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VOL. 75 • NO. 546

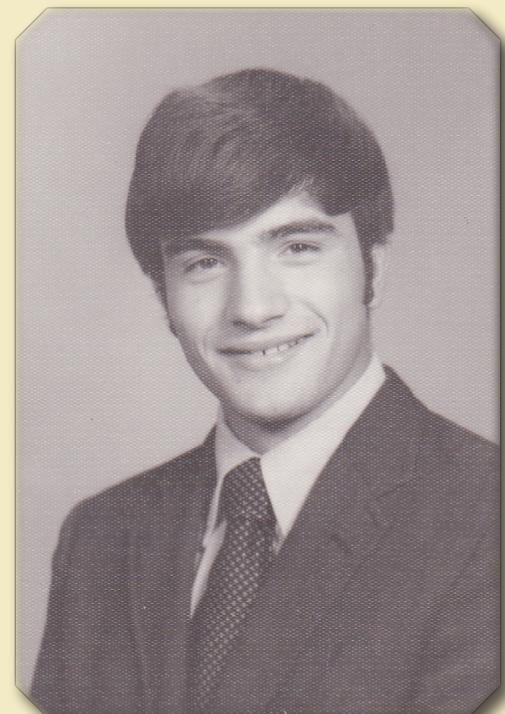
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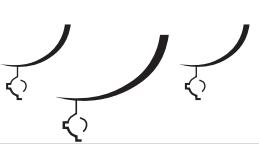
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## Holy Trinity Cathedral Welcomes Fr. Angelo Artemas Fr. Theodore Elmer



Remembering...  
**Steve Sam Keretsis**

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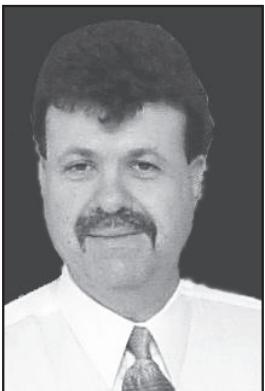


**Our Mission**  
Our Mission is to become faithful followers of Christ and thus active Greek Orthodox Christians by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God.

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## A Message From The Editor



Hello again everybody,

At the time of this writing, I would like to extend a big welcome to Father Angelo Artemas who came in July and to Father Theodore Ehmer who came in August. Be sure to read the detailed biographies of Father Angelo and Father Theo.

Despite the rain, we had another successful Greek Festival. I was very impressed with the Flash Mob Dance. More about the Festival in the next issue.

In this issue, I'm introducing a new column called Holy Trinity Angels. Many people in our history had a big impact on our community. The first person I have chosen to feature is Steve Sam Keretsis, son of Sam and Helen Keretsis. Steve was very dynamic, sharp and popular in GOYA. He was very funny and made us laugh all the time. He was an excellent basketball player. Please read the story on Steve. Footnote: Mr Sam Keretsis passed on in June, 2009.

That's it for now. Be Safe,  
Angelo Pete Politis



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Fr. Tommy Vlahos, Priest – Religious Reflection  
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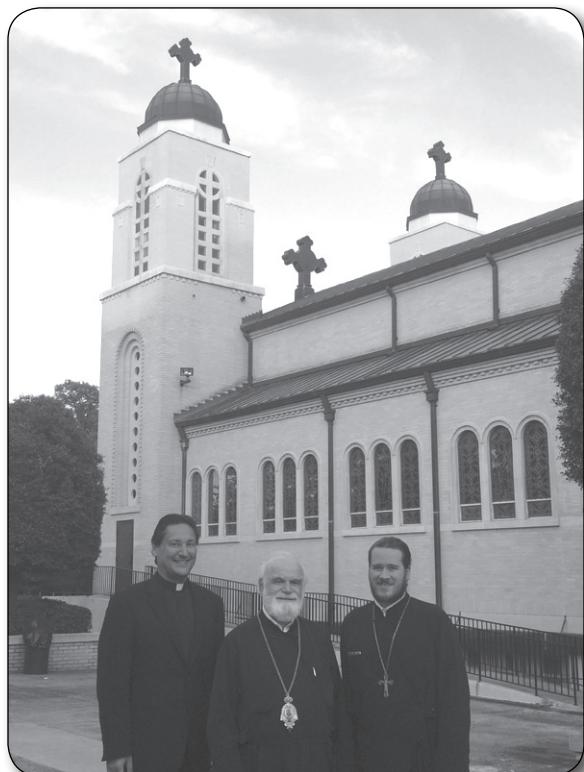


## Remarks From Father Angelo



by Father Angelo Artemas  
Dean of the Cathedral

As the son and grandson of Greek Orthodox priests, Angelo Artemas was almost destined to follow in their footsteps. Born on March 21, 1965, he was raised in the Chicago area by his parents, Fr. John and Niki Artemas, who currently serve at St. George Church in DeKalb, Illinois. His maternal grandfather was also a priest



on the island of Crete. Angelo received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Canisius College, in Buffalo, New York, in 1985. While there, he met Patricia Guethlein of Cincinnati, Ohio, at a Detroit Diocese YAL conference. They later served together as Diocese summer camp counselors. "The best way to get to know someone is while working with kids and without makeup or fancy clothes!" he remarked. They were married in Cincinnati in August 1986. Continuing his education at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, New York, Angelo received a Master of Arts degree in Religious Education and a Master of Divinity in 1988. He completed his course work in the Doctorate in Ministry Program there in 1996. While attending St. Vladimir's, Angelo was ordained to the diaconate in April 1987. The following July he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Timothy of Detroit and was assigned as pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio.

Fr. Angelo served there until October 1991, when he was named Director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese. He put together a team of youth directors

assigned to each Diocese. In 1992 he organized the first Archdiocese Youth Workers Conference, held at Antiochian Village. By 1994 east and west coast conferences became annual events. Fr. James Gordon, who was Chicago Diocese Youth Director during this time, recalled: "Fr. Angelo really brought our national team together and was the first to get us hands-on training in youth ministry. He's always been up on pop culture and adds a contemporary twist to his sermons and youth group discussions. This impressed me because, as priests and youth directors, we have to relate to what the kids relate to in order to reach them. I've tried to incorporate these educational experiences in my own ministry and especially when we started Ascension Church in Lincolnshire." Fr. Angelo convinced Archbishop Iakovos that the focus of the department should be expanded to encompass family and parenting issues and it was renamed the Office of Youth and Family Ministries. In addition to the annual youth workers training, regional parenting conferences were also conducted. From 1991 to 1997, while at the Archdiocese, Fr. Angelo served as chaplain at the St. Michael Home for Elderly Care in Yonkers, New York, and at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, where he was an HIV/AIDS counselor. During those years he edited the youth supplement in the Orthodox Observer, where he continues to serve as a columnist. He also was a guest lecturer on Adolescent Ministry and Ministry to the Elderly at St. Vladimir's. In 1993 he became a certified trainer for the National Institute of Youth Ministry, a non-denominational institute headquartered in Irvine, California.

In July 1997 Fr. Angelo was named pastor of the burgeoning St. George Church in Downey, California. The congregation was initially a Hellenic club that wanted to enter the San Francisco Metropolis' popular Folk Dance Festival. Metropolitan Anthony told them they couldn't participate if they weren't affiliated with



a church, so they hurriedly found a storefront location and set up a makeshift altar. The Metropolitan directed Fr. Angelo to convince the group that they needed to become a true church community and to help them formalize their parish. Construction of their church building began in March 2001 and was completed a year later.

Fr. Angelo became pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Church in Glenview, Illinois, on June 1, 2001, and he

and Presbytera Patricia moved there with their three daughters-Katie, Maria, and Eleni. His immediate focus was on the completion of projects such as the community center expansion, north parking lot and elevator installation to improve handicap accessibility. In 2008 he and the Parish Council launched a three-year capital campaign. During the 2003 SS. Peter and Paul Feast Day celebration, Metropolitan Iakovos bestowed the title of Economos (recognizing good stewardship of one's ministry) on Fr. Angelo. He served on the St. Iakovos Retreat Center's Board of Directors and on the Metropolis Youth Ministry team. Fr. Angelo guided



the establishment and continued growth of the church's Agape Preschool and the introduction of an expanded youth athletics program to include younger children. Fr. Angelo also previously served the well-known Frank Lloyd Wright-designed church of the Annunciation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where his father was ordained a priest in February of 1965.

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## Remarks From Father Theodore



by Father Theodore Ehmer  
Associate Priest

Hello! My name is Father Theodore Ehmer and I am the new associate priest here at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. If I haven't met you yet, I hope to soon!

I was born in September 1982 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to my parents, William and Susan, and baptized as an infant at Birmingham United Church of Christ in Pittsburgh. (Given that I grew up in Pittsburgh, it shouldn't be surprising that I say: Go Steelers!) Throughout my youth, I was active in our church, serving as an altar boy, participating in the choir, and attending Sunday School. My parents nurtured a Christian upbringing for my brothers and me through regular church attendance and they served our church community through positions in leadership. In fact, my mother, who was raised Catholic, nearly became



*Fr. Theodore and Presvytera Stacey at age 2 or 3*

a nun during her teenage years. During my teenage years, a job transfer for my father moved our family to Denver, Colorado. After high school, I studied Meteorology in college in Denver, but I later moved to Georgia to pursue a relationship with a life-long friend, Stacey, who would eventually become my wife and presvytera! I completed my undergraduate degree in History Education from Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia. My move to Georgia and my love for Stacey have proven to be life-changing and Stacey and I were joined in marriage in January 2010. We were members of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Marietta, Georgia, where her family has worshipped for nearly 25 years.

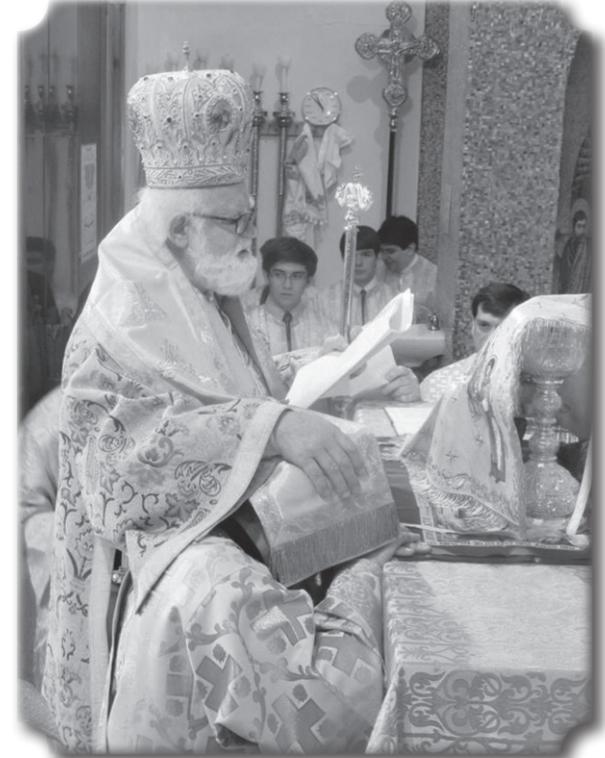
I feel very fortunate that Presvytera Stacey grew

up Greek Orthodox (her family hails from Ikaria and Smyrna in Asia Minor) and is a faithful member of the Church. Her family is very active at Holy Transfiguration in Marietta and they are wonderful Christian examples. Stacey was my introduction to what would become a new and all-encompassing way



that drove my desire to become a chrismated member of the Orthodox Church. At my Chrismation, I was given the name "Theodore," after St. Theodore Tyron, and I struggle to live up to the mighty name that I have received.

I have been drawn towards serving in the Church since I was very young; my mother likes to fondly recall detailed memories of when I would "play church" in the basement of our home. After my conversion to Orthodoxy, this desire to serve Christ and His Church



of life for me. Having grown up in the United Church of Christ, I slowly drifted away from the church of my childhood after we moved to Colorado and through the period of my parents' divorce, as our church community began to feel like a place of coldness and judgment. In my early twenties, I struggled to find a deeper connection with my faith. After moving to Georgia, I was blessed to meet Father Anthony Salzman, the priest at St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church in Watkinsville, Georgia. Father Anthony was accessible and genuine with me as a person. We spent many hours discussing faith and the life in Christ. There was also a very active

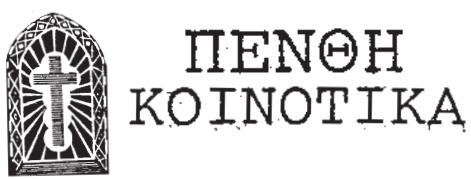
was rekindled and I began to learn Byzantine Chant, study Greek, and serve in the altar. Through prayer, confession, discussions with my wife, our spiritual father and other faithful priests, and the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of our Holy Metropolis of Atlanta, I began the Master of Divinity program at Holy Cross in the fall of 2011. During my second year at Holy Cross, the theme of the school year was the words that Christ spoke of Himself: that He "came not to be served but to serve." (Matthew 20:28) These words of the Master are the driving force of my desire to serve God and neighbor in the Church. I was ordained



and welcoming Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) chapter at St. Philothea. I began to feel at home in the Orthodox Church through the relationships that were established with Father Anthony and my fellow college-aged peers at St. Philothea. Though I had studied Church history and accepted the teachings of Orthodoxy, it was these relationships of Christian love



to the Holy Diaconate on January 17<sup>th</sup> (St. Anthony) of this year and to the Holy Priesthood on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Presvytera Stacey and I have godchildren that we love deeply and someday, if God wills it, we look forward to children of our own. I enjoy following all Pittsburgh sports, meteorology (I actually have my own little weather station on our roof!) and reading. Stacey and I enjoy spending time with family and friends, spending time outside together, and road trips. We are very happy and thankful to be part of the Holy Trinity community. May the Holy Trinity bless, guide, and protect all of us!


**Theofilos Demetrios Fotopoulos**

CHARLOTTE - Theofilos Demetrios Fotopoulos, 76, of Charlotte, passed away peacefully in his home, on Sunday, August 16, 2015. Theofilos was born on October 2, 1938, the youngest of five children, to the late Demetrios and Despina Fotopoulos in Tourkoleka, Arkadias, Greece. Theofilos graduated from the Naval Academy of Athens and rose to the rank of first lieutenant before retiring from the navy. He immigrated to the United States in 1967 and was sponsored and warmly welcomed by his late brother Konstandinos. Theofilos was a long standing member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and he served as a parish council member. He lived according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church imparting Christian values to his children through his example. He taught unconditional love, importance of gratitude, the value of hard work, the power of humility, compassion and philanthropy. He was proud of his American citizenship and grateful for the opportunities he found in this country. With faith as his compass, he found the courage to achieve his dream to establish and successfully operate his own businesses. In 1977, he partnered with George Couchell and opened the Mr. C's restaurant in downtown Charlotte, which he operated until 1991. In 1982, he opened the Lake Wylie Fish Camp Restaurant in Rock Hill, SC which he operated until his retirement in 2000. He enjoyed taking care of his customers and greeting each of them by first name with his genuine smile. His dealings with others were always characterized by his integrity and kindness. Theofilos was most proud of his family and the life he built with his loving wife of 45 years,

Andromache (nee Fragakis). Theofilos is survived by his wife, children Despina (Tina) Apostolopoulos and husband Dimitrios, Efrosini (Effie) Fotopoulos and his most precious in his heart grandchildren Stavroula (Stacy) and Theoharis (Henry) Apostolopoulos who were blessed to have the most wonderful and loving grandfather "Pappou". Survivors also include his brother Pete and wife Mary, sister Georgia Athens, brother-in-law John Fragakis and wife Ismini and many nieces and nephews and godchildren, Sammy Panou and Sandy Vlahos. Theofilos was preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, brothers Mihalis and Konstandinos and brother-in-law John Athens. The family would like to thank Dr. Peter Copsis and Dr. Steven Putman for the excellent care and support they provided over the years. A Trisagion, visitation, was held on Thursday, August 20, 2015, at 7:00pm at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203 and the funeral service was held on Friday, August 21, 2015, at 11:00am also at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Pallbearers were Demetrios Fotopoulos, Konstandinos Fotopoulos, John Fragakis, Jimmy Fragakis, Theodore Georgakopoulos and Kostas Kostopanagiotis and honorary pallbearer George Retsios. Theofilos was laid to rest at Evergreen Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Panagia Proussiotissa "Elatos" or to the Renovation Fund of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Arrangements are in the care of Hankins and Whittington, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. Please share online condolences at [www.hankinsandwhittington.com](http://www.hankinsandwhittington.com).

**Georgia Sapoutzis Georgoulakos**

CHARLOTTE - Mrs. Georgia Gerogoulakos, 71, of Charlotte, NC, passed away Tuesday evening, the 28th of July 2015, at her home surrounded by her family. Georgia was born in Athens,

Greece, on the 6th of September 1943, a daughter of the late Angelo Sapoutzis and Erasmia Kafali Sapoutzis. She came to the United States on the 1st of January 1972. She was a devoted member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral where she served as a school teacher and was a volunteer at the Greek Festival where she oversaw the pastry section for many years. She never forgot her roots and went for many trips to her homeland Greece to see her family. The Trisagion service was held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, the 30th of July 2015 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. The Funeral Service was held 11:00 AM, Friday, the 30th of July 2015 at the Cathedral. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery. She is survived by her beloved husband of 45 years, John Georgoulakos; her son, Michael Georgoulakos and his wife, Maria; her two sisters in Greece: Ekaterina Lianopoulou and Demtra Dionysiou; three brothers: Yianni, Christos and Evangelos Sapoutzis and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Dr. James Boyd and staff of Oncology Specialist of Charlotte. Memorials may be made to Panagia Proussiotissa Greek Orthodox Monastery, 404 Warner Rd., Troy, NC 27371 or to a research for Cancer. Notes of encouragement and condolences

may be made to the family by visiting [www.ellingtonfuneralservices.com](http://www.ellingtonfuneralservices.com). Serving the Georgoulakos family is Ellington Funeral Services, "The Historic Morehead St. Chapel", 727 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28202. (704)334.6700 Family owned since 1944.

**Frances Pistolis** CHARLOTTE -

Frances Pistolis, age 81, of Charlotte, NC passed away on July 25, 2015. She is survived by her two sons George J. Pistolis (Dena) and Gus J. Pistolis (Christie). Frances is also survived by her six grandchildren and her three sisters, Nia (George) Patronis, Litsa (Tom) Tsoukas and Voula (John) Kontopanos and her brother Sam (Carolyn) Daise. She was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Jim Pistolis. Funeral services for Frances were held on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 11:00AM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203, with her Trisagion from 10:00AM to 11:00AM at the church. Interment followed immediately, at Evergreen Cemetery. Contributions honoring her memory may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Renovation Fund. Arrangements are in care of Hankins and Whittington Funeral Service, Charlotte, NC. Please share online condolences at [www.hankinsandwhittington.com](http://www.hankinsandwhittington.com).

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## Holy Trinity Angels

Dear Parishioners of Holy Trinity, I am excited and honored to introduce a new series of commemorative articles which I have always wanted to include in The Voice since 2004 when I became editor.

These articles will honor the memories of parishioners who are no longer with us, but continue to live in our hearts and our thoughts because of the influence and legacies they may have left behind. I feel this is necessary, especially in today's society when life can be so unpredictable and complex. Many times I reflect and look back to those who inspired me and left me with words of wisdom, by which I will always remember them.

I would like to begin this series of articles by honoring a very special and truly inspiring individual who left us too soon. His name is Steve Sam Keretsis. How do I begin to explain who this individual was and how he affected my life? Steve and my older brother, Louie, were best friends so Steve spent a lot of time at our house. I was 13 years old and self-conscious about my appearance. Steve was 16 and very physically fit. He took the time to encourage me to work out and be positive about myself. His smile was magnetic and his lighthearted nature always changed my mood and made me smile. He was very popular and good at sports and just a good young man. He was my hero!

I will always remember him and honor his memory.

"May his Memory be Eternal"

Included are memories of Steve by family members and other parishioners who were also touched by his dynamic personality and wonderful heart. I would like to thank these individuals for sharing their memories along with mine.

Mrs. Roula Economos, Pete Kleto, Louie Politis, Anna & Joanna Pitsikoulis and Nick Nixon

If you have a loved one you would like to honor, please submit your article to Angelo Pete Politis: [olympus10@yahoo.com](mailto:olympus10@yahoo.com)

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Steve Sam Keretsis was born May 24, 1954, in Fayetteville, NC.

He passed away on June 13, 1970, at the age of 16.

Steve moved to Charlotte with his parents when he was one year old.

He went to Pinewood Elementary, Smith Junior High School, and South Mecklenburg High School.

He went to Greek School as well as Sunday School at the church. He also was a member of GOYA.

He played basketball for the church. Basketball was his favorite sport.

When Steve passed away, the memorial donations went towards the purchase of basketball goals for the church hall.... very fitting considering how much he loved to play.

I was three weeks shy of my 13th birthday when my brother passed away. I always knew he was special, even at such a young age. He was so outgoing and had many friends. But as years went by, I would run into people who knew him and they would tell me stories about Steve and tell me how much he meant to them. This happened on quite a few occasions, even after it had been over 40 years since he passed away. I realized then that in his short life, he touched so many people.

Roula Economos



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Our individual experiences being a friend to Steve shared many similarities while also having unique characteristics. He and I were obsessed with sports, particularly basketball. I recall us shooting hoops in my backyard and our excitement when we could finally touch the rim. It was by far a more significant accomplishment on his part as he was challenged with the Greek gene – i.e. shorter. But he was a gifted athlete and his friend, Walter Davis (future Carolina standout and NBA rookie of the year), wanted Steve to play on the South Mecklenburg High School team with him.

Steve both challenged and encouraged me in sports and life with his intensity, humor and support. May those qualities exist in our lives today and may his memory be eternal.

Pete Kleto

By Louie Politis

After Steve died in 1970, I realized the real world of tragedy. I grew up in the 1950s and 60s going to Greek School, Sunday School and American School. We would always hang out at his house playing basketball on weekends. Steve was a sharp-looking guy with a temper. There were two things he hated - to lose in basketball and to pass me the basketball because he was never going to get it back. Steve was missed by many when he passed, especially by me, because we wondered if we could have won a Goya Basketball Championship together.

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### Memories of Steve Keretsis

by Anna and Joanna Pitsikoulis

Steve Keretsis will always remain young, vibrant, handsome and electric in our minds and hearts. He was taken away from us so suddenly, he will always be the best part of our youth. Facing death when our lives were just beginning, Steve will be forever young for the class of 1972.

My first memory of Steve was actually in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade of afternoon Greek school. His Greek was impeccable (at least to me). It was around Christmas time and, with a nip of frost in the air and the excitement of the season, our teacher (no, it was NOT Fr. John Paul) called upon me to read out loud. Anyone who knows me... well, actually, ... anyone who hears me speak Greek then or now knows that I was not and am not a Greek scholar. Socrates just shakes his head disbelieving that one Hellene could be so ignorant of his beautiful language! The Christmas story we were reading was about the Three Wise Men. When it was my turn to read, instead of saying Τρεις Μάγοι (Three Magi), I said Τρεις Μύια (Three Flies). For the rest of the story, it was the Three Flies. I thought Steve would fall off his chair laughing so hard. Of course I had no clue that my pronunciation was incorrect. When the whole class was laughing, my twin sister Joanna, eventually leaned over and corrected me. Why she couldn't have told me earlier, I have no idea! Today, I laugh harder than anyone when I recall this special memory. Of course back then in class, I cried and died of embarrassment. I vowed from that day forward, I would avoid all Greek conversations dealing with Wise Men or flies.

*Continued on page 7*

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## Holy Trinity Angels - Continued

### *Continued from page 6*

As Joanna will tell you, one of my favorite TV programs of all time is "Hogan's Heroes". I have Steve to thank for my passion. Early in 1965 or 1966, he boasted he was able to convince his sister, Roula, NOT to watch that drippy, girly, NBC TV fantasy sitcom "I Dream of Jeannie" starring Barbara Eden as a 2000-year-old genie. Instead, he convinced Roula to watch "Hogan's Heroes" with him, a CBS TV comedy about a German prisoner of war camp and their Special Operations' antics starring Bob Crane. After overhearing Steve bragging, I decided I would have to tune in to see what was so special about "Hogan's Heroes". I have been a fan of the series ever more. Since this was before the time of beta, VHS, CD, Blue-Ray, DVD and DVR, the best scenario in viewing two TV shows airing at the same time was to sit by the TV (mind you it was before the time of remotes) and literally change the dial during the commercials from one show to the other.

The last memory I cherish of Steve is one that stays with me whenever I'm driving. Joanna and I were born exactly one month before Steve. Our birthday was April 24, 1954. Steve's birthday was May 24, 1954. Now, we would be considered cougars (as Nick Nixon always points out, since he was the baby of the class of 1972 being born October 18<sup>th</sup>). Back then, it just meant that Joanna and I were one of the first to receive our driver's licenses. On that fateful summer morning on June 13, 1970, I vividly recall Steve doing wheelies in the small parking lot of the church with his Mom beside him, the windows down and both laughing with glee. Mrs. Keretsis shouted out the window that Steve had passed his driver's test and had received his license. My last memory of Steve is his gregarious laughter with his Mom, both laughing while taking spins around the parking lot.

For the class of 1972, our lives were forever changed that day. We faced death and for many of us, it was the recognition that we were no longer immortal. As many of us remember laying a wreath at Steve's grave the year we graduated high school in 1972, we knew that Steve would always be a part of us. The best part of us. In light of such tragedy, God gave us the greatest Steve ever. He is always young, vibrant and alive! May Steve's memory be eternal!

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Steve Keretsis was a good friend of mine and an honored member of the Class of 1972. He was liked and loved by all girls, boys, women and men that had the pleasure to meet and know him. He was very popular, outgoing and a very confident leader as we grew through our Junior High, High School and GOYA years. He was a stocky natural-born athlete who excelled in all sports, especially basketball, and was the point guard on our GOYA teams. Whatever sport he played, he excelled to his fullest potential at all times.

He was, in my opinion, a man's man, a "Casanova", and displayed a bravado about him that girls and women loved and many guys wished they could imitate and be like him. He was respectful and carried himself as a mature young man just loving life. I remember he seemed to be ahead of his years in many ways. He already looked like a man when in the ninth grade and was the first in our class to be able to shave and have a full beard in a matter of a day or so, when most of the boys our age could hardly grow sideburns or mustaches. During the age of long hair, he kept his neat and was always physically fit.

Steve had his faults like we all do, but usually you knew exactly how he felt about issues, would speak up when he had an opinion, was passionate about them and tried to do the right thing at all times. He had a profound effect on our Sunday School class (Class of '72). One only wonders how much he affected our lives in a positive manner moving forward. Every time I think of him, I smile and know he is looking down on all of us, wishing us successful and happy lives. I choose to have good and positive thoughts when I hear his name and feel he is also smiling on all our accomplishments, and on how he affected our lives at a very early age.

We miss and love you, Steve.

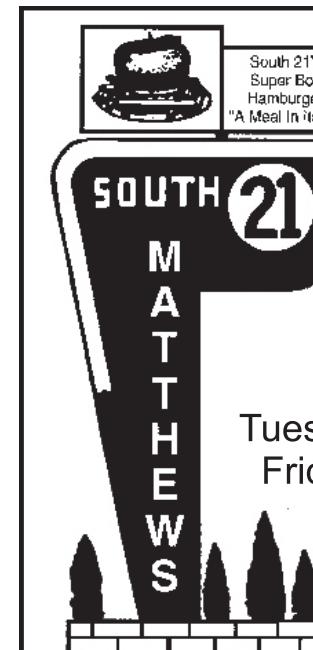
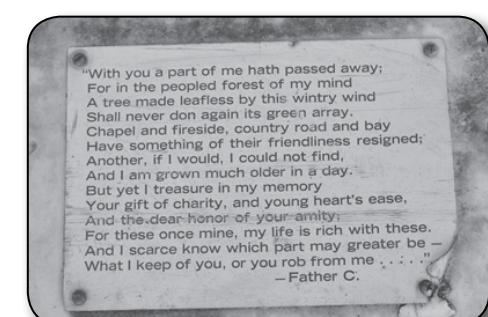
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Photograph that Sunday School teacher, Presvytera Eva Miller Paul, took of the 10th grade Sunday School class on the last day of Sunday School, Sunday, June 7, 1970. This is the last known picture of Steve with most of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral class of 1972.



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# Xenophon Library Dedication



## Xenophon F. Nixon Library By Gloria Kontoulas

### Honoring Mr. Xenophon Nixon

On Sunday March 22nd, 2015, the newly-renovated library at Holy Trinity Cathedral was dedicated in honor of Mr. Xenophon Nixon.

We gratefully acknowledge Mr. Nixon for his many years of service to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Mr. Nixon volunteered for the Holy Trinity Voice publication for 30 years. His foresight and vision of maintaining church statistics created an archives collection, which consist of old pictures, newspaper articles, mementos and other memorabilia. Mr. Nixon was committed to introducing the process of archiving and ensuring the preservation of history. The library has become a permanent center for the archives and showcases the evolution of our Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community. We honor Mr. Nixon for his outstanding contribution and dedicate the archival library in his memory.

### A Labor of Love

The Holy Trinity Library Renovation Committee created a repository for the Xenophon Nixon archive collection, while beautifying and updating the library at the same time. Angelo Pete Politis, chairman of the Archives Committee, found the collection of old photos and memorabilia in old filing cabinets. Mr. Politis recognized the importance of this precious collection of history and memories and quickly began organizing to present them to the Greek community of Charlotte.

The archive collection consists of many different items:

Copies of Holy Trinity parish directories

A copy of Voice issues since 1947.

Photographs and newspaper articles featuring landmark events, such as the Holy Trinity groundbreaking ceremony and the history of the Jones Mansion

Festival memorabilia

History of the Greek Community and Holy Trinity

Charlotte Observer Newspaper articles spanning over five decades of Holy Trinity events

Father C's legacy to Holy Trinity

Photos of the pioneering parishioners of Holy Trinity

Sunday School and Greek School history

History and old pictures of the Holy Trinity Choir, Philoptochos, Ahepa, Goya and other ministries of Holy Trinity

The archives are stored and protected in fireproof filing cabinets, which are incased in custom built cabinets, designed and installed by Polites Cabinetry. The gallery of old photographs honor our pioneering parishioners and the focal point of the library consists of a wall niche created to display a collage of pictures and historical facts describing the evolution of Holy Trinity. A computer and work/study desk was also installed for educational purposes. The wet

bar serving niche was updated with refurbished cabinetry, new plumbing, a tiled backsplash and serving accessories. Committee members Gloria Kontoulas, Maria Kleto, and Christine Copsis led the renovation and the interior design details of the library. The entire project took approximately eight months and was completed in three phases.

Phase 1 – Reorganization of the Archives

Phase 2 – Library Renovations

Phase 3 – Merging phases one and two together, and honoring Xenophon Nixon

The Xenophon Nixon endowment Fund provided 100% to the project, for all archival related items. The Parish Council provided the funding for all the non-archival items of the Project.

The presentation, which took place on Sunday March 22nd, was a great success. The family members of Mr. Nixon were present to speak on behalf of their father's contribution and each member participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Members of the Nixon family and the Library Renovation Committee sincerely thank the Philoptochos for organizing the coffee service. Pastries, platters of fruit, cakes, juices and beautiful floral arrangements created the perfect setting for this special event.

### The Future

Some of our future goals consist of:

Organizing enough volunteers to help monitor the library on Sunday mornings after each service, while parishioners peruse the archives.

Archive Chairman Angelo Politis is presently working on a collection of DVDs from old recordings of the historical events dating back to the 1950s to present day events.

Making the transition of hardcopy archival materials to computer copy.

Archive Committee Chairman Angelo Politis and co-chair Gloria Kontoulas are dedicated to continue promoting the process of archiving and preserving the history of Holy Trinity. The Archives Committee along with The Voice publication will serve as a beacon of communication and will continue to maintain the legacy of this great parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, NC.

### 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."

*The Holy Trinity Cathedral Archives Committee wishes to express their sincere Gratitude to the family members of Church Benefactor Xenophon F Nixon.*

*Their commitment in sharing the Xenophon Nixon Endowment fund allowed us to create and produce a permanent repository for the archive collection in the newly renovated library of The Holy Trinity Community Center.*

*May their Father's Memory be Eternal  
Holy Trinity Cathedral Archival Library Renovation Committee*

*Steering Committee: Gloria Kontoulas, Maria Kleto, Christine Copsis, Archive Committee Chairman Angelo Pete Politis*

*Volunteers: Haido Copsis, Ellie Harakas, Bett Kofinas, Elaine Michaels, Helen Beleos, Loula Kontoulas, Jerrie Holevas, Kiki Karras, Cindy Balatsias, Kiki Ballas, Francis Troupes, Vickie Exarhos, Effie Rodrigues, Theofani C Nixon, Olga Kleto, Helen Clonaris, Joanna Pitsikoulis, Anna Pitsikoulis, Toni Karnazes*

*Our Volunteers contributed many hours toward the organization of several tasks, which involved recording the inventory of books, organizing archival information, creating a filing system, creating visuals and much more. We thank them for their time and efforts.*

### Acknowledgements

*The Holy Trinity Archives Committee and the Library Renovation Committee would like to kindly thank the following....*

*Reverend Fr. Michael Varvarelis, who was the Dean of the Cathedral, during this time. We thank him for his support, guidance and blessings throughout the renovation process of the Library. His reverent leadership was the cornerstone of our progress.*

*The Holy Trinity Archives Committee and the Library Renovation Committee would like to welcome*

*Reverend Fr. Angelo Artemas, Dean of the Cathedral and*

*Reverend Fr. Theodore Ehmer, Priest.*

*We thank them for acknowledging our efforts and offering to support our future goals.*

*Thank you John Tsumas, President of the Parish Council of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Dino Pappas, Chairman of the IRRC committee, and all the members of the Parish Council. Their constant*

*support, cooperation and patience allowed us the opportunity to focus and complete the renovation of the library proudly and successfully.*

*Thank you to the following parishioners and local tradesmen for their contribution of services and talents to the Library Renovation Project.*

*Jimmy Politis - Politis Construction Group and Cabinet Shop*

*Dina & Nick Stathopoulos - Fancy That*

*Maria Lulos - AL Lulos Carpet Installations*

*Saul Faircloth - On Site Wood Repair Faye Porter - Carolina Blind Crafters*

*The Holy Trinity staff for their patience and diligence. Thank you for all your help, we enjoyed working with every one of you.*

*John Georgopoulos*

*Frances Zogzas*

*Kathy Xyrafakis*

*Angelo Tatsis*

*Kenny and Ollie*

*We wish to thank Mr. Larry Peroulas, Principal of the Greek Language Program, for his assistance with the inventory of Greek literature, his contribution of Greek artifacts and his incredible patience. Most of the volunteer work and construction of the library took place during the hours of Greek School. Mr. Peroulas, we appreciate you!*

*Many Thanks to Helen Beleos who contributed her editorials of Community Profiles. Mrs. Beleos was the Editor of the Voice for approx. twenty years.*

*Many thanks to Mrs. Elaine Michaels and Mrs. Bett Kofinas for their contributions of Archival information. Mrs. Michaels served as our Sunday School Superintendent for many years and Mrs. Kofinas has been a long time active member of Philoptochos and has served as president of our local chapter, "Agia Elpis".*

*The Archives Committee wishes to recognize Loula Kontoulas for her leadership role with The Heritage Preservation committee, which has been established to preserve and display items, artifacts and documents from our Orthodox faith, Holy Trinity's history and the Greek community in Charlotte. Loula also created the beautiful Iconography displays located in the Holy Trinity Community Center.*

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## Around CharlotteTown By Kathy Xyrafakis

*Floriana Boardman, Paul Lowder and Danielle Stavropoulos attended Ionian Village this past summer in Greece. Floriana shares with us her unforgettable experience!*

Floriana Boardman  
Ionian Village 2015

Disconnect. Experience. Rejuvenate. These are some of the first words that Father Evagoras Constantinides, the director of Ionian Village, told us 200 campers, as we gathered on the whitewashed steps of the amphitheater overlooking the Ionian Sea. This was our

goal for the twenty days we had in Greece together.

For those who do not know about Ionian Village, it is a program in Greece

for Orthodox teenagers across the United States and Canada. Participants go and travel around Greece, venerate the relics of Saints, and visit sights of Greek history and culture, all while experiencing a great sense of love for Christ in everyone near and far.

Ionian Village is a disconnection from our everyday world. At Ionian Village, campers and staff have no electronics or cell phones. This may seem extreme, but at the end of the day, it's worth it! Due to the loss of technology, I was able to disconnect from the outside world and fully connect, not only to our Hellenic roots but, most importantly, our Greek Orthodox faith.

Ionian Village is an experience. Campers and staff travel around Greece to many monasteries and cultural sights.



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We went to Patras, Olympia, Zakynthos, Kalavrita, Kefalonia, Arachova, Bartholomio, and Athens while having normal camp days at Ionian Village.



A normal camp day starts early with morning prayer, breakfast, fun activities such as athletics, music and Greek culture, arts and crafts, and Orthodox life. Our free swim was in the Ionian Sea or in the brand new Olympic-sized swimming pool – talk about awesome! Camp food is not what you think it would be – it is actually incredible! Kyria Sophia cooks like your Yia-yia or almost as good as my Papou (shout out to Costa Katsoudas). I never thought I would need a siesta but with all the activities and heat – I was actually looking forward to it. The evening activities were amazing – We had a white out, a neon party, and a Greek mythology party, just to name a few. Ionian Village is Club Med for Orthodox teens!

Ionian Village is Rejuvenation. While traveling around Greece, campers see the amazing things that only our Orthodox faith has to offer. I was able to venerate the skull of St. Andrew and smell its sweetness as well as hear the tapping of St. Nektarios' cane in his empty tomb! I was also able to venerate the uncorrupted bodies of St. Dionysios, St. Gerasimos, St. Ephrem of Nea Makri, and Hosios Loukas. At one monastery, Παναγία Ελεούσα, we venerated a piece of the Virgin Mary's belt and were anointed with holy myrrh from Christ's tomb.

Ionian Village is a Connection. Not only did I grow in my faith, I gained friends for a lifetime. There is something extremely special about friends who have the same faith as you. I made friends with young people from every single Greek Orthodox Metropolis in the United States. No matter where I go, I know I have someone I know and trust. I went to Ionian Village knowing only three people there and came home having two hundred more friends - friends with whom I see Christ in their midst.

Father Evagoras was right with his opening remarks. We disconnected from the material world, experienced Greece and the true Faith, and rejuvenated in the Love of Christ. Believe the Hype! Ionian Village is an experience of a lifetime.

\*\*\*\*\*

FOURTOUNA, our HDF Advanced Junior Dance Group, had the pleasure of surprising Ms. Mary Makres on Saturday, July 18th for her 93rd Birthday at Huntersville Retirement Home. The girls' performance brought such a joy to Ms. Makres. She was elated and honored that this special dance performance was just for her. The true meaning of giving back was also emulated by the performers who, in turn, were humbled by this experience. WAY TO GO FOURTOUNA!



## Daughters of Penelope

Activities are underway to plan the organization's 20th annual Queen of Hearts High Tea and Fashion Show, which will be held at Carmel Country Club on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Fashions will be provided by TALBOTS of Charlotte.

Many tables have already been sold for next year's event. For those interested in purchasing a table of ten (10) @ \$400 please contact Dianne Leventis at [daleventis@bellsouth.net](mailto:daleventis@bellsouth.net).

Following are the dates for future Daughters events.

Wednesday, December 2: Christmas Tea at Ballantyne Resort at 3 pm

Tuesday, January 19: Preparations for the High Tea, Holy Trinity Cathedral, 6:30. Pizza will be served.

Tuesday, February 9: Final preparations for the High Tea Program. Holy Trinity Social hall. Coffee and donuts will be available.

Tuesday, March 15: Presentation of check to the Levine Cancer Institute. At the Institute at 3 pm.

Tuesday, April 19: TBD

Tuesday, May 17: TBD

The Daughters has re-printed its Holiday Classics Greek Desserts Cookbook and has it available at any of its upcoming meetings or by contacting Pat Economides at [patricia99@bellsouth.net](mailto:patricia99@bellsouth.net). Price is \$5.00. These make wonderful hostess or birthday gifts or stocking stuffers.

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## Stewardship Committee Updates

### STEWARDSHIP COMPARISON

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral is one of the larger communities of Greek Orthodox members yet we are at the bottom of the list when it comes to personal financial support of our church. Since only a small percentage of our parishioners are financial stewards of our Holy Trinity community, we fail to fully support our beloved church. We rely on a small faction of our church community to provide this needed support. Currently, only 54% of our parishioners are financially contributing. There are 46% not financially participating.

According to a survey of Greek Orthodox churches, the following statistics were reported:

Converts to Orthodoxy give almost twice as much annually to their churches as do "cradle" Orthodox when measured in actual dollar amounts (\$2,800 versus \$1,500 per average household) and they give more than twice as much when donations are measured as a percentage of a household's income (4.9% versus 2.2%).

Currently, at HTGO we average \$546 per family and have only 54% of our families making a stewardship contribution. In order to be self-supporting, we need an annual average

of \$1200/family. Demographics of our area indicate \$1200 per year per family would be 3.15% of household income.

Our 2016 Stewardship program will be underway beginning November 1st. We encourage everyone to sign up for at least one ministry by sharing your talent. Sunday School is always in short supply of teachers. The festival committee always has to plead for assistance, though it is a major source of funding for our operations. Along with your talents, please make a commitment to devote time to assisting and attending church activities.

Our goal as a community is to become free of our dependency on festival funds. A rain-out of the festival would create a financial crisis since it is a major source of operating income. We need to be self-supporting and not be financed by our festival attendees. Our festival funds should go to helping and serving the Charlotte community.

A festival-free budget would allow us to build reserve capital for building restoration, a scholarship program, and emergency and unexpected expenses.

A "member in good standing" participates by fulfilling his obligations to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

The Stewardship Committee

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**ΤΟ ΚΑΘΗΚΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΣΥΓΓΝΩΜΗΣ. -1 -**

Πολλές φορές συμβαίνει αναμεταξύ μας , σάν άνθρωποι, νά προσβάλλει ο ένας τό άλλον . Οι προσβολές πάντα επέρχονται από τό διάβολο , γιατί δέν ανέχεται τήν αγάπη μεταξύ τών Χριστιανών .Η προσβολή μεταξύ τών Χριστιανών είναι μεγάλη και επικίνδυνη κατάσταση , γιατί όποιος προσβάλλει τόν πλησίον του είναι σάν νά προσβάλλει τόν ίδιο τό Θεό , και τό αποτέλεσμα θά είναι ότι και ο Θεός δέν δέχεται τίς προσευχές μας τότε , ούτε τίς μετάνοιές μας , είτε ότι δήποτε άλλο , άν δέν αγαπηθούμε μέ τόν αδελφόν μας . Γιαντό λοιπόν : Αν καμιά φορά προσβάλλουμε

κάποιον , νά μήν αδιαφορήσουμε . Χωρίς χρονοτριβή νά τρέξουμε νά συμφιλιωθούμε μαζί του , γιά νά μήν πέσουμε στή δικαία τιμωρία και οργή τού Θεού . Σέ τέτοιες περιπτώσεις άς ταπεινωθούμε και νά ζητήσουμε συγχώρηση . Νά συμφιλιωνώμασθε μέ τόν εχθρό μας , όσο βρισκόμασθε ακόμη στή ζωή αυτή . Ο Θεός μάς υποσχέθηκε τό έλεός Του όταν μετανόήσουμε , δέν μάς υποσχέθηκε όμως ότι θά ξυπνήσουμε τήν αυριανή ημέρα !! Γιαντό νά γκρεμίσουμε τόν εγωισμό από τή καρδιά μας και μέ ταπείνωση νά σκύψουμε μπροστά στόν αδελφόν μας και νά τού ζητήσουμε συγγνώμην . Μή μάς κρατάει ο εγωισμός μας και η θέση μας στήν κοινωνία μακρυά από τή μετάνοια και τή συμφιλίωση .Και ποτέ δέν γνωρίζουμε τό ποιός από

τούς δυό μας είναι ο καλλίτερος . Ο Θεός μόνο τό γνωρίζει αυτό και μάς κρίνει αναλόγως μέ τήν εσωτερική μας κατάσταση και όχι από τά εξωτερικά . \* Κύριος εξετάζει τόν δίκαιον και τόν ασεβή\* (Ψαλμ. 10.5). Ούτε ακόμη γνωρίζουμε τό τέλος μας και τό πώς θά πεθάνει εκείνος ή και εμείς . Η ταπείνωση έχει τεράστια δύναμη , ώστε λυγίζει και μαλακώνει και τίς πιό σκληρές καρδιές . Ο Θεός δέ, πού αγαπά τήν ταπείνωση θά βιηθήσει . Ας ταπεινωθούμε , αδελφοί μου, και θά καταλάβουμε τή δύναμη τής ταπείνωσεως . Γιαντό και εμείς σάν Χριστιανοί Ορθόδοξοι νά πράττουμε ό, τι ωφελεί τήν ψυχή μας και ό, τι προστάζει ο Κύριός μας ο Θεός μας . Αμήν . Ιερέας π. Ταξιάρχης Δ. Βλάχος .

**SEDGEFIELD**

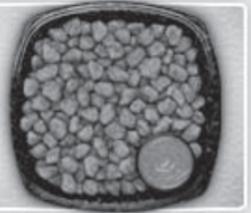
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## Preschool By Preschool Staff



### Whooo's in the News at the Preschool?

The preschool hallways are always quiet during the summer months without the sounds of the children's voices. July and August is a time for us to reflect on the previous year and to begin planning for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child or have any questions about our preschool program, please contact the preschool at 704-333-4961 or [preschool@htgo.org](mailto:preschool@htgo.org). You may also call the Co-Directors, Cindy Balatsias at 704-502-3859 or Maria Kleto at 704-564-5842.

For those of you who are not familiar with Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool, we are a religious-based half-day program. Our hours are from 9:15 am to 1:15 pm. Since a preschool experience is a child's first step into the world beyond the family, we strive to accept each child as a unique individual. We are aware of each child's emotional and educational needs and we will try to meet them with love and support. Our goal is to provide each child a challenging experience with opportunities to build relationships with other children and to enrich them with a variety of Greek language and Orthodox Christian-centered activities. Our objective is to allow each child the opportunity to master the appropriate skills needed for school readiness.

At HTGOP, it is our goal to provide an environment with optimal growth within a developmentally appropriate framework. We are committed to the fulfillment of each child's developmental needs while respecting his/her individuality. It is our job to create a positive learning environment in which each child can grow to his/her full potential.

#### Classes Available

Toddler Class (18 Months) – 2 Days a Week

Two Year Old Class – 2 Days a Week

Three Year Old Class – 3 Days a Week

Four Year Old Class – 5 Days a Week

#### Toddler Class Overview

The goal of the toddler class is to provide a safe and loving environment for your child's first school experience. Emphasis is placed on following simple directions and learning social skills through play and interaction with others. Toddlers will participate in simple art, music activities and read stories daily. They will have supervised interaction on the playground. They will concentrate on the following:

- Playing in a group environment
- Separating from parents and entering into a constant environment
- Participating in outside play
- Beginning hands-on art activities
- Experiencing simple songs and finger play

- Doing simple puzzles
- Unconditional love and redirection are strongly emphasized in this class.

#### Two Year Old Class Overview

Our two year old class is very flexible and adapts to the changing skill level and needs of the class. We provide an inviting atmosphere that encourages fun as well as discovery. Our main goals are social interaction, a positive separation from parents, listening skills and potty training. They will concentrate on the following:

- Following the daily routine
- Beginning to learn to share
- Participating in "circle" time
- Painting, pasting and coloring
- Beginning to recognize colors and simple shapes in Greek and English
- Following a one-step direction
- Assisting with the mastery of "toilet training"

#### Three Year Old Class Overview

Our main goals in the three year old class consists of making an easy transition from home to school, developing good listening skills, learning to follow simple directions and independence. This class provides a time for your children to practice new-found independence as well as introducing them to limits and schedules. Gross and fine motor skills, communication, listening, and self-help are emphasized and encouraged.

- Introduction and recognition of the Greek and English language and alphabet
- Following simple instructions
- Sharing and playing with others
- Manipulating a paintbrush, cutting with scissors and experimenting with other art mediums
- Recognizing their first name in English and the names of others in their class
- Recognizing numbers 1 through 10 in Greek and English
- Knowing primary colors and basic shapes in Greek and English
- Mastering simple math manipulatives
- Being self-reliant with their clothing
- Developing large motor skills through games and activities on the playground

#### Four Year Old Class Overview

Our goal in the four year old class is to provide a Kindergarten readiness program while encouraging creative free-play. They are exposed to the alphabet as well as early math skills; however, the mastering of these is not our main goal. Teachers will stress cooperative play, listening skills, self-reliance and self-control. We will provide a loving, caring and stimulating environment which will encourage the development of happy, thoughtful, curious, self-confident

children ready to enter Kindergarten. We will also concentrate on the following:

- Further development of fine motor skills
- Knowing primary and secondary colors
- Identifying and naming the letters of the English alphabet
- Demonstrating phonetic awareness
- Printing own name correctly
- Mastering simple math skills (patterning, sorting, and one-to-one relationships, etc.)
- Participating in the whole language experience
- Following complex instructions and sitting and listening
- Working on their own for a limited time as preparation for school
- Distinguishing differences through sight, hearing and texture
- Developing an awareness of the world around them through science
- Having good health habits and manners
- Recognizing simple patterns and relationships
- Acquiring knowledge of the Orthodox faith



And Jesus said,  
"Let the little Children come to me"  
Matthew 19:14



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## GOYA-HOPE/JOY News

### Vacation Bible School 2015

Vacation Bible School was held at Holy Trinity from June 15-18th. It was open to children ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. Over 100 children registered and 50 GOYA volunteers assisted with many activities throughout the week.

The theme this year was Parables, which allowed the children to grow closer to Christ and learn about their Orthodox Christian faith, while having some summer fun. The four parables discussed were the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the Ten Talents and the Good Shepherd.

It was a week filled with daily worship, Bible classes, arts and crafts, singing and a grand finale performance for the children's families.

The dedication of Fr. Gregory, parents, youth and organizers made it a huge success. Thank you all for your support!

### HTC Youth helping at the Yiasou 5k Run on August 29



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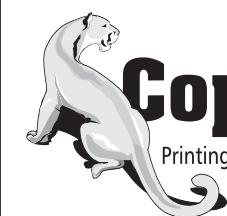
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**Fr. Gregory's Farewell Celebration**

**Service:**  
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**Jimmy Pappas assisting with the preparation of Diples for the Festival**





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