



THE VOICE

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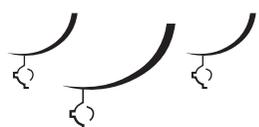
MAY-JUN 2016

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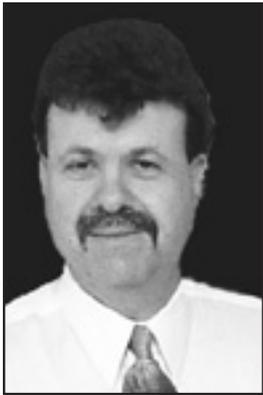
Our Mission

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,

I hope you are having a great summer. At the time of this writing, Holy Trinity welcomes our new priest, Father Vasileios Tsourlis. Look for a complete biography of Father, Presvytera and their family in the next issue of The Voice.

We want to wish Father Angelo and Presvytera Patricia success in their new Parish.

I also want to congratulate our 12th graders who graduated in the past month and are featured in this issue. May you always have success in your careers and, more importantly, in family and life.



Editor Politis greets Fr. Vasileios in his office on July 1.

I will keep this short and sweet, everybody have a great summer.

Until next time, be safe.

Angelo Pete Politis

Voice Editorial and Business Staff

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The Voice Submissions Schedule for 2016

Below is the deadline schedule for submitting articles, photographs, and advertisements to The Voice for inclusion in the remaining issues for 2016.

Issue	Deadline	Highlights
JUL-AUG	Friday, August 19, 2016	Renovations update
SEP-OCT	Friday, October 14, 2016	New Ecclesiastical and school year; Yiasou Festival
NOV-DEC	Friday, December 16, 2016	Thanksgiving and Christmas

YIASOU FESTIVAL

Thursday - Sunday

September 8 - 11

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Remarks From Father Angelo



by Father Angelo Artemas
Dean of the Cathedral

Spirituality

Why do people like to attend sporting events, operas, movies, concerts and dances? Perhaps because when people come together with others with the same interests, there is a certain spirit in the air. Fanaticism or being a fan makes more sense when one is with others. One cannot be considered a true fan if they turn down tickets because they would rather stay at home and watch on television or listen on a speaker.

Most people do not think twice about attending a favorite event with thousands of other people, until they are invited to church. Why is it that so many adults will argue that they don't have to go to church in order to be

spiritual? What is being spiritual?

By definition "spirit" is something that comes from outside the person, not from within the person. The Hebrew word for spirit is "wind." There is only one type of wind that comes from within the person, and that is not a pleasant wind. Spirit is something that comes from outside and has an impact and an effect on people. That is why there is a spirit in the air at stadiums, ballparks, theaters and other centers. Even alcohol at one time in America was referred to as "spirits" because alcohol came from outside the person and had an imbibing effect on the drinker.

If one would argue that they don't have to go to church to be spiritual, the question to ask is where does the spirit of their spirituality come from? Does the spirit come from the newspaper, the television, music, or their friends? Does the spirit come from their dorm, school, or their car? Does the spirit come from their internal fuzzy feelings about God? St. John of the Ladder writes "He who has himself for his spiritual father has a fool for a spiritual father."

Going outside of oneself and joining others has always been an essential element of spirituality - even in monasticism. Many adults feel indifferent, stagnant or even bored with religion, but a sure way to revive spirituality is to go and join others in worship and fellowship.

For too many people, going to the local parish may seem too familiar or too ordinary, but going is always an opportunity to reinvigorate our souls and our lives. Worshiping with others has a way of reawakening one's true spirituality, and can change the way we worship at home.

Enough of the frivolous excuses and shallow arguments. One cannot be spiritual in a vacuum. Go to Church!

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Upcoming Notable Church Feast Days and Events					
DORMITION FAST BEGINS	HOLY TRANSFIGURATION	DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS	BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST	NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS	EXHALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Monday August 1	Saturday August 6	Monday August 15	Monday August 29	Thursday September 8	Wednesday September 14
Other Important Events and Dates					
CATHEDRAL OFFICE CLOSED	CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT (BB&T BALLPARK)	YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL 5K ROAD RACE	FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR YIASOU FESTIVAL	YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL BEGINS	BASILE THE COMEDIAN BASILE & BOUZOUKIA
Monday August 15	Saturday August 20	Saturday August 27	Weekend September 3 - 5	Thursday September 8	Saturday October 15

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Remarks From Father Theodore



by **Father Theodore Ehmer**
Associate Priest

Thoughts for Graduation Time...

With May and June comes the end of the school year, otherwise known as the best time of the year (or at least it was when I was growing up!) And along with the end of the school year, we come to the time of graduation. There are lots of graduations around this time of year: Greek School, Pre-School, High School, College, and many more. We have been very fortunate to have many wonderful graduation ceremonies at the Cathedral this spring to celebrate our graduates from our community. Congratulations to all the graduates!

Why do we celebrate graduations? There are a lot of different answers that we might give to this question. To get together to commemorate a job well done for completing something, to give praise to the one who is graduating, to implore those who are about to go on to bigger things. Really, it is all of these things. It is the acknowledgment and appreciation of reaching a certain point in life. Our lives are journeys; they are (hopefully) ascents to bigger and brighter things. Each graduation is like reaching another plateau of that journey.

Each of these “graduations” marks a point on that ascent. Thankfully, those close to us, parents, godparents, grandparents, etc. have assisted us along the way. However, we eventually hit big milestones, such as high school or college graduation, or even graduation from singlehood to married life if one could call that a graduation. At this point, this is when we begin to venture into the steep accents, the wilderness of adulthood, married life, parenthood. Using the climbing analogy, if we are climbing in an unknown place, we need

to have guides or else we will lose our way. If we don't have a seasoned guide or a good map, we might stumble across pits, bears, or who knows what else that might harm us. This same reality is especially true for us when it comes to our spiritual life which is at the center of our lives whether we acknowledge it or not. How do we make our way through all of the unknowns of life, up an unknown path that can be full of snares ready to entrap us?

Ultimately, Christ is the path Himself. He says as much in the 14th chapter of the Gospel of St. John when he says: “Εγώ ειμι ἡ ὁδός.” This is often translated as I am the Way. But this could also be translated as: I am the Road, or, I am the Path. He is the Way, the Road, the Path which leads to Truth and Life. But how do we keep that from just being a vague concept? Well, let me suggest three important things for graduates, and all of us. First, being close to Holy Scripture is extremely important. It is written in the Psalms, “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” We need to make a real effort to read the inspired words of the Bible more often. Try to make it a daily habit to read a page or even part of a page for edification, guidance, and wisdom. Second, it is important to be close to a guide for our journey. In the 8th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, we read of the Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip. The Eunuch recognized that he could not understand the spiritual life without a guide. We all need guides to help us along the Way. We, the priests are here to help with that. And we have those who help to guide us along the Way, as well. And finally, it is important to be close to the Church where we come into contact with Christ Himself. We come into contact with Christ through His Holy Mysteries. By partaking of the Mysteries: Holy Communion, Confession, Unction, and others, we keep in close contact with Christ through the ways that He ordained for us. The Holy Mysteries continually strengthen us for the journey of life.

These are just three small suggestions that I believe can make a big difference in our lives to help us as we reach new plateaus in life. May God always grant us the wisdom and understanding to always be ascending towards greater communion with Him and with one another and to help us towards the greatest “graduation” of all, that to eternal life!

PC President's Message



by **John Mahairas**

Greetings Holy Trinity Parishioners,

I sincerely hope all is well with you and your families. On behalf of all of us here at Holy Trinity I would like to congratulate all of our Sunday School and Greek school graduates. Both of these programs had an outstanding year! We wish you the best in the years to come. Please keep Holy Trinity in your hearts and always feel that our church is your home.

As most of you are aware construction on our renovation project is in full swing. The contractor has made tremendous progress moving forward with the construction. To date, we are on schedule with our construction timeline. One of our main goals with the construction project is to have most if not all of the project paid for as soon as possible. Fundraising has gone well so far but we still have a good portion of the project to pay for. Please do your part and make a

pledge or donation today. We need every parishioner's participation in this area in order to achieve our goal.

Our Greek festival is quickly approaching and as a community we need to focus on making this year's festival a huge success. Festival preparations are well on their way and I ask everyone to contribute their time and talents in order to have a very successful festival. There are many areas you may assist with. Everyone is encouraged to come out and help not just during the festival but also with the preparations before the festival. The weekend before the festival is a very important preparation period. Please mark your calendars from now to come out and lend a helping hand.

In closing, I wish everyone a safe, joyful, relaxing summer.

Yours in Christ,

John Mahairas

The Holy and Great Council of 2016

AS REPORTED ON GOARCH.ORG

KOLYMBARI (Chania, Crete), Greece – The work of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church convened June 20, 2016, the Feast of the Holy Spirit, at the Orthodox Academy of Crete after almost a thousand years and despite the decision of four Churches not to participate.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew presides over the Council. The following nine Primates of the Orthodox Autocephalous Churches and their respective honorable delegations are participating: His Beatitude Patriarch Theodoros II of Alexandria and All Africa, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Daniel of Romania, His Beatitude Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus, His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and all Greece, His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania, His Beatitude Metropolitan Sawa of Warsaw and All Poland, His Beatitude Archbishop Rastislav of Czech Lands and Slovakia.

Absent from the Council are their Beatitudes, Patriarch John of Antioch, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, Patriarch Neophyte of Bulgaria and Patriarch Ilia of Georgia, Primates of their respective autocephalous churches.

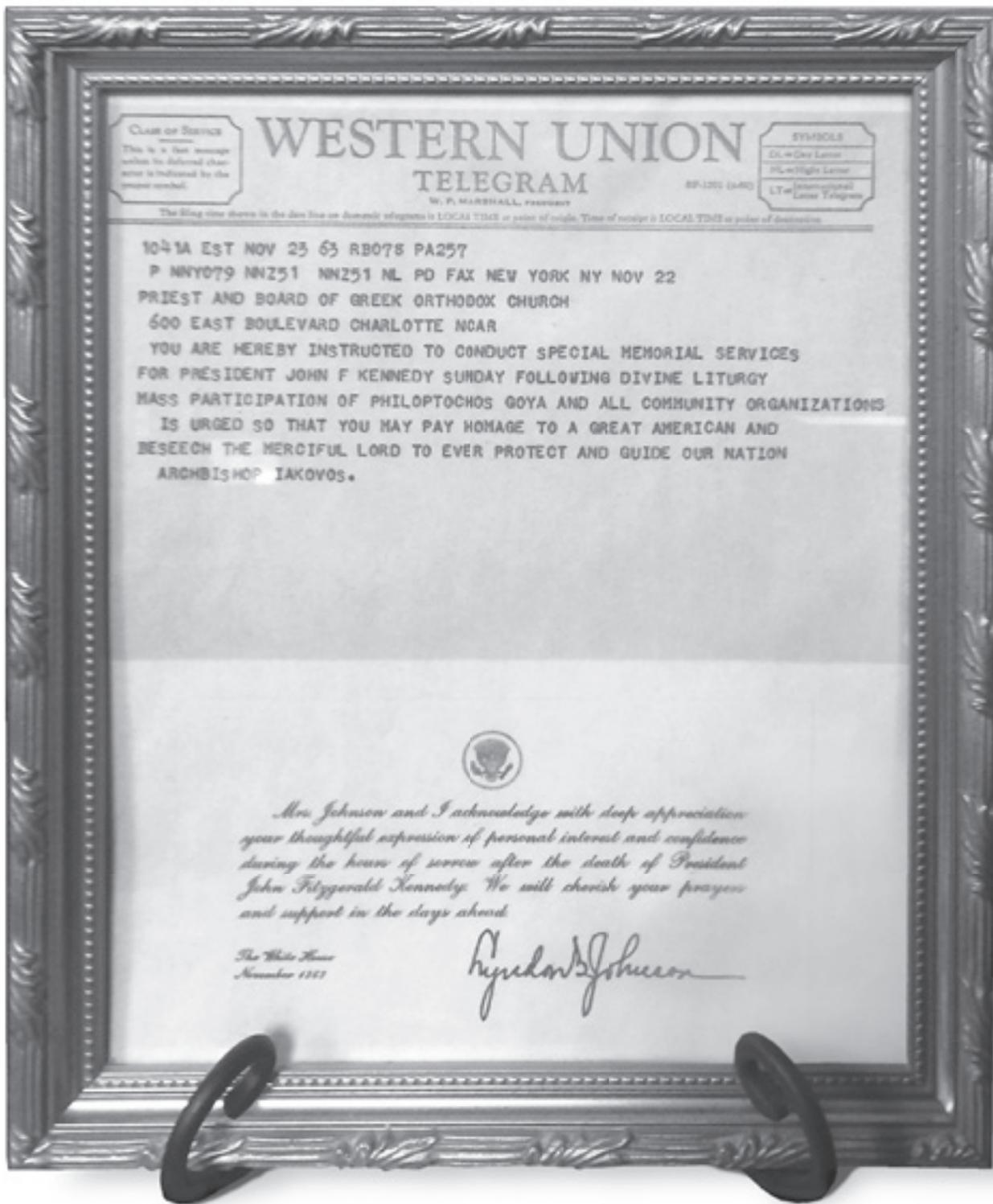
The date of June 19 was the date of the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicaea in 325 AD. This fact was noted by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, as on June 19, 2016 the Holy and Great Council of 2016 AD commenced with the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy celebration of the Holy Feast of Pentecost - calling all in unity. His All-Holiness posed the question at some point: coincidence or divine providence?

The topics for discussion included:

- The Importance of Fasting and Its Observance Today
- Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World
- Autonomy and the Means by Which it is Proclaimed
- The Orthodox Diaspora
- The Sacrament of Marriage and its Impediments
- The Mission of the Orthodox Church in Today's World

A website, www.orthodoxcouncil.org, provides background information on the Holy and Great Council, which met in Crete June 16-27 and gathered representatives from the 14 autocephalous (internally self-governing) Orthodox Churches to discuss issues.

2016
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September 8-11



FROM THE ARCHIVES BY GLORIA KONTOULAS

Greetings to Fellow Parishioners from the Holy Trinity Archives.

In the last issue of the Voice, we recognized past Voice Editor Helen Beleos and her tremendous contribution to Holy Trinity's archival collection. In this issue of the Voice I have decided to focus on a single piece of memorabilia. During the library renovation two of our volunteers, Jerri Holevas and Kiki Karres, discovered this piece of history while sorting through the archives. It certainly caught their attention. I hope it catches yours!

The picture is of a telegram sent by Archbishop Iakovos requesting our Holy Trinity Community for prayers and a special memorial service for President John F. Kennedy at the time of his assassination, followed by an acknowledgment from Lyndon B. Johnson, thanking Archbishop Iakovos for his prayers and support.

Please remember the archive collection consists of many different items, and are available for viewing and research. The collection includes:

- Copies of Holy Trinity parish directories
- A copy of Voice issues since 1947.
- Photographs and newspaper articles featuring landmark events, such as 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.



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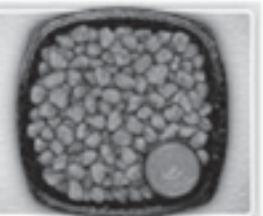
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ΠΕΝΘΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ

Pete Foster (1930 - 2016)

Pete Jim Foster "Panagiotis Dimitrios Fotopoulos", 85, passed away on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. A funeral service was held on Monday, 2 pm, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The family received friends thirty minutes prior to the service. Burial was at Gethsemane Memorial Gardens. Arrangements entrusted to Boston's Mortuary.

Harry Gus Karras Ph.D.

Harry G. Karras, Ph.D passed away early Monday morning, May 16, 2016, and was celebrated Saturday, May 21, 2016 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC. Visitation started at 1 PM with the services beginning at 2 PM.

Harry was born Eleutherios Kostandinos Karagounis in Agrinion, Greece on May 14, 1939, and was preceded in death by his parents, Bill Gus Karras and Lambrini Koltsidas Karras. His early years were deeply impacted by his experiences in German occupied Greece when his family survived by hiding in the mountains.

Arriving in Concord, NC in 1946, he became Harry Karras named after President Harry Truman.

All knew Harry for a scholar as he quickly learned English and pursued first, physics studies at Duke University and eventually the doctoral program in clinical psychology at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, graduating in 1970. He completed

a year's internship at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, GA. He was Director of Consultation, Education, Research and Training at the Mental Health Center on Billingsley Road in Charlotte.

Harry was a master clinician of the highest degree and devoted his professional career to helping people live better lives. He had many specializations including obtaining his approved Consultant Status in Clinical Hypnosis after years of training.

Always a student, Harry supervised many beginning therapists, and held the highest ethical standards. He seemed unaware of how either his direct and personal work with people or his training of others cast a vast ripple of healing and helping. So many have been touched by his caring ways, and always with an irrepressible sense of humor and delight.

Harry enjoyed his wife of 49 years, Jeanne Pappas Karras, working alongside him in his Charlotte Psychotherapy Clinic from 1972 until 2003. In retirement, Harry continued to mentor, study and learn. Within the Mecklenburg Psychological Association, he was President and Past President and Chairman of the Ethics and Professional Practice Committee for the North Carolina Psychological Association.

His passion was music, and in the early 60's, Harry was both a performer and a producer of beach music earning three gold records for songs he produced and published. This interest continued all his life.

Harry is survived by the love of his life, his wife Jeanne Karras, and his son, Dr. Dean Karras; his wife, Michelle; four grandchildren, Christopher, Eleni, Sabrina and Tony all of Wilmington, NC and one godchild, Emily Ferguson of Charlotte, NC.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Building Fund.

Arrangements were in the care of Kenneth Poe Services, 1321 Berkeley Ave., Charlotte, NC, 704-641-7606.

Peter Dimitrios Tatsis

Peter Dimitrios Tatsis, 84, fell asleep in the Lord on June 6, 2016 surrounded by his family. He was born in Asimohori, Epirus, Greece on August 15, 1931. He immigrated to the U.S. at age 19 following the Greek Civil War and settled in New York City for 5 years. He married his wife of 58 years, Antonia, on February 9, 1958. They then settled in Charlotte, NC. Along with his wife, Peter operated many restaurants including the Hutchinson Avenue Grill, Tatsis Restaurant, the Patriot Restaurant, Tasos Restaurant and the Crimson House Restaurant. When he semi-retired, he became a courier for First Union Bank in Charlotte. Peter was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral where he served on the parish council and was a choir member for many years. He was also a member at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church.

Peter had a great love of family. He sponsored the immigration of his siblings and their families to the U.S. He stressed the value of hard work and education to everyone. He was a lover of Greek music and dancing, especially his beloved Epirotika from the Northern section of Greece. In his early years, he loved recording super 8 movies and videos of family vacations and significant family events. He continued to watch these recordings throughout his life.

The Tatsis family greeted friends from 11:00 AM until 11:30 AM, Thursday, the 9th of June 2016 at St.

Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church. The Funeral Service followed at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery.

Peter is survived by his wife, Antonia, his son, His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, his daughter Alexandra P. Tatsis, brothers: Tasos Tatsis, Angelo Tatsis and his wife, Avgoula; sister in law, Anthoula Tatsis, all of Charlotte, Reverend Dionysios Tatsis and Presbytera Marianthi, sisters Ekaterina Skourtis and Evthokia Siozos, all of Greece, many nieces and nephews and his Godson, Tommy G. Holevas and a very special little boy, Nathan.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Reverend Dimitrios Tatsis and Presbytera Georgia, his brother, Nickolaos D Tatsis, sister in law Sophia Tatsis, and niece, Vivian Tatsis Stergiou and a God-daughter, Flora Koulouris.

The family would like to thank Dr. John Holevas and Dr. Samuel Peretsman and the nurses and staff of Novant Health Presbyterian - Main Intensive Care Unit for all of the care, love and support.

Notes of encouragement and condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.ellingtonfuneralservices.com.

Memorials may be to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Renovation Fund, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203 or St. Nektarios Greek Church building fund, 5108 Kuykendall Road, Charlotte, NC 28270.

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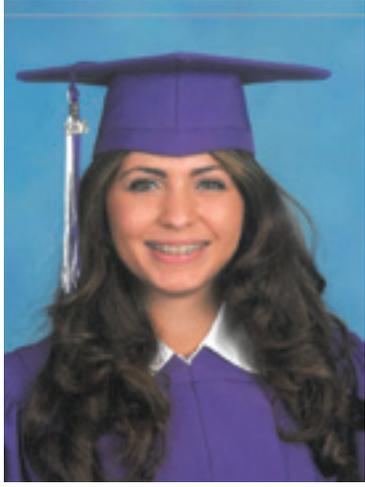
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2016 Graduates

EKATERINI ELIZABETH LIVAS (KATIA)

Ardrey Kell High School



Katia is the daughter of Lukas and Loren Livas.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society, and Knights in Action Program where she completed

over 100 hours of community service.

As a faithful member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral where she attended preschool and Sunday School, she danced at the Greek Festival for 13 years, competed with HDF for 4 years and actively participated in GOYA.

Katia has volunteered for JDRF, Hands On Charlotte, Ronald McDonald House, Second Harvest Food Bank, Urban Ministries, Goodwill, Loaves and Fishes, Girl Scouts, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

After spending the summer in Greece, Katia will attend the University of South Carolina in Columbia where she has been accepted in the Pre-Pharmacy program.

ALEXANDRA NICOLE CHOATE

Butler High School



She graduated from Butler High School with honors.

Alexandra was the Editor-in-Chief of the Butler yearbook, Historian of the Senior Board, Treasurer of the District Key Club, Publicist of the Social

Advocacy Club, and active member of the National Honor Society. She maintained an A Honor Roll throughout her four years of high school, while also being awarded both the AP Scholar Award and the Sewanee Award for Excellence in Writing. As a Senior Marshall, she graduated in the top 25 of the David W. Butler High School class of 2016. Alexandra graduated first in her Greek School class, leading her to pass the first two levels of Ellhnomaqeiα with honors. She also spent many years dancing at the Yiasou Greek Festival, playing church basketball, volunteering at need-based charities, teaching Greek dance at the Holy Trinity Vacation Bible School, and competing and placing at HDF, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, and Winter Youth Rally. Alexandra plans to pursue an undergraduate degree in Media and Journalism.

ISABELLA BRENDELE

Myers Park High School



Isabella attended Myers Park all four years. She was a member of the FFA (Future Farmers of America) club all four years and was selected treasurer her senior year. At the end of her high school career, she received the Education

Achievement Award. She played lacrosse for MPHS for two years, then stopped to focus on her academics. She played basketball for Holy Trinity starting at age 6 and finishing at age 18. She will be spending her summer on a cruise in the Caribbean with her family, visiting her godmother in L.A. and getting ready for the life ahead of her.

Isabella will be attending Appalachian State University to study Business Management.

VICTORIA CONSTANCE KANOS

Weddington High School



Victoria is the daughter of Georgia and Deno Kanos. During high school, she received her certification in Microsoft Word and Excel. She was a cheerleader, powderpuff football player, a member of Key Club and a member of

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

She studied Spanish in high school and graduated from Holy Trinity Greek School. She took the Ellinomatheia Exams administered by the Greek Ministry of Education and received her certificate of attainment in the Greek language, which also earned her several college credits.

Victoria danced for the Greek Festival since Kindergarten. She participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and Hellenic Dance Festival. She attended the Winter Youth Rally and St. Stephen's camp.

She volunteered at the Yiasou Greek Festival and the annual 5K race.

Throughout her schooling, Victoria actively worked and helped out her mother with her other siblings after school.

Victoria will be attending the Central Piedmont Community College for basic courses, then transferring to a university to receive B.S. in Dental Hygiene.

ANDRIANNA STAVROULA DALLIS

Ronald Reagan High School, Pfafftown, NC



Andrianna was a member of the National Honors Society and National Latin Honors Society. She was designated a North Carolina Scholar and AP Scholar with Distinction. She was on the varsity tennis team, captain

of History and General Knowledge Academic Team, and Latin Club in school. She participated in Hellenic Dance Festival and was a member of GOYA.

This summer she will be spending time with family & visiting Greece.

Andrianna will be attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall.

VASILLIOS G. PISTOLIS

Ardrey Kell High School



Vasillios (Billy) is the son of George and Vivi Pistolis.

In high school, he was in the Marine Corps Junior ROTC (MCJROTC) for four years. He was very active in soccer. He played with

Holy Trinity and spent 7 years with CUFC. He has trained in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and participated in several competitions, where he has placed First and Second in separate events.

Vasillios has enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and will be leaving for boot camp at Parris Island, SC in July.

ELIOT C. MCGINNIS

South Mecklenburg High School



Eliot is the son of Cliff and Elise (Sugar) McGinnis. Eliot has attended Sunday School at Holy Trinity since he was three years old. He has also served in the altar, volunteered and danced at

the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Eliot is an Eagle Scout and has earned three Eastern Orthodox Religious awards. He has volunteered as a climbing instructor at a summer Scout camp for the past three years. Eliot has received the Gold and Bronze Presidential Service Award during his 11th and 12th grades

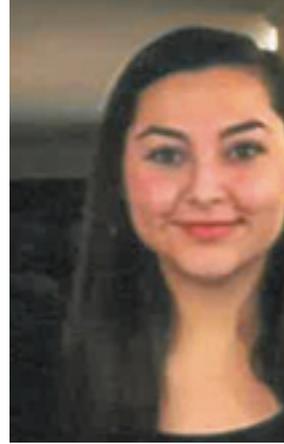
for community service.

Eliot's school accomplishments include AP Scholar, Four-year A/B Honor, National Honor Society Beta Club, National Social Studies Advanced Chamber of Commerce, and Odyssey of the Mind Finals three times.

Eliot will be attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

DESPINA

Harding University



She attended elementary school (K-6) programs, and for the church team (7-12). She participated in the Hellenic Dance Festival and attended the Winter Youth Rally championship basketball.

Despina has been on the varsity basketball team in high school and was a member of the National Honor Society in Schools.

She will attend Central Piedmont Community College this fall and plan to be a dental assistant or a pharmacist.

CHRISTOS PANAYIOTIS

Providence High School



Occupational Students of the Year. He enjoyed playing travel basketball at the United, lacrosse his junior year, and was a senior at Providence High School.

He was an active member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral where he was born and now attends Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He was a volunteer and dancer at the Yiasou Greek Festival. He participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, Hellenic Dance Festival, basketball, St. Stephen's Youth Rally, Norfolk Youth Rally, and the St. Photios Service Award during his past spring.

ishments include:

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Choir

-competed at the World

g the University of North

ZAGANAS

ity High School



Despina has participated in the Yiasou Greek Festival as a dancer and volunteer since she was in kindergarten. She attended Holy Trinity's Sunday School (K-12) and Greek

She played basketball (12) and participated in several competitions. She was on the team in 2014.

the A-B Honor Roll in member of Communities

al Piedmont Community ns to major to become a pharmacist.

AGIOTOPOULOS

High School



Christos is the son of Bill and Kathy (Makriannis) Panagiotopoulos.

In high school Christos was a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), DECA and Health

of America (HOSA). He played soccer for Atlanta Fire prior year and rugby as a

member of the Annunciation Cathedral of Atlanta - where he served as an altar boy, and competed at the Greek Festival. He attended St. John Chrysostom and enjoyed GOYA events: Summer Camp, Winter Basketball Tournament, and a senior trip in Florida this

He dedicated his time volunteering for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), soup kitchen at St. John the Wonderworker in Atlanta, and the local Red Cross.

This summer he is looking forward to traveling and continue working at Harris Teeter.

Christos plans to attend Central Piedmont Community College and transfer to the University of South Carolina to continue his studies.

SOPHIA POLITIS

Hickory Ridge High School, Harrisburg, NC



Sophia is the daughter of Andy and Gwen Politis.

During this summer, Sophia will be helping at a music camp.

She will attend the University of South Carolina. Her interest is in forensic psychology.

LENA POLEMIDES

Weddington High School



Lena graduated with Honors. She was a member of Honors Chorus, Drama Club, Environmental Club, FFA, DECA, and participated in school plays.

Lena attended Holy Trinity Greek School for 7 years. She has participated in the Yiasou Greek Festival Dance program for 13 years and in the Hellenic Dance Festival for 4 years. She was a member of the award winning Holy Trinity basketball team and played for 4 years. She has also participated in many other church youth activities. This summer, she is volunteering as an instructor for the rising kindergarten Yiasou Festival dance group.

She will attend Central Piedmont Community College this fall and transfer after two years to UNC Charlotte. Her interests are health and business.

KLIMIS K. PLAKAS

Highland School of Technology, Gastonia, NC



Klimis is the son of Konstantinos Plakas and Dina Koutsoupas.

He was involved in the computer engineering program and a member of Earth Club and Health

Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

Klimis enjoys participating in all outdoor activities, especially fishing and camping.

He will attend East Carolina University in the fall and major in a computer sciences field.

ANDREANNA PITTMAN (ANDI)

Ardrey Kell High School



Andreanna graduated from Ardrey Kell with Honors.

She was a member of the National Honor Society, the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Women's Chamber Honors

Chorus, Acapella Club and the Key Club.

Andi attended Holy Trinity Greek School for 7 years and graduated with Honors. She continued to volunteer at Greek School for two more years, after graduation, as a classroom assistant.

She has participated in Holy Trinity's Yiasou Greek Festival Dance Program for 13 years and in the Hellenic Dance Festival Competition for 4 years. In her senior year, she joined Holy Trinity's senior basketball team. Over the years, Andi has participated and volunteered in numerous church youth activities and trips. Presently, she is volunteering as an instructor for the rising Kindergarten Yiasou Festival dance groups. She also volunteers regularly with Socrates Academy Charter School with a great love for kids and educations.

Andi was accepted at UNCC, Queens University and Wingate University.

She plans to attend Queens University in the fall with a variety of interests in education, psychology, music and biology.

CHRISTOS GEORGE XYRAFAKIS

Myers Park High School



Chris is the son of George and Katerina Xyrafakis.

In high school, Chris was a member of DECA, Future Farmers of America (FFA), and played on the Myers Park Rugby team his junior and senior years.

Chris' church activities included serving in the altar, participating in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, attended St. Stephen's Camp, and was a Yiasou Festival volunteer. He was a dancer on teams that performed at the Yiasou Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival. Chris was on the basketball and soccer teams for Holy Trinity. He was a volunteer for the Vacation Bible School and a member of GOYA for several years and served as its president in 2015-2016.

He will attend Central Piedmont Community College this fall for two years and transfer to North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC and major in engineering.

DANIELLE STAVROPOULOS

Charlotte Catholic High School



Danielle's summer plans include lots of travel. She is going to Denver, CO to visit family and friends that she met last year at the Ionian Village. She is headed to Florida in early July to

visit other Ionian Village friends, before heading to Nevada with her family at the time of the AHEPA National Convention.

She will attend East Carolina University in Greenville, NC this fall. She plans to transfer to Belmont University in Nashville, TN to complete her studies in music business.

DEMI PISTOLIS

Myers Park High School



Demi participated for 8 years on Holy Trinity's basketball team, 2 years of Future Farmers of America (FFA), 2 years of part time work at Harris Teeter, where she recently went full time, and other

extra-curricular activities.

Demi will be attending Central Piedmont Community College for two years and transfer to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to study Business Management.

ALEXANDER CHRIS POULIMENOS

Weddington High School



Alexander's achievements in high school included membership in the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Spanish Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and Key Club. He

also played soccer all four years and was a member of the varsity team that won the 3A NC State Championship in 2015.

He was an active GOYA member and played soccer and basketball on Holy Trinity teams. He also danced at the Yiasou Festival and Hellenic Dance Festival. He also volunteered on various community outreach programs.

He will attend North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC starting this fall.

National Oratorical Festival comes to Charlotte

By GEORGE ZOGZAS

The 2016 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival held its national finals in Charlotte the weekend of June 10 through 12. The Festival was hosted by St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church with activities for the participants and their families on Friday and Saturday.

Aside from the speakers, the highlight of the event was the attendance of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America. The Archbishop arrived on Friday evening and concluded the weekend by celebrating the Archierarchical Divine Liturgy at St. Nektarios on Sunday, June 12. Fr. Theodore participated in the celebration of the service with His Eminence.

There were 9 Junior Division and 9 Senior Division participants, one from each metropolis in the Americas. They delivered their speeches Saturday morning to an audience that included their families and friends, parishioners, and clergy from the surrounding communities. Fr. Angelo and Presvytera Patricia, Fr. Theodore and Presvytera Stacey, joined other parishioners from Holy Trinity on hand to hear the speeches.

After delivering the opening prayer, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios was seated in a chair placed in the main aisle next to the second pew. This gave him an unobstructed view of the speakers, and vice versa. Rev. Fr. Steve Dalber welcomed the participants and attendees, and was followed with brief remarks by Dr. Anton C. Vrame, Director of the Department of Religious Education for the Archdiocese. Presvytera Margaret Orfanakos, Chairperson of the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival, introduced the judges for the competition.

There were separate three judge panels, one for the Junior Division and one for the Senior Division. Rev. Fr. Robert Lawrence, the parish priest of St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church in Mooresville, NC, served as a Junior Division judge. Deacon Paul Tsahakis, MD, of St. Nektarios, served as a Senior



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America arrives for the National Festival.

Division judge.

All 18 speakers delivered their speeches with confidence, passion for their subjects, and engaged the audience fully. The presentations were completed in a little over two hours. Afterwards, the speakers went next door for the Awards Luncheon. Fr. Angelo served as master of ceremonies.

Though not represented at the finals, Holy Trinity participants had a very successful run in this year's Oratorical Festival. On February 28, 2016, our local festival culminated with the selection of two winners each from the Junior Division (Stavros Boardman and Mimi Dizes) and the Senior Division (Constantine Boardman and Floriana Boardman).

The four winners then competed in the district level competition held in Fayetteville, NC. Three of our four

Continued on page 12



His Eminence delivers the opening prayer.



Archbishop Demetrios and Director Vrame talk during a break between speakers.

Photos by Sam Kleto



His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, center right with some of the clergy in attendance for the Festival including Fr. Steve Dalber center left, Fr. Angelo, 4th from right and Fr. Theodore, 2nd from right.



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Volunteers work with students making crafts



Break time for the GOYA volunteers



Learning to dance as a group



Vacation Bible School 2016

2016 Vacation Bible School students and volunteers



Success with crafts based on the smiles on the faces

BY AMBER TSUMAS

Vacation Bible School was held at Holy Trinity from June 13-16th. It was open to children ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. Over 110 children registered and 50 GOYA volunteers assisted with many activities throughout the week.

The theme this year was “Our Feast Day Celebration”, which allowed the children to grow closer to Christ and learn about their Orthodox Christian faith, while having some summer fun. The first three days focused on the particular theme that our church, homes and bodies are temples of God. On Thursday the focus was on the actual feast day of the Pentecost. 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. Angelo, Fr. Theodore, parents, youth and organizers made it a huge success. Thank you all for your support!



Students in the Cathedral listening to Fr. Angelo



Joanna Kakouras leads a class on singing hymns



Fr. Angelo leads a discussion on the Major Feast Days



Sports activities with the volunteers

From the Choir Loft BY OLGA YAMALIS

News from the loft

As the Cathedral choirs come towards the end of another Sunday School year and last quarter of the ecclesiastical year, we know what it takes, it takes faith. On one side, we face Palm Sunday with dread and work our way through Holy Week all the way to the joyful anticipation of Pascha and His Resurrection. The choirs brave Holy Week chanting through the alleluia's, the many responses, the Hymn of Kassiani, the Lamentations, Come Receive the Light to Christos Anesti. The Lenten season, Holy Week and Ascension is invaluable to us all. Thank you to all the members of choirs, chanters and clergy who participated and were present--thank you for all you do!

During our choir's summertime break between Pentecost (June 19) and Assumption of the Virgin Mary (August 15), our Cathedral choirs and surrounding area choirs in the Atlanta Metropolis will be preparing for the

upcoming 40th Annual Southeastern Federation Choir Conference. This year's choir conference will be held at St. Mark's Greek Orthodox Church in Boca Raton, FL on July 28-31. We anticipate to hold regional practices with other choirs from our metropolis in June/early July where we will be chanting The Liturgy of Peace composed by Christopher Kypros. This year's conference Guest Conductor is the composer, Christopher Kypros. The Youth Guest Conductor is Stacey Norton of Holy Trinity Orlando, FL. The Southeastern Federation (SFGOCM) President is our very own Dr. Philip Thevaos. More information on the conference will follow in the next Voice edition.

Psalm 89:1 I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

REACH OUR READERS

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PANEGYRI in the PLATEIA

Πανηγύρι στην Πλατεία

On Sunday, June 19th, our Cathedral hosted the 3rd annual "Panegyri in the Plateia". The community gathered in celebration of Pentecost, our Cathedral's name day. This followed the 20 year memorial for Fr. "C" and 4-month memorial for Presvytera Kathryn. If that was not enough, it was Father's Day.

Due to the construction in the courtyard, tables and chairs were setup on the front lawn. The food tent, serving many ala carte items, was setup in the parking area behind Father C Hall. 18 lambs were cooked by many volunteers who brought their spits from home. Besides lamb by the pound, the menu included souvlaki-

on-a-stick, rotisserie chicken, Greek potato salad, and horiatki salad. Greek music was playing thanks to DJ Sheltz! Drinks and ice cream were available at a separate tent setup just below the steps at the entrance side to the hall.

We want to thank all who helped organize, cook, and prepare for this wonderful event. A very special thank you to Mr. John Fragakis who arranged for the delicious food and coordinated the volunteers who cooked the food. A great time was had by all who attended. God granted us beautiful weather for a wonderful community and family event

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Oratorical Festival Continued from page 10

winners, Constantine, Floriana and Mimi, advanced to the Metropolis of Atlanta Festival in Daytona, FL held on May 14.

The Holy Trinity Oratorical Festival has been guided by Mrs. Jerri Holevas. Through the many years that she has led this effort, her passion and enthusiasm for the Festival has not diminished. She has seen what the process can teach its participants about their Faith as well as the confidence they gain from public

speaking. Holy Trinity's young people have benefited from Jerri's commitment to them and the high ideals of the Festival.

Here is looking forward to January 2017 when Holy Trinity's students once again are presented with the opportunity to think and speak about their faith and how they can use it to better the lives of the community around them. Maybe one of them will be giving their speech at the national finals in next spring.



Fr. Angelo was master of ceremonies at the Awards Luncheon that followed the morning speeches.

Cathedral Foundation By GEORGE ZOGZAS

Foundation Gets Behind the Renovations



The Foundation confirmed their pledge commitment of \$100,000.00. From L to R, Parish Council President John Mahairas, Foundation Chairman Nick Kantsios, Foundation Secretary-Treasurer George Zogzas, and Fundraising Committee Chairman John Tsumas.

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation raised its commitment to the Cathedral's Renovations project. The Trustees voted to submit a bid for naming rights for two of the areas designated by the IRRC. The Foundation chose the elevator and elevator alcove and bid \$50,000 for each.

The Foundation was honored to have won the bids. The Trustees immediately confirmed the commitment by giving

\$25,000 on May 15, 2016. Added to the \$25,000 previously given, the Foundation has already given one half of its total commitment. They will fulfill the remaining portion on or before May 15, 2018.

The elevator and the rebuilt ramp will provide greater ease of access to the Cathedral for all parishioners and visitors, helping to eliminate physical barriers.

Philoptochos By Frances Troupes

Preparations for the upcoming Yiasou Festival are underway. The ladies of Philoptochos along with many parishioners have volunteered many hours of their time to make thousands of dolmades and hundreds of pans of galaktobouriko and karidopita. Baking will resume in August. Please consider coming to help prepare baklava, diples and koulouria.

Our general meeting for the month of March was held on March 8th. We had a delicious meal as we listened to a presentation on high blood pressure and its warning signs from Cathy Tsoulos. It was very interesting and informative

and we thank Cathy for sharing her knowledge with us.

Philoptochos helped with preparations for Easter. We sold over 100 tsoureka on Palm Sunday, dyed eggs on Holy Wednesday, and helped with the flowers for the Epitaphion.

Our annual end of the year picnic was held on Tuesday May 24th, at Latta Park in Dilworth. It was fun to socialize on a beautiful sunny day and enjoy each other's company.

Hope everyone has a happy and safe summer!

Pastry Preparation Schedule for 2016 Yiasou Festival:

- August 8-9 Koulourakia
- August 16-19 Baklava
- August 24-25 Baklava for ice cream
- August 27-28 Diples
- September 4-5 Packing

Please come help any and all days that you can. We need all parishioners to give of their time to help before, during, and after our Yiasou Festival...all men, women, and children!

Contact Director Larry Peroulas for information on registering for Greek School classes that begin September 2016

Now you see it . . . Now you don't



Late in June, the building at 712 East Boulevard was demolished and the debris removed from the site by John E. Jenkins, Inc. The structure was commonly referred to as the old "AHEPA House". That is because AHEPA Marathon Chapter #2 owned the building before selling it to Holy Trinity in the mid-1990s for \$125,000. The total cost to demolish was \$11,075.

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER BY NICK KALLELIS

Time Talent Treasures. A good way to apply these stewardship needs is to participate in the Yiasou Festival which is the major fund-raiser of our church. We are grateful to our parishioners who generously commit time, talent, and treasures from May through September. In spite of our many volunteers the festival committee never has sufficient personnel to fulfill the needs of the festival.

A comment frequently made is, "I want to spend time at the festival with my family." Consider devoting time prior to or after the festival dates. During the festival if only a couple hours of your time are available, volunteer for those hours. Let's give relief to those working the entire festival and a chance to enjoy the

festival with their families.

Last year was one of the most successful festivals both in attendance and financially. This was the result of excellent planning, improved cost control and the extensive work hours of our generous volunteers. However, the number was short of what was needed and most volunteers worked

extensive hours. If we had more parish members volunteer, we would be able to eliminate hiring outsiders to fill these shortfalls in manpower.

Our goal is to have a budget free of festival income. This is necessary to prevent a financial catastrophe should the festival be rained out. It would also give us the opportunity to build

a reserve for capital expenditures, emergency fund, and to increase community service to Holy Trinity and the Charlotte community. We have too long depended upon non-church members of Charlotte to help pay our expenses.

Thanks to all that have supported our stewardship efforts. We can be proud of the support for our current construction. Improvement of our overall stewardship program is a reflection of our continuing commitment. Let's all do our part giving of our time, talent and treasure to show our support of the festival committee and the loyal dedicated volunteers who make the festival a success.

Your Stewardship Committee



TIME TALENT TREASURE

IN MEMORIAM FATHER PHAETHON AND PRESVYTERA KATHRYN T. CONSTANTINIDES

Editor's Note. Holy Trinity Cathedral held a memorial service at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 19, 2016 in remembrance of Reverend Fr. Phaethon Constantinides and marked the 20th anniversary of his passing. The community also honored Presvytera Kathryn Constantinides who passed away February 13, 2016. Nearby is the photograph and text from the handout.



In the summer of 1966, Father Phaethon Constantinides, at the age of 35, was appointed to our Church of the Holy Trinity and was accepted into all of our hearts because he was a man of our time. He was born in America, a graduate of Holy Cross Theological School in Boston, had taken courses in Theology from the University of Athens, was proficient in both Greek and English. His belief in Orthodoxy was deeply rooted in his soul, and he opened his arms and embraced us all. Sometimes even without asking, he could read our minds, and knew of our problems and approached us with affection. He would come into our homes and to our workplace and loved to see our businesses thrive. His optimism reflected in us all, and his wonderful Presvytera was his greatest supporter and always encouraged him. Father "C", as we always knew him, was our greatest supporter as we started the festival, and always directed us through success. He was with us for thirty years before God called for him. He, who gave us strength and guided us during the upbringing of our children, was instantaneously missing from our lives. It is true, that we were blessed, to have had this dynamic and inspirational Priest, in our community.

His Presvytera, the First Lady of our community, continued to remain beside us for another 20 years. With her love for us, she dedicated her life to our Church, and particularly had great love for the Hosanna Bookstore. Her pure smile always reflected the soul of Father Phaethon, and they now are resting alongside each other. We hope our prayers for their beautiful souls reach the throne of God.



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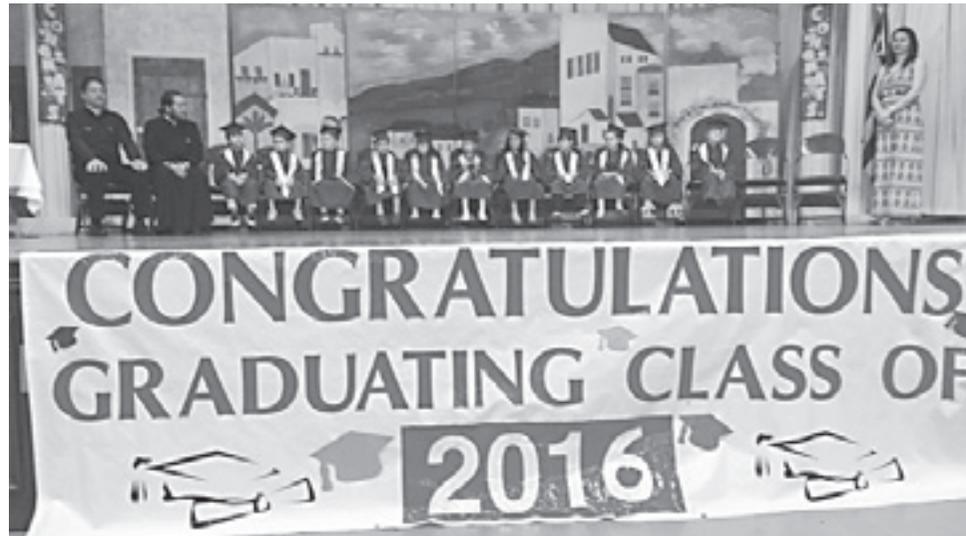


Who's in the News at the Preschool?

Christos Anesti!

It is hard to believe how quickly this year has gone by and that summer is here. May is always a very busy month as we wrap up the school year while trying to squeeze in as much learning, fun and fellowship as we can before the year comes to a close. In addition to the spring themes, the last month of preschool is a time for reviewing everything the children learned throughout the year to make sure they are ready to move on to the next grade level. The children always eagerly and enthusiastically approach each new challenge and we are very proud of them and all they have accomplished. It was such a joy to watch them learn and grow throughout the year.

During the month of May in addition to reviewing what the children have learned, we celebrated the Easter Holiday, honored our Moms and Grandmothers, learned



about the spring and summer seasons, and practiced for our Graduation and End of Year Celebration Program. After Easter on May 3rd and 4th, the classes held their Easter Parties and Easter Egg Hunt. It is amazing how quickly the children found all the hidden Easter Eggs. On May 12th and 13th for Mother's Day, we invited our preschool Moms and Grandmothers to their children's classrooms for a special "Mom's Morning" coffee hour. We had a great turn out and the children enjoyed sharing that special time together with Mom and Yiayia. Happy Mother's Day to all our moms in our preschool and church family. The children also worked very hard practicing for the Graduation and End of Year Celebration program that was held on Friday, May 27th. It was a special day to honor all of our preschool students and a time to celebrate the graduation of our four year olds class. As always, all the children did an excellent job entertaining us with a medley of songs in Greek and English. Great job preschool children!

The end of each school year is bitter sweet as preschool comes to an end. We will miss all of our children over the summer but look forward to seeing our returning and new students when preschool starts back in September. We will also miss our rising kindergartners as we bid them goodbye and wish them many blessings as they begin this new journey to Kindergarten and beyond. It was very rewarding to have shared in the early stages of their development and education. Our preschool program strives to provide each child with a solid foundation to build upon as they transition from Preschool to Elementary School. We are proud to know that our rising kindergartners are well prepared to move on to "big school". We hope they will come back to visit us and we anxiously await

to hear all about their new schools and the Kindergarten experience. We love them and we will miss them!

As June arrives and preschool is out for the summer, it is time for the teachers to pack up their classrooms, put away all the fun and educational materials and to begin preparing for the coming year. We are very grateful and fortunate to have a group of very caring and dedicated teachers in our preschool program. We appreciate their hard work, the countless hours they spend preparing for their classes, and for all they do for our children and the school. A Big Thank You to our 2015-2016 teachers... Presvytera Stacey Ehmer, Mrs. Dimitra Forniotis, Mrs. Lisa Giotis, Mrs. Angelina Korinis, Mrs. Anna Koufaliotis, Mrs. Andrea "Mahe" Politis, Mrs. Athina Politis, and Mrs. Stasy Skarlatos.

At HTGOP, we are truly blessed to have such wonderful parents in our preschool family. We appreciate all they have done for the school and for supporting all of our programs, activities and fundraisers. The parents are a huge part of what makes our school so successful. On behalf of the staff, we want to thank the children and their parents for the many thoughtful things they have done for us throughout the year, the delicious lunch they provided the staff for Teacher Appreciation, and all the gifts they have given us throughout the year. Most of all, we are grateful to our parents for allowing us to share in the academic, social and spiritual development of their children. Sharing your children with us was the most precious gift of all. The children and their families will always have a special place in our hearts. There are many other people the preschool also needs to thank. Thank you to Fr. Angelo and Fr. Theodore for their spiritual guidance and for teaching our children in our bi-monthly "Our Faith with Father" sessions, to Joanna Kakouras for volunteering her time to do music with the children on a monthly basis and for helping them prepare for the graduation

program, to the Preschool Board for their all their guidance, help and support in everything we do, and to the Parish Council and the Holy Trinity community for their constant support of the preschool program and our fundraising projects. One of those fundraising projects was the Holy Friday Luminaries purchased "in Memory of" or "In Honor of" a loved that lined the walkway during the procession. This fundraiser was a huge success and we thank all parishioners who participated. We would also like to extend a special thank you to the Order of AHEPA Marathon Chapter #2 for their very generous donation of \$75,000 towards a new playground as part of the Courtyard and Cathedral renovation project. As one of the ministries that will be enjoying the new playground area, we wanted them to know how much it will be appreciated by the preschool staff and children. Thank you to everyone for supporting our preschool program!!!

If anyone needs information regarding the preschool, please contact the preschool office or the co-directors. If you are interested in registering your child, we want to remind you that spaces are limited. During the summer, the co-directors are not in preschool office on a daily basis but



can be reached on their mobile numbers listed below.

Again, thank you to our parents for sharing your children with us, good luck to our rising Kindergartners and we look forward to seeing our returning and new preschool families in the fall. May God continue to bless our preschool children and their families, and the entire Holy Trinity community. Have a good summer... Kalo Kalokeri!

Preschool Office: 704-333-4961 or preschool@htgo.org

Co-Directors: Cindy Balatsias 704-502-3859 or Maria Kleto 704-564-5842



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