



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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THE KOINOTHTOS

VOL. 76 • NO. 553

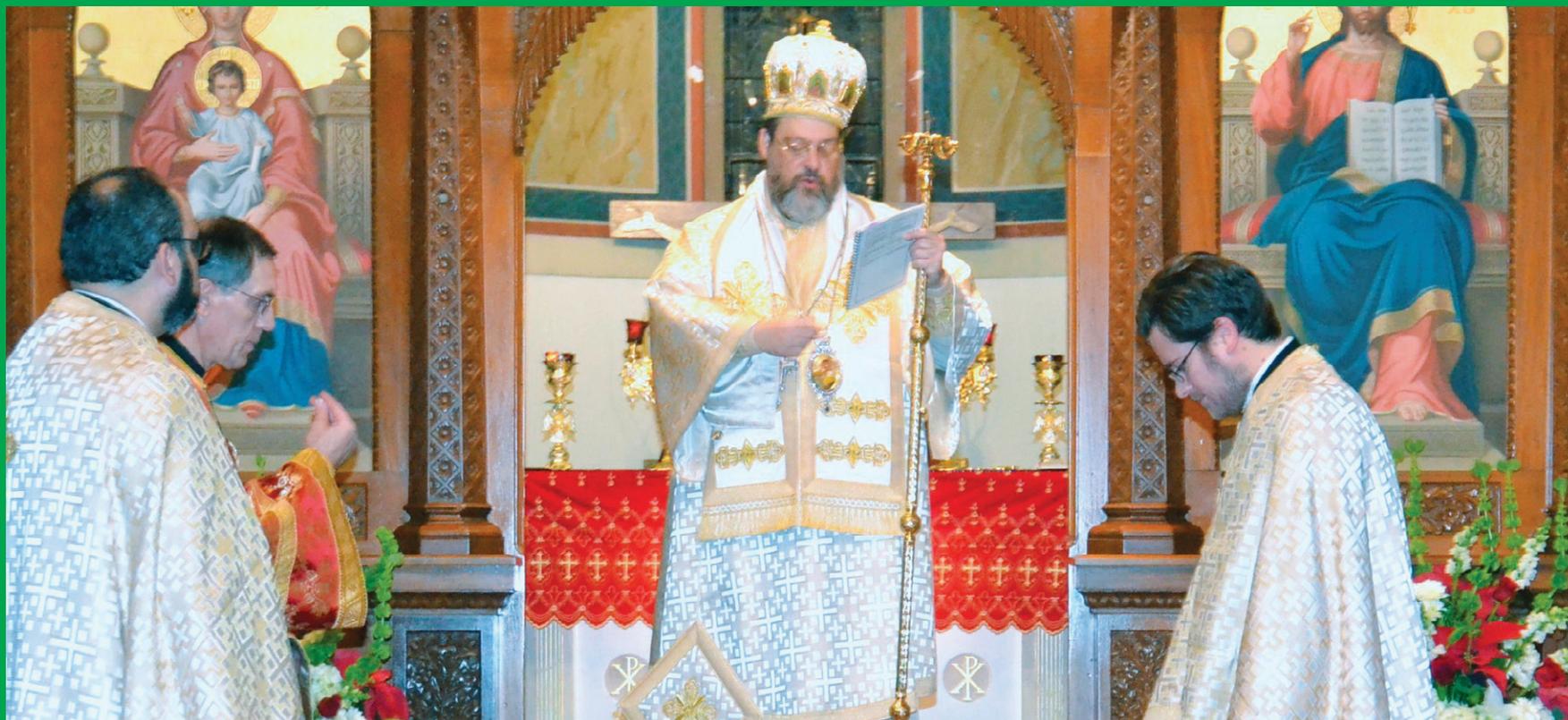
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NOV//DEC 2016

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.

HOLIDAYS 2016



December 24, 2016: Visiting hierarch celebrates the Forefeast of the Nativity. Pictured, l-r, Fr. Vasileios, Deacon George, His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, and Fr. Theodore.



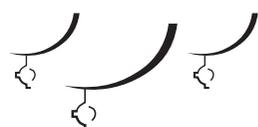
Our Mission

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



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A Message From The Editor



Hello again everybody,

The construction of the church is almost finished. When completed, we will have one of the most beautiful churches in Charlotte. I am very proud to have taken photographs of the church project from the beginning to the end.

Congratulations to the newly elected Parish Council and Foundation members.

YiaYia's Kitchen fundraising luncheon was a big success again this year. Congratulations to the Preschool. Also I want to report that this year Sunday and Greek school programs have very high attendance.

We at the Voice Staff want to thank everybody that contributes articles for the paper.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Angelo Pete Politis

THE VOICE EDITORIAL POLICY AND PRACTICES

Submitting Articles: The Editors welcome your submission of articles and photographs for consideration to be included in future issues. Articles should be submitted electronically in text or .docx formats. Photos should be submitted in .JPG format with a minimum 200DPI resolution. See the submissions schedule for future issues elsewhere on this page. Email to voice@htgoc.org with ARTICLE in the subject line.

As of January 1st, we will not be passing trays during the Liturgy except for big holidays. However, the Church still needs your offerings. Please place your offerings for Stewardship, Renovation, Candles, and other general offerings in the baskets in the Narthex. We have special envelopes for Stewardship and Renovations in the Narthex for you to designate what your donations are for. Remember, Renovation donations are separate from Stewardship and both are very important. Take a few envelopes home with you to have ready for when you come to the Church.



In the same way we take care of our homes, we need to take care of our Church.

Voice Editorial and Business Staff

The Voice Staff

Angelo Pete Politis, Editor
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George Andrews, Business Manager

Contributors:

Fr. Vasileios Tsourlis
Fr. Theodore Ehmer
John Mahairas, PC President's Message

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Olga Yamalis, Choirs
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Nick Kallelis, Stewardship
Teresa Meletioui, Sunday School

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Eleni Bingham, Daughters of Penelope
George Zogzas, Foundation

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Angelo Tatsis, Building Assistant

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Larry Peroulas, Greek School
Vickie Koskinas, Georgia Harakas, Amber Tsumas, and Stacey Vastis, Sunday School
Lucy Pappadakes, Choir
Toni Karnazes, First Choir
Dr. Philip Thevaos, Baritone Choir
Irina Monzolevskaia, Organist

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

The Voice Submissions Schedule for 2017

Below is the deadline schedule for submitting articles, photographs, and advertisements to The Voice for inclusion in the next issues for 2017.

Issue	Deadline	Highlights
JAN/FEB	Friday, February 17, 2017	Construction Completion, HDF, and Oratorical Festival
MAR/APR	Friday, April 21, 2017	Great Lent and Pascha
MAY/JUN	Friday, June 16, 2017	HS Graduates

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Remarks From Father Vasileios



by Father Vasileios Tsourlis
Dean of the Cathedral

«Σήμερα ο Χριστός, εν Βηθλεέμ γεννᾶται ἐκ Παρθένου. Σήμερα ο ἄναρχος ἄρχεται καὶ ὁ Λόγος σαρκοῦται. Αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀγάλλονται καὶ ἡ γῆ σὺν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις εὐφραίνεται. Οἱ Μάγοι τὰ δῶρα προσφέρουσιν· ἡμεῖς δὲ ἀκαταπαύστως βοῶμεν· Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις Θεῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη, ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία».

Με αὐτοὺς τοὺς λόγους, ἀγαπητοὶ μου ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀγαπημένα μου παιδιὰ, ὁ ὑμνογράφος τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας μας Ἰωάννης ὁ Μοναχὸς διαλαλεῖ, κηρύσσει καὶ διεγείρει ὅλες τὶς φυλές καὶ τὶς γλώσσες τῶν ἀνθρώπων, τοὺς «ἐν σκιᾷ καὶ σκότει καθήμενους» κατὰ τὸ λόγο τῆς Ἁγίας Γραφῆς, ὅτι ὁ Σωτὴρας τοῦ κόσμου «ἐν Βηθλεέμ γεννᾶται ἐκ Παρθένου», ὅτι «οἱ δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἀγάλλονται καὶ ἡ γῆ σὺν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις εὐφραίνεται ...».

Καὶ τίθεται τὸ ἐρώτημα, ἀδελφοὶ μου: εὐφραίνεται ἡ γῆ; Ἀγάλλονται οἱ ἄνθρωποι στὶς μέρες μας; Ἀφοῦ καὶ πάλι σκοτάδι στὴν πολυστένακτη ἀνθρωπότητα επικρατεῖ. Ἀφοῦ ἐμφύλιοι πόλεμοι γίνονται καὶ ποταμοὶ αἵματος ρέουν καὶ σαρκοβόρα ὄρνεα

καὶ θηρία τοῦ δρυμοῦ κατασπαράσσουν τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὴν ὁποία ἡ θηριωδία καὶ ἡ ἀπανθρωπία τοῦ ἀνθρώπου σκοτῶνει!

Μήπως, λοιπὸν, δὲν γεννήθηκε ὁ Χριστός; Μήπως δὲν ἦλθε ἡ σωτηρία; Μήπως οἱ τρεῖς μάγοι ἐξ' ἀνατολῆς, οἱ ἀγνοὶ ποιμένες καὶ τὸ ἄστρο ὁδηγός εἶναι μῦθος; Καὶ, ἄρα, ἀδίκως κτυποῦν πανηγυρικῶς οἱ καμπάνες τῶν Ἱερῶν Ναῶν ἀπανταχοῦ τῆς οἰκουμένης καὶ οἱ ἐπὶ εἴκοσι καὶ πλέον αἰῶνες, γενεές τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἀγάλλουν, ὑμνοῦν καὶ πανηγυρίζουν γεγονόν ἀνύπαρκτο καὶ τῆς φαντασίας υπερφάνταστης μυθοπλασία;

Ἡ Γέννησις τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἀγαπητοὶ μου ἀδελφοί, εἶναι γεγονός μεμαρτυρημένο «πᾶσι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις»! Εἶναι γεγονός μοναδικό, ἀνεπανάληπτο καὶ ἀξεπέραστο! Γι' αὐτὸ καὶ διεγείρει τόσο ἐντονη εορταστικὴ διάθεση. Ἡ Γέννησις τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας εἶναι γεγονός ἱστορικῶς ἀποδεδειγμένο! Ἀλλὰ καὶ ὁ τόπος καὶ ὁ χρόνος πιστοποιημένος! «Ἐν Βηθλεέμ τῆς Ἰουδαίας» καὶ ἐπὶ αυτοκράτορος τῆς Ρώμης, «Αὐγούστου μοναρχήσαντος», σημειώνουν οἱ ἱστορικοί, ἡ Ἁγία Γραφή καὶ ἐμφαντικότερα οἱ ἱεροὶ ὑμνοδοί!

Καὶ ἓνα δεῦτερο ἐρώτημα, πλέον ἐπιτακτικὸ καὶ ἀγωνιώδες, ἐρώτημα ἀπελπισίας καὶ ἀγωνίας: καὶ, ἀφοῦ ὁ Χριστός εἶναι ὁ ἀδιαμφισβήτητος ἄρχων τῆς Εἰρήνης, γιατί δὲν ὑπάρχει εἰρήνη, γιατί δὲν επικρατεῖ ἀδελφὸσύνη, θυσιαστικὴ ἀγάπη, φιλανθρωπία καὶ ἀλληλοσυμπαραστάση; Ἀφοῦ ὁ Χριστός εἶναι ὁ ἓνας καὶ μόνος Σωτὴρας τοῦ κόσμου, ἡ ἐλπίδα καὶ ἡ ἀπολύτρωση, γιατί κυριαρχοῦν μίση καὶ φθόνος, ἀκαταστασίες καὶ υποδουλώσεις, ἐξορίες καὶ ξεριζωμός, προσφυγία καὶ πόνος, πείνα καὶ δυστυχία, κατατρεγμός καὶ ἀλληλοσπαραγμός; Γιατί; Γιατί;

Registration for
Holy Trinity's Preschool
2017-18 School year
begins on
February 5, 2017

Contact Directors:
Maria Kleto
Cindy Balatsias
704-333-4961

PRAISES FOR THE CHOIR

January 3, 2017

Dr Thevaos,

Thank you very much for sharing your choirs' talent with the employees, patients and family members of Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center. The holidays are a challenging time for many of our patients, family members and staff. The gift of music from you and so many other talented and generous Charlotte musicians helped ease some of their burden.

Each year we hear from our families and staff about the thoughtfulness of those musicians that come to our hospital. It has been a wonderful experience for us to schedule your event and to work with you in this meaningful contribution.

Again, we thank you for your participation and hope that you will consider helping us celebrate the 2017 holiday season.

Sincerely,
Marcia Farroch
Marcia Farroch, Manager
Volunteer Services

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Remarks From Father Theodore



An Invitation to Pay Attention

Within the last couple of weeks, we have been blessed to have here at Holy Trinity Cathedral the first meeting of the resurrected Young Adult Ministry. (Side

note #1: If you are a young adult, ages 24 to 40, come join us...check the bulletin for the schedule!) We had a wonderful time of fellowship and discussion centered on a passage from the recently canonized St. Porphyrios's teachings which were recorded in a book called Wounded by Love. (Side note #2: This is one of my favorite books and is one we have available in the bookstore!)

During this first meeting, we read a selection from the saint's writing "On Creation." St. Porphyrios said a number of thought provoking things such as: "Beautiful moments predispose the soul to prayer" or "Nature is the secret gospel." However, one thing in particular generated some extra discussion. The saint said, "Christ does not wish insensitive souls in his company." Does this not contradict what Christ says about desiring the salvation of all?

I believe that St. Porphyrios is expressing Christ's desire for us to be people with sensitivity that we are to be people who have sensitivity to our fellow human beings and to the world that He created around us. If you read the Gospels, you constantly see Christ attentive to those around him who are being overlooked. Think of the sinners, the tax collectors, or Zacchaeus in the tree just to name a few. The

Nativity season (and really, all seasons) is an invitation to pay attention to the world around us. It is incredibly easy to lose ourselves in our own bubbles, in our own "worlds" where everything around us is part of the background especially around Christmas time. But the people around us, the world around us are not there for scenery but have been created by the One who Creates all things. Christ does not desire to be around "insensitive" souls but ones who are attentive to the world around them, attentive to the world that He created. This is why He repeatedly says in the Bible that we need to have "eyes to see" and "ears to hear." It's not that we do not possess these parts of our body, but that we utilize them...utilize them to be attentive to what is around us. It shouldn't be lost on us that over and over in our Divine Services in the Orthodox Church we hear the Priest or the Deacon saying, "Πρόσχωμεν"... "Let us be attentive."

Relating to all of this, we have a beautiful opportunity to sharpen our attentiveness right here in our own Metropolis of Atlanta. A little over two hours away in South Carolina exists the Diakonia Center. Many of you may be familiar with the Diakonia Center through the experiences that your children or grandchildren have had there during St. Stephen's Summer Camp. The Diakonia Center provides an opportunity to step away from the busyness of our lives and to retreat, to grow in attentiveness, to sharpen our senses as Christ desires from us. It is a place of retreat and refuge from our busy lives. The Diakonia Center is not just for the camp...there are retreats for adults, meetings, family camp, and other events that take place there. It is an important part of our Metropolis and we have a responsibility to support this place which helps in the spiritual growth of so many faithful. In February, we will be having the Queen City Classic Basketball Tournament and Talent Show. The proceeds from this event will go towards the Diakonia Center which will be a beautiful offering on the part of our Holy Trinity Community. As we move forward into the new year of 2017, let's cultivate that wonderful place and cultivate our own souls to constantly be growing in attentiveness, attentiveness to those around us, the world around us, and our own spiritual lives, always and forever!

Remarks From Father Tommy

Η ΠΡΟΣΕΥΧΗ

- 1 -

Ενα από τά σπουδαιότερα καθήκοντά μας, σάν άνθρωποι πού είμαστε, αδελφοί μου, είναι νά προσευχόμεσθε στό Θεό. Είμαστε υποχρεωμένοι νά δοξάζουμε τό Θεό, νά Τόν ευχαριστούμε, καθώς και νά ζητάμε απ' Αυτόν τό κάθε τι απαραίτητο πού έχουμε ανάγκη στή ζωή μας, γιά νά συντηρηθούμε και νά προοδεύουμε σωματικά και πνευματικά, στή ζωή αυτή πού ζούμε. Ωφείλουμε λουπόν νά δοξολογούμε τό Θεό γιατί Αυτός είναι η άπειρος δύναμη η απόλυτη σοφία και η τελεία αγαθότητα. Πρέπει νά σκεφτώμασθε λίγο στά σοβαρά και νά λέμε: Ποιός δημιούργησε τόν ουρανό, τή γή, τά αστέρια, τόν ήλιο και τίς ακτίνες αυτού; Ποιός ορίζει καιρούς

καρποφόρους και μάς ρίχνει τίς βροχές; Ποιός άλλος κατευθύνει τά πάντα πρός τό τέλει τέλος αυτών; Μόνο ο Θεός κάνει τά πάντα! Γιά τούς λόγους αυτούς έχουμε καθήκον ιερόν νά υμνούμε και νά δοξολογούμε καθημερινώς Αυτόν. Αν ανοιζουμε τήν Παλαιά Διαθήκη θά δούμε ότι ο ανώτερος ψάλτης τού Ισραήλ ήταν ο Δαβίδ, πού μέ τούς μεγάλους ύμνους του δοξολογούσε τό μεγαλείο τού Θεού, όπως εκθαμβος έψαλλε: * Οι ουρανοί διηγούνται δόξαν Θεού, ποιήσιν δέ χειρών Αυτού αναγγέλλει τό στερέωμα * (Ψαλμ. 18.2). Αλλοτε δέ μέ ακράτητο ενθουσιασμό προσκαλεί τήν ψυχήν του νά δοξολογήσει τό Θεό και εκσπά σέ δοξολογίες τού ονόματός Του και λέγει: * Ευλόγει η ψυχή μου τόν Κύριον και πάντα τά εντός μου τό όνομα τό Αγιον

Αυτού * . Αλλοτε δέ λέγει: * Ως εμεγαλύνθη τά έργα Σου Κύριε πάντα εν σοφία εποίησας (Ψαλμ. 103. 1 έως 24). Οι άγγελοι στόν ουρανό ψάλλουν και δοξολογούν τό Θεόν, όπως μάς λέγει ο Ησαίας λέγοντες: * Άγιος, Άγιος,

Άγιος, Κύριος Σαββαώθ, πλήρης πάσα η γή τής δόξης Αυτού * (Ηαίας. 6.1- 3). Επομένως και εμείς έχουμε καθήκον ιερόν νά δοξάζουμε τό όνομα τού Δημιουργού μας. Και νά Τόν δοξάζουμε μέ ύμνους και δοξολογίες, πού πηγαινουν στό θρόνο τού Θεού γιά πάντα. (συνεχίζεται)
Αμήν.

Ιερέας π. Ταξιάρχης Διον. Βλάχος.



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Upcoming Notable Church Feast Days and Events

- Friday January 6 – HOLY THEOPHANY
- Thursday February 2 – PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD
- Sunday February 5 – TRIODION Begins with SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE
- Sunday February 12 – SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON
- Saturday February 18 – SATURDAY OF SOULS
- Sunday February 19 – MEATFARE – SUNDAY OF JUDGEMENT
- Saturday February 25 – SATURDAY OF SOULS
- Sunday February 26 – CHEESEFARE –FORGIVENESS SUNDAY
- Monday February 27 – GREAT LENT BEGINS

Other Upcoming Events

- HELLENIC DANCE FESTIVAL IN WINSTON SALEM**
Saturday – Monday, January 14-16
- HDF FUNDRAISER BRUNCH**
Sunday, January 22
- OPEN BUDGET MEETING**
Monday January 23 6:00PM
- FOREVER YOUNG SOCIAL**
Thursday January 26 5:00PM
- GREEK CONCERT FEATURING PANOS KIAMOS**
Friday February 3
- GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**
Sunday February 12
- QUEEN CITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT & TALENT SHOW**
Friday- Sunday, February 17-19
- DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE QUEEN OF HEARTS TEA AND FASHION SHOW**
Saturday February 18

PC President's Message



by John Mahairas

Beloved Parishioners:

On behalf of myself and my family, we thank you for all the support and trust given to me as Holy Trinity's 2016 Parish Council President. I also thank my family for their support and patience during this year which has flown by.

Our community has had many wonderful happenings in 2016:

--We began our long-awaited Renovations on the Courtyard and Cathedral.

--We had a successful 2016 Yiasou Festival.

--We welcomed a wonderful new Proistamenos– Fr. Vasileios Tsourlis.

This list is only a few of the many good things about our community.

As most of you have seen, the renovations are progressing nicely. The completion date looks to be the end of January. We will then have a beautiful courtyard, an elevator and ramp for the elderly and/or those in wheelchairs to help them enter the Church, a ramp entering Fr. C Hall, a covered walkway from the Church to the Church office, and a new playground for our Preschool. All this began years ago with the help of Mr. Michael Antonio's seed money for a new courtyard. He loved his Church and left Holy Trinity over \$250,000 to go towards his dream of a new courtyard.

With the project nearing completion, we need to focus our attention on paying for our renovations. So far, 28% of our families have made a donation or pledged to the project. We need everyone's help to meet our financial obligations. We need that number to be 100%. Whether you give a one-time donation or give monthly, all donations are appreciated. We still have pavers for you to honor or commemorate your family names for years to come. Please call the office staff and they can help you.

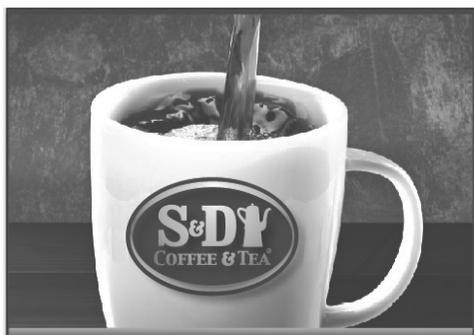
In closing, I once again thank you, our clergy, our office staff and my fellow Parish Council members for a wonderful year. An experience I will cherish forever. I grew up at Holy Trinity. It is my second home so it is very special to me and my family.

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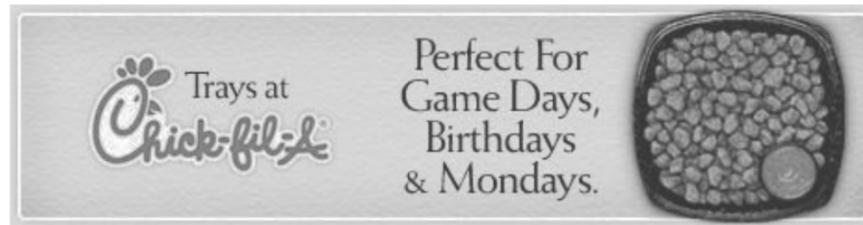


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Andre Harakas & John Tsumas

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ΠΕΝΘΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ

Travis Moore Anderson (1979 - 2016)

Travis, 37, passed away on Wednesday, December 14th, 2016 at his home in Charlotte. Born on October 19th, 1979 in King, NC, he was a son of Charles and Kathy Anderson of King, NC. Travis attended South Stokes High School, followed by Appalachian State University where he earned a Bachelor of Business from the Walker School of Business, and subsequently earned his Real Estate Brokers License.

He is survived by his two children; son, Alexander Ivan Anderson, 7, and daughter Milania Joy Anderson, 5, of Charlotte, NC, who he loved dearly; his parents Charles and Kathy Anderson; his sister Kimberly Anderson Ritchie and her husband William Ritchie of Thornton, NH; and mother of his children, Katya Homyakova. His relatives in the Moore and Anderson families, and his friends, deeply loved him.

He enjoyed the great outdoors, reading, music, writing about various current world events, and activities with his children. Travis never met a stranger; he was a very intelligent and charismatic individual and loved to travel the world. A service to celebrate Travis's life was held on Monday, 12/19/2016 at 1:00pm at Saint Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church, 5108 Kuykendall Rd., Charlotte, NC. For those wishing to send memorial gifts, in lieu of flowers, please donate to the college fund being collected for the future education of his children. Condolences may be offered at www.mcewenpinevillechapel.com

Paul Drosinis (1933 - 2016)

Pavlos (Paul) Konstantinos Drosinis was born in Pavlopoulos, Evrytania, Greece on May 15, 1933. He moved to the United States in 1952 at the age of 18. In 1956 he enlisted in the US Air Force. In 1960 he married his wife of 57 years, Alik Antonios Balatsias. In addition to his wife he is survived by his son, Dino; his daughter, Maria and her husband, George Housiadas and his son Dimitri. On December 24, 2016, he was embraced in the arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ as he joined his predeceased son, John. He is also survived by 7 Grandchildren and 8 Great-Grandchildren.

Pavlos was a genuinely devoted man to his family and faith. He was very vibrant and outspoken, honest and self-educated. He was a successful restaurateur and operated the Philadelphia Deli for 47 years. In the eyes of his loving wife, Alik, and his children he was a true hero. May his memory be eternal.

Visitation was on Monday, December 26, 2016 from 4 to 6 PM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with the Trisagion following at 6PM. Funeral service for Mr. Drosinis was held on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at 12 Noon with interment following in Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Building and Renovation Fund, 600 East Boulevard Charlotte, NC 28203.

Arrangements are in the care of Kenneth Poe Funeral & Cremation Services, 1321 Berkeley Ave Charlotte, NC 28204. Online condolences @www.kennethpoeservices.com.

Nia Hantzopoulos (1951 - 2016)

Nia Hantzopoulos, 64, passed away on Friday, December 16, 2016. She was born on October 7, 1951 in Milia, Greece. She is survived by her loving husband of 32 years, Angelo Hantzopoulos; daughter, Virginia Karras and grandchildren:

Christina, Xena, Nia and Xenophon. She is also survived by her brother, two sisters, many cousins, nieces and nephews in the US and Greece. She was preceded in death by her parents Dionysios and Maria Flitouris.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and loyal friend to all. Radiant and full of life, she was very passionate in everything and everyone she touched. She was especially proud of her small business that she created.

Visitation was from 10:00-11:00am on Saturday, December 31, 2016 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Boulevard, Charlotte NC, 28203. The Trisagion and funeral followed at 11:00am. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Serving the Hantzopoulos family is Ellington Funeral Services, "The Historic Morehead St. Chapel", 727 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Family owned since 1944.

Mary Trakas Karres (1923 - 2016)

Mrs. Karres, of Charlotte, passed away on Wednesday, November 16, 2016. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts on August 2, 1923. Mrs. Karres was the daughter of the late Christos J. Trakas and Georgia Demas Trakas. A completely devoted and beloved wife, mother and friend, she had an unbounded and unqualified capacity to love and to care for her family, friends and pets. She truly never met a stranger. Her keen intellect, infectious enthusiasm and tremendous energy were a source of great comfort and pleasure to all of those around her. She will always be in our thoughts and prayers and forever in our hearts.

She attended and received a tremendous education in the Boston public schools and graduated from Girls Latin School,

the country's first college preparatory high school for girls. In 1946, Mary and her family traveled to North Carolina to attend a postwar convention of the Adelphotis Arachoviton "Karyae" where she met Steve Matthew Karres. After a long distance courtship, they were married on January 2, 1949, and afterwards they made Charlotte their home. She always loved this city and was warmly greeted upon her arrival by so many lifelong friends.

A lifelong member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, she loved the Church and its parishioners and worked on many projects there throughout her life. She was a member of the Agia Elpis Ladies Philoptochos Society, the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church, and served as its President. She served as Chairperson of the Annual Greek Pastry Sale, which pre-dated the Yiasou Greek Festival. She was a member of the Ladies Society of Karyae and served as its President.

Mrs. Karres loved being involved in and contributing to organizations throughout the Charlotte community which gave her much pleasure. She was active in the PTA and served several terms as President of the Montclair Elementary School PTA. During the court-ordered integration of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system, she was appointed to and served on the Citizens Advisory Group to the Board of Education. She participated in Church Women United, the Committee of 100 Women at Johnson C. Smith University, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. She was a long time street hostess for the Montibello Homeowners Association, which gave her the opportunity to meet so many of her neighbors. For over 30 years, she was a member of the Opera Guild of Charlotte and served as its President. She was a Patron of the Opera and enjoyed serving on the Board of Opera Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Karres cherished the many warm

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and lasting friendships made through participating in all of the organizations in which they were involved.

She was an avid North Carolina Tar Heels sports fan and derived endless pleasure from Carolina basketball. In addition, she loved and followed the Boston Red Sox throughout her life. An avid cook, she loved to entertain and have fun, loved every holiday, and had a special knack for making any small occasion an extra special pleasure. She always enjoyed the spectacular beauty of the North Carolina mountains and cherished the time she spent at her home in Blowing Rock. In the summer, she cherished delightful weeks spent on Cape Cod with her extended family.

Survivors include her sons Matthew and Christopher of Charlotte and her sweet dog Rudy. She was predeceased by her sister Mimi Tingus and her brother-in-law Constantine G. Tingus, sister Patricia Trakas, and brother Dr. John C. Trakas, all of Milton, Massachusetts. She is survived by her sister-in-law Anne Trakas, and her niece and nephews, Jennifer Trakas Acerra and her husband Stephen Acerra, Christopher Trakas, all of Milton; and Nicholas Trakas and his wife Barbara, and their children John and Elizabeth of Westwood, Massachusetts. She was also predeceased by her beloved dog Prince and sweet Lovie the cat.

The Trisagion and visitation for Mrs. Karres was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Monday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. The funeral service was held at the Cathedral on Tuesday, November 22, at 11:30 a.m. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery, Charlotte, NC.

Pallbearers for the service were Stephen Acerra, Dr. Anthony Carraway, Nathan Craig, Gus Euripides, Lt. Col. Matthew G. Karres, Matthew J. Karres, Nicholas J. Karres, Harry J. Stathopoulos, and John Williams.

Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation of Charlotte, NC, 600 East Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28203, and to the Opera Guild of Charlotte, Inc., P.O. Box 470132, Charlotte, NC 28247.

Arrangements are in the care of Kenneth W. Poe Services, online at www.kennethpoeservices.com.

May her memory be eternal. She will forever remain in our hearts.

Nick Kefalas (1929 - 2016)

Mr. Kefalas, 86 of Charlotte, passed away on November 23, 2016. He was born December 29, 1929 in Chios, Greece.

He came to Charlotte in 1957 and in 1967 started his own business Carolina Expert Tailor Shop in uptown where he worked with his wife for over 40 years until his retirement.

He was a longtime member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral where he was a chanter and sang in the choir. Mr. Kefalas was also a member of St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church. He was also blessed to be a descendent of Saint Nektarios of Aegina, Greece.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Cathy; sons Danny and Angelo and his wife Katherine; grandchildren, Maria and Arianna; his brother John and his wife Maria and their children in Athens, Greece.

The Trisagion was held at 7:00 PM Sunday, November 27, 2016 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203. The funeral service was at 11:00 AM, Monday, November 28, 2016 also at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Milton Polemides, Jimmy Zaharopoulos, George Zaharopoulos, John Zaharopoulos, George Stathopoulos, Andreas Stathopoulos, Danny Vlahos and John

Georgopoulos as Pallbearers. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials may be made in lieu of flowers to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Building Renovation Fund, St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church or Panagia Prousiotissa Greek Church.

Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203; online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com

New Office Hours:
Beginning
January 9, 2017,
Office hours are
9:00AM to 5:00PM,
Monday-Friday

Fund Raising Programs Update

GEORGE ZOGZAS

With the renovations groundbreaking nearly 10 months ago, we are rapidly approaching the completion of the Cathedral and Courtyard renovation project. The expanded façade of the entrance to Holy Trinity, and the covered walkway that leads to the parking lot and to the entrance to the offices and community center have taken shape. The new planters and double entry courtyard will soon be complete.

Also still under way are the two fundraising programs that were announced jointly by the Fundraising Committee, IRRC, and Parish Council. The Commemorative Mosaic Paver and Benefactor Programs have already helped raise funds for the project. Opportunities still exist for individuals and families to participate.

Commemorative Paver Program. A donor can choose from 3 different size pavers. The mosaic will be located in a very prominent spot that connects the walkways of the Cathedral and Hellenic Center. It will be composed of specially engraved granite pavers and surround a beautifully inscribed seal of a Byzantine double-headed eagle.

There are three paver types at different sizes and donation levels. Type A is \$10,000; Type B is \$6,000; and Type C is \$3,000.

There are very few Type A pavers still available for purchase.

Benefactor Program. Many of the dedicated areas originally available under this program have been spoken for by successful bidders. Upon fulfillment of their commitment, a decorative plaque will be prominently displayed in the dedicated area.

Two of the dedicated areas still available to be bid on are the Chapel and New Narthex at levels of \$500,000 and \$100,000, respectively. A winning bid must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 50% with the balance to be paid by May 15, 2018.

Contact the office staff for more details or with your questions.

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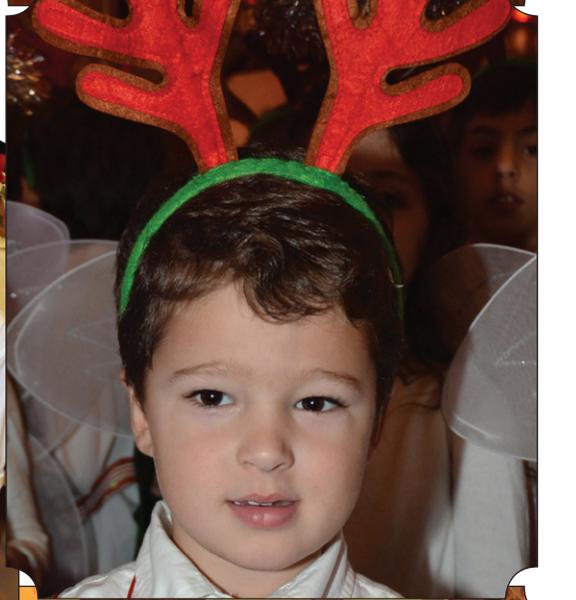
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Christmas Pageant



Holy Trinity Angels

In the JUL/AUG 2015 issue of The Voice we began a new series honoring the memories of parishioners who are no longer with us. These parishioners continue to live in our hearts and thoughts because of the influence and legacies they have left behind. In that tradition, it is only fitting and right to honor Chrys (Chrysanthe) Strate as a Holy Trinity Angel. She passed on November 21, 2015. She served and devoted her 88 years to Holy Trinity and the Charlotte community. May her memory be eternal.

Included are memories of Chrys by some of her parish friends, Toni P. Karnazes, Phillip Walker, Debbie Stathakis, and Joanna C. Pitsikoulis. The Voice sincerely thanks them for sharing their thoughts and cherished stories of a truly remarkable Orthodox Christian woman.

If you have a loved one that you would like to honor, please submit your article to Editor Angelo Pete Politis at e-mail address olympus10@yahoo.com or telephone 704.814.8899.

Memories of Chrys Strate

BY TONI P. KARNAZES

Chrys Strate was a lifelong member of the Holy Trinity Community. Her love of God and joy of life were the gifts she shared unselfishly with all, newcomer and native. She loved relating her favorite tales about the Charlotte community specifically the Greek ones. Her pride of culture, respect for family and values, and love of the church were evident in every story told, every lesson taught, and every Greek Orthodox tradition lived. Oftentimes, hers was the "first face" many saw upon entering the Holy Trinity community. Chrys' welcoming smile, giving heart, caring and supportive attitude were the gifts she gave that we cherish the most. As one parishioner so rightly said, "Chrys was everyone's godmother." Perhaps her greatest gift was the ability to lead all of us in singing praises to our Lord. Her resounding, harmonic voice called each of us to sing together with one voice and with one heart for more than 75 years. She invited everyone to join the choir and learn our beautiful church hymns. Her personal favorite, "To Pnevma Sou, to Agathon", is a plea from us to God to be led along the path that is sure and straight. May

we forever hear Chrys' voice leading us to the sure, straight path as we continue to sing. Rest in peace dear friend. May the Lord embrace you with loving arms as He invites you to join His heavenly choir. Everlasting be your memory.

BY PHILLIP WALKER

When my family and I were chrismated in 1998 we promptly joined Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral (HTGOC). I joined the first service choir and was immediately welcomed by Chrys Strate. Despite reading about the Divine Liturgy I did not understand it, and she patiently explained the various parts.

During our many conversations over the years, I learned of her family's difficulties in getting to this country, the problems of assimilation, and the early days of HTGOC. I learned that she and the late Reverend John Paul used to sing at Orthodox weddings for couples throughout this area. At every talk I would hear about the many friends she helped by taking them to the doctor, store, bank, and church. In recent months I had the privilege of driving her to church early Sunday mornings, and learned that she was still helping friends during daylight hours.

A few years ago Chrys seemed embarrassed to receive the Archangel Michael's Award. Because of her constant devotion to her church family, everyone around her knew that the award was well deserved.

Chrys had a choir book however seldom used it, as she knew all the music by heart. Her lovely alto voice enriched our music for about 75 years, and we miss that voice today.

Chrys, we look forward to celestial choir practice with you when the time comes. Thank you for your friendship, and God bless you.

BY DEBBIE STATHAKIS

My memories of Chrys Strate are ones of dedication, commitment, appreciation and warmth. Having grown up in the Holy Trinity community, I can't remember a time when Chrys was not there. She was always involved at church, helping whenever she could and singing in the choir. The music of the liturgy is steadfast in my mind and seeing Chrys in her choir robe is as well.

When my mom passed on, Chrys

framed her prayer card and gave it to me. It is a gift that I treasure and it so defines Chrys and her thoughtfulness.

Chrys always had a deep pride in the history of the Holy Trinity community and the greater Charlotte community. It was important to her to remember the past and to carry on into the future. That being said, perhaps one of the strongest parts of her legacy is her welcoming with open arms those who wanted to embrace our faith. She baptized and confirmed so many people and epitomized her role as godmother.

We have all been blessed. May her memory be eternal.

BY JOANNA C. PITSIKOULIS

When thinking of words to describe Chrys Strate, immediately coming to mind gifted singer, talented artist, warm, kind, caring, welcoming, loving, hardworking, and selfless woman, someone who did anything for anyone at any time with no thought of herself. She hated the limelight and shunned any recognition. She had numerous godchildren whom she loved very much. She was very proud of her niece Irene Strate Fargis and husband Mason and great niece Rachel Strate Humphries and husband Gary. Irene was blessed with her Aunt's talent of singing. It was Saturday, November 21, 2015. Chrys laid in the hospital gravely ill. Irene was by her bedside. Chrys made Irene promise she would sing at 1st Liturgy the next day no matter what happened. She asked Irene to carry on the family tradition of singing in the choir. Chrys passed on later that Saturday evening.

Growing up, the names Miss Chrys Strate, Mrs. Katina Laskaris, and Mr. John Paul (who later became Father John Paul and my Nouno) were synonymous for me with the words "Holy Trinity Choir". Many years later when I joined the 1st Liturgy Choir, Miss Strate (it would take several years before I felt comfortable calling her Chrys as she requested), told me (and several hundred other people) she remembered the day Anna and I were born. It was Easter Sunday, 1954. She remembered because at the end of the service everyone greeted each other with "Christos Anesti! Did you hear? Marie had twins!" (According to our birth certificates we were born on Holy Saturday, Anna at 5:58 PM and I at 6:07 PM. My Yiayia explained Miss Strate was correct because it was after 6:00 PM in Charlotte and already Pascha and Sunday in Greece.)

My place in the choir was always the row immediately in front of and just to the right of Chrys. Everyone in my family can tell you I'm tone deaf and rarely sing on key. It didn't matter when I sang in the choir with Chrys. Her voice

was so melodic and so powerful, I knew my notes joined hers when they left the balcony and the result was nothing short of the Angelic Choir in Heaven.

Chrys hardly ever looked at her music when singing. She didn't have to look. She knew all the hymns by heart, in Greek and English. During choir practices when Toni, our Director, or Anna, our organist, referred to a hymn by its Greek name, Chrys would quickly sing a couple of measures in English and I knew immediately which hymn to pull from my music. Also, Chrys had the arduous task during Great Lent choir practices of reviewing the pronunciation of the Greek words in the lamentations/Engomia we were to sing. Her favorite Christmas carol was the simple, beautiful, and loving "Away in the Manger". The words describing this carol also portrayed Chrys.

On one occasion Chrys asked me to go with her to her car. She had a jar of olives for Anna and me. When she opened the trunk, there was a big plastic bag full of stuffed animals. She confessed on most mornings she would drive for coffee to the McDonald's down the street from her. If she noticed a small child in the restaurant, she would go to the trunk and pull out a stuffed animal. It gave her great pleasure to see the child's excitement and delight when Chrys told them it was a gift from her to them.

Chrys and my Mom referred to themselves as "Old Charlotte". Not that they were old, mind you. Just they weren't "newcomers" from the 1960s or later. They sat during choir practices and whispered and giggled like teenage girls. I tried to help both of them down the steps from the balcony when we finished singing on Sundays. Chrys always told me "I'm fine. Look after your Mother." After my Mom passed on, it was difficult for me on some Sundays to sing in the choir. Chrys sensed this and would pat me on the shoulder. It was even more difficult for me to sing after Chrys died. Toni notified the choir late Saturday evening that Chrys had passed on. She wanted us to sing at the Liturgy the next morning, as planned, in tribute to Chrys. I was surprised to see Irene, her niece, there. That's when she related her promise to her Aunt to attend Divine Liturgy in the morning and thereafter to carry on the family tradition. A little bird appeared in the choir loft that morning and flew around us as if to remind us Chrys will always be there with us, singing just like she had for many, many years. I know Chrys is enjoying singing with the Heavenly Choir now along with former 1st Liturgy Choir members Katina Fellos Laskaris, Sophie Mamalis Hondros, Marie Pappas Pitsikoulis and Lillian Lyles. Eternal be their memories.



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Annual Parish Elections

GEORGE ZOGZAS

The Community held its annual Parish Elections on Sunday, December 4, 2016. As is customary, the polls were open from 9:30AM until 4:00PM. They were manned by the Elections Committee selected at the General Assembly held on October 16, 2016. The committee was headed up by George Vlahos and Leo Kyriazis.

On the ballot this year were five open positions on Parish Council and two open positions on the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation (also referred to as the Cathedral Foundation) Board of Trustees.

The Parish Council members whose terms expired in 2016 were Jimmy Christodoulis, Elias Elia, Despina Kaltsounis, Dino M. Pappas, and Angelo Spero. The candidates for the open Parish Council spots were Elias Elia, Gloria Kontoulas, Dino M. Pappas, Anna Pitsikoulis, and Caleb Russell.

The Foundation Trustees whose terms expired in 2016 were Nick Kantsios and Christopher S. Karres. There were three candidates for the two open Foundation slots. They were Stella Karadimas, Peter Thomopoulos, and Andreas Ziozios.

The table below shows the certified vote counts.

2016 ELECTION BY THE NUMBERS					
Parish Council			Foundation		
Dino M. Pappas	184		Peter Thomopoulos	173	
Gloria Kontoulas	179		Andreas Ziozios	102	
Elias Elia	169		Stella Karadimas	83	
Caleb Russell	164				
Anna Pitsikoulis	161				
top vote getters in bold			Ballots		
			Voted in Person	186	
			Absentee Ballots	20	
			Total Ballots Cast	206	

Election Trends

There were a total of 206 ballots cast in 2016. That total is 45% lower than the count in 2015. That significant drop-off may be attributed to the lack of a competitive Parish Council race. With only 5 candidates for 5 open positions, there was no doubt on the outcome. Compare that to last year when there were 8 candidates for 5 open spots. There were 374 total ballots cast, the highest total recorded in the six elections since 2010.

2016 marks the end of a four year increase in the number of ballots cast when compared to the prior year. Fortunately, this year's total was not back to the 2013 levels. The table below recaps the results each year starting with 2011.

Election Results for Past 6 Years at Holy Trinity					
Election Year	Total Ballots Cast	Parish Council		Foundation	
		# of Candidates	# Elected	# of Candidates	# Elected
2016	206	5	5	3	2
2015	374	8	5	2	1
2014	326	9	5	3	2
2013	165	9	5	1	1
2012	164	5	5	2	2
2011	116	5	5	2	1

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From the Choir Loft BY OLGA YAMALIS

This fall was an impressive season for our two HTC choir directors Lucy Pappadakes of the second service choir and Toni Karnazes of the first service choir. Both received awards out of state.

First, on October 7, 8, and 9 at St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church in New London, CT, Lucy Pappadakes was guest conductor at the Metropolis of Boston's Federation choir conference. She conducted approximately 45 participants as they celebrated the Liturgical music of composer Dean Limberakis. The dedication of all participants from rehearsal to rehearsal proved that when choir members join together to rejoice His name, they accomplish excellence. Congratulations to Lucy! We are so proud of you and your devotion and achievement!

Second, on November 12 in Atlanta, GA, Toni Karnazes was one of HTC's 2016 recipients of the Archangel Michael Award of our Atlanta Diocese. The other recipient was George Andrews. Both were recognized for their exceptional contributions and actions to our church which are well deserved. Congratulations Toni and George. Axioi!

This fall included three Youth/English Liturgies that took place in Father C Hall simultaneously to a Liturgy in the Cathedral. They took place October 9, November 20, and December 11 under the choral direction of Olga Yamalis. Each Liturgy consisted of both adult and youth choir members using the Kevin Lawrence Liturgy (red) hymnal book to promote more congregational singing and a further teaching about Liturgy to students. Thank you to all who attended and let's keep up the great work of EVERYONE singing God's praises. The next Youth/English Liturgy will be in Father C Hall on February 19.

What a December! The HTC choirs had three holiday events scheduled in

December. On Sunday, December 11 the Community Christmas Celebration program. Both choirs along with the Byzantine Chant Choir and GOYANS came together to participate and celebrate the yuletide season with joyous sounds. The celebration program contained sacred and secular musical pieces from Robert Shaw and Bach to Liturgical composers such as Bogdanos, Desby and Gallos. Songs included "O Come Emmanuel", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", "Joy to the World", "I Parthenos Simeron", "Katavasias", and "Megalynarion of Christmas". A big thank you goes out to Dr. Philip Thevaos for leading and conducting, organist Irina Monzolevskaya, Protopsalti Dimitri Petropoulos, Niko Goudes and Stelio Lazaridis for playing clarinet and guitar, Anna Minakakis and Olga Yamalis for playing flutes, and Mimi Dizes as Narrator. Great job to all choir members and parishioners who participated.

On Thursday, December 15 caroling at the Forever Young Christmas party. The HTC Adult choir had an enjoyable evening caroling at this annual event under the choral direction and carol narration of Dr. Philip Thevaos. Everyone joined in and sang along with the choir which added a cheerful and merry touch.

Finally, on Sunday, December 18 caroling at Charlotte Uptown's Novant Hospital. The Choir spread Christmas cheer on every floor of the hospital under the choral direction of Dr. Philip Thevaos. The choir's holiday caroling spread well wishes and holiday cheer throughout the hospital which brought smiles to others in need. Kudos to the choir for such a kind and merry gesture. Bravo!

May we all remember the true meaning of Christmas as we celebrate the season. On behalf of the HTC choirs, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year!



Lucy Pappadakes conducted the conference participants during a rehearsal.



December 15, 2016: Dr. Philip Thevaos leads the choir singing carols at the Forever Young Christmas party at Holy Trinity.



October 9, 2016: The participants at the Metropolis of Boston Choir Federation Conference at St. Sophia's Church in New London CT

ORDER OF AHEPA, MARATHON CHAPTER No.2

BY GEORGE KOKALIS, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

On December 13, the chapter held their annual Christmas party for chapter members. Over 30 men gathered together to celebrate this year's accomplishments. In attendance was District 3 Governor Bill Bond who presented the District's Secretary of the Year award to Nicholas "Markos" Kontos. Markos has been a member of the Marathon Chapter for 42 years; has held many leadership roles in our chapter, provides tireless service and always has been committed to the success of the chapter and AHEPA.

As a preview to 2017, our chapter will host the District 3 convention on June 9-10th at the DoubleTree Suites- SouthPark. We look forward to welcoming delegates from the chapters in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia.

Men who are interested in becoming members of the Charlotte chapter may contact chapter president, George Kokalis or any of the chapter officers; Khalil Kardous, Frank Boardman and Mark Kontos. Information is also available on our website. <http://charlotteahepa.org>



December 25, 2016: Chapter members at the Charlotte Rescue Mission on hand to help prepare the Christmas Breakfast.



Chapter Secretary Nicholas Markos Kontos, center, receiving the District 3 Secretary of the Year Award District 3 flanked by Governor Bill Bond, left, and Chapter President George Kokalis, right.



Get involved, be informed:
 Open Budget Meeting on Monday January 23, 2017
 General Assembly on Sunday, February 12, 2017

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Cathedral Foundation BY GEORGE ZOGZAS

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation launched its new website, <https://.htgof.org>, in November 2016. The website project was spearheaded by Chairman Nick Kantsios. The objective was to create another source of information to donors, and beneficiaries. Visitors can find information on how to donate to the Foundation, download the most current list of names of persons memorialized since the Foundation's beginning in 1973 and see the guiding document that outlines what the Foundation Trustees can and cannot do. Grant Kantsios volunteered his technical expertise in designing and operating the website.

On December 7, 2016, the Trustees held their final meeting of the year. It was a dinner meeting at the Terrace Café of Ballantyne. At the meeting, Vice Chairman Christopher Karres, who is also chairman of the Benefactors and Grantees Committee, presented a

recommended list of organizations to receive donations from the Foundation at year end. The Trustees voted to make yearend donations to worthy causes. The list will be presented as part of the Foundation's annual report to the community at the General Assembly Meeting scheduled for February 2017.

The December 4, 2016 Parish Elections included the selection of two new members to the Foundation Board. The new trustees are Peter Thomopoulos and Andreas Ziozios. They joined the current trustees for dinner.

Chairman Nick Kantsios and vice chairman Christopher S. Karres have completed their five year terms on the Board and will end their service on December 31. They have provided steady input to the Board and have been active participants in the accomplishments by the Foundation these last several years. Their efforts are appreciated and applauded.

Philoptochos

On November 6th Philoptochos had Artoclasia service and a tray was passed to benefit the Philanthropic Programs and Charities of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Thanks to everyone who made a contribution.

Under the leadership of Christina Skiouris for the Feeding the Hungry Initiative, Philoptochos members prepared 50 boxes of various meal items for Thanksgiving dinner. The meal items were donated to Charlotte Rescue Mission, a Christian based residential recovery program. When we delivered the boxes, we were able to tour the facility and learn more about this worthy program.

Our annual holiday bake sale was a great success. Orders were taken for baklava, koulourakia, melomakarona, spanakopites, tiropitakia, kourambiedes, tsourekia, and homemade rolls. Thanks to Diane Ramsey for leading the effort and to everyone who helped.

The 19th Annual Archangel Michael Awards was held on Saturday November 12th. Congratulations to our second vice president Toni Karnazes who was one of the two honorees from our community.

Congratulations to Irene Politis who was elevated to the National Board of the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Our annual Christmas dinner was held at Tupelo Honey Restaurant on Tuesday December 13th. During this event we collected socks, hats, and gloves for Urban Ministry Center.

In 2016 we met 100% of our National and Metropolis obligations. Additionally, we contributed to many local charities including Empty Stocking Fund, Second Harvest Food Bank, Dilworth Food Kitchen, A Child's Place, InReach, and others. We thank our members and the community who support us with their generosity and time.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Members (l-r) Christina Skiouris, Lucy Pappadakes, and Cathy Poulimenos delivering items for the Feeding the Hungry Initiative



December 13, 2016: Members at the Philoptochos annual Christmas Dinner



December 13, 2016: At the Philoptochos annual Christmas Dinner, (l-r) Fr. Theodore, Lucy Pappadakes, Presvytera Stacey, and Fr. Vasileios

AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN

BY KATHY XYRAFAKIS

Recently Married:

Effie Fotopoulos and George Asikis were married on Saturday, August 20th, 2016 at Zwodoxos Pigi Church in Nea Filadelfia, Athens, Greece. Effie is the daughter of Mrs. Andromahe Fotopoulos and the late Theofilos Fotopoulos. George is the son of Mrs. Martha Asikis and the late Ioannis Asikis of Livadeia, Greece. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at Ktima Leonidas in Varibobi, Athens, Greece. They honeymooned in the Greek Isles. The happy couple will reside in Charlotte.



Newlyweds Effie and George

Military Graduate:

Private First Class Vasillios G. Pistolis graduated from the United States Marine Corps basic training at Parris Island, S.C. on October 21, 2016. He earned expert rifleman certification and his platoon earned Honorary Platoon designation.

After 10 days leave at home, Vasillios returned to Marine Combat Training (MCT) for 29 days at Camp Geiger and then to Camp Legeune in Jacksonville, NC for his MOS (military occupational specialty) schooling.

Vasillios is the son of George and Vivi Pistolis and graduated from Ardrey Kell High School earlier this year.



USMC Private First Class Vasillios G. Pistolis

Awarded:

On November 12, 2016, George Andrews and Tony Karnazes were honored as Holy Trinity's recipients of this year's Archangel Michael Award.

The Award was conceived by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and since 1998, has been celebrated in Atlanta, GA the weekend of, prior to or following the November 8th Feastday of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel.



Archangel Michael Award winners George Andrews and Tony Karnazes with their medals.

2016 Stewardship Data

Range From	Range To	# of Givers	% Total
\$ -	\$ -	216	24%
\$ 0.01	\$ 249.99	209	23%
\$ 250.00	\$ 499.99	146	16%
\$ 500.00	\$ 1,199.99	244	27%
\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,499.99	85	9%
\$ 2,500.00	\$ 9,999.99	15	2%
\$ 10,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	1	0%
		916	100%

Total given in 2016	\$ 446,751
Total given in 2015	\$ 422,228
\$ change	\$ 24,523
Average given in 2016	\$ 638
Average given in 2015	\$ 601
AVERAGE NEEDED	\$ 1,200

If we compare ourselves to the stewards in the parable of the talents (**Matthew 25:14-30**), do we multiply the treasure for which we are responsible for which we will be held accountable when the master returns?

Or do we bury our treasure in the ground, offering back only that which was given to us? Jesus said "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (**John 20:21**). At the end of our life, will He say to us, "Well done good and faithful servant"?

STEWARDSHIP CORNER BY NICK KALLELIS

FACING OUR REALITY

Orthodox Christians have a strong faith and are proud of their traditions. The scriptures in our Liturgies describe what God expects of us. Accordingly, we partake in the sacraments and actively support the church by joining the ministries. Our time and talents are clearly displayed in our involvement in the festival and various functions of the church.

In time of grief or when troubled we depend on the church and Priests to comfort us. The faithful find solace in prayer while in church. The church helps us develop strength and fortifies our belief.

We get so much from following Orthodoxy, yet when it comes to supporting the operation of the church, we depend upon people who are not members of our church community. Over 50% of our church expenses are paid by the festival, which is money collected from the Charlotte community.

In the past, the importance of expenses being met without funds from the festival and instead having

our costs paid by our membership has not resonated with our membership. Our message may have been wrong. We should be emphasizing the responsibility we have to listen to the Word of God:

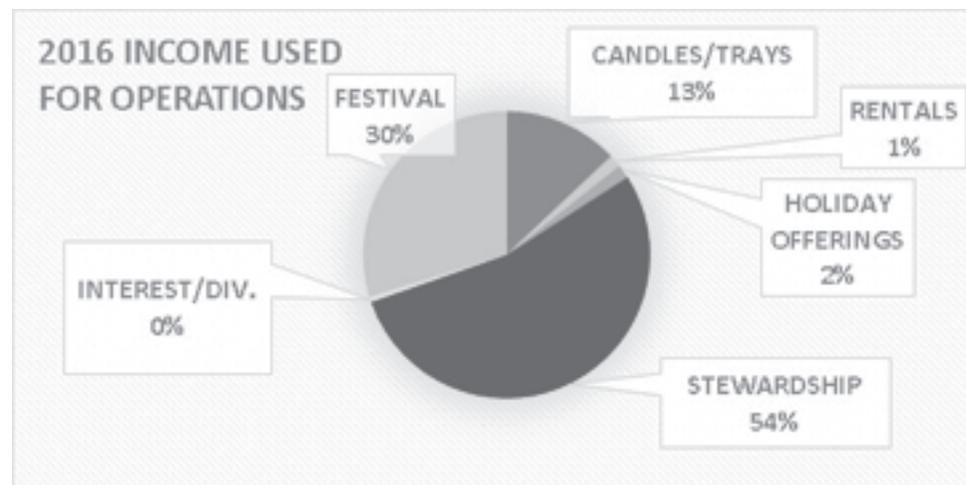
Proverbs 3:9

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the fruits of all your crops."

1 Timothy 6:17-19

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, they will lay up treasures for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

It is time for us to turn the page and follow the Word of God and become a church, which is not dependent upon others and fully supported by our church community.



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News & Voices of the Holy Trinity Greek School

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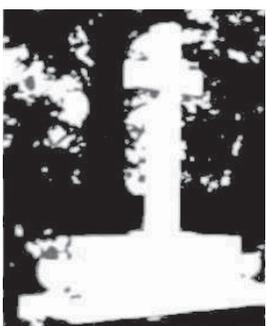
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PRESCHOOL BY MARIA KLETO AND CINDY BALATSIAS

PRESCHOOL STAFF



Whooo's in the News at HTGO Preschool?

The month of November is always a time to reflect on all the blessings in our lives and on the many things we are thankful for. One of the biggest blessings at HTGOP are our preschool children. We would like to thank our preschool parents for sharing their children with us and entrusting us with their care. We also express our appreciation to the preschool families, the preschool board members, Priests, Parish Council, and all of the Holy Trinity parishioners, for your love and support of our preschool program. We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful and supportive community. Happy Thanksgiving and many blessing to all of you.

On Sunday, November 6th, the preschool held its annual Yiayia's Kouzina Fundraising Luncheon. Thanks to the efforts of the parents, family members, board members and staff that volunteered to help, it was a huge success. The preschool children and their teachers worked to prepare for the program. They entertained the audience with a medley of songs in both Greek and English. They sounded beautiful! Special thanks to Joanna Kakouras for working with the children to prepare for their singing performance. Joanna will once again be doing a monthly music class with our preschool children.

We have had many fun activities taking place at the preschool. On Friday, November 4th, the three and four year old classes went on a field trip to Fire Station #10 located on Wilkinson Boulevard. They not only learned about the fire trucks, fire safety and got to see all the hoses and equipment the firemen use while fighting fire, but they also got to see all the boats and dive equipment they use for water rescues. We want to thank John Balatsias (Mrs. Cindy's son) for teaching us and guiding us on the tour through the fire station. John



is a fireman and a member of the dive team at Fire Station #10. While at the fire station, the firemen got called out on an Emergency call and we got to see them quickly load up in to the fire truck and leave the station with sirens blaring. A little footnote while talking about safety, we are proud to say that all of our preschool staff is CPR certified. We finished out the month of November focusing on all that we are thankful for and celebrating the holiday with the class parties on November 21st and 22nd.

In December, our main focus was on the true meaning of the Christmas season...the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. On December 7th and 8th we had "Our Faith with Father", a monthly hands on religious lesson about our Orthodox faith with Fr. Vasileios, Fr. Theodore and Deacon George. Our first lesson was about the birth of baby Jesus and the Icon of the Nativity. This coincided with Pajama Day at the preschool. The teachers and children wore their pajamas to school and brought their favorite stuffed animals to cuddle with as we gathered each class around the preschool Christmas tree. We read the story "Away in a Manger", sang the Christmas carol and then the children decorated the Christmas tree with their own hand made ornaments. On December 20th and 21st, we wrapped up the month of December with more festivities as each of the classes had the Christmas parties before getting out for the holiday break.

As teachers, there is nothing more satisfying than to see our children grow and progress with each new skill they master. It is truly rewarding to watch them gain more confidence and independence with each accomplishment. We are blessed to have such an amazing group of children and we are very proud of all of them.



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