγε ποιός από μάς δέν αμαρτάνει ; * Εάν είπωμεν ότι αμαρτίαν ούκ έχομεν , εαυτούς πλανώμεν καί η αλήθεια ούκ εστιν εν ημίν * (Α' Καθ. Ιωάν. Α. 8) . Τί όμως βλέπουμε σέ πολλούς από μάς ; Αμαρτάνουν καί τό γνωρίζουν αυτό . Το ξεύρουν καί δέν αμφιβάλλον , αλλά προσπαθούν πάντοτε καί βρίσκουν μία δικαιολογία γιά τό σφάλμα τους . Δηλ. Μέ κάθε επιχείρημα προσπαθούν νά δικαιολογήσουν καί νά πείσουν τόν εαυτόν τους καί τούς άλλους γύρω , ότι δέν φταίνε , καί τούτο γιά νά ελαφρύνουν τή θέση τους . Καί έτσι η μία δικαιολογία διαδέχεται τήν άλλη , όπως : Μά , αυτό δέν ήταν αμαρτήμα , δέν ήταν καί σπουδαίο πράγμα Πόσοι άλλοι στίς μέρες μας κάνουν τόσα καί πιό πολλά ακόμη . Σήμερα η κοινωνία είναι τέτοια , πού δέν μπορείς νά κάνεις διαφορετικά . Δηλ. Ολοι τους , προσπαθούν ή νά ρίξουν τήν ευθύνη στους άλλους , ή στήν κακή ώρα , το περιβάλλον , ή τή δυσκολία πού βρέθηκαν κ.λ.π. Ακόμη καί όταν επισκέπτονται τόν πνευματικό τους πατέρα καί εξομολογούνται τίς αμαρτίες τους , καί τότε ακόμη προσπαθούν συνειδητά ή καί μή , προσπαθούν νά συγκαλύψουν τό σφάλμα τους καί νά ελαφρύνουν τή θέση τους . Ο άνθρωπος έχει αυτή τή δυνατότητα νά βρίσκει τέτοιες δικαιολογίες , πού μάς θυμίζουν τίς διακιολογίες τών Πρωτοπλάστων μέσα στον Παράδεισο . Δικαιολογίες πού λέγανε όχι πρὸς κάποιον άνθρωπο αλλά πρὸς τό Θεό . Αυτή η πράξη τους εξηγείται όταν θυμηθούμε ότι ο υποκινητής τής πράξεως αυτής ήταν ο σατανάς , ο οποίος μηχανεύεται τά πάντα γιά τήν καταστροφή του ανθρώπου . Δικαιολογίες καί δικαιολογίες , καί μάλιστα πολύ πρόχειρες , η μία κατόπιν τής άλλης . Ομως μέ αυτές τίς δικαιολογίες ο άνθρωπος δέν ελαφρώνει τή θέση του , δέν ανακουφίζεται , δέν αναπαύεται , καί άν ακόμη πετύχει νά πείσει τούς άλλους , ότι δήθεν είναι αθώος , αλλά μένει ο ίδιος μέ συνεχή τή γεύση τής ενοχής .

Καί τούτο γιατί η συνείδησίς του τού φωνάζει καί τόν ταλαιπωρεί μέρα καί νύχτα . Ετσι βρίσκεται σέ ένα συνεχές μαρτύριο καί δέν βρίσκει γαλήνη καί ηρεμία πουθενά . Υπάρχει καί κάτι χειρότερο ακόμη . Καί τούτο είναι πού μένει μέσα του η αμαρτία πού κατατρώει τά σωθηκά του , καί η αμαρτία μονιμοποιείται . Τού γίνεται συνήθεια , πάθος , αρρωστημένη κατάσταση καί μένει ο άνθρωπος δέσμιος τής καταστάσεως αυτής καί βαδίζει πρὸς τό χειρότερο . Καί είναι κρίμα , αλήθεια , νά μένει ο άνθρωπος στή θλιβερή αυτή κατάσταση , καί μπροστά του νά έχει τό εύκολο μέσον τακτοποιήσεως καί ειρηνεύσεως . Δηλ. Έχει τό μέσον τής γαλήνης , δηλ. τήν ειλικρινή αναγνώριση καί ταπεινή ομολογία αυτών . Μάλιστα , αδελφοί μου , είμασθε άνθρωποι καί αμαρτάνουμε κάθε μέρα . Οσι μας σφάλουμε , άλλοι περισσότερο καί άλλοι λιγότερο . Άλλοι από άγνοια καί άλλοι από αδυναμία . Αλλά όμως είναι ανάγκη νά φροντίζουμε νά μήν αμαρτάνουμε . Αν αμαρτάνουμε , τότε καθήκον όλων μας είναι νά συντρίψουμε τό έργο του διαβόλου . Πρέπει νά πατήσουμε τό σατανά , καί τό πρώτο βήμα είναι νά παραδεχώμασθε αμέσως τήν αμαρτία μας . Νά παραδεχώμασθε τό κάθε τι πού έγινε , πού έγινε καί πώς έγινε ακριβώς . Πρέπει νά παραδεχθούμε όπως ο Δαβίδ : * Ημάρτηκα τώ Κυρίω * (Βασίλ. Β' 12-13). Τότε εάν εσωτερικά μας παραδεχθούμε τό σφάλμα μας , τότε θά αισθανθούμε αμέσως τήν πρώτη ανακούφιση , τό πρώτο ξαλάφρωμα . Τότε η αναγνώριση αυτή θά στρέψει τά βλέμματά μας πρὸς τόν Κύριο , καί θά ζητήσουμε από τό Θεό τής αγάπης τή συγχώρεση . Ετσι μέ τό ανάλογο συναίσθημα θά πάρουμε τό δρόμο γιά τό εξομολογητήριο , οπου μέ κάθε ειλικρίνεια θά πούμε τά αμαρτήματά μας καί ο Θεός μέ τήν ευχή πού θά μάς διαβάσει ο Πνευματικός θά μάς δώσει τή χαρά καί τήν ανάπαυση τής ψυχής μας . Επομένως καταλαβαίνουμε τό τί χάνει ο κάθε πιστός όταν παρεμβάλλει δικαιολογίες στα σφάλματά του . Γιατί αλλοιώς μένει δυστυχής μέ ψυχικά δράματα καί καταστάσεις γεμάτες άγχος γιά πολλά χρόνια . Γιαντό άς αναγνωρίζουμε τά λάθη μας καί μέ κάθε ειλικρίνεια νά τά ομολογούμε στον πνευματικό πατέρα μας , όπως ακριβώς γίνανε γιά νά ειρηνεύσουμε . Αμήν .

Ιερέας π. Ταξιάρχης Βλάχος .



Basil's Lawn Care
Affordable/Dependable
Residential or Commercial

Bill, (Basil) Katsanos
Owner

4113 Bramwyck Dr
Charlotte, NC 28210

980-225-4935
704-621-2628 Cell

bkatsanos@aol.com

All the latest news and photos are now on the web.

www.htgo.org Visit today!

Vacation Bible



e School 2013



Vacation Bible School

This year's Vacation Bible School was held June 17-21. There were a total of 120 children participating, ranging from rising kindergarteners to rising 5th graders. There were also nearly 40 GOYA volunteers and an additional 40 parent volunteers. The success of this program would not be possible without the commitment of the parents and GOYANs who took the time and worked diligently everyday to make sure the children had a fun and positive learning experience.

Throughout the week, the children learned about the twelve feast days of the church. They began each day with a morning prayer service led by Fr. Michael, attended class and then rotated through music, art, dance, lunch and gym classes. After the morning service on the last day of Vacation Bible School, one of our rising kindergarten students Lauren

Karagounis stood at the front of the church and recited all twelve feast days by heart. We were all so proud!

In music, the children were taught many different hymns of our church. The children also created many beautiful crafts including Easter egg stands, bowls to be used for house blessings during Epiphany, bird houses, and decorative crosses. During dance, each class practiced their respective dances for the YIASOU Greek Festival and of course all the children loved gym time, where our enthusiastic GOYANs organized many fun games and activities. A highlight for the children was definitely lunchtime, where they enjoyed many great meals prepared by our talented group of parent volunteers and GOYANs.

We thank all our volunteers and look forward to next year!

GOYA News By JOHN GEORGOPOULOS



two wonderful children Serafim (7) and Lena (5) and have been very happy and blessed.

Though I love what I do as a restaurant owner, I have always missed my role as the Youth Director and am excited to have the opportunity to do it once again. I would like to thank Jimmy Demopoulos for his work and dedication. I was his Youth Director the first time around and also coached him in basketball through High School. I know him well, have seen him grow up and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

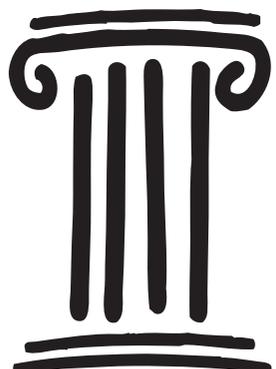
We have many programs and events already planned for this up and coming school year. I have some new ideas I plan on implementing, but that does not mean there isn't room for more. Any thoughts or ideas are and will always be welcomed. Feel free to contact me in person, by phone, email, etc. We have a wonderful group of parents involved in the Youth Advisory Board and are always accepting new members. I want to instill the mentality that this program is for everyone. This is our home, our community and together lets make it the best we can.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is John Georgopoulos and I am the new Youth and Operations Director for Holy Trinity. I have lived in Charlotte all of my life. I was baptized and raised in this community. As a child, I graduated from our Sunday school and Greek school programs. I also participated in basketball, festival dancing and served as an altar boy all through high school. Most of my fondest memories as a teenager are experiences I had with GOYA, which is why I understand the importance of being able to offer a warm and inviting environment to our youth. I want them to have the same great experiences growing up in this community.

I was given the wonderful opportunity to serve as this community's Youth Director earlier in my life. As a young adult, from 2000-04, I was able to help mold our youth program and watch it grow. Since then, I married Hresanthe Housiadas, another Charlottean who grew up in our community. Together we opened a restaurant in Uptown, have had

Visit us today at www.htgo.org

GREEK ISLES



RESTAURANT

**Authentic Greek Restaurant
Located in Southend
200 East Bland St.
Charlotte, NC 28203**

Lunch: Sun - Fri 11:00am - 2:30pm
Dinner: Mon - Thur 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Dinner: Fri & Sat 5:00pm - 11:00pm

**Available for Private Parties
on Sundays**

Call for Reservations

704-444-9000

www.greekislesrestaurant.com

Fellowship:
**Recognizing that the
Church is a unified
body of Christ, we value
our Community being
renewed and transformed,
producing the fruits of
the Holy Spirit: Love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-
control.**

"Celebrating Memories Since 1946"

HANKINS & WHITTINGTON
FUNERAL SERVICE



Ken Poe, President
Nick Bowen, Manager

*For the past 65 years we have
had the honor of serving the
Greek Orthodox Community.
We look forward to continuing
to serve our friends and neighbors
for many years to come.*

704-333-6116
1111 East Boulevard
www.hankinsandwhittington.com



(704) 529-6606

- Graphic Design
- Fast Turnaround
- High Speed Copying
- Volume Discounts
- Stationary
- Carbonless Forms

copycatprinting@bellsouth.net
Fax (704) 529-6616

4612-B South Blvd.
(Across from Tokyo Restaurant), Charlotte, NC
Diane Solomon Gilbert, Owner

**Tryon House
Restaurant**

**OPEN FOR
BREAKFAST
LUNCH AND
DINNER**

Sundays 7am - 3pm
Available for Baptisms, Showers
and Rehearsals up to 150 people
p.kakouras@bellsouth.net

215 E. Exmore St.
Charlotte, NC
Phone: 704-527-6545

St. Stephen's Camp By JOHN KONTOULAS

For me, St. Stephens was always a highpoint in my summers for five out of the past six years. Every year I went I met new and amazing people that I still see at goya events like winter youth rally. When you go into the camp, especially for first timers, you will be skeptical about not knowing basically anybody besides the kids that came with you from the church. After the first night this is irrelevant. This past year I only had two other guys in my cabin with me from the church... I knew maybe 2 others from various churches, but halfway after we arrived I had about 13 or 14 new buds. That's one of the things that is so great about camp is that you break the social boundaries you've been living in for so many years and you meet so many new people who you will never forget. For all the skeptical goyans that are getting near their senior year, it would be a shame if you didn't try it out at least once. I'm not the only one when I say that my senior year was by far the best year I ever had as a camper. Not only was it great being one of the older guys helping show young campers the ropes and having kids look up to you, but I grew much closer to god with this experience than ever before. I finally understood by this point just how important our religion is to our every day lives, from interacting with your friends to the way you wake up and go to bed in the morning. If I could describe all that in one word, it would be relieving. Relieving because no matter what, if you have your religion, then you can be happy under any circumstance at any time... even if the amount youre sweating feels like a hurricane just blew over you. Camp was one of the best experiences of my life for five years and I'm not ashamed to say that I will miss going to camp.



LONG'S MONUMENT CO.

3016 N. Graham Street
 Dial 704-376-5740
 Charlotte, N.C. 28206

Ray M. Teague - Res: 704-596-2665

Custom Memorial Designs for the Individual Family

Monuments, Markers & Mausoleums

Our Purpose and Desire is to Perpetuate the Memory of Your Lost Loves Ones



Catering with Chick-fil-A is easy! We offer a wide range of options from our signature Chick-fil-A Chicken Nugget Trays to our wonderful selection of Boxed Meals. Keep in mind that we also cater our breakfast, so if you are having an early meeting, don't forget Chick-fil-A!

Andre Harakas & John Tsumas


Bank of America
 101 South Tryon St
 (704) 344-0222


Cotswold
 4431 Randolph Road
 (704) 366-0073


South End
 3015 South Boulevard
 (704)665-6371



SEDFIELD

- Free Delivery
- 15% off Every 3rd of the Month on all non-Prescription Items
- Drive Thru
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Six Month Supply Discount
- US Post Office

2334 South Blvd
704-523-8608

www.cannonpharmacies.com

PRESCHOOL BY PRESCHOOL STAFF



Whoose in the News at the Preschool?

July and August were quiet months at the preschool without our precious children. We were busy preparing for the coming school year, our parent orientation meetings, and the Yiasou Festival Play Land Beverage Booth. After the festival, the teachers returned back to prepare their classrooms in anticipation of the children's return to preschool. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

If you are interested in registering your child, please contact Cindy or Maria for more information or to schedule a tour. Preschool Office: 704-333-4961 or preschool@htgo.org; Cindy Balatsias 704-502-3859 or Maria Kleto 704-564-5842.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PRESCHOOLER - Part 2: "Special Activities & Performances"



Fireman John Balatsias in Full Gear - Mrs. Cindy's Son



Mr. Nigel's Music & Instruments On Campus Fieldtrip



Greek Independence Day Parade



Yiayia's Kouzina Performance



Mad Science On Campus Fieldtrip



Fun Bus Gym On Campus Fieldtrip



Fire Station #17 Fieldtrip - Airport Blaze Truck



Christmas Program Performance



Party Pets On Campus Fieldtrip



Easter Egg Hunt

All the latest news and photos are now on the web
www.htgo.org Visit today!
 Home Contacts Publications Yiasou Festival



Graduation Program Performance

**Disc & Sciatic Problems?
Decompression Therapy**

...Without Surgery!



Move Well To Live Well

**Sports Injuries
Rehab
Preventative Scoliosis Care
Kids
Cold Laser
Massage Therapy
Nutrition
Auto Accidents**



CAROLINA FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC
 Dr. George A. Limbanovnos
 8019 Ardrey Kell Rd. · Charlotte, NC 28277
704.321.0656

Christian Maturity:
 In Ephesians chapter four, Saint Paul says we are to be a "measure of the stature of Christ; that we should no longer be children, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head: Christ.

Choir News By OLGA YAMALIS

Annual Choir Conference

HTC had ten members, both adult and youth, attend the 37th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians (SFGOCM) hosted by St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL. The adult conductor was Christina Polizos of Atlanta, GA, the youth conductor was Dena Byers of Raleigh, NC and accompanist was Mary Anne Mastorides of Clearwater, FL as the Liturgical arrangement of Dean Limberakis was celebrated. The HTC attendees rented a bus from our church parking lot and had access to the bus the entire weekend while in Florida. Main events of the weekend included the Hellenic Hoedown on Friday night, the Grand Banquet on Saturday night and the glorious Divine Liturgy and Farewell Luncheon on Sunday. Lucy will be staying on as SFGOCM President for the coming year and Philip will be Federation Vice President. Other members of the HTC holding leadership positions within the SFGOCM are Dean Johns, Scholarship 100 Chairman, and Philip Yamalis, Website Administrator. The 2014 Choir Conference will be held next July at Holy Trinity in Charleston, SC.

HTC Choirs

Members of the HTC parish have choices! HTC offers three adult choirs and everyone is welcomed!

1st Service Choir—directed by Toni Karnazes. Practices held Monday evenings at 7pm

2nd Service Choir—directed by Lucy Pappadakes. Practices held Thursday evenings at 7pm

St. Romanos Baritone Choir—directed by Dr. Philip Thevaos. Contact Philip at 704-574-7765 for a rotating practice schedule.

Service:
As believers we like to fulfill our commitment to serve others within and outside our Community. We do this by sharing our time, talent and treasures for the ministry and the glory of the Lord.

Philoptochos By VIOLA WEBER

Our annual Yiasou Festival was a huge success this year. We want to thank all the men and women who gave up their time this summer to help prepare and bake pastries for the festival. We especially want to thank the men who helped at every scheduled baking session. Philoptohos made a thousand dollar donation to the Building Fund in honor of all these men. Thank you again for all your hard work.

On September 22nd, our Name Day was celebrated which marks a new year of fundraisers and charity work for Philoptohos. A tray was passed for the Hellenic Holy Cross College Scholarship Fund. The Artoclasia made by one of our Philoptohos ladies was served during the

coffee hour after each church service. We also celebrated at Stacks Kitchen for lunch attended by 35 ladies and Father Stathi who was visiting our parish that week. He thanked us for our financial contribution to the orphanage in Volos, Greece. We enjoyed seeing him again.

Several ladies will be attending the Philoptohos Fashion Show and luncheon fundraiser for the Greek Orthodox Church in Durham on October 5th.

There will be a general meeting on October 8th. The Speaker will be from Parent Care Solutions. We will also introduce our Philoptohos challenge project to all the ladies. Details of this project will be forthcoming.

"Gentle Dental Care"

KAKOURAS FAMILY DENTISTRY



TOMMY KAKOURAS, DMD, PA
MELISSA HELMS-KAKOURAS, DDS
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
11020 South Tryon Street, Suite 401
Charlotte, NC 28273
(704) 504-8070
Fax: (704) 504-8885

CASCADE
REFINING INC



Since 1974

Selling your GOLD and SILVER Jewelry?

SELL YOUR JEWELRY WHERE THE JEWELERS SELL THEIRS!

NO "MIDDLEMAN" = NO JEWELER FEES!

BEST PAYOUT IN TOWN!

FREE & HONEST ESTIMATES

704-525-4646

www.cascaderefiningnc.com



4436 Park Road, Charlotte (Across from Park Rd. Shopping Center)

All the latest news and photos are now on the web www.htgo.org
Visit today!

Crown Point FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Remarkable People. Remarkable Medicine.

REMARKABLE FAMILY CARE is just around the corner.

Crown Point Family Physicians is a name you can trust when it comes to your family's health. We combine leading-edge technology with personalized service to deliver remarkable care. Our board-certified physicians can care for every member of your family – from newborns to seniors.

Your entire family can count on us for:

- Newborn, infant and pediatric care
- Adolescent, adult and geriatric care
- Routine gynecological care and post-menopausal care
- Same-day sick appointments • Treatment of minor injuries
- School, sports and employment physicals
- On-site laboratory, X-ray, ultrasound and bone density testing
- Cardiovascular testing – echo and stress testing

Make an appointment today
by calling 704-384-1260.

9101 Monroe Road, Suite 155 • Charlotte, NC 28270
www.CrownPointFamilyPhysicians.com

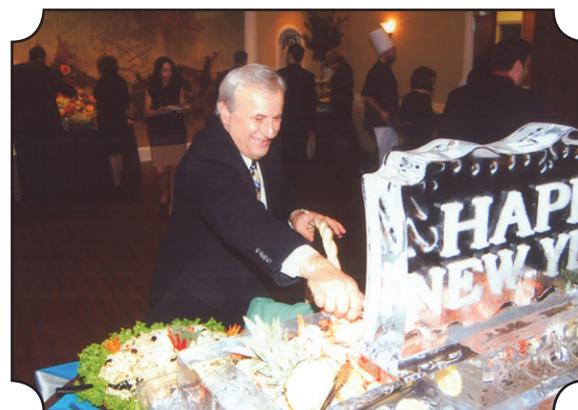


It's not too early to start thinking about our upcoming New Year's Eve celebration! Take a look at some photos from last year.



Mr. Jimmy Kakavitsas, chairman, and Mr. Spiros Kaltsounis, co-chairman, for 2013 New Year's Celebration on stage. They did a superb job. Thank you!!!

In front of the stage, Metropolitan Alexios is ready to bless the food. Our Metropolitan was very impressed with the atmosphere. The decorations, the food, the attendance ... Everything was overwhelming. Our Metropolitan wished us all to have a most blessed New Year.



Mr. Spiros Kaltsounis with a happy and satisfied smile he is placing his last touches on the meal at the most welcoming Social Hall where all the available festive and most delicious food was located for the evening.

Fr. Michael and Mr. Jimmy Kakavitsas are gratefully recognizing two special members of our Community for their love, generosity and commitment to Holy Trinity Cathedral. Mrs. Ellie Harakas and Mr. John Politis. Congratulations!!!



Our entertainment band for the evening kept us all in the best tune, enjoyment and celebration.

Νέα & Φωνές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος

---Ανοιχτή Επιστολή---

1 1 Αυγούστου 2013

Αγαπητοί Γονείς,

Ευχόμαστε να είστε όλοι καλά και να περάσατε ένα όμορφο καλοκαίρι.

Την Τρίτη 17 Σεπτεμβρίου αρχίζουν και πάλι τα μαθήματα στο Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο. Με την επιστολή μας αυτή θέλουμε να σας απευθύνουμε έκκληση να κάνετε φέτος κάθε δυνατή προσπάθεια να ενθαρρύνετε και να παρακινήσετε τα παιδιά σας να εγγραφούν στο σχολείο μας για να μάθουν την πλουσιότερη γλώσσα του κόσμου, τη μητέρα πολλών γλωσσών, τη γλώσσα των Ευαγγελίων και των προγόνων μας, τη γλώσσα την Ελληνική. Και όχι μόνον! Να μυηθούν στις αξεπέραστες αξίες της ελληνορθόδοξης πίστεώς μας, του ελληνικού μας πολιτισμού και της ένδοξης ιστορίας μας, να μάθουν ελληνικούς χορούς και τραγούδια, να γιορτάζουν όλα μαζί τις μεγάλες εθνικές και ελληνορθόδοξες γιορτές μας και να αισθάνονται ιδιαίτερα υπερήφανα που είναι ελληνικής καταγωγής.

Πολλές έρευνες και μελέτες έχουν δείξει ότι η εκμάθηση μιας ξένης γλώσσας και ιδιαίτερα της ελληνικής δημιουργεί στα παιδιά ένα ιδιαίτερα ανταγωνιστικό πλεονέκτημα στις πανεπιστημιακές τους σπουδές και μια πολύτιμη εργασιακή επιδεξιότητα στην επαγγελματική τους καριέρα. Η εκμάθηση μιας ξένης γλώσσας είναι ένα δια βίου δώρο και βοηθάει τους νέους μας διότι:

- **Επιτυγχάνουν υψηλότερες βαθμολογίες στα επίσημα σχολικά τους διαγωνίσματα**
- **Αναπτύσσει τις ικανότητες της κριτικής τους σκέψης**
- **Βελτιώνει την κατανόηση και διευρύνει το λεξιλόγιό τους**
- **Ενισχύει την ικανότητά τους στην αγγλική γλώσσα**
- **Ενδυναμώνει την ικανότητά τους στη λύση προβλημάτων**
- **Ενισχύει τη δημιουργικότητα και βοηθάει τη σκέψη τους να φθάσει σε υψηλό επίπεδο**
- **Αυξάνει την αυτοπεποίθηση και αυτοεκτίμησή τους σε μεγάλο βαθμό**
- **Κατανοούν καλύτερα τη μητρική τους γλώσσα και πολιτισμό**
- **Κατανοούν ευκολότερα άλλους ανθρώπους, τη γλώσσα και τον πολιτισμό τους**
- **Δημιουργεί ευκαιρίες στην ακαδημαϊκή και επαγγελματική τους καριέρα.**

Η αγγλική γλώσσα μπορεί να χαρακτηριστεί ως μια ελληνική διάλεκτος. Το 35% περίπου των αγγλικών λέξεων προέρχονται από την ελληνική γλώσσα και το 90% περίπου στην ιατρική. Μπορούμε να μιλάμε την αγγλική γλώσσα χρησιμοποιώντας ελληνικές λέξεις όπως στις παραγράφους της επιστολής στην αγγλική γλώσσα που ακολουθεί.

Δώστε στα παιδιά σας την ευκαιρία και την ευχαρίστηση να είναι μαζί με τα άλλα ελληνοαμερικανόπουλα της ελληνικής μας κοινότητας, να προσεύχονται και να παίζουν μαζί, να τραγουδούν ελληνικά τραγούδια και να χορεύουν παραδοσιακούς χορούς, να ψέλνουν ύμνους στο Θεό μας, να αισθάνονται την αγάπη της εκκλησίας μας και να διδάσκονται τα αξεπέραστα ελληνοχριστιανικά μας ιδεώδη.

Έχει δοθεί παράταση εγγραφών μέχρι τις 13 Σεπτεμβρίου. Μη διστάζετε να προσφέρετε στα παιδιά σας μια εκπαίδευση που θα είναι για όλη τους τη ζωή ένα πολύτιμο δώρο.

Τα μαθήματα θα γίνονται δυο φορές την εβδομάδα (Τρίτη & Πέμπτη – Κανονικό Πρόγραμμα) ή μια φορά την εβδομάδα (Τρίτη – Πρόγραμμα με έμφαση στον προφορικό λόγο) από τις 4.45-6.45 μμ.

Τα «Ελληνικά για Ενήλικες» θα ξεκινήσουν την πρώτη εβδομάδα του Οκτωβρίου και τα Προχωρημένα Ελληνικά για τις επίσημες Εξετάσεις Ελληνομάθειας τη δεύτερη εβδομάδα του Ιανουαρίου 2014.

Ευχόμαστε σε όλα μας τα παιδιά να έχουν μια χαρούμενη και παραγωγική σχολική χρονιά.

Με εκτίμηση και αγάπη,

---Open Letter---

Dear Parents,

We hope all of you are well and have had a wonderful summer time.

With our new 2013-2014 school year starting Tuesday, September 17, we would like to take the opportunity to write this letter and urge you to make every effort to challenge your children by motivating them to attend our Greek Afternoon School to learn the richest language in the world, the mother of many languages, the language of their ancestors, the language of our Gospels, the language that has greatly influenced the western civilization, the Greek language.

Research and several studies have shown that learning a second language and especially Greek will give children a competitive advantage for college and a valuable job skill in their career. Learning a second language is a life-long gift and provides children with:

- Higher scores on standardized tests
- Enhanced critical thinking skills
- Improved listening and broader vocabulary
- Increased competence in English
- Strengthened problem solving skills
- Greater creativity and higher-order thinking skills
- Heightened self-concept and high levels of self-esteem
- Better understanding of own language and culture
- Receptivity toward other people, history and cultures
- Enhanced academic and career opportunities

The English language can be characterized a Greek dialect. 35% of English words come from the Greek language and almost 90% in medicine. We can speak English using only Greek words as in the following sentences:

MUSIC: The Orchestras electrified the atmosphere, with musical organs like the harp the lyre the aulos and hydraulos. The chorus in the odium or theatre synchronized with the organs harmoniously. The rhythm and harmonious eurythmy were unparalleled. Synthesis, synergy and symphony idealized every orchestrated episode. The magnetic atmosphere, the harmonic rhythm and the stereophonic...

DRAMA-THEATER: The genesis of classical drama was not symptomatic. A euphoria of charismatic and talented protagonists showed fantastic scenes of historic episodes. The prologue, the theme and the epilogue, comprised the trilogy of drama while synthesis, analysis and synopsis characterized the phraseology of the text.

HISTORY: History has no parallel paradigm of a politician with character and charisma, like Pericles the Athenian, whose scholastic and stochastic dynamism, rhetoric, fantasy, energy and ideology characterized him as the ARCHITECT OF THE ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY.

Give your children the opportunity and the pleasure to be with other Greek –American children of our Hellenic Community, to pray and play together, to sing Greek songs and dance Greek traditional dances, to feel the love of our Church and be taught our unsurpassed Hellenic-Christian ideals.

Our registration deadline is Friday, September 17, 2013. The lessons this year will be twice/week (Tuesday & Thursday – Regular Program) or once/week (Tuesday – Oral Communication Program) from 4:45-6:45 pm. The Program “**Greek for Adults**” will begin the first week of October, and the Advanced Program for the formal Greek Exams the second week of January 2014.

We wish to all our children a very happy and productive school year.

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael Varvarelis, Dean
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Larry Peroulas, Principal
Holy Trinity Greek School

Πρωτ. π. Μιχαήλ Βαρβαρέλης
Ιερατικός Προϊστάμενος
Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος

Ελευθέριος Περούλας
Διευθυντής
Ελληνικού Σχολείου

Perpetuation of our Hellenic Heritage and Culture. In appreciation of the language in which all the books of the New Testament have been written, the language in which the Theology, Dogmas, and Canons of our Christian Church have been expressed, the language of our immigrant parents and grandparents we proudly are committed to perpetuate and promote through the Greek School, lectures, celebrations, and other appropriate ways.



- Compassionate hearts providing quality service at a sensible price
- Specialists in shipping and receiving loved ones
- Traditional funeral arrangements made with the care and certainty that the service selected properly memorializes your loved one
- Pre-arrangement planning and transfer of existing pre-arrangements

Make the HeritageChoice

Charlotte/Ballantyne
16151 Lancaster Hwy.
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-714-1540

Indian Trail
4431 Old Monroe Road
Indian Trail, NC 28079
704-821-2960

Weddington/Matthews
3700 Forest Lawn Dr.
Matthews, NC 28104
704-846-3771



We Proudly Support "THE VOICE" and are Grateful to the Volunteers who prepare it.



Billy Drosinis, Anthony Asprogiannis, Pete Pappas, Jimmy Strates
Dean Georgoulis, John Karagiannis, Andy Vrantsis & Jimmy Georgiou

Showmarts Casual Dining...Fast!

Founded in 1982

Celebrating 30 years
Providing exceptional service
Then, now & always

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
FATHER MICHAEL G. VARVARELIS
www.htgo.org

More Branches. **SAME ROOTS.**



RE/MAX

Metro Realty

Dimitra (Tula) Kourakos

BROKER
RE/MAX 100% Club

8035 Providence Road, Suite 320
Charlotte, North Carolina 28277-9717
Office: (704) 543-6680
Fax: (704) 542-9718
Direct: (704) 641-9996
Email: dkourakos1@carolina.rr.com



Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

HM properties

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING
A MOVE OR WOULD LIKE
TO KEEP UP WITH THE
REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY IN
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WITH
AUTOMATIC EMAIL UPDATES,
PLEASE LET ME KNOW!



JERRY O'KEEFE

704-502-4259

JERRY@HMPROPERTIES.COM

LICENSED IN NC & SC

www.JerryOkeefe.com

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
FATHER MICHAEL G. VARVARELIS
**All the latest news and photos
are now on the web
www.htgo.org**



Jimmy Koutsokalis
Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager



American Community Bank is pleased to introduce our new name, Yadkin Bank. Come experience the same great service...your favorite bankers are ready to serve you! Now choose from even more locations, all with the same great name and service you deserve!

South Park Office 704-936-4369
4500 Cameron Valley Parkway, Suite 100
Charlotte, North Carolina 28211
www.YadkinBank.com

Discover why so many of your friends and neighbors bank with us. **Stop by today and meet our friendly and knowledgeable financial team.**

Proudly Serving the Greek Community