Sunday August 14, 2022: Clergy after the ceremony following the bestowing of offikia on both our priests. Pictured above, L-R: Deacon George Politis, Fr. Jonathan Resmini, His Grace Bishop +Sebastian, and Father Christian Siskos. Read more in the News Roundup beginning on page 5.

**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.

**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.
Dear Readers:

Happy New Year!

We find ourselves in a period of “newness” for many reasons here at Holy Trinity. First and foremost, we enter a New Ecclesiastical Year on the First of September. Secondly, we enter into this new church year with new employees at our Cathedral. Finally, the last bit of newness comes from changes to The Voice staff. As announced previously, George Zogzas is stepping down from his post after a long and successful tenure as editor. We are indeed blessed by his service, his innovation, and his leadership as we transition. Please join me in welcoming Roxanna Dimitriu and Chrys Nikopoulos to our team!

As we enter into a new season, let it be a new beginning for us all to rededicate our lives to Christ and His Holy Church.

Roxanna, Chrys, John

voice@htgo.org

**CALANDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday Sep 14</td>
<td>ELEVATION AND EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Sep 17</td>
<td>FEAST DAY OF AGIA SOPHIA &amp; HER DAUGHTERS FAITH, HOPE, LOVE Philoiptochos Feastday Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday Sep 19</td>
<td>Preschool Begins with Agiassos &amp; Open House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Sep 20</td>
<td>Greek School begins with Agiassos</td>
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<td>Sunday Sep 25</td>
<td>Sunday School begins Ministry Showcase in Fr. C Hall after the Divine Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday Oct 18</td>
<td>FEAST DAY OF SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST</td>
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<td>Wednesday Oct 26</td>
<td>FEAST DAY OF SAINT DEMETRIOS THE MARTYR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Oct 27</td>
<td>Centennial Celebration at Palmer Building 6-8PM</td>
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**REMINDER:**

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

The Voice of the Greek Community NC

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
600 East Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28203
704-334-4771
www.htgo.org

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

**THE VOICE STAFF:**

Roxanna Dimitriu, Editor
Chrys Nikopoulos, Editor
John Shelton, Editor
George Andrews, Business Manager

**CLERGY:**

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini, Interim Dean of the Cathedral
Rev. Fr. Christian Siskos, Associate Priest
Rev. Fr. George Politis, Deacon

**CATHEDRAL STAFF:**

Kathy Xyrafakis, Office Secretary
Frances Zogzas, Financial Secretary (PT)
George Petras, Facilities Coordinator
Ronald Labordé, Custodian
John Shelton, Dir. of Communications
Sarah Vastis, Youth Director
Irina Monzolevskaya, Organist
Dimitri Petropoulos, Chanter
Angelo Tatis, Building Assistant (PT)
Maria Kleto, Preschool Director
Olympia Koutsokalis, Greek School Dir.

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George T. Karres (24) Vice President
Lucy Pappadakes (22) Secretary
Stacey Vastis (24) Asst Secretary
Vaki Karampourniotis (23) Treasurer
Dean Peroulas (24) Asst Treasurer

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Eliaos Elia (23) ; Andre Harakas (22) 
Nick X. Nixon (22) 
Christina Skiouris (24) 
Dimitri Dounis (24) ; Drew Dudley (23) 

**ADVERTISE**

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Dwelling in the Love of God. Heaven and Hell as Our Response to God’s Love

Orthodox Christians have a tendency to claim the infallibility of Orthodox doctrine. They believe that the Holy Scriptures, especially the earlier books of the New Testament, are the living Word of God. The Orthodox believe that certain truths are not just a matter of personal opinion, but they are the revealed will of God. They believe that God’s love, which is eternal and unchanging, is present in all creation. If God is love and his love is eternal and unchanging, we will be able to separate us from the love of God at the Second Coming, but eternal position are intimately connected to one’s life of this age.

A Threefold Perspective of Heaven and Hell

There are three perspectives concerning Heaven and Hell, which we will discuss in this chapter. They are: 1) Heaven and Hell are our location in relation to God in eternity—that is, in the age to come 2) Heaven and Hell are the intermediate state between death and resurrection to new life in eternity 3) Heaven and Hell reflect the nature of God’s love, which we will discuss in the next chapter.

Heaven and Hell in Eternity

We have already stated above that the Orthodox have little assurance concerning Heaven and Hell. They do, however, have a profound hope in the “resurrection from the dead and the life of the age to come” (Nicaean Creed). Not much is known about this future life in eternity. The scriptures are relatively silent about eternal life. The only hint given about eternal life is found in the Gospel of John. During the farewell discourse the Evangelist writes:

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come: glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou hast given him authority over all flesh, that he may give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast prepared” (Jn 17:1-3).

Eternal life according to this passage is to know “God, and Jesus Christ whom [he] has sent.” Thus, eternal life is a eternal relationship with God in Jesus Christ. Jesus is “the way, the truth, and life” (John 14:6) of all. Orthodox Christians believe that God will resurrect everyone from the dead on the Day of Judgment. Depending on the state of their souls in this life, that resurrected person will be to either the joy of the Eternal Kingdom or to eternal condemnation. This eternal life in eternity—


2. The Orthodox Prayer to the Holy Spirit begins: Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who are everywhere present and filling all things…”

3. In his book The Science of Spiritual Medicine: Orthodox Psychotherapy in Ancient and Modern Hierothos Vlachos writes: “According to these views, Hell and Paradise do not exist from God’s perspective, only from man’s point of view…” Just as the sun rises now upon the righteous and the unrighteous, so then he will send his grace to everyone, the sinners as well as the just. Sinners, however, as they will not have acquired spiritual sight, will feel the caustic properties of the light. This will be their Hell…The problem facing us is not whether we will see God at the Second Coming, but whether God will be Life for you and not death.” Thus, Heaven and Hell are not places, but the experience or perception of the love of God. We will return to this below as we discuss the judgment of God.

4. It goes beyond the scope of this article to address the multifaceted theme of this intermediate state according to Orthodox theology. For a detailed presentation of a number of these perspectives see: Constan, Nicholas: “To Sleep, Perchance to Dream: The Middle State of Souls in Patristic and Byzantine Literature.” Dumbarton Oaks Papers, 2001, 91-124. Several contemporary texts have attempted to offer a unified perspective of life after death.

5. Several contemporary texts have attempted to offer a unified perspective of life after death.


Conclusion

How can God be in Hell? It is because there is no difference between Heaven and Hell. Heaven and Hell are not places, but rather our experience of God’s love. We can live contrary to the love of God. We cannot know that the Orthodox speak of a judgment, in accordance with the Scriptural passages and the Orthodox Christian understanding of the nature of God’s love.

We Know Not Their Hearts, We Seek Only To Love

Orthodox Christians cannot assume that they will receive God’s love as an experience of their Orthodox Christianity. They cannot assume that those who are not Orthodox, or Christian, or believers, will not receive the love of God as light as opposed to fire (Rev 10:10, 57). We do not know in it—the Christian life, that is—to either avoid punishment or receive a reward. Neither are we Christian to pass out punishments or rewards. We must do what the Orthodox Christians desire to fulfill the commandments of God, because that is what makes us authentically human. It is enough for us to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, and our whole mind, and our neighbors as ourselves (cf. Matthew 22:37-40). We cannot know what the future place of anyone will be; for we do not know the hearts of others (cf. Romans 9:18). Furthermore, God is free to love whomever He pleases—His love is indiscriminate. He will have mercy upon and harden the hearts of those whom He chooses not to love (cf. Romans 9:18). Orthodox Christians hope all will come to the knowledge of God and experience the love of God as God, but they acknowledge the human freedom to choose.

Recommended Readings

Larchet, Jean-Claude. 2012. Life after Death according to the Orthodox Tradition. Rollofingsford, NH. Orthodox Research Institute.


Editor’s note: Father Jonathan published this for the book Re-Introducing Christianity edited by Amir Azarvan. The book is available in the Hosanna Bookstore.
STEWARDSHIP 2022
as of 8/31/22

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*Stewardship is needed year-round - financial and volunteerism. The summer month collections & volunteerism were low when all were on vacations even though the Church facilities remained open. We hope and pray everyone will return to Church as a family especially now that regular school & Sunday School are starting. We need God in our lives year-round, in good times or in bad time - when we need something or when we do not.

God and the Church are always here for us year-round.*

Please call the Church office if you’ve moved or will be on vacation and have your mail “held” or “forwarded”. The Church’s mail does not get “held” or “forwarded”. It will return to the Church. The Church then must pay the return postage.

| 2022 Stewardship Budget | $756,000 |
| 2022 YTD Pledges (219 families) | $269,451 |

© Many stewardship forms are being returned without pledge amounts. Please try and estimate how much you will donate so that we can better plan Church finances. Only 219 families gave an amount of the 294 forms received.

We need 100% participation of all our approximate 1000 households.

Yiasou Festival 5K

Saturday, August 27: Above, Holy Trinity runners after completing the race, Below young volunteers on hand to help everything run smoothly. See more Festival coverage next issue.

OCF at UNCC

On August 31st, Fr. Jonathan met with college students at the UNCC campus for the 1st time this school year. After an Agiasmo/water blessing, they enjoyed a dinner and some fellowship together. You can see in the picture, at left, that 11 students attended. Hopefully, more will be there next time.

Parents, please encourage your college students to reach out to the Cathedral office to make sure we have all their current contact information no matter what school they attend. We want to keep in touch with them. We also want to encourage them to seek out their school’s OCF organization and join in that fellowship. It’s always nice to be surrounded by others with whom you have something in common - in this case, it’s their Orthodox Faith.

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Offikia Bestowed on Our Clergy

On Sunday, August 14th, Holy Trinity was blessed with a liturgical visit from His Grace, Bishop +Sebastian of Zela, Assistant to our Metropolitan +Alexios of Atlanta.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, His Grace bestowed two offikia (title/award) on Father Jonathan and Father Christian. As is customary for those who are new to pastoring a flock, Fr. Jonathan was permitted to offer that sacrament. Now, both of our beloved priests may offer the prayer of absolution in order to cleanse our souls.

Fr. Jonathan was ordained into the priesthood by His Eminence Metropolitan +Alexios at Holy Trinity just over three years ago on Sunday April 7, 2019. Later that same year, on October 6, 2019, His Eminence Metropolitan +Alexios returned to Holy Trinity and ordained Father Christian into the priesthood.

Follow-up: Donations Made

It was reported in the MAY/JUN 2022 issue that donations were made to several charitable organizations with funds collected from the Cathedral Christmas card project. The following acknowledgements were received:

August 14, 2022: Pictured above, His Grace Bishop +Sebastian bestows the offikion of Economos on Father Jonathan, the interim dean of the Cathedral. Below, Associate Priest Father Christian receives the offikion of Confessor.
His connection to Charlotte goes back nearly a century to when he was the first full-time priest assigned to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The story we are about to tell is how his journey brought him back to Charlotte — Evergreen Cemetery specifically — one July morning all these years later.

Father P, as we will respectfully refer to him for simplicity’s sake, was born in 1882 on the Greek island of Crete. In 1915, at age 33, less than a month after being ordained, he sailed to America aboard the SS Patri. It was known as an immigrant ship for obvious reasons.

He devoted his short life to serving as a priest in the Greek Orthodox Church. Records from a century ago are hard to come by. Here’s what we found. During his 23 years in our country, Father P led 10 parishes in seven states. His stops included Syracuse, N.Y.; Akron, Ohio; Canton, Ohio; Charlotte, Akron again, Detroit and finally Minot, N.D.

Charlotte and Minot are the two stops pivotal to this story.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte was founded in 1923. Father P was the first full-time priest assigned to the parish, serving from 1926 to ’28. The hope was that his arrival might spark the construction of the congregation’s first building. Parishioners first met in the Chamber of Commerce office uptown. But for reasons lost to time, he wasn’t in Charlotte long enough to make it happen. In 1928, he was assigned for a second time to the Akron parish, then to another in Detroit.

In 1937, he was transferred to the Greek Orthodox parish in Minot. The city, home to fewer than 20,000 people at the time, was attracting Greek immigrants to help build and maintain the Great Northern Railway that ran from Minneapolis to Seattle. The parish needed a leader. Alas, Father P had to resign due to poor health. Fifteen months after arriving in Minot, he died on Aug. 10, 1938. He was 56.

Father P was buried at Rosehill Memorial Park in Minot. Perhaps owing to English being parishioners’ second language, the headstone identifies him as a GREEK PREIST.

Vivian Maragos Zimmerman has spent her entire life in Minot, worshiping at the Greek Orthodox parish. Her father emigrated to America from his Greek village in the 1920s. Laying railroad track, he worked his way west. For reasons lost to time, he got as far as Minot and stopped. She was too young to have known Father P. But she has vivid childhood memories of her mother taking her to Rosehill to visit the graves of relatives. There they would take a few moments to pause at Father P’s gravestone.

“My mom always had a sense of sadness when she stood by his monument,” Vivian recalled. “She said he was a kind and good man, sensitive to the people, but he seemed depressed.”

She has long wondered if his depression came from being assigned to what was then a small city in the north central part of a cold and desolate state. Might this have contributed to his early death? “In this day and age,” Vivian said, “it would be characterized as he wasn’t eating and just kind of faded away.”

Dead and buried, you would assume the story ends there.

Not so fast.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2023. It has grown to become a flourishing faith community with 1,100 families, its East Boulevard campus a Charlotte landmark.

For those who still can’t place it, Holy Trinity is home to the Yiassou Greek Festival that welcomes thousands for food and all things Greek. This year’s festival is Sept. 8-11.

To create excitement for the centennial, Holy Trinity is organizing monthly events to mark the occasion. Enter Father P.

“What better way to celebrate an anniversary then by bringing our first priest home to us, where he can be taken care of and not forgotten,” said Father Jonathan Resmini, Holy Trinity’s spiritual leader.

The idea was inspired. Now to execute it.

Holy Trinity got permission from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to disinter Father P and rebury him in Charlotte. Disinterment is the process by which a body is legally exhumed from its “final” resting place. Here there isn’t much left of the parish. While the city today is home to nearly 50,000 people, the original Greek Orthodox parish closed down. A new parish has 30 members. It’s not many, but at least enough to operate a food truck selling gyros at the North Dakota State Fair held each July in Minot.

Virginia was at the cemetery on July 11 for the disinterment, though she chose to leave before she could see what was left of Father P.

“Working for four hours in the summer heat, not knowing what they would find, cemetery workers dug down to the wooden casket, eight feet rather than the typical six. The dirt was moist. First they used a backhoe, then shovels so as not to damage whatever remains remained. Eighty-four years after Father P was buried, they arrived at their destination. They found his skeleton intact, including skull, jaw and legs. There was more: They retrieved the rubber sole of one shoe and pieces of his cloth vestment, green with gold border.

“I was filled with amazement and awe,” said funeral director Andrew Bahanovich of Charlotte, who led the effort with Minot funeral director Ben Slind. “Being Orthodox and the son of a priest, it was very personal to me, a once-in-a-lifetime experience.” Andrew works with Kenneth W. Poe Funeral Service, which handles many Greek funerals in Charlotte.

The remains were brought up on a wooden board that apparently formed part of the bottom of the casket. It was placed in a metal container lined with plastic and flown to Charlotte on Delta Air Lines.

Father P arrived on July 22. Four days later, 40 Holy Trinity parishioners offered an official welcome home at a brief service in the sanctuary. Father Remini told the gathering that while time passes, we remain connected by the relationships we forged long ago. That includes the priest who was there at the start of Holy Trinity’s journey.

The motorcade to Evergreen Cemetery off Central Avenue took 30 minutes. Father P was laid to rest in a simple casket made of poplar.

Vivian, who visited Father P’s grave as a little girl, wishes she could have come to Charlotte for his second burial. At the moment Father P was being laid to rest for presumably the final time, she was baking spinach and cheese triangles to sell out of the parish food truck at the State Fair.

“Having been at his gravestone so many times,” Vivian said, “I would have liked to have been there for the last chapter.”

You can find this article online at: https://charlotteledger.substack.com/p/8700a2-3ead-43e1-a5a2-30d1b4ac69d6

Cemetery workers disinter Father P from his gravestone in Minot, N.D. (Photo contributed by Andrew Bahanovich of Kenneth W. Poe Funeral Service)

Father Jonathan Resmini kisses the casket at the reburial of Father Polycarpous Krithinakis at Evergreen Cemetery in Charlotte. (Photo by Ken Garfield)
Dear Holy Trinity Community,

The start of the 2022-2023 school year is on the horizon and registration is well underway. Thank you to everyone who has reached out with welcoming words and supported my transition as Greek School Director. The warmth and caring of our community honors and humbles me. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to meeting many of you in months and years ahead.

After a year of transition, the Greek School program is forever indebted to the service of Mr. Larry Peroulas who has led the program with pride and passion all these years. I also want to voice my appreciation to Mrs. Roula Skenteris, whose leadership as interim director 2021-2022 has ensured that the school remains strong and true to its mission during a time of transition. Holy Trinity has a vast history of providing an exceptional opportunity for individuals to learn the Greek language. Even through changes and adjustments, our program graduated another class of students last May! If you have a child or grandchild, offer them the opportunity to learn our rich Greek language. My most treasured memories are from my years in Greek School, and it is my mission to ensure that our students have the same opportunities and experiences. Our program fosters life-long relationships and memories that will bind our students beyond their childhood years.

Supported by the leadership in our community, our work this summer has remained in full swing. As you can imagine, we are busy preparing for the Greek Festival and preparing our classrooms to welcome everyone back. In addition to cleaning and painting, we have consolidated the Sunday School and Greek School offices, have welcomed several new teachers, digitized the registration process, and have been working to make the Greek School part of the Centennial Celebrations ahead. However, our work is just getting started. Over the next few weeks, our teachers will be updating curriculum and preparing their lessons for the upcoming year. We look forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday, September 20th with the Agiasmos blessing of our Cathedral’s Dean, Fr. Jonathan. If you have not registered your child, forms can be found on the Greek School page at www.htgo.org. We are still in need of teachers for the 2nd and 3rd grades! Any interested and qualified candidates are encouraged to send their resumes to greekschool@htgo.org as soon as possible. For those interested in adult classes, registration will be open at the end of September and classes begin in October. Be on the lookout for adult registration announcements.

With our community’s volunteerism and support, our Greek School will be a better place to learn and grow. As director, I welcome your participation and support during the school year and look forward to celebrating our students’ achievements with you. Thank you for allowing us to serve the needs of your children and I look forward to the start of an exciting new school year!

Sincerely,

Olympia Koutsokalis
Greek School Director

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Committed to building relationships
The summer of 2022 brought back a full choir.

This year, the 44th annual conference of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Musicians (SEFGOM) of our Diocese, was held on June 17-19 in Knoxville, TN.

Lucy Pappadakes, choir conductor at HTC, was the guest conductor at the event.

JoAnn Andros Metropolis of Dunedin, FL attended as the Guest Organist and Music Composer. Bishop Sevastianos participated throughout the conference.

Highlighting the event, there was an excellent and vibrant Friday evening choral performance, a Saturday night banquet held in the heart of downtown Knoxville’s Market Square, and the rich, uplifting and glorious sounds of Sunday morning’s Liturgy.

During the Agios O Theos/Holy God/Trisagion, a ‘pop up’ youth choir consisting of HTC Dean John’s grandchildren and Niko Vastis, son of Sarah Vastis, sang ever so angelic, and was absolutely outstanding.

Awards were presented following the conclusion of the Liturgy. Connie Ross (HTC) received the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal for her contributions in the music ministry, outstanding supports towards the National Forum brochure, SEFGOM Vice President Board position and conference co-chair duties. High school senior Elaina Yamalis received the Gallos and Zanakos Music Scholarship for her high school music contribution, for continuing her education with a minor in music performance, and for her participation in the marching band at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC, this fall.

In addition, Olga Yamalis was sworn into the SFGOM Board as Secretary and Youth Initiatives Chair for the next two years.

Conference’s participants from HTC Choir (pictured at right) included Lucy Pappadakes, Dean Johns, Olga Yamalis, Elaina Yamalis, Sarah Vastis, and Olga Kletos.

Lucy’s contribution to the event was fantastic, being a stellar conductor for the HTC choir, whose engagement was amazing. All choir members were remarkable. Gratitude will also go to St. George of Knoxville, TN for being an exceptional host for this year’s fun conference!

Also this summer, the 46th annual meeting of the National Forum took place on July 2 to July 7 in New York, NY in conjunction with the 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. The National Forum is the nation’s music ministry. This event enhances and perpetuates the liturgical music of our church for both our Metropolis and Archdiocesan Federations for church musicians.

Lucy Pappadakes, HTC choir conductor, attended and diligently worked at the event. This year highlights include singing at the Sunday’s Hierarchical Liturgy and the opening session of the Archdiocese Centennial Historical Exhibit; also, choral performances were held at the National Forum Reception dinner and the Metropolitan Museum of Art Concert.

Rehearsals and meetings were alternating between performances. There was an important discussion and decision regarding the translation in English of the original music-work by composer Anastasiou. Two teams consisting of Forum’s members had begun the collaboration on this project, in minor and major settings.

Great appreciation is directed, again, to Lucy Pappadakes for being a conference- delegate, for the performances representing our Atlanta Diocese, and for continuing her position as Publication’s Chair for the Forum.

What’s forthcoming on HTC Choir’s agenda? It’s time for choral performances at Yasios festival, the new ecclesiastical school year, and glorious holiday-concerts. Would you like to join us? You are welcome!

Over the summer, our Agia Elpis Philoptochos chapter has been busy with Yasios Festival preparations.

The 2022 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention was held in New York City, July 2nd and through July 7th. The convention was considered a great success as everyone reunited in person to celebrate the achievements of our organization as it reached its 90th Anniversary. A total of 317 registered delegates were in attendance. This included 33 delegates from the Atlanta Metropolis with 2 delegates and 2 observers from our Agia Elpis Holy Trinity Chapter. Highlights of the Convention included the traditional Biennial Convention Work and Reports, inspirational Speaker Sessions, The Consecration of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, a 4th of July Celebration at the Yacht Club in NJ, the AGAPE Awards Breakfast, a Centennial Reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Grand Banquet together with the Clergy-Laity Congress who celebrated the Centennial of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Access to reports, speaker presentations and more are available on the National Philoptochos website: www.philoptochos.org.

Save the Date: The Agia Elpis chapter’s Name Day Celebration luncheon will be held at Red Rocks Cafe on Providence Road on September 17th. More information can be found at htg.org.

Details regarding our annual Holiday Bake Sale will be announced after the Yasios Festival.

As summer draws to a close, we will soon resume full activity at Holy Trinity. Thanks to our Priests, altar boys, and our cantors for allowing our devotions to continue without pause during the summer months.

This summer there was activity in preparation for the Festival. We thank all the volunteers who were involved in these festival preparations and all who worked diligently during the festival prep three day event. All these volunteers are a fine example of true stewardship.

Our ministries will be in full swing and we owe a word of appreciation to the chairs and ministry members for their time and dedication. We always need more help. Consider volunteering for one of our ministries. We NEED your talents, your viewpoints, and your experience.

The stewardship committee is organizing the 2023 stewardship program and welcomes any suggestions to enhance stewardship. The committee needs some younger members in order to have a more diverse committee and those who can offer the committee their digital skills.

Coming soon are several important events, the election for the Parish Council (December), the pre-budget meeting, & General Assembly Meeting (both in October). In the past only, a small segment of our church community has participated. The strength of Holy Trinity is best achieved if everyone participates by being involved at these meetings. Please consider attending and becoming knowledgeable about our needs and future plans.

Let’s show our commitment to supporting Holy Trinity by being a Member in Good Standing* and attending these important functions and demonstrating our dedication. Your presence at these vital meetings contribute to the “heartbeat” of Holy Trinity.

* A member in good standing as described in the church by-laws must be 18 years of age or older, meeting the baptism and Chrismation requirements, attended Liturgies, and fulfills their financial obligation.

PHILOPTOCHOS by Pamela Bostian

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE by Nick and Carmen Kallelis
AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

Parker-Demas

Anna Caitlin Parker and Agesilaos Panagiotis (Peter) Demas were married on April 30, 2022. The wedding ceremony took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Caitlin is the daughter of Dave and Barb Parker. Panagiotis is the son of Pete Demas and Shelia Dillion. A reception in Founders Hall followed the ceremony. After a honeymoon trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica, the couple reside in Rock Hill, SC in the Riverwalk development where they are opening a new restaurant called Blend: Fresh Healthy Food.

Stewart – Gonzalez

Sheldon Anastazia Stewart and Felix Gonzalez, Jr. were married on Saturday, June 18, 2022 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. A reception followed immediately at Father C. Hall. Sheldon, or Shel, is the daughter of Paul and Tina Stewart. Felix, Jr., is the son of Felix and Yvonne Gonzalez, Sr. The couple have known each other since middle school. After a honeymoon trip to Greece, they will return to their home in Ballantyne with their two dogs, Marley and Bonzai.

Stathopoulos - Qaoud

Christina Stathopoulos and Khaled Qaoud Flores were married on Saturday, June 25, 2022 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral officiated by Father Christian Siskos. Christina is the daughter of Harry and Regina Stathopoulos, and Khaled is the son of Kayed and Dulce Qaoud of Madrid, Spain. A reception was held at The Terrace at Cedar Hill in Charlotte. The couple is planning a future honeymoon trip to Africa and Asia, and they will make their home in Malaga, Spain.

Congratulations College Graduate

Helen McGinnis graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, and a minor in Entrepreneurship. While at UNC, she participated in OCF and she was on the Dean’s List. Helen was a photographer and photo editor for The Daily Tar Heel newspaper. Helen also photographed for UNC’s athletics department. She volunteered at St. Stephens camp for two summers. Helen is currently doing freelance photography in the Charlotte area. Helen is the daughter of Cliff and Elise McGinnis.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation

The 50th Anniversary 1973 - 2023

Editor’s Note: The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation of Charlotte, NC, also commonly referred to as the Foundation or HTGOF, is celebrating its 50th anniversary beginning in 2022. This is another in a series of articles about the Foundation’s history, goals, and impact on the community.

by Nick Kantsios

Previously in this series, we discussed the inception of the Foundation in 1973 and its mission to promote generosity and charitable giving. Subsequently, we explained how a significant portion of the Foundation’s grants and gifts have been returned to the church in a variety of ways, such as facility upgrades, church growth, and assistance for the members of our Greek community.

Here we cover some of the basics of the Foundation and different methods of making a donation. Remember – making a donation in someone’s name is honored in perpetuity during the annual reading of the memorial names.

The Foundation is based upon an endowment - a permanent fund, the principal of which is never touched, but the earnings of which can be used in accordance with the terms of the trust policies which established the Foundation.

All contributions and gifts are maintained forever and invested. Allowed distributions are for medical, religious, educational, and charitable causes. The assets of the Foundation grow through sound investment policies and from additional gifts.

There are a variety of methods to donate. The most common method is cash, however donations can be made in a variety of other forms, such as: Bequest in a Will; Life Insurance; and Charitable Annuity Trusts, Lead Trusts and/or Annuities.

Reach out to a trustee to discuss options for donating and what will work for you via email at info@htgof.org.
Ekaterini Georgiou (1955 - 2022)
Ekaterini Georgiou, age 67, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, August 18th, 2022. Funeral services were held on Friday, August 19th, 2022 at St. Demetrios Church in Pavlopoulo, Evrytanias Greece.

She is survived by her children: Theodosia (Sia) and Billy Georgiou (Foteini), her grandchildren: Stephanie and Maria Ioanna Georgiou, her siblings: Elisavet Housiadas (Sam), Vivia Tsoulas, George Drosisinis, Dimitria Galatas (Thomas), Anna Mantis (George), and lots of nieces, nephews and friends. Ekaterini was proceeded in death by her husband, Ioannis Georgiou, her parents, Ioannis Mantis (George), and lots of nieces, nephews and Great grandchildren.

Evanthia Haralambous (1923 – 2022)
Waxhaw, North Carolina - Evanthis Haralambous, 98, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, July 9, 2022, surrounded by her family.

She was born on August 10, 1923 in Nostimo, Evrytanias Greece, the daughter of the late Georgios and Eleni Stathopoulos.

She was predeceased by her husband Ioannis Haralambous, sister Georgia Anagnostopoulous, brothers John Stathopoulos and Christos Stathopoulos.

She is survived by her children Panagiotis Haralambous (Vicky), Georgia Elefandis (John), Maria Polizos (Nick) and Helen Karras (George); grandchildren Bill Polizos (Eleni), Elizabeth Townsend (Michael), John Polizos (Kaliopi), Maria Elefandis, Pete Elefandis (Renee), Vasilis Karras, Evelyn Karras, Yianni Haralambous (Lucy) and Niko Haralambous (Gina). Great-grandchildren George Hatzikostopoulos, Yianni Hatzikostopoulos (Mercedes), Maria E Polizos, Niko B Polizos, Sophia Polizos, Maria K Polizos, Faye Polizos, Niko J Polizos, Michael Polizos, Zoe Townsend, Yianni Elefandis, Vasiliki Elefandis and Josephine Haralambous; and great-great-grandchildren Niko Hatzikostopoulos and Arianna Kensington.

She is also survived by her sister Rena Margeris of Karpenisi, Greece, sister in law Panagiotata Stathopoulos of Winchester, VA and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Trisagion and funeral service was held at 11:00 am on Friday, July 15, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Helen Valanos Holmes (1928 - 2022)
Helen Valanos Holmes passed away on Saturday, July 9, 2022. The beloved wife of the late John William “Bill” Holmes, Jr.; mother of Georgia (Speros) Nixon, Barbara Brown and John William Holmes, III; grandmother of Christina Nixon, Nicole (Elliott) Michael, Katelyn and Eleni Brown, Ava Holmes and the late Stephanie Nixon Bell; great-grandmother of Stavros, Alexandros and Arianna Bell, also survived by many nieces, nephews and Godchildren. Friends celebrated Helen’s life at the Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory, 2973 Solomons Island Rd., Edgewater, MD on Sunday from 1 to 5 pm. Funeral service was held at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 2747 Riva Rd., Annapolis, MD on Monday, July 18 at 10 am. Interment followed at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Cemetery in Annapolis.

Apostolos “Paul” Katopodis (1937 – 2022)
Paul Katopodis, of Charlotte, NC passed away Sunday, July 3, 2022 at his vacation home in Ocean Isle Beach, NC; his “Happy Place!” He was surrounded by his loving family. Paul was born in Karya, Lefkada, Greece on February 15, 1937, the son of Dimitrios Katopodis and Stavroula Stavarakas.

Paul is survived by his loving and devoted wife of over 60 years, Loula along with their children: Jimmy Katopodis (Sandy), Kiki Ballas (Nickolas) and Tammy Katopodis. He was Blessed with four Grandchildren, Paul Katopodis, Angelika Ballas, Jaimee Ballas and Sydney Ballas; and Kristi Miller and Jordan Meggs and Great Grandson Davis Meggs. He is survived by his brothers: Bill Katopodis (Theodoulou), Art Katopodis (Olga), Phillip Katopodis (Maria) and Sister: Lula Katopodis (Angelo) and in sister in law: Mary Koutsokalis along with many nieces and nephews. He was also predeceased by his sisters: Vickie Mikronis (Siro), Effie Koucoliotis (George); Andy Koutsokalis and Daniel Meggs.

Visitation was held at 10:00 AM on Friday, July 8, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral followed by Funeral Services at 11:00 AM. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Efrosini Koutsokalis (1936 – 2022)
Efrosini Koutsokalis, 86, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 19, 2222, surrounded by her family. She was born on March 12, 1936, in Kalesmeno Evrytanias Greece, the daughter of the late Evagelos and Yianoula Triantafilopoulos.

Efrosini is survived by her son, Dimitrios Koutsokalis and his wife, Maria; grandsons, Alexandros Koutsokalis; sister, Maria Kotsotou of Karpenisi Evrytanias and step-grandchildren, Kostantinos Kakouras and Ioannis Kakouras. Also surviving are her many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Alexandros Koutsokalis; sister, Penelope Kolovak and brothers, Georgios Triantafilopoulos and Stefanos Triantafilopoulos.

Funeral Services were held at Noon on Friday, July 22, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Stavros “Steve” Politis (1933 - 2022)
Stavros “Steve” Politis, 88 of Charlotte passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2022 at Harris Hospice. Born in Greece on December 4, 1933, Stavros was the son of the late Hlias and Helen Traskelis Politis.

He is preceded in death by his wife Pinelopi. Survivors include his 2 children Loues of Charlotte, Helen (John) Liotas of Lakeland, Fl., 2 grandchildren John Michael Thomas Liotas and Lisa Marie Liotas. Also continued on next page
Ronald Herbert Wheatley  
(1951 – 2022)
Ron Wheatley, 71, of Charlotte, NC and Ocean Isle Beach, NC died August 30, 2022 following a six-year struggle with declining health. A native Charlottean, Ron was born January 9, 1951 to Rex and Rosalie Wheatley. Ron is survived by his wife, Maria, their children, Johann, Robbie and Evan; grandsons, Hunter and Christian and their mom, Ashley; father-in-law, John Politis; sister-in-law, Loula Plynier and her husband, Jim, and brother-in-law, Alec Politis and his wife, Wendy; and many nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, Ron was preceded in death by his sister, Janet Wheatley and mother-in-law, Lomenia Tsoulos. Visitation was at 10:00 AM on Friday, September 2, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral followed by Funeral Services at 11:00 AM. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Condolences
To the family of Reverend Father Regis Alexoudis who served St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Wilmington, NC.

In Appreciation
The family of Efrosini Koutsokalis would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and love during her illness and passing. May her Memory be Eternal.

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