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VOL. 81 NO. 04

Permit No. 871

Charlotte, NC

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YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL 2021 SEP 9-12



Above left: Holy Trinity's first ever Drive Thru Only Yiasou Festival. Above Right: Fr. Jonathan and the Young Adults for a night of fellowship at Top Golf. Below: Fr. Christian and the GOYANs at St. Stephen's Summer Camp in Salem, SC.



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Greek Orthodox Cathedral HOLY TRINITY



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.

Our Mission

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

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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by George Zogzas



Dear Readers:

Welcome back.

While the last week of August has seen oppressive heat and humidity in Charlotte, and the urge to stay inside is powerful, that does not describe activities at Holy Trinity since the end of June. GOYANs have been to St. Stephen's Summer Camp at the Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC. They also got together for fun and fellowship at Carowinds. See Youth Ministries news and

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photographs on page 11.

The community held a Special Assembly on August 30 to discuss the Hellenic Park property. The Parish Council put forth a motion to designate a select committee to negotiate in good faith with potential buyers of the property. Disappointingly, the meeting did not meet the 75 attendees required to attain quorum status to make any decisions or take any actions. We did learn some facts and share those with you in our report on page 6.

Yiasou Festival 2021 is going to be a first for Holy Trinity. It will be a drive thru only event. We have had a successful and expanding drive thru feature during the regular Festival format. The hope is that this year's effort can build on that exponentially. The Festival will still run for four days September 9 - 12 and everyone's help will be needed and appreciated.

Thanks for reading and see you next time.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Sep 8	NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS	
	Orthros and Divine Liturgy	
	8:30AM	
Thursday-Sunday	YIASOU FESTIVAL	
Sep 9 - 12	Drive-Thru Only	
	Please sign up to help	
Tuesday Sep 14	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	
	Orthros and Divine Liturgy	
	8:30AM	
THE NEW MEDIA EPIDEMIC		
A 2		

A 3 part series for parents discussing the dangers of social media.

5:00 - 6:00PM in the Social Room

Tuesday Oct 5	Algorithms that Exploit Our Psychology
Tuesday Oct 12	The Dark and Hidden Dangers of Social Medi
Tuesday Oct 19	Prevention and Treatment: Healthy Family Boundaries

REMINDER:

Check the bulletin and website calendars for updates or call the Office at 704-334-4771

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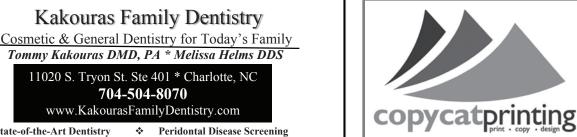
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Next Issue: SEP/OCT 2021

Monday, October 4, 2021



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www.htgo.org *The Voice is the bimonthly* publication about Holy Trinity, its parishioners, their faith, and the community

THE VOICE STAFF:

George Zogzas, Editor George Andrews, Business Manager Frances Zogzas, Copy Editor

CLERGY:

Fr. Vasileios Tsourlis, Cathedral Dean and Vicar of the Northeast Conference

Fr. Dr. Jonathan Resmini,

Associate & Youth Priest

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REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini. Associate and Youth Priest

RESOLUTIONS: OFFERING BACK THE GIFTS OF GOD

In the Orthodox Christian tradition, the new year begins not on the 1st of January, but the 1st of September. Therefore, we have entered a new year in our ecclesiastical life. Coincidentally, this also marks the beginning of a new academic year for our youth. For this reason, as a Church, it makes a great deal of sense that we also have set September as the beginning of our ministry calendar each year. After a summer hiatus for many of us, we are beginning to return to the hustle and bustle of life, both within the Church and more broadly. Certainly, we saw this as we prepared for the festival—though in an admittedly modified format—and as we consider what ministries in which we wish to participate. Having this established time of renewal at the close of the summer provides us with an opportunity for intentional reflection. Like we do at the start of the calendar year in January, we might consider making some ecclesiastical New Year's resolutions. In what follows, I will offer some might practice resolutions, and what our faith can tell us about what is important as we consider these intentions.

Where better to begin when talking about the start of things than the beginning itself. When God created humanity, He placed upon them the task of care for the world that He had created. "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that [h]moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:28) To subdue and have dominion, is to cultivate and steward the world around us so that it shall increase. We were tasked with the stewardship of creation from the very beginning.

As I reflected on this reality, in anticipation of writing this article, I asked myself, what can our first call from God—to stewardship that is—teach us about the renewal that we seek as we begin the new ecclesiastical year? While I do believe that stewardship is a commendable endeavor that we should ever-growingly resolve to undertake, I think that it might be worthwhile to consider just what stewardship is, broadly and in our ecclesial contexts.

What is stewardship? First, in the context of Genesis, which I quoted above, it is the care for the created world and its cultivation. It is the call from God to be responsible for the well-being of all that has been entrusted to our care, to His glory. So, ultimately it touches on all aspects of our life because we move through life ever interacting with God's creation. This speaks to how we utilize time and resources, how we interact with others and nature, how we use things. All this falls under the umbrella of stewardship of creation.

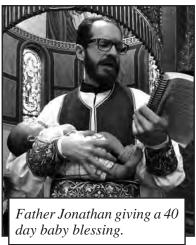
Now as Christians, we have also used the term stewardship in relationship to our support of the Church. However, I want to caution us against any assumptions towards narrowing stewardship to one aspect—namely, our financial contributions to the Church. Stewardship has far greater depth and breadth than that. "Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed."

Note in the definition above, from our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, we are never explicitly told that stewardship is about our financial contributions. In fact, we are told that it is "a way of life" that prioritizes our relationship with God, our neighbors, and the rest of creation. When we choose to live a life of stewardship, we are choosing a life that is marked by the radical offering "back to God a portion of the gifts with which [we] have been blessed." These gifts can be of course our time, our talents. and our treasure, as we often hear when discussing stewardship. The question becomes, how do we want our life of stewardship to look? What are the gifts that we have received from God that we will offer back to Him? In what ways can we do this?

These very questions can bring us back to the topic that opened this article, the idea of resolutions at the start of the ecclesiastical new year. If we choose to take advantage of this time of intentional resolve, how can our response to God's call to stewardship, and our theological understanding of that call, help shape

our practice of making resolutions? Well, we can resolve to be more intentional of what we choose to do with the gifts that God has given us. We can resolve to be intentional about how we spend our time, how we use our talents, and how we spend our treasure. We might consider how we can use these gifts in the wider community, or within our Cathedral community.

As I noted above, the start of the new ecclesiastical year represents a coincidence of the beginning of the ministry year and the academic year the latter, which even when we have left school shapes our life. This means, it is a point in the year when we consider how we will spend our time. I encourage you all to think deeply of how you can offer your gifts back to the God. Consider joining a new ministry, offering your time and talents. Perhaps, sign up for a class or come to events to fill yourself with further gifts from God, which in turn you can share with others. Volunteer for different activities throughout the year. Finally, consider how you might be able to offer from your treasure to "promote spiritual growth and strengthen [your] faith" and the faith of others who will benefit from your contributions. In this way, this new ecclesiastical year will be of great spiritual benefit and transformation.









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The Holy Trinity Centennial 1923 * 2023 One in a series of reflections on Charlotte's Orthodox community and its proud history

The 1940's



1944 DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE CHRISTMAS DANCE

First Row L to R: Helen Diamanduros, Lillie Mamalis, Katherine Anastes, Lula Fellows, Alice Pappas, Bertha Meleos, Rosie Pappas, Katina Fellos.

Second Row L to R: Happy Cockinos, Mary Cockinos, Georgia Strate, Vickie Mandanis, Alice Athens, Angelike Kostakes, Mary Pappas, Mary Plumides.

Third Row L to R: Margaret Hodges, Pota Plumides, Mary Kaperonis, Chris Srate, Blace Casey

HOLY TRINITY IN WORLD WAR II

WITH THE DEPRESSION LASTING THROUGHOUT THE 1930'S and the beginning of World War II in 1941, The Charlotte Greek community was transitioning into the 1940's with an unassuming order and hope. The community enjoyed a normal and healthy growth and the population had grown

population of about 350 people.

Fr. Papalambrou was now the spiritual leader. He was a peaceful man who gained the respect of many and carefully led the parish for the next 21 years at Holy Trinity on 1439 South Blvd. A Greek School and Sunday School were organized, the Church Choir was established, and the ladies and men's fellowship clubs were also organized. Behind all this activity the hope of a newer, larger Byzantine style church lurked in the minds of many parishioners. However, because the world was at war for a second time the thoughts of a newer church would have to wait. The congregation would have to make certain sacrifices to support their country and the Motherland during the war years.

The Greek Community participated in many local, state, national and international drives. They contributed much of their time, money, and efforts to help their country and their families back home. Approximately 350 young Greek service men were stationed around military camps in and around Charlotte. It was the duty of the church, more than ever before, to keep the ties between its service men with the Orthodox faith and the

to about 85 families and an overall community at large. The church tried to create an atmosphere of "a home away from home". The basement of the church (1439 South Blvd.) was quickly converted into a large dormitory with sleeping facilities provided for 25 service men. Cots, sheets, blankets, towels, and wash basins were all donated by members of the Church. Prayer books, crosses, and other church materials were also provided. It was the church that acted as the center of all these activities.

> During the war years the Charlotte Greek community grew steadily and the church on South Blvd. was able to sustain the congregation for nearly 24 years. After the Second World War, the Greek population began to grow because: 1) the first-generation Greek American born were getting married and 2) the arrival of post-war immigrants. The growing population of the Greek community promoted yet another expansion. Therefore, in 1944, a committee of 20 men was selected from the General Assembly to serve as the Building Committee tasked with locating land, arranging for the design, and overseeing the erection of the new church facility which would gloriously emerge in the next decade of the 1950's.



LOCAL AHEPA AND COMMUNITY LEADERS OF HOLY TRINITY

Photo was taken some time in the mid 40's in front of the old church on South Blvd. From L to R: Thomas Cavalaris, James Castanas, Nick Morris, James Paschal, Chris Pappas, Matthew Karres, George Kostakes, Father Papalambrou, D.J. Karras, Nick Mamalis, Louis Pappas, Tom Strate, James Meleos, Andrew Maydanis

PREVIOUSLY IN				
THIS SERIES				
Issue	Topic			
JUL/AUG 2020	Introduction			
JAN/FEB 2021	1920's			
MAR/APR 2021	1930's			
MAY/JUN 2021	1950's			
JUL/AUG 2021	1940's			

Credits: Historical facts were found in the Xenophon Nixon Holy Trinity Archive Collection Contributor: Penelope Karagounis, author of Maintaining the Ties That Bind: A Social Geography of the Greek Community of Charlotte,

Compiled and edited by Kathy Kanellopoulos and Gloria Kontoulas of the Archives Committee

The Holy Trinity Centennial 1923 * 2023 One in a series of reflections on Charlotte's Orthodox community and its proud history

The 1940's

PURITY CAFE (at right)

This photo was taken in the early 1940's. 24 of the old family parishioners at The Purity Café on East Trade Street.

Seated L to R: Amalia Mamalis, Vasiliki Kokenes, Georgia Karres, James Karres, Unknown, Pete Gekas, Amanda Kokenes, Sophia Mamalis, Lillie Mamalis, Nick Mamalis, Matthew Karres, Mrs. Matthew Karres, George Kostakes, Angeliki Kostakes, Unknown, Bessie Carabates, John Carabates, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown

Standing L to R: Bertha Meleos, James Meleos, Tom Milliones



CHOIR 1943 (at left)

First Row L to R: Tula Cavalaris, Eva Miller, Marie Pappas, Euterpy Michaels, (Choir Director) Fr. Papalambrou, Helen Michaels, Katina Fellos, Bessie Anderson, Lula Castanas

Second Row: Barbara Rallis, Helen Floros, Katina Michaels, Mary Pappas, Janet Kokenes, Rosie Anderson, Third Row: Mary Plumides, Sophie Mamalis, Lula Fellos, Jimmy Mamalis, Lillie Mamalis, Helen Diamandouros, Bessie Pappas

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 1940 (at right)

Standing L to R (Soldiers) George Miller, Spiro English, Pete Anderson, John Plumides; behind them (High Priests) Tula Cavalaris, Katina Michaels, Mary Maydanis, Janet Kokenes, Bessie Capilos, Marie Pappas, Fr. Papalambros; (King Herod) Tula Rallis; (Wise Men) Georgia Strate, Lula Pappas; (Shepherds) Sula Floros, Mary Pappas; (The angel behind the wise man) Happy Cockinos; (little angel) Joanna Pappas; behind her Vasiliki Kokenes; (Joseph) Lillian Mamlis; (Virgin Mary) Marion Anderson; (Angels) Katina Fellos, Martha Nikitas, Thalia Pappas, Petsa Cockinos; (Narrator) Mrs. Artemis Paschal; (Shepherds) Barbara Rallis, Bett Anderson; (Wise Man) Rosie Pappas



SPECIAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS THE HELLENIC PARK PROPERTY by George Zogzas

The need to hold a special meeting to discuss the Hellenic Park property was announced at the Parish Assembly meeting held on June 13, 2021. That meeting was subsequently scheduled for 6:00PM Monday, August 30, 2021, in Father C. Hall and via Zoom video conferencing.

Just before 6:30PM on Monday evening, Parish Council President Peter Thomopoulos announced that in the time allotment of 30 minutes after the stated beginning of the meeting, we did not have enough registered attendees to reach quorum. According to the By-Laws, quorum is defined as a minimum of 75 attendees. Thomopoulos offered to hold a 30 minute session to discuss the subject. Attendees wishing to participate could stay, make statements, or ask questions about Hellenic Park.

Peter Thomopoulos began by recounting a little history. Activity began in late 2018 when the Community approved a motion to abide by a standstill agreement with Childress-Klein Properties (CKP) that would allow them time to assess the value of the Hellenic Park property. At the end of the stand still agreement period, CKP may, though not obligated to, make an offer for the property. The pandemic that brought everything to a sudden halt beginning in the spring of 2020 has impacted these activities as well.

Fast forward to today. According to the documents distributed at the meeting, a land sale proposal (Proposal #1) by

a joint venture owned by Childress Klein and Crosland Southeast (JV) includes the purchase of 17.0 acres of the property. Holy Trinity retains the remaining approximately 13.5 acres plus the rental income from the Crown Castle cell tower. The purchase price is \$7,000,000.

A second proposal (Proposal #2) was made by Pulte Home Company, LLC (Pulte) in July 2021. That includes the purchase of the entire property (approximately 31.657 acres). The purchase price is \$500,000 per acre, which equates to approximately \$15,828,500.

Attendees came to the microphone to share their views and histories of the Hellenic Park journey. All recounted that the community was excited by the prospect of acquiring a large parcel (bought in two separate transactions in the 1980s) and the hope of an expanded Holy Trinity. Over those many years, events and circumstances hindered any momentum to move forward on the development of Hellenic Park (outside of the athletic fields). Some of the speakers stated that a broad vision of the community's needs and wants should be defined first and that will determine the future course with Hellenic Park, as well as 600 East Boulevard.

Peter Thomopoulos called time on the meeting at 7:10PM, asked Father Vasileios to give the closing prayer, and the attendees departed.

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ORDER OF AHEPA NATIONAL CONVENTION

by Frank Boardman and Harry Cavalaris, AHEPA Marathon Chapter #2 delegates

THE ORDER OF AHEPA NATIONAL CONVENTION was held July 25 thru July 30, 2021, in Athens, Greece to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Hellenic Republic of Greece Independence. The convention was headquartered at the Grande Bretagne Hotel.

The Hellenic Republic of Greece and the order of AHEPA orchestrated a week of activities including honoring the Hellenic Republic and Governmental Officials.

In addition to the Grand Ballrooms and meeting facilities at the Grand Bretagne Hotel, attendees attended events at the Greek War Museum, the Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center, and the Acropolis Museum.

Speakers and honorees included:

- Archbishop of Athens Ieronymos II
- Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis
- General Secretary for Diaspora Greeks, Dr. John Chrysoulakis
- Minister of National Defence Nikos Panagiotopoulos
- Chief of the Hellenic National Defense General Staff General Konstantinos Floros
- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Konstantinos Vlasis
- Presidential Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus Photis Photiou
- Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias of Greece
- President of Hellenic Parliament Constantine Tassoulas
- Minister of Culture & Sports Lina Mendoni
- President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades
- US Ambassador to Greece Geoffrey R. Pyatt
- Greek Ambassador to the US Alexandra Papadopoulou
- Athens Mayor Kostas Bakoyiannis,
- President of Greece 2021 Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki
- Minister of Development Adonis Georgiadis and
- Tourism Minister Harry Theoharis

There were symposiums held including *Presentation Greek Main*stream Perceptions of Greek-American Expats: The case of AHEPA by Dr. John Nomikos; The Evolution of Greek America in the 21st Century and its Struggle for Survival by Dr. Peter Stavrianidis; and AHEPA Cyprus Hellenic Panel Discussion on "Trilateral Relations in the Region"



Delegate Frank Boardman, back left, with his family in Athens



Above: Delegate Harry Cavalaris (right) with Jim Stassios (left) in front of the statue of Markos Botsaris, general and hero of the Greek War for Indepedence. The statue is located at the Athens War Museum.

STEWARDSHIP 2021

AS OF 8/30/21

YTD FINANCIALS	<u>2021</u>	2020
Stewardship	\$457,859	\$424,848
Candles, Rentals, Other	\$124,291	\$71,634
Building/Renov. Donations	\$126,173	\$205,648
Minus : Operating Expenses	-\$572,051	-\$666,092
Minus: Building Fund Expenses	-\$46,036	-\$139,773
NET	\$90,236	-\$103,735

A big <u>THANK YOU</u> to all who have continued to send or bring in their stewardship donations and candle donations even though not physically coming to Church services.

Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated!

<u>WE MISS SEEING YOU, ESPECIALLY IN CHURCH!</u>

WAYS TO GIVE:

- CHURCH SERVICES bring your offerings to the many services we offer.
- ON-LINE BILL PAY you can set up on-line payments thru your bank. There are no fees to you or the Church.
- MAIL your check or bring to office during the week between 9am-5pm.
- CHURCH WEBSITE go to htgo.org and select the "Give Now" button to set up payments whether one-time or monthly.

 The Church pays credit card fees.
- CREDIT CARD call the office with your credit card information and we can do a one-time charge. The Church pays credit card fees.

We Need The Church All Year Long & The Church Needs Us Too
The summer months were particularly challenging due to constant expenses
versus lower income. We ask that everyone continue to make their offerings and
maybe increase a small percentage if able. We have a wonderful property, and
along with its blessings, come many expenses. We thank you for your support
and love for Holy Trinity. We ask for your kindness and generosity to help us
continue smooth operations as we begin to open and restart our programs and



PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Peter Thomopoulos



Greetings to all. I pray you and your loved ones have had a wonderful summer. It has been a very busy one at Holy Trinity. With the significant decreases in COVID cases through the

beginning of June, we decided to proceed with a full festival. All signs were pointing in a positive direction and we started taking all the steps to prepare for this extraordinary event. In the period following that decision, we've seen an unbelievable shift in the spread of COVID due to a new variant. I write this article on the heels of the latest Festival Committee meeting. In this meeting, it was decided to pivot for the second time, in two months. We will now embark on making the Yiasou festival a drive-thru event. I am confident we will muster the multitude of talent in our community and will have a successful event that showcases our culture, ingenuity and determination.

We have also scheduled a special assembly to determine the future of our Hellenic Park. There have been many visions for this property over the years. There has been talk of retirement homes, athletic facilities and even a school. However, to this point, there has not been enough momentum generated to actually execute any of these ideas. Over the last 1-2 years, we've received multiple unsolicited offers to sell all or a portion of the property. It is my hope that during the

upcoming special assembly, we come together as a community and make a final decision to act one way or the other. Regardless of the direction, it's simply time to act. If the property is not to be sold, we must take up the challenge to develop it. I don't believe any of us want to see another 20 years pass debating and thinking about what to do.

The last bit of news I'd like to share is the recent efforts to convert to a new church management system. This is an assortment of software that we believe will help us improve our operations and better serve our community. We are currently testing the software to ensure it operates as expected. In the short term, much of the changes will be behind the scenes but as we continue the roll out, you can expect to see updates to our website and even the creation of our own church app to help improve the communications to our growing number of parishioners.

To close, I'd like to sincerely thank all the people that continue to support our parish. There are so many volunteers that donate their time and talents to ensure we have programs for our community. Our clergy work tirelessly around the clock to support our emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Our office staff goes above and beyond year-round to ensure we remain operational. Please join me in thanking them for the work they do. I also ask you to consider where your talents and interests fit in. We have over 1000 registered families in our community and if all contribute their time and talents, we can ease the burden while also continuing to improve our parish life.



2021-2022 Holy Trinity Ministry Guide Cover Art Contest Winner

The winning entry (left) in this contest was drawn by third grader William Vrochides. He is the son of Dionisios and Isabelle Vrochides.



Sunday School

Registration is currently underway for 2021-2022 through CampDoc -

http://app.campdoc.com/register/htgoc.

Classes begin in-person on September 26th.

We are in need of teachers and assistants in multiple classes.

Please consider offering your time to guide our children in their Orthodox faith.

Contact the Sunday School Committee at httpocsundayschool@gmail.com if you have any questions.



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT by Olga Yamalis

Choir has returned! We've returned slowly, week by week, and on a volunteer basis. Our current plan is to sing at practice and in Liturgy with masks and be physically distanced. Many of us are happy to be back singing and appreciate being next to our choir team members once again. Even though we are not back to one hundred percent four-part harmony yet, we are enjoying the ease of singing half the Liturgy in unison in Greek and English from the updated green hymnal produced by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The hymnal was written for large gatherings and for the purpose of congregational singing. So next time you attend Liturgy, pick up a green hymnal found in each pew, follow along and sing with us!

For our sad news, this will be the second year in a row in which there will be no choral performance during the Yiasou Festival. For our good news, we hope to expand Hymnology teachings to the youth in the upcoming Sunday school year. Stay tuned for more details in our next update.

Choir is not resting in 2021. Here are some events taking place for the remainder of the year:

- ---Eastern Federation (EFGOCM) is holding virtual practices twice a month, June through October, rehearsing Chris Kypros Liturgy leading up to the in-person conference October 28-31.
- ---National Forum Virtual Annual Meeting August 27-29
- ---Southeastern Federation (SFGOCM) Virtual Metropolis Clergy-Laity Annual Meeting September 18

Plans will continue throughout Winter 2022 with virtual choir workshops in all federations and plans to continue all choir conferences throughout 2022 at both diocese and national levels.

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart.

Ephesians 5:19

PHILOPTOCHOS by Pamela Bostian

Over the summer, our Philoptochos chapter has been busy with Yiasou festival preparations. Thank you to all volunteers who turned out to help with preparations and baking! Everyone's help is needed still to pack pastries (September 5th - 6th) and to volunteer to work at the Drive-Thru festival (September 9th - 12th).

Proceeds collected from our St. Phanourios tray will be donated to the Metropolis Philoptochos Youth fund. Thank you to all for your generous donations.

Diane Ramsay is selling raffle tickets for the Children's Medical Luncheon to be held on November 6th. Please contact Diane at 704-576-1100 (or dramsay48@gmail.com) to purchase tickets.

Save the Date: Our chapter's Name Day Celebration luncheon will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, September 25th at the Red Rocks Cafe (SouthPark). Please make every effort to attend!

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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE by Nick and Carmen Kallelis

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

As we return to normalcy we need to remember the definition of a "member in good standing".

The By-Laws of this Cathedral specify a member must be 18 years old and in good standing. Our By-Laws read:

"Parishioners are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his or her life and activities, to seek personal spiritual growth, to attend the Divine Liturgy, religious, moral, and social duties of Liturgy and other services of worship faithfully on Sundays and holy days, to keep the rules and fasts of the Orthodox traditions, to receive frequently the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, to train and teach the youth according to the faith and spirit of Orthodoxy, to respect the clergy, ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the church, to be obedient in matters of faith and ecclesiastical order, and to cooperate in every way towards the welfare and prosperity of the Parish and the success of its sacred mission."

This includes the annual submission of a Stewardship form which helps plan the budget which is based on expected (committed) income.

Our responsibilities as stewards are to adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1. To be a member of a ministry you must be a MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING. Ministry Chairs should make certain ALL those involved in their ministry are also MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.
- 2. Parents of children involved in a church sponsored activity must be a MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.
 - 3. You must be a MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING in order to vote.
- 4. Every organization needs to have accurate administrative records in order to properly communicate with their members and operate efficiently. Even though our stewardship forms are preprinted and sent out for verification ONLY 25% ARE RETURNED. Examples of this deficiency is the fact that our mailings are returned due to insufficient or out-of-date addresses. Many telephone numbers have been changed and we are unable to locate parishioners. The administrative staff and clergy waste time trying to locate people.

We have over 1,000 families on our mailing list. Without stewardship forms being filled out and returned we do not have an accurate record of parishioners who belong to Holy Trinity. There is no way we can acknowledge special events like birthdays, anniversaries but most importantly, contact information is not updated. Please return the stewardship form.

It is recognized that many families cannot commit to a financial obligation at the beginning of the year. In these cases, we recommend entering TBD (to be determined) in the financial section.

If everyone cooperated in this manner the administrative records would be updated. The financial data received would greatly assist the Parish Council with their planning.

Let's set a goal of 100% stewardship participation.

Hello!

"My name is Adonis (Tony) Tsurunakis and I am a realtor in Charlotte. Originally from Baltimore, Md, I have lived in Charlotte the last 5 years with my lovely wife and have been an active agent for the last 18 months.

In that short time, I have been able to successfully sell a business (Mr.K's),residential property, and have over a million dollars of land acquisition deals currently under contract.

Having lived in Athens, Greece, for seven years, I am fluent in the Greek language and can assist individuals translating difficult real estate terminology and guide you through the complexities any given transaction has to offer. If you are looking to either buy/sell land, residential and/or commercial property, please reach out to me and I will be glad to arrange a personal meeting. Thank you."

Tony Tsurunakis, Realtor US Developments, LLC 5925 Carnegie Blvd, Suite 200 Charlotte, NC 28209 AdoniosT20@gmail.com 443-226-9906



AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

ELEVATED TO ARCHON

HIS All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has conferred the distinction of Archon Elect of the Order of St. Andrew of the Great Church to Dr. Triandaphilos Sarantou and Dr. Dennis Demosthenes Kokenes.

Dr. Terry (Triandaphilos) Sarantou is a well-respected, internationally known surgical oncologist, specializing in melanoma and breast cancer, and a member of the academic faculty of the Division of Surgical Oncology at Levine Cancer Institute and Department of General Surgery at Atrium Health/Carolinas

Medical Center. Dr. Sarantou holds an academic appointment as a Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

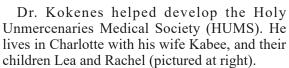
Dr. Sarantou has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons, served as Chair of its Patient Education Workgroup and is past president of the North Carolina Chapter, American College of Surgeons, and many other appointments and honors. He lives in Charlotte with his wife Heidi and their children, Marina Anastasia and John Peter. (pictured at right)



AXIOS and Congratulations!

Dr. Dennis Kokenes has taken an active role in Charlotte's Medical community. He previously served as board member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region and was the founding board member and former treasurer of the North

Carolina Society for Gastroenterology (NCSG). He is a member of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), the Crohn and Colitis Foundation of America (OCFA), the Mecklenburg County Medical Society (NCMS), the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) and the NCSG.





Their elevation will take place in the Fall of 2021 during the Order of St. Andrew Weekend Conference at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of Holy Trinity officiated by His All-Holiness.

Information provided by Archon Harry Thomas Cavalaris



In the MAY/JUN 2021 issue of The Voice, we incorrectly reported on the honor received by Panagiota (Anna) Minakakis. She graduated from Porter Ridge High School *summa cum laude* and not magna cum laude as we reported. Congratulations Panagiota!





In Memoriam



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25

Jeanne Pappas Karras (1947 – 2021)

Jeanne Pappas Karras, 74, of Denver, NC died August 17, 2021, at Atrium Health – CMC. Jeanne was born January 13, 1947, daughter of Cora Gregor Pappas and the late, Angelo George Pappas. She grew up in Greensboro before moving to Charlotte at 14 years of age and attended King's College after graduating from Myers Park High School. Jeanne was the office manager for her husband for many years, the late, Harry G. Karras, Ph.D. who passed away in 2016.

Jeanne is survived by her mother, Cora Gregor Pappas of Gastonia, NC; her son, Dr. Dean Karras and his wife, Michelle; grandchildren, Christopher, Eleni, Sabrina and Tony, all of Wilmington, NC; sister, Marilyn Dean and her husband, Michael of Gastonia; nephews, Billy Dean and his wife, Joyce of Gastonia and Evan Karagias and his wife, Jennifer of Gastonia; and her goddaughters, Patsy Ciechon of Virginia Beach and Emily Ferguson of Charlotte.

A trisagion service and visitation began at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 21,2021 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The funeral service began at 10:00 AM. Entombment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Andy Konstantinos Koutsokalis

(1947 - 2021)

Andy Konstantinos Koutsokalis, of Charlotte, NC passed away on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at Ocean Isle Beach, NC. Andy was born in Stenoma, Greece, the son of Konstantinos Koutsokalis and Athanasia Skondrianou and raised in Lamia.

Andy is survived by his loving and devoted wife of nearly 50 years, Mary Koutsokalis, his eldest son, Dean of Ocean Isle Beach, NC; his son Tommy in Charlotte, NC and his two grandchildren, Andie and Connor. He is also survived by his sisters, Koula Poulos and her husband, Andrew, Margarita Bakogiannis and Helen Georgakis and her husband, George. He was preceded in death by his brother Loukas and his parents, Konstantinos and Athanasia.

Funeral Services were held at noon on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The family received friends at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Robert Morgan (1936 – 2021)

Robert "Bob" Morgan, 85, of Rock Hill, SC passed away on August 10, 2021 at his home after a courageous battle with Leukemia. Bob was born on July 4, 1936 in Franklin, NC to Robert and Helen (Dalton) Morgan.

Bob is lovingly remembered by his wife, Kay Franks Morgan, daughter Jayne Morgan Watson, son Jim Morgan, daughter-in-law, Cynthia (Meyer) Morgan and son-in-law, Brian Watson. Also, by grandchildren Harrison Morgan, Nate Morgan, Bennett Watson, and Morgan Watson. His niece Jill (Morgan) Bell and husband Ralph Bell, great nephew, and great nieces, as well as brother-in-law, Dimitri Franks and wife, Pat Franks, and a host of dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Robert and Helen Morgan, his brother Dale Morgan, and his sister-in-law, Blanche (Smith) Morgan.

The funeral was held on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte, NC. The family received friends beginning at 10:00 AM. Interment followed on August 18, 2021 at Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, GA.

Sam Paul Nixon (1938 – 2021)

Sam Paul Nixon, 83, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 surrounded by his three daughters. A native of Viniani, Evrytania, Greece, he was born April 19, 1938, the son of the late Paul and Helen Nikopoulos (Nixon).

Sam is survived by his three daughters; Lena van Ettekoven and her husband, Henk-Jan, Angela Bisig and her husband, Chris, and Paula Nixon, all of Charlotte; four adoring grandchildren, Johan, Samantha, Julianna, and Gabby as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by the love of his life and

loving wife, Bessie, and his two sisters, Annie Hondros and Maria Papageorge.

A funeral service for Sam was held at 11:00 am on Friday, July 30, 2021 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Chris John Pappas (1945 – 2021)

Chris John Pappas, 76, of Charlotte, passed away Friday, July 9, 2021. Born Saturday, February 17, 1945, in Charlotte, North Carolina, he was the son of the late John George and Tula Rallis Pappas.

Chris is survived by his three sons: John and his wife, Tish, of Dallas, NC, Tim and his wife, Gina, of Indian Trail, NC, and Jim Pappas and his wife, Heidi Dean; grandchildren: Jordan, Austin, Emma, Zach, and Alicia Pappas; sister, Patrice; brother, Harry and his wife, Carol; nephew, John-Frank; niece, Venetia; and many more loving family and friends. In addition to his parents, Chris was preceded in death by his brother, George John Pappas.

The family received friends at 1:00PM with a funeral service beginning at 2:00PM Monday, July 12, 2021, at Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Continued on next page

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In Memoriam

Continued from previous page

Dimitrios Konstantinos Patronis (1955 – 2021)

Dimitrios Konstantinos Patronis, 66 years old of Charlotte, passed away on July 4, 2021. He was born in Karpenissi, Greece.

Dimitrios was predeceased by his parents, Konstantinos and Konstantina Patronis. He is survived by his loving wife, Demetra Babatsikos Patronis, his son, Konstantinos Patronis; his daughter, Konstantina Patronis and her husband Konstantinos Askian; his brothers, Sam and George Patronis and his sisters, Angela Bakousis and Maria Theoxaris.

All services were held privately and he was laid to rest in Greece.

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YOUTH MINISTRIES with Fr. Christian Siskos

Dear Parishioners,

With our Youth Ministries coming back in full-force during the fall and winter months, I wanted to take this opportunity to encourage you and your children.

I am encouraging you to bring your children to the Church and to the ministries that our home offers for them.

I am encouraging you to invest in their spiritual development by returning to the Church services and Sunday school.

I am encouraging you to continue fostering in them a sense of community by engaging them in our athletics program, dance program, and the many other ministries we offer.

"Let the Children come to me..." said the Lord to the people. Now the Church in 2021 says to us the same message. Bring the children Home. Bring them to the church. Bring them to Jesus Christ - our true physician.

And for you parents, I encourage you to join me as I offer three reflections and practical steps for navigating social media with your children and teenagers. This will take place on three Tuesdays during the month of October from 5-6 pm in the social room.

I am also working on having a parenting retreat on November 19-20. Stay tuned.

In Christ,

+Fr. Christian



Above: On August 17, GOYANs got together for Paint and Desserts. Below: On August 20, GOYANs spent the day at Carowinds (two pictures).





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Dimitra (Tula) Kourakos

12104 Copper Way Suite 100 | Charlotte, NC 28277

Website: www.homes4Charlotte.com
Email: dkourakos1@gmail.com

Facebook: SellingCharlotteHomes-Dimitra Tula Kourakos

