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VOL. 75 • NO. 547

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YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL 2015



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A Message From The Editor



Hello again everybody,

At the time of this writing, I hope everybody had a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. As I stated in the last issue, we had a very successful Greek Festival. We have four pages of pictures in the center spread. Congratulations to our young Greek School Dancers for doing a great job. Let's not forget our 2016 graduating class for performing a fantastic fire dance.

In the last few months I have gotten to know Father Angelo and Father Theodore. Not only are they great priests, but fun to talk to. I always enjoy Father Angelo's model sports car collection that he has in his office, "Hey Father, I have Speed Racer's Mach 5 in my collection!"

Congratulations to the two new members of the Parish Council, Angelo Politis and John Mahairas. Also returning are Council members John Tsumas, Jimmy Georgiou and Angelo Kefalas.

Until next time, be safe,
Angelo Pete Politis



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Official printer of **The Voice**
Mullen Publications Inc.
www.MullenPublications.com
Charlotte, NC • 704-527-5111

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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

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Remarks From Father Angelo



by Father Angelo Artemas
Dean of the Cathedral

THE PARENTS' TOUCH

A new study by the Heinz Family Foundation has found that 48% of 8-month-old infants are regularly cared for by someone other than a parent. The percentage rises to 59% for 18-month-old children and to 66% for 3-year-old toddlers. These results come after considerable research has shown that the first three years of life are the most important developmental years for human beings and that plenty of attention from both parents is vital during the first three years of life and thereafter.

Another recent study funded by eighteen different government agencies and costing \$25 million determined that "more than anything else, teenagers need love." That's right - love. The study further suggested that parents who give in to their teenagers' every whim, buying them \$140 Nikes and \$90 jeans, may actually be harming them. Lack of curfews and other boundaries and restrictions may further harm teenagers. When parents cave in to unreasonable demands, they are actually showing weakness and not love. Who would have thought that love is more important than money? Did America really need a \$25 million study to show that teenagers need their parents' love?

Not surprisingly, another recent study by the American Sociological Association revealed that married couples who never had children were the happiest couples (6.26 on a scale from 1 to 7), followed by married couples before they had kids (6.24). The least happy married couples were those with teenagers (5.79) and school-aged children (5.89).

It doesn't take a genius to comprehend that taking care of physically and emotionally complex human beings that utterly rely on mom and dad for two or three decades can sap the happiness out of Mary Poppins and Mr. Rogers. Parenting isn't glamorous. Married couples who think having children will make them happier are naive. But raising children does make adults more mature and selfless, and that may ultimately lead to a profound form of happiness that not too many Americans are focused on.

The birth of a human baby is unlike anything else in the world. The progeny of mammals, reptiles and fish are born with relative independence, already walking or swimming next to mom. Human infants are born without the ability to even support the weight of their own heads, completely reliant on mom and dad. The love, patience and energy required of human parents can only be described as "Christ-like." Happiness will not be the order of the day, but the joy of nurturing, teaching and raising human beings is also unlike anything else in the world.

As fragile as human beings are, it is no coincidence that Orthodox faithful refer to God as Father and the Church as Mother. Even the most mature minds, bodies and hearts are still souls utterly reliant on Father and Mother, God and Church. Those who argue that they don't need "a god" or "a church" to be good human beings are making themselves spiritual orphans. They may be good people, but their souls are not being nurtured by spiritual parents. Human souls are fragile from birth to physical death, and the love of God and the Church nurtures these souls.

May the holidays of the upcoming months be an opportunity for us to appreciate and grow closer to our fathers and mothers, our Father and Mother, our God and our Church.

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Remarks From Father Theodore



by **Father Theodore Ehmer**
Associate Priest

As we are entering the last part of the calendar year, this also means that our OCF students are approaching the end of their Fall academic semester. What is OCF? OCF is the acronym for Orthodox Christian Fellowship, which is the Pan-Orthodox college ministry of the Orthodox Church here in the United States. Since starting at Holy Trinity Cathedral, it has been my pleasure to serve as the spiritual advisor for our local OCF chapter at UNC-Charlotte. In this short time, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of our Orthodox students at UNC-Charlotte and have loved being their on- or off-campus connection with our beautiful Church and Holy Trinity through our meetings, whether they are on-campus, at a local restaurant, or even at Holy Trinity.

Why is this ministry of our Church important? College students are at a crossroads in their young lives. They are often away from home for the first time and are receiving their first taste of independence. Frequently, these students



are being bombarded by thoughts, ideas, and teachings that may either differ or be vehemently against the teachings of Christ and His Church. Also, other Christian traditions or other faiths have very large and well-funded campus ministries which may attract our youth if we do not have a presence on their college campuses. OCF serves as a vital link for these students, many of whom are away from their home parishes and may attend a school that does not have an Orthodox parish nearby. While UNC-Charlotte is located only twenty to thirty minutes from Holy Trinity, it is not easy with the very busy schedule of a college student with their studies, activities, athletics, etc. to be thoroughly participating in the life of the Church. OCF meetings are a place where the Church comes to the students.

At OCF meetings, there is an opportunity for fellowship and camaraderie with fellow Orthodox students similar to what they may have experienced in their GOYA years, Greek school, or dance. And as a priest, my role is to be there with the students as a presence of our parish and of our Church and help to facilitate this Orthodox fellowship. OCF is active not just on the local level, but also regionally and nationally. During my undergraduate years, I participated in regional OCF events, such as the Work-Daze Retreat at the Diakonia Center and in national events, such as College Conference (a yearly winter conference bringing together Orthodox students from all around the country) and a Real Break mission trip to Greece to assist local monasteries. The local OCF meetings on campus and my participation in regional and national events were extremely influential in shaping who I am now as an Orthodox Christian and a priest of our Church and is why I feel so strongly about the importance of our college ministry!



What can you do to help this vital ministry of our Church? First and foremost, pray for our students. Pray that God will guide them through the treacherous waters of life on a 21st century college campus and help them to remain, renew, or even begin their lives in Christ. Beyond prayer, there are other great opportunities to participate in the OCF ministry. For example, it is possible to contribute to help host dinner on-campus for the students. Another way to assist may be to help a student who is in financial need. Or, one could sponsor a student to defray the costs of their attending either College Conference or participating in a Real Break mission trip. You could also help by writing Christmas cards to our students, or perhaps by sponsoring some "finals study survival kits" to help the students get through their rigorous finals in the next few weeks. Whatever you can do to support our local OCF students will go a long way in helping to enrich their experience of our Holy Orthodox Church during this crucial period in their formation! Please contact me by e-mail or phone if you have any further questions about OCF, the local OCF at UNC-Charlotte, or if you wish to assist our college ministry!



The President's Message



by **John Tsumas**
Parish Council
President

Dear Parishioners,

This year's Yiasou Greek Festival was a huge success and was a wonderful event for our Church and the Charlotte community. Year-in and year-out, our Holy Trinity community continues to amaze in how we put together such a massive event. The level of effort put in by so many of our wonderful parishioners is what makes it happen. The list of people to thank is very long, but I personally want everyone to know how thankful we all are for what you do. Without you, none of this would be possible. Let's look at some of the key points from this year's festival.

Overall, this was the busiest Yiasou Festival ever! Total revenue was close to \$920,000. I will give you a minute for that to sink in. It is simply amazing what our community pulls off in a 4-day period, year after year. Out of these revenues, we generated around 42% profit, all of which goes to benefit our community and various charities!

Let's highlight some areas of the Festival that really stood out and had banner years.

The Big Food Tent (Gyro, Fries, Tiropita, Pizza, Salads, Hot Dogs) sales were up 18%. Loukoumades had their best year since 2011 and were up 17%. Baklava Sundaes had a record year and were up 5%. Frappe had a record year and was up 5%. Wine Tasting had a record year and was up 46%. The outside Kafenion had a record year, by far, and was up well over 30%. I know that Kyria Georgia is smiling down on all her friends who came together and made it happen.

Another main thing that our guests love is the Hellenic Dance portion of the festival. I would challenge anyone to show another festival that has the level of involvement that our youth and young adults bring to this program. The job done by the dance coordinators, the dance instructors, the youth and the parents result in well over 300 dancers entertaining the Charlotte community. What a joy it is to see this level of involvement. Job well done to all!

Special thanks goes to the Philoptochos and the work they do over many months to prepare the mouth-watering pastries we all enjoy. These ladies are truly amazing and a cornerstone of Holy Trinity! Thanks also go to Father Angelo and Father Theodore for the support they gave, as they got to enjoy their first Yiasou Festival. And a final, big thanks goes to the office staff and their hard work. They really do a ton of work behind the scenes and without them things wouldn't go as smoothly as they do.

Here is looking forward to a great Yiasou Festival 2016!

Yours In Christ,
John Tsumas



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Andre Harakas & John Tsumas



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Kathleen Katolis MINT HILL - Mrs. Katolis, of Mint Hill, was born in Astoria, NY November 5, 1925, passed from this life on October 25, 2015, after a prolonged illness. Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents Despina and Hercules Kydes, her beautiful son John, her two sisters Athanasia Davour, Mary Giaimo, and her brother Richard Kydes. Survivors include her beloved husband of 57 years, Sideris Katolis and her loving niece Dorothea White of Fresno, California. A funeral service was held Tuesday, October 27th, at 11 AM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte. Burial followed at Sunset Memory Garden. Memorials may be made to a charity serving the poor. "May her memory be eternal." Online condolences may be addressed to carolinafuneral.com. Carolina Funeral Service & Cremation Center is entrusted with the arrangements.

Paraskevi G. Mitsios CHARLOTTE - Paraskevi G. Mitsios, 70, of Charlotte, North Carolina, passed away peacefully Thursday, the 29th of October 2015, at Carolinas Medical Center. A native of Karasohorion, Greece, she was the daughter of George and Eleni Mitsios. The family would like to express our eternal gratitude to our relatives and friends who supported us throughout her illness. The Trisagion and Funeral Service was held 11:00 AM, Saturday, the 31st of October 2015, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Father Angelo Artemas officiating. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery. The family greeted friends following the funeral in the Father C. Hall. She was a loving mother to her late daughter Katerina Kakavitsas. She is survived by her seven siblings-Vasilios, Konstantinos,

Nicholaus, Maria, Katerina, Konstantina and Sofia and a number of nieces and nephews. Paraskevi shared her loving heart in serving her family, friends and community. Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203 or Panagia Prousiotissa Chapel at Elatos Park, 125 Jim Parker Rd., Wesley Chapel, NC 28110. Notes of encouragement and condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.ellingtonfuneralservices.com. Serving the Mitsios family is Ellington Funeral Services, "The Historic Morehead St. Chapel", 727 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC 28202 (704) 334.6700. Family owned since 1944.

Pinelopi Politis CHARLOTTE - Mrs. Politis, 90, of Charlotte, died Thursday, October 22, 2015, at Carolinas Medical Center-Main. Born in Greece on December 20, 1934, Pinelopi was the daughter the late Christos and Stavroula (Trastelis) Tsilimekis. She had been a Charlotte resident since 1974 moving here from Toronto, Canada. A 20 year employee with Lance, Mrs. Politis was also a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. She had a great love for her family especially her two grandchildren. Surviving family members include her husband Steve; son Loues Politis all of Charlotte; daughter Helen Liontas and husband John of Tampa, FL; and grandchildren John-Michael Thomas Liontas and Lisa Marie Liontas. Funeral services took place on Monday, October 26th, at 11AM at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte with interment following at Evergreen City Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Elatos Park Panagia Prousiotissa c/o Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC, 28203. Online condolences may be addressed to www.carolinafuneral.com. Carolina Funeral Service & Cremation Center is entrusted with the arrangements.

Cathedral Foundation By George Zogzas

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation (the Foundation) has had a busy and productive 2015. The Trustees have held/will hold a total of five meetings before December 31.

In June, we fulfilled our pledge of \$20,000.00 to the Cathedral and Courtyard Renovation project. We restated the Foundation's financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Other areas of emphasis were the important administrative issues that we believe will focus the efforts of the Trustees and the completion of the Evergreen Cemetery improvements project.

First, the Trustees adopted a formal, written conflict-of-interest policy. This is very common for non-profit organizations. It gives all Trustees the opportunity to list their employment, links to other businesses and organizations, and identify areas where additional care must be exercised when the Foundation considers making donations or purchasing goods and services.

Second, the Trustees established three permanent committees of the Foundation. The intent is to formalize the work of the Foundation by allowing members to focus on the key areas of the Foundation's work that interests them most. All Trustees will serve on at least one of the committees. The committees and a brief description follow:

The Executive and Governance Committee is comprised of all elected Foundation officers. It is expected that the Chairman will lead this committee. Its primary responsibilities include (1) identify and qualify candidates to run for the Foundation, (2) ensure the current trustees remain qualified to serve, (3) develop policies related to risk management, and (4) perform the duties of the Board not explicitly limited to the entire Board.

The Finance and Investments Committee is comprised of at least two trustees. It is expected that the Foundation Treasurer will lead this committee. Its primary responsibilities include (1) review and approve accounting processes and reports, (2) maintain communication with the financial advisors and review investment statements and performance, and (3) ensure compliance with the Foundation's stated investment policy.

The Benefactors and Grantees Committee is comprised of at least two trustees. It is expected that the Foundation Vice-Chairman will lead this committee. Its primary responsibilities include (1) identify and qualify grantee organizations including the confirmation of the entity's tax ID number, (2) process requests from individuals and families requesting financial assistance, and (3) acknowledge donations received from benefactors and update them on the work of the Foundation.

Finally, the last weeks of October, 2015 saw the completion of the Evergreen Cemetery improvement project. This project began with the setting of three

new granite benches in a semi-circle facing the chapel. It included resurfacing the chapel table and cleaning the chapel dome, columns, and walk area. This final stage included the removal of overgrown existing shrubbery and plants around the chapel. They were replaced with fresh new plants and pine straw.

With Foundation funding, former Foundation Chairman Harry Stathopoulos spearheaded the project. He communicated with the Trustees regarding his progress on negotiations with landscapers and greenhouses relating to design, removal and replanting.

The Foundation extends its thanks not only to Harry, but to Regina Stathopoulos and Dino Nixon. They each played important roles in seeing the project to its successful completion. We hope that the community will take time to see these improvements on their next visit to Evergreen Cemetery.

Photographs courtesy of Harry Stathopoulos



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Choir News By Olga Yamalis

Despite the unsettled weekend weather of this year's Yiasou Festival, our choirs presented three 30-minute performances on Saturday afternoon, September 12 indoors in the Cathedral. These short performances gave Festival guests quick highlights of some of our Orthodox hymns throughout an Ecclesiastical year. Thank you to all the choir members who took time out from their Festival duties to participate in a superb performance comprised of the First Service Choir, Baritone Choir and Second Service Choir under the choral direction of Dr. Philip Thevaos and organist Irina Monzolevskaya.

Each year in October, it is traditional to celebrate National Church Music Sunday. On this day, we honor the contributions of choir members, psaltai and music educators who serve the church through Hymnology.

This year, our First Service Choir observed National Church Music Sunday on October 18th and the Second Service Choir observed it on November 1st. All choir members and psaltai were given a beautiful pin - a gold treble clef superimposed with a red cross.

The celebration of the Second Service Choir's Divine Liturgy was extra special with an added touch, thanks to the beautiful sounds of teenage girls chanting the Communion Hymn and Ainete. Upon conclusion of the Liturgy, the choir proceeded to the solea to be honored with prayers and recognition for their contributions as church musicians. In addition, psaltai Tom Nixon, Angelo Spiro, James Collis, and Jimmy Georgiou were honored for their contributions in chanting at the Psaltirion throughout the year. The breakdown of choir members and their years of service were as follows--Thank you for all you do and for your years of service:

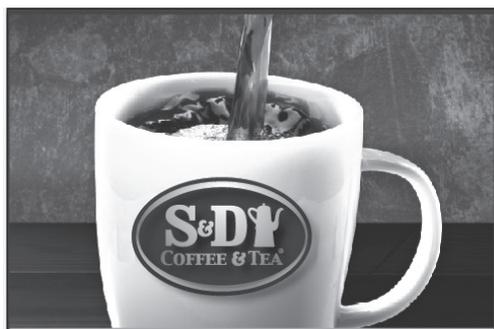
Dean	Kleto	4	years
Jimmy	Kleto	4	years
Theo	Pappas	5	years
Cathy	Isoulos	10	years
Katherine	Kleto	15	years
Nicholas	Mermigas	15	years
Nick	Collias	17	years
Phillip	Walker	17	years
Dot	Delano	18	years
Sarah	Vastis	18	years
Geary	Mandrapillas	20	years
Irina	Monzolevskaya	20	years
Katerina	Xyrafakis	21	years
Olga	Yamalis	25	years
Eleni	Zacharopoulos	25	years
Angelina	Korinis	27	years
Theophani C	Nixon	30	years
Philip	Thevaos	33	years
Dee	Georgoulias	34	years
Pauline	Velonis	34	years
Niki	Vastis	38	years
Joanna	Cavalaris	40	years
Katerina	Kapantais	41	years
Lucy	Pappadakes	43	years
Steve	Georgoulias	47	years
Dean	Johns	47	years
Chris	Miller	52	years
Olga	Kleto	55	years
Cecelia	Kotsipias	56	years
Ronnie	Pourlos	67	years



First Service Choir



Second Service Choir



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GOYA-HOPE/JOY News By John Georgopoulos

St. Stephens Summer Camp 2015
Arianna Meletioui

St. Stephen's Summer Camp is a week of freedom, spirituality, friendship and activity that nothing else can duplicate. To me, St. Stephen's camp helps me reconnect to my faith and bring me closer to God while, at the same time, bringing me closer to friends I otherwise may have never met. This past year was my third session attending this camp and it seems like each time I attend, my experience gets better. I remember the first year I went I actually had no desire to attend. It was my mom who signed me up after hearing amazing things about the positive experiences of other kids. I was a bit nervous about going because a week seemed like so long to be away from home and the "no phone" rule left me without contact with my family for the duration of my stay. But knowing that my church family would be accompanying me made me think twice and I can say with one hundred percent certainty that going to that camp was one of the best decisions I've even made.

Getting off the bus, it did not take long to see the happiness and beauty the retreat centers proposed and to realize the Diakonia Center is a very special place. There were people running from all over the campus to embrace one another in screams of "I've missed you so much!", and in seeing friends of mine that I hadn't seen in years, I felt that same overwhelming feeling of joy in seeing them again. The Diakonia Center grounds themselves are breathtaking, and I'd highly recommend just taking a minute to sit and observe the scenery.

Throughout that week I met some of my best friends, and every year following my first, we've all kept in constant touch. This past year I met many new people and made strong relationships with people from my own parish, some of whom are now my best friends. As Father Stavros so perfectly stated, "Friends that pray together stay together". And to understand how true that statement is would take being there to see it for yourself.

Amongst countless other activities that fill the week from sunrise to sundown

every day, one of my personal favorites, and a trademark of the week, is Camp Olympics. Working together with people you've known forever, or never even met, to achieve one goal by competing in unusual contests, all the while being bombarded by water-balloon-throwing priests, is crazy fun. Prayer, morning and night every day, and confession in the week, have strengthened my faith every year. It is especially profound to go into and emerge from confession with your best friends at your side, there for you all the way. The unbelievable support and love felt by every camper all week is irreplaceable, and you will grow so close to your friends in your cabin as the week goes on.

Throughout the years I have found St. Stephen's Summer Camp to be a judgement-free supportive zone where everyone, including the counselors, makes you feel at home. For those of you that find turning over the phones at the beginning of the week to be a challenge, you may miss it the first day or so, but by the end of the week, you will forget you even have to collect it. You go through a surprising amount of tests at this camp, that test your trust in God, your trust in the people you live with, and your trust in yourself. Trust walls, walks, falls, and blindfolded games bring you so close to the people you meet, and some of the people I've met I've learned more about in a week than people I've known for years.

St. Stephen's Camp has changed my life in so many ways. It has filled my week with tremendous fun, introduced me to the best people in my life and, most importantly, brought me closer to my faith. I wouldn't miss this camp for the world and I highly recommend anyone who is contemplating going to take the opportunity to go to the most life-changing experience I have ever been to. Thank you to my church for introducing me to this sanctuary, to my counselors who have made every year a safe, fun experience, to my friends who've helped me through my hardest times and I know will be lifelong friends, and to the priests and staff who put their hearts and souls into making St. Stephens's camp the best possible experience for all campers.

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The Warriors of Greece By Chris Pangalos

“OXI” Day

At 3:00AM on October 28, 1940, in the early days of World War II when all of Europe was already under Axis occupation, an ultimatum was presented to the Greek government by Fascist Italian dictator Benito Mussolini demanding that Greece immediately allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified strategic locations or otherwise face war. An answer was expected within three hours, but that timeline made no difference—the answer would be the same no matter how long they were given. On that cherished day in Greek history, Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas strongly rejected Italy’s request with a single laconic word: “OXI” (“NO” in English).

In response to this refusal, an embarrassed and enraged Mussolini ordered his troops, already standing by in Albania, then an Italian protectorate, to attack at once. The much larger, more modernized, better equipped and fully prepared Italian Army crossed over the Greek border at 5:30AM, thereby plunging Greece into World War II.

When the over-confident Italian army entered Greece, they expected an easy victory but instead met an enemy who was preparing to deliver a response that would devastate the Italian battle plan. As the columns of Italian infantry and tanks advanced through the valleys into Greece, the Greek forces converging from all over northern Greece went into action. Every able-bodied Greek man came down from the surrounding mountains, where they had been monitoring the troop movements, and attacked from all sides, stopping the invasion dead in its tracks.

In one of the most amazing episodes in military history, the Greek Army trapped the Italian 3rd Alpine Division

in the mountains and shocked the Italian High Command by annihilating the unit and taking over 5,000 prisoners. By the middle of November, the Greek Army had stopped the Italians from going any further into Greece and then went on the offensive, driving the Italian Army out of Greece and back up into Albania. The panic-stricken Italian army was retreating in a disorganized rout.

At the end of December, the victorious Greek Army had not only completely repulsed the Italian invasion but had gone on to cross over the border, pushing the Italian forces out of the southern third of Albania completely and vowing to continue marching all the way to Rome! On December 28, Mussolini had to acknowledge that his grandiose vision to show Hitler how Italy could easily conquer Greece was a complete failure and he was forced to ask for German assistance before the Greeks could do any more damage or advance further. Hitler, furious that Mussolini had attempted to invade Greece against his orders, now had to rescue the defeated Italians.

In April 1941, the undermanned, poorly-equipped, starving but still ferociously fighting Greek army finally ran out of ammunition. The last remaining free country in Europe to defy the Nazi war machine alone was done.

At the end of the war, German officers on trial at Nuremberg had commented that if the invasion of Russia had taken place on schedule early in the spring of 1941 instead of at the end of June, they would have succeeded in conquering the Soviet Union before the harsh winter of 1941, which proved to be the only thing capable of stopping the German advance. Field Marshall Keitel, who was the Nazi Chief of Staff of the German army said bitterly, “*The unbelievably strong resistance of the Greeks delayed by at least two or more vital months the*

German attack against Russia; if we did not have this long delay, the outcome of the war would have been different on the Eastern Front and in the war in general and others would have been accused and would be occupying this seat as defendants today.” Once again Greece had saved Europe.

After the war there were 15% fewer Greeks alive than when the war started and the overall devastation of the country took years to recover from, but this small country showed the world, at a time when it mattered most, that freedom is not free, but worth fighting for.

One of the most touching episodes of the resistance took place when the German army reached the Acropolis in Athens. A Nazi officer ordered the color guard on duty, Evzone Konstandinos Koukidis, to surrender, haul down and give up the Greek flag then raise the Nazi swastika banner up the flag pole in its place. Instead Koukidis chose to stay loyal to his duty by slowly and respectfully retiring the Greek flag in perfect ceremonial drill precision. When he was finished he refused to raise the Nazi flag and instead he wrapped himself in the Greek flag and, while singing the Greek National Anthem, threw himself off of the plateau to his death far below. A commemorative plaque near the spot where he died marks the event today.

The Germans expressed their great admiration to the battle-hardened Greek soldiers, declaring that they were honored and proud to have as their adversary such courageous warriors and requested that the Greek Commandant inspect the German army in a demonstration of honor and respect! The German flag was raised only *after* the complete, honorable withdrawal of the proud Greek Army. For the rest of the war, any German soldier who fought against the Greeks

was authorized to wear a black armband on their uniform to signify their role in Germany’s toughest battle of World War II.

The sacrifices made by the Greek nation ultimately changed the course of history and contributed to preventing the evils of Fascism and Nazism from dominating the world.

“Oxi Day” is celebrated every year in Greece and throughout the many Greek communities around the world on October 28.

Europe’s Resistance Days Against Axis Forces During World War II:

Greece:	219 days
Norway:	61 days
France:	43 days
Poland:	30 days
Belgium:	18 days
Netherlands:	4 days
Yugoslavia:	3 days
Denmark:	0 days
Czechoslovakia:	0 days
Luxembourg:	0 days

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Whooh's in the News at the Preschool?

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me" then He took them in His arms and blessed them. Mark 10: 14-16

Welcome to all of our 2015-2016 Preschool Families!

It was with great anticipation that we awaited the return of all our precious preschool children for the 2015 - 2016 school year at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool. We are so happy to have our classrooms filled with our preschoolers' smiling faces and some teary-eyed faces as well. Overall, the



transition into the school year is off to a smooth start. The tears in the younger classes are getting better each day. We are looking forward to many exciting times at HTGOP this year. Please know our door is always open and we encourage an open line of communication with our preschool families.

We began our school year with the Parent Orientation meetings that took place on Thursday, September 3rd. We then turned our attentions to preparing for the Yiasou Greek Festival Play Land Beverage Booth that benefits the



preschool. Despite some rainy weather, the festival was a huge success. We wanted to thank all our parents, family members, parishioners and GOYANS that volunteered their time this year. We could not have done it without everyone's help. Preschool opened on Monday, September 21st with the Agiasmos and Open House. The parents had the opportunity to visit with the teachers and other parents while the children got to play together and explore their new classrooms. The first official day of classes started the following day.

This year at the preschool, we are again blessed to have a group of very dedicated and caring staff members. Our teachers put a lot of time and effort into creating a warm and inviting classroom environment where our preschool children can thrive. This year, our staff members are:



M W Toddler Class: Stasy Skarlatos & Andrea Mahe Politis

M W 2-Year-Old Class: Lisa Giotis & Pres. Stacey Ehmer

T TH 2-Year-Old Class: Lisa Giotis & Athina Politis

M W F 3-Year-Old Class: Athina Politis & Anna Koufaliotis

M-F 4-Year-Old Class: Angelina Korinis & Dimitra Forniotis



Co-Directors: Cindy Balatsias and Maria Kleto

The preschool is off to a great start and we look forward to watching the children develop spiritually, academically, emotionally and physically throughout the year. It is very rewarding to see how much the children progress each year as they grow and gain confidence and independence in preparation for the



next grade level. We strive to have each child more than prepared to move on to Kindergarten when he or she graduates from our preschool program. Thank you, parents, for sharing your children with us!

In September, our classes focused on settling in to the new routine, learning

about the classroom centers and the class rules. We talked about being kind to our friends, sharing and taking turns, using our good manners and the appropriate way to express our feelings. We also work on teaching them to be responsible and independent. They are so proud of themselves every time they accomplish a task or master a new skill.

In October, we talked about the beauty of the Fall season, the leaves changing colors, the cooler temperatures, farms



and farm animals, fall harvest, and how animals prepare for the coming winter. Since October is fire safety month, we discussed how to stay safe in the event of a fire and learned how to "stop, drop and roll". The three- and four-year-old classes are looking forward to their field trip to Fire Station #17 coming up November 6th. The children have also been working very hard practicing the songs they will be performing at our annual Yiyia's Kouzina Fundraising Luncheon taking

place on Sunday, November 1st. At the end of the month, the classes enjoyed their fall parties and trick-or-treating to all the different church offices.



This is just a glimpse of what is happening at our preschool. We still have just a few openings if you are interested in registering your child. Please call us if you need any information or to schedule a



tour of the preschool. We pray for God's blessings for our children, preschool families, staff and preschool board members as we start the new school year.

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Philoptochos By Frances Troupes

The Yiasou Greek Festival was again a huge success. We would like to thank all the men and women from the community who helped with preparing, baking, packing and selling the delicious pastries. We sold out of almost every pastry!! Thank you for all of your hard work in the summer and during the festival.



Past Presidents of Philoptochos

On Saturday, September 19th a luncheon was held at Red Rocks Café to celebrate our chapter's nameday and to honor our past presidents. We also celebrated six women who received their

fifty year pins! Congratulations to Sia Athans, Christina Besseas, Christina Katsanos, Chrisoula Katsanos, Nicole Melissaris and Mary Milliones. It was a wonderful day of fellowship enjoyed by more than fifty women.

On Sunday, September 27th we had Artoklasia for our nameday. A tray was passed for the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund. Also Father Angelo administered the oath of office to the newly-elected Board members. The Philoptochos members would like to thank Georgia Andrews for her tireless work, dedication and guidance as our past president. Our newly-elected president is Lucy Pappadakes. We look forward to working with her and continuing our work in promoting our charitable and philanthropic outreach.

Our general meeting was held on Tuesday, October 13th, with our new president conducting the first meeting. As we enjoyed a tasty dinner, Lucy presented the calendar of events for the upcoming months. All ladies 18 years and older are welcomed to join Philoptochos.

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

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

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

Daughters of Penelope

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

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

The organization recently voted to donate money for turkeys to Loaves and Fishes. It is also sponsoring children at Sedgefield Elementary School for Christmas.

Following are the dates for future Daughters events.

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, April 19: TBD

Tuesday, May 17: TBD

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

Eleni Livas Bingham

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ΖΗΤΩ Η 28^Η ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ 1940 – REMEMBERING 28TH OF OCTOBER, 1940

Με μεγαλοπρέπεια και ιδιαίτερη υπερηφάνεια γιόρτασαν και πάλι φέτος την επέτειο της 28^{ης} Οκτωβρίου 1940 οι 95 μαθητές του Ελληνικού Απογευματινού Σχολείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος. Μαθητές, εκπαιδευτικοί, γονείς και πλήθος φίλων τους, ανταποκρινόμενοι στην πρόσκληση του σχολείου, τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους την θαυμάσια αυτή εκδήλωση και βροντοφώνησαν για άλλη μια φορά το μεγάλο ιστορικό «ΟΧΙ», το ηρωικό κατόρθωμα που, εντυχώς, άλλαξε τη ροή της παγκόσμιας ιστορίας.



Ο ιερατικός προϊστάμενος π. Ευάγγελος Αρτεμάκης και ο π. Θεόδωρος Έχμερ κήρυξαν την έναρξη των εκδηλώσεων με προσευχή και ύμνους. Αφού τραγουδήσαμε όλοι μαζί τους εθνικούς ύμνους Ελλάδος και Αμερικής, στη συνέχεια οι μαθητές όλων των τάξεων τραγούδησαν αξέχαστα τραγούδια της εποχής εκείνης και έκαναν μια ιστορική αναδρομή στα ηρωικά γεγονότα του έπους του '40 με απαγγελίες ποιημάτων, πατριωτικά σκετσ και παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Ο π. Ευάγγελος στη γλαφυρότατη πανηγυρική του ομιλία αναφέρθηκε στην ιστορική σημασία του έπους του 40 και πόσο υπερήφανοι θα πρέπει να αισθανόμαστε για τα ηρωικά κατορθώματα των προγόνων μας. Θερμότατους χαιρετισμούς απηύθυναν επίσης ο π. Θεόδωρος, ο πρόεδρος του κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου, κ. Ιωάννης Τσούμας και η πρόεδρος του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Δασκάλων, κ. Κική Καρύγιαννη.



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Ο διευθυντής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, Ελευθ. Περούλας είπε μεταξύ των άλλων: «Τιμάμε σήμερα τους ήρωες του '40 και μιλάμε στα παιδιά μας για τη μεγάλη σημασία που έχει διαχρονικά η ηρωική αντίσταση των Ελλήνων ενάντια στον Άξονα, μια αντίσταση που άλλαξε τη ροή της παγκόσμιας ιστορίας.

Ο εορτασμός της επετείου της 28^{ης} Οκτωβρίου του 1940 αποτελεί τιμή και χρέος όλων μας προς τους αθάνατους ήρωες του έπους του '40. Οι λαμπρές αυτές εκδηλώσεις μας δυναμώνουν και θεριεύουν την πίστη μας προς τα ελληνοχριστιανικά μας ιδεώδη και μας εμπνυχώνουν όλους μας στο θεάρεστο αγώνα μας για ελευθερία, δημοκρατία, ειρήνη και παιδεία». Κατέληξε δε λέγοντας ότι: «Ο,τι δεν γιορτάζεται, ξεχνιέται και πεθαίνει». Εμείς όσο θα είμαστε εδώ, δεν θα παύσουμε να πανηγυρίζουμε την ημέρα αυτή».



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