



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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THE KOINOTHTOS

VOL. 77 • NO. 3

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

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MAY/JUN 2017

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

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



May 21, 2017: Holy Trinity recognizes the graduates of the Sunday school senior class after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The 18 seniors are joined by their teachers Jimmy Demopoulos and Yianni Margiotis, as well as Father Theodore and Father Vasileios (all on the back row). See more details about the seniors on pages 8-9 inside.

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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The Editor's Note



Dear Readers:

I am honored to be the next editor of The Voice. I have always liked newspapers as a way to teach and to learn. While The Voice is more newsletter than newspaper, I hope to introduce more news. There is a lot going on at Holy Trinity. We hope to capture some of that for you making The Voice a must read.

This issue highlights the high school seniors of Holy Trinity. You will find a picture and short bio on each of the 17 young people who have finished high school. I was amazed at the

volume of their scholastic, volunteer and academic achievements and the wide range of their interests driving their future plans.

We are introducing a new column this month. My Voice will appear from time to time with submissions from our readers. In this issue, Dr. George Andrinopoulos shares his memories of some recently departed parishioners of Holy Trinity.

Let me end by thanking Angelo Pete Politis, my predecessor. Angelo was a steady and constant advocate for The Voice, understanding that it was a connection between the current Greek community and its past. I appreciate his experience, mentoring and friendship.

Please let me know what you think about The Voice and what you would like to see. Reach me at voice@htgo.org. I will respond as soon as possible.

Enjoy
George Zogzas, Editor

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Baritone Choir: Dr. Philip Thevaos,
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SAVE THE DATES
YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL

Thursday - Sunday
September 7-10

Your Help Is Needed

THE VOICE submissions schedule for upcoming issues
Below is the deadline schedule for submitting articles, photographs, and advertisements to The Voice for inclusion in the upcoming issues.

ISSUE	DEADLINE	HIGHLIGHTS
JUL/AUG	Friday, August 18, 2017	Summer Vacations
SEP/OCT	Friday, October 20, 2017	Yiasou Festival
NOV/DEC	Friday, December 15, 2017	Year End Holidays
JAN/FEB	Friday, February 16, 2018	Pre-Lent and Pascha

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Remarks From Father Vasileios



by Father Vasileios Tsourlis
Dean of the Cathedral

Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”*
Matthew 19:14

My beloved Brethren,

I am so thankful to our Lord God and to all of you for seeing many families attending the Divine Liturgy every Sunday and sometimes during the week as well together with their children or grandchildren. Admittedly, there are times when it may seem like a long service to us adults, and it is certainly even more so to our children, for whom time feels different. Depending on the child, their age, and their ability to understand what is going on, the Liturgy can seem a daunting service. Getting beyond merely attending (being present) to truly ATTENDING (paying attention and participating) is not easy for any of us, especially for children.

Some have translated the words ‘Divine Liturgy’ - Θεία Λειτουργία as “the work of the people.” Perhaps a better translation is “the offering of the people for the whole world.” Either way, it is the people who do the work or

the offering – προσφορά. The Orthodox Church considers all of its members, including children and infants, to be an important part of the Church’s life. Therefore it follows that even the children are needed to do this work/give this offering. So, if it is important that every member of the parish participate in this work/offering, and if it is a challenge even for adults to be fully present and engaged, what can be done to help the children? This article will offer a few suggestions of ways that all adults in our parish can help the children to participate in the Divine Liturgy. Regardless of our status as adults: whether we are parents, godparents, grandparents, Sunday Church School teachers, or any other adult in our parish, we share the responsibility for helping to raise the children who are a part of our parish.

Rather than focus on the things children should NOT do during the Divine Liturgy, I encourage you all through this article to focus on more positively. Here are things that children CAN AND SHOULD do during the Liturgy to participate more fully. Children in our parish can:

See - The very tiniest among us can see the candles, the icons, the clergy, the choir... I encourage you to whisper to your child/children, “Where’s Jesus? Can you see Jesus? Can you see Mary, His mother?” point their thoughts towards why we are in church: to be in God’s presence and to lift our hearts and minds towards Him. Young preschoolers can look for items in the church such as crosses, animals, the color of Jesus’ robe, etc. Older preschoolers can count how many of those items they see, how many Crosses, how many icons, etc. Young elementary students can look for the icon of St. John the Forerunner, the Evangelist whose Gospel we hear during the service, what’s in the windows in the Alter, etc. The list of things to look for is limitless. It takes a little adult pre-planning to think of things for the children to look for, as well as placement in the sanctuary that

allows the children to be able to see, but throughout the Liturgy, the children’s attention can be directed to look for things in the icons or in the service itself.

Kiss - Even very tiny children can show their love for God and their veneration of the saints by kissing the icons, the Gospel book, the Cross, the Priest’s hand, and even their fellow Parishioners. When you arrive together with your child at the icon of Christ after Holy Communion, you may whisper, “Let’s venerate the icon of Jesus and say, we love you, Jesus! Thank you for giving us your Body and Blood so we can live more like you this week!” Be

I encourage all Parents to purchase a Children Prayer Book that has a CD inside which will help your Child hear the Prayers as well as reading them. This book and can be purchased at our HOSANNA Bookstore.

Sing - Children can sing “Lord, have mercy – Kyrie Eleison” from a fairly early age. They can learn other responses to the prayers and refrains to the Antiphons as well. They can learn to sing the Troparia, the Kontakion, the Trisagion Hymn, the Cherubic Hymn, the list goes on and on throughout the service. As with many of the other suggestions for Liturgy

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sure to include the children around you in the Kiss of Peace, as well. Encourage your own children to make peace with their siblings before church; or during the Kiss of Peace if need be.

Talk - Although there are many opportunities to be silent, with a little practice beforehand, children can (and should!) talk during the service! There are plenty of opportunities to talk, but we must help them learn when those opportunities are, and what they should say during those times in the Divine Liturgy. With a cue until they get the hang of it, very young children can begin with the “Amen”. Then, as they learn the following, they can also join in for (probably in this order): the Epistle Reading, the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, the communion prayers, etc. They even get to “SHOUT” in church on the Sunday of Orthodoxy! When that Sunday approaches, we must practice the Troparion, “This is the faith...” with our children ahead of time so they know what to say!

participation, this one requires a little work together ahead of time. Gather a collection of CDs of the Church’s music at home, play the CDs often so you can listen and sing together. Listening at home too, makes it much easier for the children to participate during the Divine Liturgy. Besides this additional exposure at home, a key to having the children sing along during the Liturgy is for them to hear other parishioners also singing along. Children who are surrounded by adults who sing along tend to join in as they are able.

Hold - Children can hold service books, either a child’s version or the regular service book. I would encourage all Parishioners but specially our Children to bring with them at the Church their Bible in order to participate in the Readings of the Epistle and Gospel. Some young boys like to hold a pretend censor and “help” us the Priests or our Deacon with the censuring. Older children may want

Continued on page 5



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A Duty We All Have

BY FATHER THEODORE EHMER, ASSOCIATE PRIEST



We have finally reached that blessed time of the year.... Summer! What summer often means is cookouts, time with friends and family, and vacations. Summer also is a time for

us to continue with our Christian life in the Church, whether or not we are in Charlotte or not.

An important facet of this is praying for people. We all understand that's important to pray for people and often ask one another for prayers. We do this all of the time, throughout out the year. While most understand this, some people might not be familiar with the Orthodox tradition of submitting names to the priests for them to be read at the Divine Services of the Church. There are various different occurrences when we bring names to the Church...and these are things we do throughout the year,

summertime included!

The Divine Liturgy: One time when we bring names to the Church is when we offer prosfora (πρόσφορα). Prosfora is the special bread that is made with a seal (σφραγίδα) that will be used by the priest in the preparation of the Holy Communion. Part of the prosfora (the Lamb/o αμνός) eventually becomes the Body of Christ mystically during the Divine Liturgy. It is also a good thing to bring the special wine that we use for Holy Communion, as well, as an offering when bringing prosfora. We usually use Nama, preferably the "Byzantino" variety. Ask one of the priests if you are unsure about this or where to find it. When we offer prosfora and wine to be used for Holy Communion, we also submit the names of our loved ones, both those who are living and those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. During the Preparation Service (Πρόθεσις) which happens during the Orthros service before the Divine Liturgy, the names are prayed for with the following petitions:

Remember, loving Master, every Orthodox episcopate, our Archbishop Alexios, the honorable priests, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy

and monastics, our brethren and co-celebrants, whom You, all-good Master, have called to Your service through Your compassion. And your servants... (the names of the living to be remembered)... and forgive their sins, both voluntary and involuntary.

Μνήσθητι Δέσποτα φιλόανθρωπε, πάσης ἐπισκοπῆς ὀρθοδόξων, τοῦ ἀρχιεπισκόπου ἡμῶν Αλεξίου, τοῦ τιμίου πρεσβυτερίου, τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ διακονίας καὶ παντὸς ἱερατικοῦ τάγματος, τῶν ἀδελφῶν καὶ συλλειτουργῶν ἡμῶν καὶ πάντων τῶν ἀδελφῶν ἡμῶν, οὓς προσεκαλέσω εἰς τὴν σὴν κοινωνίαν διὰ τῆς σῆς εὐσπλαγγνίας Πανάγαθε Δέσποτα... (τα ονόματα τῶν ζώντων)... καὶ συγχώρησον αυτοῖς παν πλημμέλημα ἐκούσιον τε καὶ ἀκούσιον.

Remember Lord, faithful sovereigns, Orthodox Patriarchs, Hierarchs, Priests, Hieromonks, Hierodeacons, Monks, Nuns, and all who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection to eternal life, and of communion with You, Loving Lord, and of all our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters, and for your servants... (the names to be remembered of those who have reposed)... and give rest to them where Your righteous repose, and place them in the dwelling place of Your chosen ones, where the light of Your face shines.

Μνήσθητι Κύριε, Ευσεβῶν Βασιλέων, Ορθοδόξων Πατριαρχῶν, Αρχιερέων, Ιερέων, Ιερομονάχων, Ιεροδιακόνων, Μοναχῶν καὶ πάντων ἐπ' ἐλπίδι ἀναστάσεως ζωῆς αἰωνίου τῶν τῆ σῆς κοινωνία κεκοιμημένων ὀρθοδόξων πατέρων καὶ ἀδελφῶν ἡμῶν, φιλόανθρωπε Κύριε καὶ τῶν δούλων σου... (τα ονόματα τῶν κεκοιμημένων)... καὶ ἀνάπανσον αὐτούς ἐνθα οἱ δίκαιοι αναύονται καὶ κατὰ τὰς ἐκλεκτῶν σου, ὅπου ἐπισκοπεῖ τὸ φῶς τοῦ προσώπου σου.

Psychosabbato/Memorial Services: When we come for either the Ψυχοσάββατα (Soul Saturdays) or for Memorial Services (Μνημόσυνα), we bring the names of our loved ones who have passed, who have fallen asleep in the Lord. The priest will pray their names when he says the petition during the service:

Ἐτι δεόμεθα ὑπὲρ ἀναπαύσεως τῆς ψυχῆς τοῦ κεκοιμημένου δούλου (τῆς κεκοιμημένης δούλης) τοῦ Θεοῦ (ὄνομα), καὶ ὑπὲρ τοῦ συγχωρηθῆναι αὐτῷ (αὐτῇ) πᾶν πλημμέλημα ἐκούσιον τε καὶ ἀκούσιον.

Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God (name), and the forgiveness of their transgressions both voluntary and involuntary.

Paraklesis: At the Paraklesis service, we are asking the Theotokos to intercede with her Son, our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ for those that we are praying for. We know that there is no other person closer to God than Panagia. Therefore, we come to her and ask for her help during these special services which are devoted to her. We bring the names of our loved ones who are living to the Church. The priest will pray their names when he says the petition:

Ἐτι δεόμεθα ὑπὲρ τῶν δούλων τοῦ Θεοῦ, (ὀνόματα).

Again we pray for the servants of God, (the names)

Any Time: At any time, we can bring the names of our loved ones, both living and those who have reposed to the Church for the priests to pray for them. The priests always want to pray for the flock both in the Church during the services and during our private prayers at home, and bringing the names of those who need prayer to us will help us to pray for specific people and for specific occurrences.

As you can see from the prayers, we entreat God for his great mercy upon our loved ones at the times of the commemorations. By bringing our names to the Church, we show our love for our friends and family, both those living and those who have fallen asleep. We show that they are constantly in our thoughts and prayers, that we haven't forgotten about them, and that we entreat God through His Holy Church for their health and for their salvation.



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Upcoming Church Feast Days and Events

Tuesday August 1 – FAST OF THE DORMITION BEGINS

Sunday August 6 – THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Tuesday August 15 – DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Tuesday August 29 – BEHEADING OF THE FORERUNNER ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Friday September 8 – THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Thursday September 14 – ELEVATION AND EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Other Upcoming Events

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS Church Office Closed
Tuesday August 15

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY Church Office Closed
Monday September 4

Upcoming Yiasou Festival Events

YIASOU FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS
Monday & Tuesday August 7 & 8- Koulouria

Wednesday thru Friday August 16 - 17 - 18- Baklava Pans

Monday & Tuesday August 21 & 22- Baklava for Ice Cream

Saturday & Sunday August 26 & 27- Diples

YIASOU FESTIVAL 5K RUN
Saturday August 26

40TH ANNUAL YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL
Thursday September 7 through Sunday September 10

Fr. Vasileios continued from page 3

to hold a prayer rope and pray the Jesus Prayer during the Liturgy.

Stand - While in their parents' arms, and then on their own once they know how to balance on their feet, children can learn to stand reverently during the Small Entrance, Epistle, the Gospel, and the Great Entrance. As they get older, they can stand longer and longer. Both of our children have joked about how tired their schoolmates get, standing during school concerts, etc., because "We're Orthodox! We stand for hours every Sunday!" so they are quite accustomed to being on their feet. But they had to learn to stand for that long; and to choose to do it.

Hear - From an early age, children can listen to more and more of the service. The Epistle, the Gospel, the homily, the music, the prayers... the list can grow a bit every year until they are listening to the entire Liturgy. Younger children may need to be challenged quietly during the Epistle/Gospel/homily, "Listen for (a word you anticipate will be said multiple times, like 'Our Lord') and smile at me or gently squeeze my hand each time you hear Father say it." Older children can listen for a theme during the scripture readings. Many children can listen for "one thing that you want to remember from Father's homily today" that adults can ask them about during Coffee Hour or on the ride home from church. It can also be helpful to quietly whisper directions that help you both focus better during the Liturgy. (For example, "Listen! Jesus is speaking to us right now, through Father!" just before the priest says, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is broken for you, for the remission of sins...")

Move - There are even opportunities for movement during the Divine Liturgy! Once again, it takes a little pre-teaching, but even young children are able to make

the sign of the cross, bow their heads unto the Lord, kneel if/when applicable, reply to Father's bow with one of their own, etc. We can help the youngest ones to do so, taking their baby fist in our hand to make the sign of the cross over their body, etc. The older ones, with a little preparation ahead of time, can participate fully when the time comes in the service without us physically helping them as much, because they have practiced and they know what to do. During the Lenten season, children can also do prostrations!

Children love to participate - They long to feel a part of things. They want to contribute to the world around them. These are just a few ways that we adults can help the children in our homes/ Sunday Church School classes/parish to do so during the Divine Liturgy.

Our goal is to teach our Children the Orthodox Faith - Therefore, I encourage you to be at Church by 9:30AM in order for our Children to participate in the readings of the Epistle and Gospel as well in other parts of the Liturgy. Also please do come and sit in the front pews as this will help your children to see and observe better the Liturgy.

These ideas are admittedly only scratching the surface of the ways children can participate in the Divine Liturgy. What ideas do you have? Please help the rest of our community and specially the newcomers and the visitors to better bless and assist the children. May we all work together to attend the Divine Liturgy; and, as we do so, may we all truly ATTEND, regardless of our age!

Wishing to all a very blessed and joyful summer and don't forget to attend Church on Sundays here at Holy Trinity...and if you are planning on going vacation, find the closest Orthodox Church near you.

In the Love and Service of our Lord,
+Fr Vasileios



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Vacation Bible School 2017

BY AMBER TSUMAS

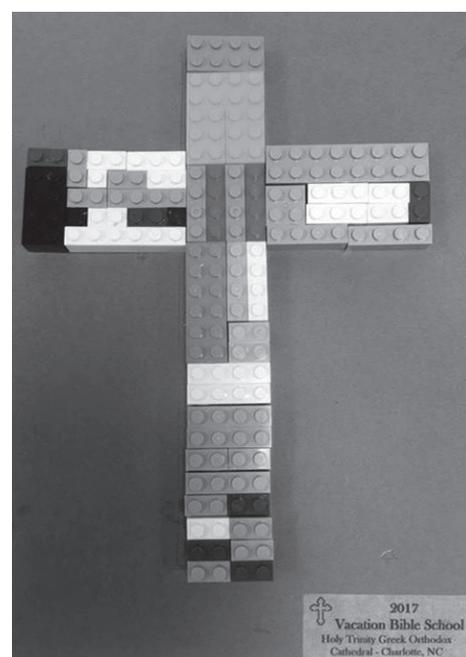
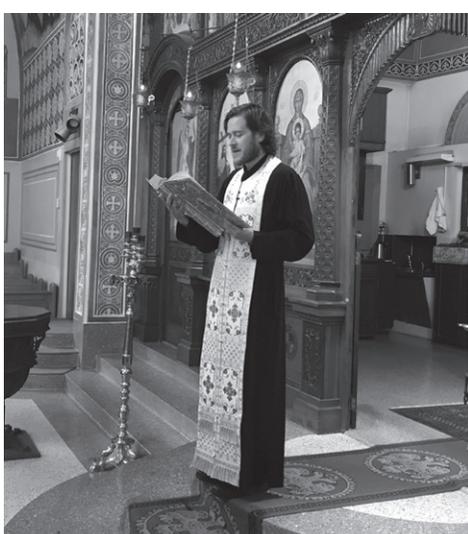


Vacation Bible School was held at Holy Trinity from June 12-15th. It was open to children ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. Over 110 children registered and 80 GOYA volunteers assisted with many activities throughout the week.

The theme this year was “Feast Days of the Theotokos”. Each of the four days focused on a Feast Day. Monday was the Nativity of the Theotokos, Tuesday the Entrance of the Theotokos, Wednesday the Annunciation, and Thursday the Dormition of the Theotokos. The Bible verse for the week was: “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.” Luke 1:30-31

Daily activities allowed the children to grow closer to Christ and learn about their Orthodox Christian faith while having some summer fun. It was a week filled with daily worship, Bible classes, arts and crafts, dancing, singing, gym time, and a grand finale performance for the children’s families on Thursday.

The dedication of Fr. Vasileios, Fr. Theodore, parents, youth and organizers made it a huge success. Thank you all for your support! Please take a moment to view all our VBS fun on Holy Trinity’s Facebook page and the pictures nearby.



Photos courtesy of Vacation Bible School instructors and volunteers

My Voice: A guest writer remembers his friends.

BY DR. GEORGE ANDRINOPOULOS, MD

Editor's Note: This speech was given by Dr. Andrinopoulos at the April 2016 monthly dinner of the Forever Young Ministry held at Holy Trinity. With his permission, we will present it in two parts in The Voice. The second part will appear in the JUL/AUG 2017 issue.

“Honoring the memory and contribution of our community members who have departed”

“Τιμώντας την Μνήμην και την Συμβολήν των Μελών της Κοινότητος που μας Εφυγαν”

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen! I am Dr. Andrinopoulos. I want to thank the president Mrs. Maria Katopodis for giving me the opportunity to speak in honor of our community members who have departed.

Death visited frequently our community the last several weeks, the latest being the passing of Fr. Theodore's beloved brother, Justin. On behalf of our community I would like to express our most sincere condolences to you Fr. Theodore, Presbytera Stacey and your family. May he rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.

Every member of our community, known to many or not, is a soldier of our community that contributes to the progress and the growth of Hellenism. Tonight however, I would like to speak about three members of our community that made a special contribution and to discuss their personality characteristics.

Henry Van Dyke a poet and philosopher said: “What you have, at the day of your death, will belong to someone else. What You Are, will be Yours Forever!”

Litsa Boukedes, the Teacher.

A passionate (περιπαθής, Διαπυρός,) and enthusiastic person, beyond being a member of the Parish Council and a member of the Philoptochos she was also, for many years, a teacher in our Greek school.

Among the greatest of all services that can be rendered by a person to humanity is the education and training of children, so that they can foster (ανατρέφω, περιθαλπώ) by grace (χαρίς, ευλογία, τιμή) in the way of salvation and growth.

The teacher is like the light of knowledge that is transmitted to the students for many generations. A teacher is a leader in the classroom or in the school in general, earning the respect of the students and setting a positive example as a role model. At times she is a disciplinarian but at the same time cares and is concerned for the student. He or she is the counselor, the surrogate (αντιπροσωπος, τοποτηρητής) parent, the nutritionist.

They are the chaperones (συνοδος) at school functions, the coaches (γυμναστής) of school sports, the monitors at lunch, the fundraisers for the field trips and school supplies, they are the interior designers for the classroom and the artists when they update bulletin boards and other displays.

A teacher, in a general sense is the yardstick (μετρον) that measures the achievements and the aspirations (φιλοδοξίες) of the nation. In other words the level of a teacher's quality is a measurement of the community's and nation's quality. They are the real builders of a nation.

A teacher can never truly teach, unless he or she still continues to learn. Because a lamp or a candle can never light another lamp or a candle unless it continues to burn its own flame.

Henry Van Dyke has said about teachers and teaching:

“There you have the worst paid and the best rewarded of vocations. Do not enter it, unless you love it. For the clear majority of men and women it has no promise of wealth and fame, but, they to whom it is dear, for its own sake, are among the nobility of mankind”.

Here is a very young student's poem, written as a reward to his teacher:

“East or west our teacher is the best.

She is our best guide, she helps us to decide

She tells us the right path when we are in trouble.

She is a book of wisdom, which gives us knowledge.

She is a burning candle, which gives us light.

And, all in all, she is the best of all.”

Litsa had all the best qualities of an excellent teacher. An energetic and passionate person with the desire to transmit her light of knowledge to every one of our children of our Greek community. And most of all she was a believer in God.

I had the opportunity to have a personal moment with Litsa, during one of our getting together Greek events and ask her how she feels about her being a teacher at the Greek school!

Dr. George, she said, I enjoy every moment of my teaching and every morning that the light of the day starts I start with a prayer of Maria Montessori to God:

“Help me, O Lord, to penetrate into the secret world of the child, so that I may know him, love him and serve him according to Your Laws of Justice and following Your Divine Will”.

This was, the Person and Teacher that Litsa was, and this is why and for what she will be remembered in this community for generations to come.

Presbytera Kathryn.

Presbytera Kathryn and Father C, after their marriage, moved into this community more than a generation ago, and lived in this community until they passed away.

“Presbytera Kathryn”! This is the way that she was known in our community and society. She was not the presbyteros. She was “the wife of the presbyteros”.

She assumed and played the role of the supportive person. She was the “pillar of the presbyteros”.

She was the person that the presbyteros could lean on, talk to, communicate his thoughts and express his pain many times, at the end of the day.

She was not in the front. She was not at the center. She was on the side, “the stand by person”.

Of course she was involved in many functions and projects of our community including the Philoptochos, the Hosanna Bookstore, but tonight, I want to address the role of the person who functioned as a pillar (στύλος, κίον, κολόνα) of the man that served this community for more than a generation.

In the English language there are two words expressing this function. Supporting and supportive. We use these words interchangeably but they do not have exactly the same meaning.

Supporting describes action or behavior in a particular situation or role. It works better in a structural (οικοδομική) or functional context (συναφής εκφρασις). For example supporting beams of a bridge. Supporting brackets holding up the shelf.

Supportive describes a person's character or attitude. The demeanor. (Διαθεσις, Τρόπος συμπεριφοράς). So in this case we say “she or he was supportive the entire time”. The word supportive is used in the emotional context.

The word supporting is used to describe roles in a film, in the movies, such as “supporting actor or actress”. We have the protagonist who occupies most of the time the film, but the supporting actor or actress influences and affects the whole scenario. Λεμε έχει τον δευτερευοντα ρολον. Yet not insignificant.

The protagonist is in the front. The lights are upon him or her. The supporting actor is on the side and very careful not to go to the front. The protagonist will take most of the credit.

We see that in politics. The president is always at the center of the picture. The vice president always on the side, supporting the president and never goes on the front, unless he is introduced (συσταθή,) by the president.

I see that in surgery. As a surgeon you are in command, you give the orders. You are in command of the surgical approach and all the surgical maneuvers. You decide as to which path you will navigate through the surgery. You have the full responsibility (ευθύνη) for the patient, the surgery and the outcome, but, you need to have a good assistant in order to have a good outcome. You cannot do it well alone. You need not only to have an assistant but to have a good assistant

We see that in athletics, in team competition. For the team to score (σημειώση, επιτευξη), it needs to have an expert to score the goal (τέρμα). In Greece we call them Goalgie (Goallie), but in order for the Goallie to score, he needs to be set up by his team players, the assistants. They will not take the credit, but without them it is going to be very difficult to score.

Most prominent and in the everyday life we see that in the family, especially and mostly in the previous generation where the leader was the breadwinner, the hunter, the man. And the mother, the supporting actor.

The man leaves the house to go to work, to hunt. The wife stays home to take care of the rest, to clean and put together the house, to make the bedrooms, to buy the groceries, to cook the meal, to care for the children, to study with them. And with all these responsibilities to stay out of the lime-light. Even the name has been indicative of the secondary role. We say the “Papadia”, (Παπαδιά) as the wife of the Papa. “Η Γιώργαινα”, as the wife “του Γιωργου”. “Η Μήτσαινα” as the wife “του Μήτσου”. Many times, we add “το Κυρ”, as in “Κυρ-Γιώργαινα”.

Behind a successful man is always a strong woman, the saying goes. So truthful of a statement!

It takes strength, it takes patience, it takes feelings of love, it takes sacrifice, it takes passion, it takes character to assume and perform the secondary role. The role that “you will provide”, “without expecting a reward”.

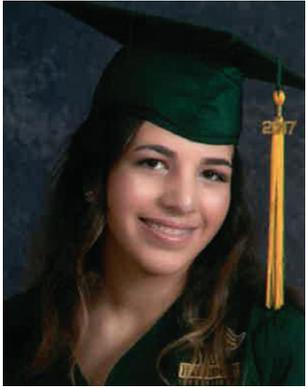
This is what Presbytera Kathryn was. She was both. She was supporting and supportive of Father C during his entire life. And this is why she will be remembered in this community for many generations to come.

Part 2 continues in the JUL/AUG Issue

2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

GEORGIA MARIA ATHENS

Independence High School



Georgia is the daughter of George and Krystal Athens.

She has been a Patriot Playmaker for 4 years, landing the lead role in her theater class play as a senior. She is also a member of

the National Honor Society. She played high school soccer for 2 years. She was a Junior Marshall last year and graduated with honors. She scored excellent on the Ellinomathea Exam and earned several college credits. She spent summers 2013 and 2016 in Greece with her maternal grandparents.

Georgia plans to continue working as a hostess at Outback Steakhouse this summer and will attend UNC Charlotte to study Chemistry as a path into the UNC Chapel Hill Doctor of Physical Therapy program.

FLORIANA BOARDMAN

Providence High School



Floriana is the daughter of Demetra and Frank Boardman.

She was Online Editor of the school newspaper, Junior and Freshman Class President, and Secretary of the

Senior Board. She served as a page in the N.C. Legislature and was a member of the National and Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Societies and several other clubs.

She went on an Orthodox mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico and represented the Metropolis of Atlanta at I.O.C.C. conference in Minneapolis, MN in 2016.

She won the local St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival five times and placed second twice at the Metropolis level. She received First Place Advanced Newspaper Editorial Writing.

She has been active in GOYA; Festival and HDF dance; and basketball. She attended AHEPA Academy at George Mason University, Ionian Village in Greece, and multiple camps and retreats. She played lacrosse in high school.

Floriana will attend Fordham University in New York City studying political science and journalism.

LUCAS CHRISTOPHER COLLINS

Ardrey Kell High School



Lucas is the son of Drs. Richard and Bess Collins.

At Holy Trinity, he served in the altar, GOYA, Sunday school, HDF, basketball, St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, and attended the

AHEPA Leadership Academy at George Mason University last summer. Lucas played soccer with Charlotte Soccer Academy and Ardrey Kell's varsity team winning the Coach's Award in 2017.

Lucas graduated in the top 10% of his class and is a member of the National Technical, Rho Kappa Social Studies, National, and Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Societies and received an AP Scholar with Distinction Award. He co-founded the Sports Today Journalism Club. He placed second in the Future Business Leaders of America State competition. He completed the Greek Language examination for college credit.

Lucas will work for the YMCA this summer. In the fall, he will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with plans to major in Biomedical Engineering and pursue a career in Orthopedics/Sports Medicine.

JONATHAN CHRISTOPHER DIAMANTIS

Providence High School



Jonathan is the son of Mike and Maria (Pribas) Diamantis.

He has been active in many organizations both at school and at church. While at Providence, he was a member

of the marching band for all four years and various school concert bands including the Wind Ensemble, the highest level band at Providence. He was also a leadership member in the Interact Service Organization and a member of the National Honor Society. Jonathan completed an internship with Carolinas Medical Center and various science programs at Clemson University.

In the church community, Jonathan has been involved with the GOYA, church basketball teams, Bible Bowl teams, Yiasou dance group, HDF, Altar Service and St. John Oratorical Festival. In the fall Jonathan will attend UNC- Chapel Hill where he plans on studying Pharmacy or Dentistry.

LOUIS GEORGE DIZES

East Mecklenburg High School



Louis is the son of George and Pamela (Karres) Dizes.

While attending high school, Louis was an International Baccalaureate diploma student. Louis has been

involved in the IB program since elementary school. He was a member of the Eagles Marching Band for four years, holding the position of President his senior year. He also participated in the Symphonic Band, the Green Team, the Ping Pong Club, School Beautification Team and organizer of the Latin American Cultural Festival at East. He was active with the Ronald McDonald House, Loaves and Fishes, River Clean UP and Tae Kwon Do. He was a dancer in both YIASOU Greek Festival and HDF and participated in GOYA.

Louis will be attending the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Lloyd International Honors College.

WILLIAM DROSSOPOULOS

Myers Park High School



William (Billy) is the son of Nick and Stella Drossopoulos.

Billy loved being involved in the youth activities at Holy Trinity with a particular passion for soccer and

basketball.

Billy will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte pursuing a degree in business and finance.

BARBARA MARIA EURIPIDES

Myers Park High School



Barbara is the daughter of Gus and Joanne Euripides.

She is class valedictorian and selected a Charlotte Observer All Star Scholar. She attended Governor's School

West in 2016. She received the Wellesley Book Award for strong academics and leadership, and other academic awards. She was a Commended Scholar in the National Merit Award competition.

She was a starting midfielder for the Varsity Field Hockey Team which won the state championship her senior year. She lettered three times and was named to the NFCA High School Academic Squad. She chaired the International Baccalaureate Leadership Institute, was president of Mu Alpha Theta

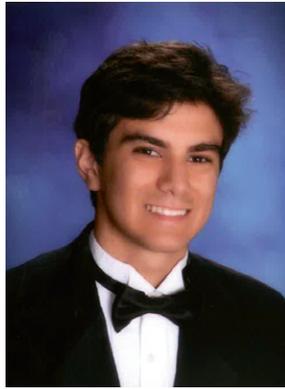
Math Honor Society, a member of the National

At Holy Trinity, she graduated from Greek School and received certification, and participated in GOYA.

This summer, Barbara attended Ionian Village. In the fall, she will attend University and pursue a

NICHOLAS

Myers Park High School



basketball for the church and festival dancing.

Nicholas will be attending University's College of Business

JOANNA

Marvin Ridge High School



Marvin Ridge High School

Joanna attended Providence School at Holy Trinity Greek Cathedral where she also played basketball team and competed in Dance Festival.

Joanna will attend the University of North Carolina in the fall.

OLYMBIA ANASTASIOU

Providence High School



volunteering at local elementary school reading to young children. She is an active member of Holy Trinity Cathedral since starting in 2012.

Olivia will spend her summer at the local fruit stand with her favorite hobbies and with her family. She will be attending

Junior Marshall and
l Honor Society.
graduated from the
ved Ellinomathea
participated in Greek dance
a will attend Ionian
will attend Duke
a degree in economics.

KALOUDIS
High School

Nicholas is the
son of Petros and
Kiki Kaloudis.
Nicholas was a
three year starting
varsity soccer
player and one
year rugby player
at Myers Park.
He also played
great defensive
ch, participated in HDF,
ending the West Virginia
Engineering.

A NIXON
High School

Joanna is the
daughter of Bill
and Mina Nixon.
She is a member
of the National
Honor Society, Key
Club and Spanish
Club. Joanna is on
the field hockey
team and runs
track and field at
ool.
school and Sunday
reek Orthodox
so graduated from
also a member of the
mpeted at the Hellenic

the University of South

ASIA PALAMARIS
High School

Olivia is the
daughter of Vicki
Palamaris and
Mike Palamaris.
Her favorite
extra-curricular
activities included
dancing in the
HDF competitions,
playing church
basketball and
ementary schools
ren. She has been an
Trinity Greek Orthodox
preschool at the age

summer working
which is one of her
cationing with her
ending the University

of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall
majoring in early childhood education.

LEA MARIA HOLEVAS
Marvin Ridge High School



Lea is the
daughter of
Tommy and Jerri
Holevas.

In high school,
Lea was a member
of the National
Science, National
Spanish, National
English and
National Honor
Societies, Mu Alpha Theta, Beta Club and Key
Club. She was recognized for her academic
excellence and was a Junior Marshall. After
school, she enjoyed dancing and playing the
piano. She danced for 15 years and played
the piano for 12 years.

Lea was extremely active at Holy Trinity.
She attended Preschool, Greek school, and
Sunday school, participated in GOYA, danced
in the Yiasou Greek Festival and HDF, Winter
Youth Rally, Saint Stephen's Camp, as well as
the Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.
She also volunteered for Vacation Bible
School, Habitat for Humanity and Special
Olympics.

This summer, Lea will take a trip to Greece
with her family. In the fall, she will be
attending the University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill.

MARIA ELENI PANAGIOTOPOULOS
Providence High School



Maria is the
daughter of Kathy
(Makrigrannis)
and Billy
Panagiotopoulos.

She is an honors
student, a member
of the UNICEF
program, the
Mosaic club and
lacrosse team. She
was in Honors Orchestra and has played the
violin for seven years. Her teachers chose her
be a peer mentor.

She participated in GOYA at the Cathedral
of the Annunciation in her hometown of
Atlanta and at Holy Trinity. She played
basketball, volunteered, and danced at
the Greek Festivals. She joined her Sunday
school class on the trip to St. Photios
Shrine, attended Winter Youth Rally and the
1st Annual Queen City Classic basketball
tournament.

She volunteered at different organizations
including soup kitchens at local churches.
She plans to travel and work part-time this
summer.

Maria will enter the Dental Hygiene
program at CPCC and plans on transferring
to the UNC- Chapel Hill for her BS in health
science.

IRENE PANTAZIS
Indian Land High School



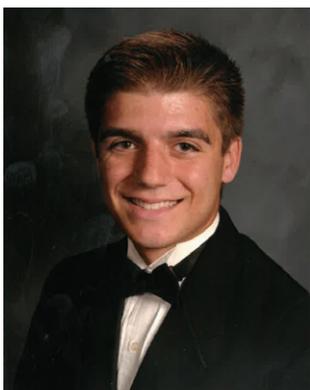
Irene is the
daughter of John
and Olga Pantazis.

She was
involved in the
Winter Youth
Rally, HDF,
Sunday school,
Greek School
and the Greek
Festival. Irene
was on the cheerleading team throughout
high school and captain of her Varsity
squad. She completed the Biomedical PLTW
program at Indian Land High School and was
involved in Beta Club, Junior Civitan, Student
Government and National Honor Society.

She will be spending her summer in Greece
with her family.

Irene will be attending the College of
Charleston in the fall and plans to major in
biology.

ALEXANDROS MIXAIL PISTIOLIS
Weddington High School



Alexandros is
the son of Michael
and Vicky Pistiolis.

He was a
member of the
National Honor
Society and a
NC Academic
Scholar and AP
Scholar with
Distinction. Other
memberships included Mu Alpha Theta
(National Mathematics Honor Society),
National Spanish Honor Society, Founding
member of SPLASH program at Weddington
Elementary, Beta Club, and Science National
Honor Society. He was a Senior Class Student
Government Representative and served as a
Junior Marshall.

Alexandros excelled at high school sports,
especially soccer. He was a member of state
and conference championship teams, and
served as team captain his senior year.

He volunteered in many community and
school programs and was a Yiasou Festival
Dancer.

He will be attending UNC-Chapel Hill where
he plans to major in Biology.

NICHOLAS HARRY STATHOPOULOS
Providence High School



Nicholas is
the son of Harry
and Regina
Stathopoulos.

He was a NC
Academic Scholar
graduate, member
of the National
Honor Society,
International
Thespian Honor
Society, and National Society of High School
Scholars. He served as a class council
board member, and planned and executed
Homecoming, Student Hunger Drive, and

Reverse Homecoming events.

He landed a lead role in "Father of the Bride"
in 2016, directing a high school play in 2014,
and was chosen to perform at "The Blumey
Awards" at Belk Theater in 2017.

He volunteered with Second Harvest Food
Bank, Ronald McDonald House, and McKee
Road Elementary School Jamboree. At Holy
Trinity, he played basketball and danced and
volunteered at the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Nick will attend the University of South
Carolina majoring in Media Arts and Film.
He will be in Wilmington, NC this summer
working on the TNT drama television series
"Good Behavior."

SAMANTHA VASILIKI VAN ETTEKOVEN
Providence High School



Samantha is the
daughter of Henk-
Jan and Lena van
Ettekovén.

She was an
active member in
DECA Marketing
for 4 years with 2
years as an officer
including Vice
President this
year. She was a N.C. DECA Diamond Student
of the Month. She was in the German Club
and UNICEF organization. She was an active
church member where she graduated Greek
School and danced/volunteered every year
at the Yiasou Greek Festival. She loved to
compete with her friends at the HDF.

She volunteered at the Diabetes Walk and
Operation Christmas Box. She danced for
7 years and played competitive soccer for
school and Charlotte Soccer Academy.

Samantha will be attending Appalachian
State University in the fall and plans a future
in environmental law.

IRENE KAY YAMALIS
Lake Norman Charter High School



Irene is the
daughter of Philip
and Olga Yamalis.

Her
achievements
included dual-
enrollment at
CPCC, National
Honor Society,
Treasurer
of Student
Ambassador Club, member of Key, Spanish,
and Outdoors Clubs, and Sound to Sea
science trip Student Leader. She participated
in HDF/Festival dancing, GOYA, Huntersville
Parks & Rec Volleyball Champs 2015 & 2016,
Volleyball Coach for 9-11 year-olds, STEM
BUS Counselor, Olde Knox Nursing Home
volunteer, Lake Norman Children's Therapy
Center student apprentice, Huntersville
Family/Fitness/Aquatics(HFFA) child watch
employee, awarded UNCG Spartan and Lake
Norman Kiwanis Scholarships.

After completing summer college
courses at CPCC; Irene will be attending
UNC Greensboro in the fall majoring in
Kinesiology/Physical Therapy.

A Holy Trinity News Roundup

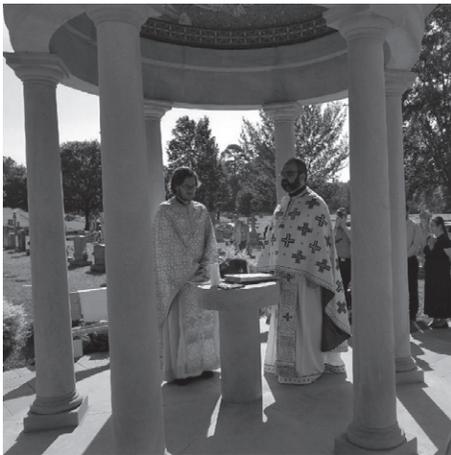
By: George Zogzas

Saturday of the Souls Service at Evergreen Cemetery

Fr. Vasileios and Fr. Theodore led a congregation of approximately 50 faithful in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the Saturday of Souls, June 3. The venue for the service was the chapel at Evergreen Cemetery, located at the intersection of Central Avenue and Norland Road. The Cemetery is the final resting place for the departed of many Holy Trinity parishioners.



Accompanied by five chanters, the Reverend Fathers performed the service reading the names and blessing the containers of koliva.



Left: Fr. Theodore and Fr. Vasileios at the chapel at Evergreen Cemetery.

Above: The chanters participating in the Saturday of Souls service.

Panegyri on the Plateia

On Sunday, June 4, the Holy Trinity community gathered on the lawn in front of Father C Hall to celebrate the Pentecost, the Name Day of the Cathedral. Families and friends enjoyed a choice of delicious foods prepared by our parishioners. The menu included over 600 lbs. of spit roasted lamb, souvlaki, chicken, salads and other side dishes. Drink choices included soft drinks, water, beer and wine.



DJ Sheltz provided Greek Music throughout the afternoon.

Thanks to organizing chairs John Fragakis and John Tsumas, and the 34 sponsors (see list nearby) who assured the success of the event.



News Recap continued on following page

SOUTH 21
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- CHRIS AND IRINI FOTINOS
- SPIRO AND DAWN GALANIS AND FAMILY
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- DINO AND KIKI KALEVAS
- LAMBROS AND SPIRIDOULA KALTSOUNIS & TINA
- DIMITRI AND ANDRIGOULA KARANIKAS
- DR. SAM KLEITCHES
- DEMETRE AND TULA KOURAKOS
- DR. AND MRS. GEORGE LIMBANOVNOS & FAMILY
- STEVE AND JANINE MANTEKAS
- MR. ANGELO POLITIS
- TOMMY AND LUCY PAPPAS
- STACEY AND FAYE PITSIKOUKIS
- CHRIS AND ATHENA POURLOS
- MR. TOMMY RAPTIS
- DR. AND MRS. TERRY SARANTOU AND FAMILY
- ANGELO AND MARIA SPERO
- NICK, DINA, YIANNI, AND TOMMY STATHOPOULOS
- SPERO AND MEENA STATHOPOULOS
- GEORGE AND VICKI THANOS
- DEACON DR. PAUL AND LEA TSAHAKIS
- JOHN AND AMBER TSUMAS
- OLE PINEVILLE PREMIUM PUB
- GLENWAY PREMIUM PUB
- OPEN KITCHEN RESTAURANT

PANEGYRI in the PLATEIA
Πανηγύρι στην Πλατεία

at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
to Celebrate Pentecost, our Cathedral's Name Day

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, NOON

DANCE ALL AFTERNOON TO THE GREEK MUSIC OF DJ SHELITZ

A LA CARTE MENU:
SPIT ROASTED LAMB • SOUVLAKI • CHICKEN • And More
BAR • BEER • WINE
Cash & Checks Only

Στο Καθεδρικό Ναό της Αγίας Τριάδος θα Εορτάσουμε την
Ονομαστική Εορτή του Καθεδρικού Ναού μας
Κυριακή - 4 Ιουνίου το μεσημέρι

Ελάτε να χορέψουμε όλο το απόγευμα με μουσική από τον DJ Sheltz!

Μπορείτε να αγοράσετε φαγητό
Από την Σούβλα - Σουβλάκι - Κότα - και άλλα
Από το Menu - Μενού και Κουζίνα
Δεχόμαστε Μετρητά και/ή Επιταγές

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Around CharlotteTown BY KATHY XYRAFAKIS

Recently Married



Despina Kaltsounis and Demetrios Georgiou Andritsogiannis were married on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at Holy Trinity Cathedral. April 30 is the same day that their grandparents were married. A reception followed in the Father "C" Hall. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lambros Kaltsounis and the groom is the son of Ms. Lula Andritsogiannis. After a honeymoon trip in Bora Bora, Despina and Demetrios reside in Charlotte.

Tina Nasios and Spiros Karageorgos were married on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at Holy Trinity Cathedral. A reception followed in the Father "C" Hall. The bride is the daughter of Serafim and Maria Nasios and the groom is the son of Kosta and Vasiliki Karageorgos. After honeymooning in St. Thomas, Tina and Spiros reside in Charlotte.



CONGRATULATIONS TO
THE HAPPY COUPLES!!!

News Recap continued from previous page

New Property Manager & Festival Operations Coordinator Hired and Parish Council Change

Mr. Pete J. Pappas was hired as Property Manager and Festival Operations Coordinator (PM&FOC). He replaces Mr. John Georgopoulos whose last day was May 31, 2017.

Mr. Pappas is the son of James and Maria Pappas, and has been a member of Holy Trinity his entire life. Pete resigned his position on the Parish Council after being hired. He was serving the final year of his current term set to expire December 2017.

As a result of this hire, the Parish Council announced a change in its membership. As outlined in the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR), the Parish Council conducted a search to find a qualified candidate to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Pappas. These procedures are spelled out in Article 25 Sections 10 and 11.

The Parish Council selected Mr. George Andrews, a long-time member of the community and former member of the Council. Mr. Andrews will serve through December 2017. He is also the business manager for *The Voice*.

Mr. Andrews is married to Mrs. Georgia E. Andrews, and they have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Stewardship Corner BY CARMEN KALLELIS

To clear up some misunderstandings about membership at Holy Trinity we present these Myths and Facts:

MYTH: *I am now 70 years old and am no longer expected to contribute to Stewardship.*

MYTH: *I devote my efforts to several ministries and to the festival. I consider that my contribution.*

FACT: Our ministries can only be successful with dedicated volunteers. Our operating expenses require everyone contribute to Stewardship to the best of their financial ability.

FACT: We appreciate your contribution to the Vision and Mission of Holy Trinity but we still must pay our expenses.

MYTH: *I am 18 years old (or older) and do not need to fill out a Stewardship/Membership card because my parents are members.*

MYTH: *I don't contribute to Stewardship because so much money goes to the Atlanta Diocese.*

FACT: Once you are 18 years old you are an adult and need to become an independent member by registering and filling out a membership form. Children need to be taught Stewardship by an early age.

FACT: A very small percent of our total operating budget goes to the Metropolitan portion.

MYTH: *The festival supports our budget.*

MYTH: *I do not want to identify my giving because I don't want that information made public.*

FACT: A rainout of one day would reduce our festival income by \$100,000 per day. A four-day rainout would not only cost us \$400,000 but we would be responsible for the funds committed to run the festival. We must be self-supporting and not gamble on the weather.

FACT: Only the Financial Secretary is privy to this information. (One person. Absolutely discrete.)

MYTH: *We need to cut our spending in order to reduce our budget.*

MYTH: *I have attended Holy Trinity for many years and everyone knows me. I do not need to fill out a Stewardship/Membership form.*

FACT: 95% of our budget is fixed costs. We all have the opportunity to establish the budget at the pre-budget meeting. Very few members attend.

FACT: This may have been true years ago but now with 900+ families we need current information EVERY YEAR from all our community.

From the Choir Loft BY OLGA YAMALIS

The Cathedral choirs have come to another close of another Sunday School year and last quarter of this ecclesiastical year preparing for choir's summertime break. During the summertime break, the Cathedral choirs prepare for the Atlanta Diocese annual choir conference. This year will be the 41st Annual Southeastern Federation Choir Conference (SFGOCM) which will be in conjunction with our Diocese Clergy Laity on June 21 –June 24 in Raleigh, NC. The Hierarchal Liturgical music for this year's conference will consist of a combination of two composers, Anna Gallos and George Raptis.

On Saturday, May 20, nine of our Cathedral choir members attended a choir conference rehearsal along with the triangle-area conference attendees. The area rehearsal took place at St. Barbara's in Durham, NC from 9:30 to 4pm. We were graciously welcomed by the St. Barbara's parish and had a great and beneficial rehearsal practicing our Greek, English, and folklore selections planned for the conference. One final choir rehearsal will take place on Saturday, June 17 at 1pm at HTC prior to leaving for the conference. Highlights and details from the conference will be included in the next Voice edition.

The Second Service choir would like to send out a big WELCOME to Irene Marcus. Irene has joined the Alto section and recently relocated from Rochester, NY. What a blessing and great addition for us---welcome Irene!!

Psalms 149:1 -- Praise the Lord! Sing a new song to the Lord; praise Him in the assembly of His faithful people.



KOINOTIKA

George K. Christ (1933 - 2017)

George Konstantinos Christ (Christofilakis) passed away peacefully on May 7, 2017 at Novant Health, surrounded by family and loved ones. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Trisa (Poulos) Christ; his daughter Jeannie Dellinger and husband Michael, his daughter Sophia Schell and husband Bill; four grandchildren Maria (Papageorge) Mullen, Christine (Mallos) Quiroz, Nicholas Mallos, Jonathan Papageorge and their spouses, and seven great-grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by his brother Stratos Christofilakis, Matina Stratakis, Georgia Manthos; along with many nieces, nephews, and numerous other loved ones. He was preceded in death by his parents, Konstantinos and Eugenia Christofilakis of Krokees, Lakonias Greece.

George was born on October 23, 1933 in Krokees, Lakonias Greece. He came to the U.S. in 1970, with his family, and became a restaurateur, entrepreneur and head chef for over 30 years. He was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and enjoyed spending time with his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

A Trisagion was held at 3:00 PM with a visitation following until 5:00 PM Saturday, May 13, 2017 at Hankins and Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool.

Theofanis Xenophon Nixon (1952 - 2017)

The Honorable Judge Theofanis Xenophon Nixon, 65, transitioned to join his beloved wife, Lauren Elizabeth Noble, on May 10, 2017. Theo was born on February 29, 1952 to Xenophon and Anna Nixon. He entered this world on a unique date, a fitting tribute to the special life that he lived.

Theo started his career as a Public Defender. He then spent over thirty years as a Criminal Defense Attorney and became one of the most well-loved and successful lawyers in Charlotte. The crowning achievement and culmination of his exemplary and glorious career was the creation of the Drug Treatment Court implemented throughout North Carolina during his years as a District Court Judge.

One of Theo's greatest passions was attending NC State football games with his best and life-long friend, Johnny Kleto, who was with him every single day during the last few months of his life. In addition, he loved traveling especially to National Parks and to Rain Forests. He was a crusader for social justice, innately rebellious and a voice for the voiceless.

Theo was preceded in death by the love of his life, Lauren Elizabeth Noble, his parents and his brother-in-law, Nick Kekas. He is survived by his two sons, Evan and Alex, who he selflessly raised as a single father and who were truly the pride of his life. He is also survived by his sister, Marika Kekas; his brother, Nick X.; and his baby sister, Virginia Williams and her husband, Alan. He is also survived by Philip and Stacy Barker, Lindsey and RJ In, Alex and Juliana Noble, and grandchildren, Aubrey and Lilyan Barker and Londyn and Keo In.

In addition, he is survived by many living relatives and friends who were a constant source of support. His daily visitors during his final months included many people whose lives he touched through his kind deeds throughout his life.

The Trisagion was held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, May 11, 2017 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. The funeral and celebration of Theo's life was at the church on Friday, May 12, 2017 at 11:00 AM. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials in Theo's name may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care - Charlotte Region, 1420 E. 7th St., Charlotte, NC 28204 or to Kidney Foundation of the Carolinas, 4701 Hedgemore Drive, #810, Charlotte, NC 28209. May his memory be eternal.

Arrangements were in the care of Kenneth Poe Funeral & Cremation Services, 1321 Berkeley Ave., Charlotte, NC 28204. Online condolences at www.kennethpoeservices.com. Phone: 704-641-7606.

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Five Questions: Meet Pete Pappas

The Voice posed 5 questions to the new Property Manager and Festival Operations Coordinator.

Q1. Tell us a little about yourself. I was born in Charlotte, son of Jimmy and Maria Pappas. I am a lifelong parishioner of Holy Trinity. My grandfather (Kosta Pappas) was a psalti so I have been a regular church goer and active in the youth programs growing up. I was the fill-in youth director in 1997-98 and then again in 2004-05 when the Church needed help. I am honored and every excited about working at the Church.



Q2. What are your top priorities for this position?

To keep our properties well-maintained and updated while saving money for the Church for the long run. And as Festival Operations Coordinator I hope to help make our festivals more successful with each passing year.

Q3. What direction did you get from the Parish Council?

I was on Parish Council and the IRRC, so I know very well what is needed around the Church and what our goals and plans are for the future of our facilities. Since I started working here at the beginning

of June, one of my first duties is to dive into festival preparation mode.

Q4. What personal strengths and experience do you bring that will help you with property management?

I have been volunteering my time and talents for many years doing many minor maintenance and other repairs, so I am very comfortable and familiar all the Holy Trinity facilities.

Q5. What help do you want from the community to make this a success for you and for Holy Trinity?

We employees are here to serve Holy Trinity and we love doing so. However, we need everyone's cooperation, patience, and assistance. Let's all please help take care of the Church properties as we would our own homes. I welcome suggestions.



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PRESCHOOL BY MARIA KLETO AND CINDY BALATSIAS



Whooo's in the News at HTGO Preschool?

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

During the month of May we discussed Mother's Day and how much we love our moms, continued learning about spring, Holy Ascension, Jonah and the Whale, sea life and summer just to name a few. Following the Easter celebration 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 10th and 11th, we invited our preschool Moms and Grandmothers to their children's classrooms for a special "Mom's Morning" coffee hour to honor them for Mother's Day. We had a great turn out and the children enjoyed sharing that special time together with Mom and Yiayia. The children practiced for the Graduation and End of Year Celebration program held on Friday, May 27th. On this special day we honor all of our preschool students and celebrate the

graduation of our four year class. As always, all the children did an excellent job entertaining us with a medley of songs in Greek and English.

The end of each school year is bittersweet for our staff. We will miss all of our children over the summer but look forward to seeing our returning and new students when preschool starts again in September. We will also miss our rising kindergartners as we bid them goodbye. We wish them many blessings as they begin this new journey towards 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 for them 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" and look forward to them coming back to visit us and to hear all about their Kindergarten experience. We love them and we will

miss them!

As June arrives the teachers pack up their classrooms, put away all the fun and educational materials. 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 2016-2017 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 others to thank. Thank you to Fr. Vasileios, Fr. Theodore and Deacon George for their spiritual guidance and for teaching our children in our monthly "Our Faith with Father" sessions; to Joanna Kakouras for volunteering her time to do a monthly music class and for preparing the children to sing at our 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. We appreciate everyone's support for our preschool!!!

During the summer, the co-directors are not in the preschool office daily. For information, call the Preschool Office: 704-333-4961 and leave a message or email to preschool@htgo.org., or call Cindy Balatsias 704-502-3859 or Maria Kleto 704-564-5842.

Have a happy and safe summer break...Kalo Kalokairi!



May 26, 2017: The 2016-2017 Graduation and End of Year Celebration for the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool and their teachers and staff.

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Με Ιδιαίτερη Λαμπρότητα Έγινε η Γιορτή Αποφοίτησης 2017

Κοσμοσυροή από γονείς, συγγενείς και φίλους στη λαμπρή γιορτή αποφοίτησης του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος. Το σχολείο λειτουργεί ανελλιπώς από το έτος 1935 και είναι σήμερα ένα από τα 5 καλύτερα οργανωμένα απογευματινά σχολεία της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Όλοι οι φετινοί απόφοιτοι έφυγαν από το σχολείο μας με πολλές και αξέχαστες αναμνήσεις, υπερηφάνεια αλλά και τιμητικές διακρίσεις, επαίνους και χρηματικά βραβεία από την ΑΧΕΠΑ, την κοινότητά μας, το Σύλλογο Γονέων και Δασκάλων και από θερμούς υποστηρικτές του σχολείου, όπως την οικογένεια Βασιλαίου & Λίτσας Παππά, τη Λία Α. Ράπτη, την οικογένεια Ανδρέα & Κων/νας Τσαμπούκογλου-Gregory και Τομ & Λώρα Νίξον για άριστη σχολική επίδοση, για αξιόλογες πτυχιακές εργασίες, αθλητικές επιτεύξεις και εξαιρετες παρουσίες.

Πάνω από 100 υπερήφανοι γονείς και προσκεκλημένοι των αποφοίτων παρακάθισαν, αμέσως μετά την εκδήλωση, σε επίσημο δείπνο κατά τη διάρκεια του οποίου οι απόφοιτοι είχαν την ευκαιρία να μιλήσουν για τις εμπειρίες και τις γνώσεις που απέκτησαν τα 7 χρόνια ελληνικών σπουδών στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο.

Ιδιαίτερη σημασία είχαν οι διακρίσεις και τα χρηματικά βραβεία που δόθηκαν και στους 9 απόφοιτους για τις εξαιρετικές τους εργασίες που υπέβαλαν στη διεύθυνση του σχολείου ως προϋπόθεση αποφοίτησής τους με θέμα: «Η Γενέτειρα των Προγόνων μου». Κορυφαίες απόφοιτοι αριστούχοι αναδείχθηκαν οι μαθήτριες Κωνσταντίνα Πίττμαν και Έλενα Βρεττού, στις οποίες απονεμήθηκαν από την Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής και το «Βραβείο Αριστείας Των Τριών Ιεραρχών». Δεύτερος κατετάγη ο μαθητής Νίκος Χολέβας.



Οι 9 απόφοιτοι του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας (επάνω) και οι αριστούχοι μαθητές όλων των τάξεων (κάτω) σ' ένα αναμνηστικό στιγμιότυπο, πλαισιωμένοι από τον προϊστάμενο του Καθηδρικού μας Ναού, π. Βασίλειο, τον π. Θεόδωρο, τον δ/ντή Ελ. Περούλα, τον εκπαιδευτικό της 6ης τάξης Ματθαίο Σταμούλη και τον εκπρόσωπο της ΑΧΕΠΑ Δρ. Ανδρινόπουλο, ο οποίος απένειμε και τα Βραβεία της ΑΧΕΠΑ με δωροεπιταγές στις δυο κορυφαίες απόφοιτους Έλενα Βρεττού και Κωνσταντίνα Πίττμαν.



Επάνω: Οι 4 απόφοιτοι που βραβεύθηκαν για τις εξαιρετικές πτυχιακές εργασίες που υπέβαλαν στη Διεύθυνση του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου ως προϋπόθεση αποφοίτησής τους με θέμα: «Η ΓΕΝΕΤΕΙΡΑ ΤΩΝ ΠΡΟΓΟΝΩΝ ΜΟΥ».

Κάτω: Οι αριστούχοι μαθητές με τους εκπαιδευτικούς του σχολείου.



ΘΕΡΜΟΤΑΤΑ ΣΥΓΧΑΡΗΤΗΡΙΑ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΜΑΘΗΤΕΣ ΠΟΥ ΣΥΜΜΕΤΕΙΧΑΝ ΣΤΙΣ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ 2017. ΤΑ ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΑ Θ' ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΘΟΥΝ ΣΤΑ ΤΕΛΗ ΙΟΥΛΙΟΥ 2017.

Ο Διευθυντής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος και υπεύθυνος του Εξεταστικού Κέντρου Ελληνομάθειας Αγίας Τριάδος, Ελευθέριος Περούλας, εκφράζει, εκ μέρους όλων των εκπαιδευτικών του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος και της Ακαδημίας Σωκράτη, εγκάρδια συγχαρητήρια στους μαθητές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας, της Ακαδημίας Σωκράτη καθώς και στα παιδιά απ' άλλες πολιτείες που έλαβαν μέρος στις επίσημες εξετάσεις ελληνομάθειας του Κέντρου Ελληνικής Γλώσσας του Ελληνικού Υπουργείου Παιδείας και Θρησκευμάτων.

Ευχόμαστε κάθε επιτυχία στις ακαδημαϊκές τους σπουδές, επαγγελματική επιτυχία και κοινωνική καταξίωση. Η διεξαγωγή των εξετάσεων έγινε στις 16, 17 και 18 Μαΐου 2017 στους εκπαιδευτικούς χώρους της Ακαδημίας Σωκράτη και σύμφωνα με τους κανονισμούς του Κέντρου Ελληνικής Γλώσσας. Τα Πιστοποιητικά Ελληνομάθειας στους επιτυχόντες θα απονεμηθούν, όπως κάθε χρόνο, κατά τη διάρκεια της μεγάλης διπλής τρανής γιορτής των Τριών Ιεραρχών και των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων, η οποία θα πραγματοποιηθεί στο τέλος Ιανουαρίου 2018.



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