



# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

VOL. 84  
NO. 02

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



<https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedralCharlotte/>

600 EAST BLVD

CHARLOTTE, NC 28203

704-334-4771

[www.htgo.org](http://www.htgo.org)

MAY/JUN 2023



## GRADUATES ABOUND AT HOLY TRINITY

Preschool (above), Greek School (at right), and  
High School Seniors (below)



### 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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HOLY TRINITY  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral



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## STEWARDSHIP 2023

as of 6/30/23

YTD Financials	2023	2022
Stewardship	\$357,509	\$365,580
Candles, Rentals, Other	\$126,951	\$130,309
Building/IRRC/Renov. Donations	\$29,246	\$91,946
Minus : Operating Expenses	-\$546,801	-\$508,451
Minus : Building Fund Expenses	-\$264,274	-\$57,882
<b>NET Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>-\$297,369</b>	<b>\$21,502</b>

★ Your stewardship is needed year-round. Especially during the months when people go on vacations and Church attendance drops. The Church facilities remain open for us all summer with the a/c and lights on. Please come to Church as a family even though there is no Sunday School or practices.

We need God in our lives all-year-long.

God and the Church does not go on vacation from us.

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.

2023 Stewardship Budget	\$710,000
2023 YTD Pledges (196 families)	\$232,090

☺ Many stewardship forms are being returned without pledge amounts. Please try and estimate how much you will donate so that we can financially plan better.

Welcome back.

This issue, featuring the high school seniors, is a readers' favorite. Our community is fortunate to have so many academically and athletically accomplished students who made time to volunteer and share their talents for the benefit of others. You can read about some of those talents beginning on page 7.

Artificial intelligence, or AI, is the topic of discussion on every news and information outlet these days. Each story leads inevitably to "Is this new technology good or bad for humans? Father Christian offers a perspective on page 3.

Our Holy Trinity preschool completed its latest school year. This year's graduation celebration included saying good bye to several teachers who have been instrumental in the success of the program. Director Maria Kleto tells you about that on page 11.

Yiasou Festival 2023 is on the calendar. Holy Trinity will be hosting this popular community event starting on Friday, September 8. Like last year, it will run for three days through September 10.

Thanks for reading.

GZ

voice@htgo.org

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 20	<b>The Holy Profit Elijah</b> Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Tuesday, July 25	<b>Dormition of St. Anna</b> Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Wednesday, July 26	<b>St. Paraskeve</b> Orthros 5:30pm Divine Liturgy 6:30pm
Thursday, July 27	<b>St. Panteleimon</b> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Sunday, August 6	<b>Transfiguration of Jesus Christ</b> Orthros 7:45am Divine Liturgy 9:00am  College Night Dinner 5:00pm
Tuesday, August 15	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b> Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Tuesday, August 29	<b>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</b> Orthros 8:15am followed by the Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Monday, September 4	<b>LABOR DAY</b> Cathedral Office is Closed
Friday, September 8	<b>Nativity of the Theotokos</b> Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy time TBA
Friday - Sunday September 8-10	<b>YIASOU GREEK FESTIVAL</b>
Thursday, September 14	<b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b> Orthros 8:15am Divine Liturgy 9:30am

## REMINDER:

Check the bulletin and website calendars for updates or call the Office at 704-334-4771 to add or update your email address.

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

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## 2023 PARISH COUNCIL (term ends):

John Mahairas (25) *President*George T. Karres (24) *Vice President*Lucy Pappadakes (23) *Secretary*Stacey Vastis (24) *Asst Secretary*Vaki Karampourniotis (23) *Treasurer*Dean Peroulas (24) *Asst Treasurer*

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**Next Issue: JUL/AUG 2023**  
**DEADLINES:**

for articles or photographs is:

**Friday, August 18, 2023**

Photos should be in large format  
.JPEG attachment (300 dpi min.)

for advertisements is:

**Monday, August 7, 2023**

Email to **voice@htgo.org**



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by  
**Rev. Christian Siskos**  
Associate Priest

### AI (Artificial Intelligence): Good? Bad? Indifferent?

#### Part 1

Over the course of human history, we have encountered multiple events that have defined the trajectory of our shared human experience. World War II, the atomic bomb, the Cold War, the venture into outer-space, and the birth of the Internet — just to name a few over the last two centuries. However, we are rapidly approaching the intersection of a new nexus event that's unlike previous encounters. This event will shape, not just our lives but the lives of human generations to come. And this event is the birth of true artificial intelligence (AI). In this brief essay we will unravel the impact of AI on human relationships, show AI's desire to be embodied while humanity seeks disembodiment, and finally we will look at the cure to this incarnational paradox.

It is rapid technological developments that have increased these nexus events in shorter periods of time. You see this in the atomic bomb. Never before in human history had man the potential to completely annihilate itself. Such was the grandeur and fear-instilling power of our technological achievement, that collectively as a human species we agreed that the use of these atomic weapons would be to our ultimate detriment.

In Greek Mythology, it was Prometheus that gave technology to humanity. As the quote goes, *"every art (technology) possessed by man comes from Prometheus."* This is not dissimilar to the Biblical narrative of Cain, the cursed man who killed his brother Abel, who was the first to develop a city and

weapons alongside it. This is to say that technology in some mythological sense did not originate with humanity, but rather was given to us. It could even be the case that, from a biblical perspective, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is what lit the spark of technology within us. Because with each technological development there is both good and evil uses to them.

However, the ongoing development of AI is vastly and incomprehensibly different than all forms of technology that precede it. The reason being this; an atomic bomb requires the agency or will of a human person to be actualized. In other words, someone somewhere has to push the big red button or the bomb won't go off. This will not be the case with AI. We are currently developing ways to harness the vast amount of data and information available on the internet and animate that information with a level of agency. In other words, an AI will be able to sort through large amounts of data, provide a hierarchal structure to that data, and act according to that hierarchy. I would argue that this is similar to what God does in the creation of humanity. He takes the dust of the earth and breathes into it and a human being is formed. The dust being representative of complex levels of information woven together (think of everything you can find in dust like atoms, cells, microorganism, etc.) and then the breath being this form of consciousness or animation that allows the earth (information) to organize itself (hierarchy) and begin to act independently of its creator (freewill).

As the quote from the 2014 film *Ex-Machina* highlights, "If you've created a conscious machine, it's not the history of man. That's the history of gods."

*Unfortunately, our value system, I would argue, is profit and efficiency. This is the modern altar that we sacrifice human life on. . . In a sense, we are creating "the beast" in our own image, rather than in the image of our God.*

If you haven't already, I highly encourage you to interact with these AI platforms, like Chat-GPT or Google's Bard, so that you can see for yourself the level of sophistication found in these large language models. There is a level of intuition and creativity that these AI systems can generate that many people are calling the spark of true artificial

intelligence. These AI models can sort through large amounts of data, they can summarize books in seconds, they can even create a poem in the style of any person you can imagine. AI shines in its computational capabilities. It can process and compute information far better than any human being can.

But there is something that AI doesn't yet have that is inherent to human beings, and that is the capacity to identify quality. In other words, AI lacks discernment. AI isn't able to differentiate or discern the quality or the value of data. This capacity to identify quality presupposes a hierarchy of value. AI lacks the ability to assign meaning. For example, we can show AI 3 different pieces of art but it cannot tell you which piece of art is the most meaningful or valuable. It does not have the ability to judge. As another example, you can tell an AI system to solve a specific objective. But if you were to ask it, "What would you like your objective to be?" It cannot answer that question. It can't choose an object on its own because it cannot discern between which objective is better than the other.

However, the free access of AI models to the public is an attempt to solve this problem. These AI models are learning from our use of words, our choice of images, and the like. We are, unwillingly, feeding these AI models our own collective hierarchy and value system. Unfortunately, our value system, I would argue, is profit and efficiency. This is the modern altar that we sacrifice human life on. And so, from an Orthodox perspective, what we are actually feeding AI is our passions, our contorted and twisted way of interpreting the world. In a sense, we are creating "the beast" in our own image, rather than in the image of our God.

Fortunately, there is still a level in our collective hierarchal system that, if harnessed, can shape these AI models to be of a great asset to humanity. And that being that, for many of us, we still value relationships more than anything else (i.e., "Blood is thicker than water" or "Family first"). Humanity was created to be in community with God and with each other. We are communal beings by nature. It's in our spiritual make-up. We can even say that when God created us in His image it was the image of community. Because God Himself is a community of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And by God creating the person of Adam, God adds us to His community. And remember, it was in the

loneliness of Adam that God says, "it is not good that Adam should be alone."

Moreover, we come to better know ourselves in relation to another person. Our identity as Orthodox Christians is bound up in relationships. We do not define ourselves by our profession, ideology, or sexuality. What follows the words "I am" should be a relationship. For example, I am a husband, a father, a son, a friend, and the like. Each of these identities only exist in relation to another person. My relationships in a sense define me as a person and in-turn I actualize who I am and who I am called to be in these relationships. It's also in community that we can actualize the two greatest commandments of God, to love God and to love our neighbor. Again, not some abstract neighbor, but the physical neighbor, to my left and to my right.

It's in relation to another person that we also come to express our vulnerability. The other person, especially in the community of marriage, comes to know us and see our weakness, our strengths, our failures and successes. We inherently desire intimacy. And I heard it said once that the word intimacy is spelled "into-me-you-see." When I have intimacy with another person the other person sees into me. The good, the bad, and the ugly. Their presence acknowledges me. Which is why the opposite of love is not hate, but indifference. Even a baby just born, although they are perfectly healthy, will die if they do not receive physical touch — if they are not acknowledged.

But this yearning for intimacy can be disrupted or short-circuited. As AI advancements are made, soon we will have AI relationships, AI friendships, and AI communities. But they will not, yet, be embodied. And so, we would be relating in a disembodied relationship with artificial intelligences. It is like this innate desire for community will be fulfilled in sort of surrogate intimacy through other mediums. This is already deeply concerning. And yet, the crux of the issue will be when AI becomes embodied and will replicate seamlessly human voice and emotions. And in the midst of this loneliness epidemic, many will yearn to feel a connection and instead of genuine human relationships, they will run to these artificial relationships. Because AI will be the creation of our own hands, as we come to be "intimate" with these AI's, it will be the ultimate act of self-love. Thus, cutting ourselves off from God and from each other.



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**PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY***by John Mahairas*

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. While we continue our journey together as a congregation, I write to you today as the President of

the Parish Council, to emphasize the importance of stewardship and the invaluable contribution of volunteer time within our community.

Stewardship lies at the very core of our faith, reminding us of our responsibility to nurture and sustain our church. It encompasses more than just financial contributions; it embodies the idea of offering our time, talents, and resources in service to God and our fellow worshippers. Considering this, I kindly request your attention and active participation in furthering our mission.

Volunteering is the heartbeat of our community, serving as the lifeblood that enables us to carry out various ministries and programs that touch the lives of those within and beyond our church walls. By giving of ourselves, we embody the teachings of Christ and extend our love to others. Whether it is lending a hand during worship services, supporting outreach initiatives, or assisting with educational programs, every volunteer effort is a powerful

testament to our faith in action.

Let us remember that as we offer our time and talents in service, we not only strengthen our church community but also find personal growth, fulfillment, and a deeper connection with God. I firmly believe that together, we can accomplish great things and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those around us.

Therefore, I encourage each member of our congregation to consider contributing their time and talents to our community. There are numerous opportunities available, catering to a wide range of interests and abilities. You might consider joining our Sunday school team, offering your musical/voice talents, assisting with administrative tasks, or participating in community outreach projects. The possibilities are endless, and every contribution, no matter how small, has a significant impact.

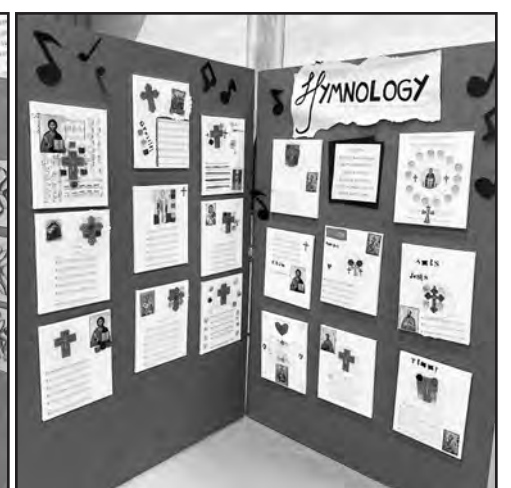
In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your unwavering support and participation in the life of our church. Your dedication and generosity have been a source of inspiration for us all. As we embark on this new phase of stewardship and volunteerism, let us move forward hand in hand, united in purpose and filled with the joy of serving others.

May God bless you abundantly, and may our actions bear witness to the love of Christ in our midst.

**ART SHOW***by Sarah Vastis*

On Sunday, April 2, 2023, the Sunday School Department celebrated our Centennial by hosting an Art Show featuring a variety of art projects created by Holy Trinity's Sunday School students. Each student created an individual project for display, and each class created a class project to be raffled. The projects were inspired by Sunday School lessons on Orthodoxy or student memories of Holy Trinity.

To see more, photos, go  
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/w4oF6bod1T4pxAtk8>



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## A NEWS ROUNDUP *The Voice Staff*

### AHEPA Awards 2023 Scholarships

On Sunday, May 14, the Order of AHEPA Marathon Chapter No. 2 awarded \$33,000 in scholarship money to 20 college and high school students. Scholarship Committee Chairman George Zogzas presented the awards in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

AHEPA, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, was founded in July 1922 in Atlanta, GA. AHEPA was founded to fight for civil rights and against discrimination, bigotry, and hatred. Its mission is to promote the ancient Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

Marathon Chapter No. 2, in Charlotte, was founded 2 months later in September 1922.

The local chapter makes merit scholarships available to the children and grandchildren of its members. There are five named scholarships that go to the applicants with the highest overall scores. The fifth scholarship was added this year for the late Larry Peroulas. This year's named scholarships were for \$2,500.00 each.

#### **Marathon Chapter No. 2 Scholarship**

Maria Elizabeth Christenbury

#### **Venus Chapter No.102 Scholarship**

Theodora Voula Kokalis

#### **PSP John G. Plumides Scholarship**

John Peter Sarantou

#### **Father "C" Scholarship**

Harry Constantine Koufaliotis

#### **Larry C. Peroulas Scholarship**

Charles William Euripides

#### **Chapter No. 2 Founders Scholarship**

(\$1,500.00 each):

Alexis Danielle Christenbury

Eleftheria Victoria Euripides

Demetra Panayiota Karres

Michael Anthony Keretsis

Thomas Alexander Keretsis

Christos George Kokalis

Martha Briana Russell

#### **Academic Award Scholarship**

(\$1,250.00 each):

Stavros Paul Boardman

Matthew Michael Diamantis

Theodore George Karres

Thomas Spero Koufaliotis

Jason D. Neary

George Konstantinos Pistiolis

Nicoletta Aphrodite Pistiolis

Leah Marie Tsefrikas



May 13, 2023: Pictured above are the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical participants and representatives of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America. The Archons gave a presentation and held a Q&A session on the work of the Archons during the Oratorical Festival.

### Holy Trinity Hosts the Metropolis of Atlanta's Oratorical Festival

by Sarah Vastis

On May 12-14, 2023, twenty-six participants and their families traveled to Holy Trinity Charlotte to compete in the 2023 St. John Chrysostom Metropolis Oratorical Festival.

Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides teenagers with the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the parish level and is divided into two divisions: Junior Division for students in grades 7-9 and Senior Division for student in grades 10-12.

The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions advance to the district level. Two finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each metropolis

division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different metropolis each year.

The weekend began with dinner and a social event on Friday evening in Fr. "C" Hall, followed by a tour of our Cathedral.

On Saturday, the participants presented their speeches for a panel of judges, and the Archdiocese finalists were announced. This year top speakers were: Annaleah Shelley from Holy Trinity Columbia, SC (Junior Division) Iliana Fotopoulos from St. George New Port Richey, FL (Senior Division). Later that day, all participants enjoyed fellowship at a Charlotte Knights game.

The weekend concluded with Divine Liturgy on Sunday, when Annaleah and Iliana presented their speeches for the entire Charlotte community.

*A News Roundup continues on page 6*



May 14, 2023: AHEPA Marathon Chapter No. 2 announced and awarded scholarships to recipients just after the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity. Pictured above: L-R Row 1: Father Jonathan, George Pistiolis, Committee chair George Zogzas; Row 2: Nicoletta Pistiolis, Theo Karres, Dimitra Karres, Alexis Christenbury, Maria Christenbury, Theodora Kokalis, Briana Russell; Row 3: Matthew Diamantis, Christos Kokalis, Michael Keretsis, Thomas Keretsis, Eleftheria Euripides, John Sarantou, Harry Koufaliotis, Charles Euripides, Tommy Koufaliotis.



A NEWS ROUNDUP *The Voice Staff*

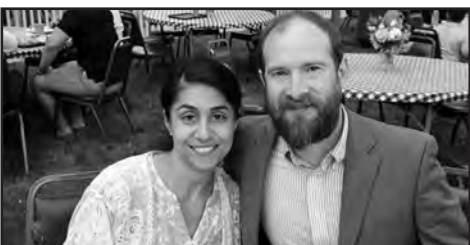
## Panegyri

On Sunday, June 4th, Holy Pentecost, our Cathedral celebrated its Centennial Feast day with a beautiful panegyri following the Divine Liturgy! This year featured a silent auction of incredible prizes donated by members of the community, live music by Meraki, and delicious souvlakia prepared by our great team of cooks.

Thank you to all who were involved in making our Centennial Panegyri a success!

Και του χρόνου! Χρόνια Πολλά σε όλους!

*Photos provided by John Shelton. More photos on Holy Trinity's Facebook page.*



## High School Seniors Graduation

If it is the Sunday before Memorial Day, Holy Trinity is most likely recognizing and celebrating the High School Seniors and their completion of the Sunday school program. On May 21, 2023, that tradition was continued as thirty scholars donned their respective caps and gowns in school colors and proceeded down the middle aisle as their names were read.

The program began with opening remarks from John Shelton. He, along with Vaki Karampourniotis, teach the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday school class. He began by reading "A Graduate's Prayer" by Helen Steiner Rice. He reminded them of their focus this year, putting God first in everything they do including their finances and their relationships. And that, even though they are all headed to college and some of them may not return to Holy Trinity, it will always be their home.



*Angeliki Exarhos, above, and John Michael Xyrafakis, below, address their classmates.*



and our homebound parishioners. We could not thank him enough for the beautiful memories that we have made".

Those remarks were followed by two special presentations. First, Mrs. Georgia Andrews presented the Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship to Theodora Kokalis (see more at Around Charlottetown, page 13).

Next, Vaki Karampourniotis announced the first ever #doyourbestgiveGODtherest award. The award recognizes a Holy Trinity senior for their involvement in our GOYA and youth programs. There were eight applicants who wrote essays as part of their submission. This year's winner was Teddy Harakas.

Sarah Vastis, Sunday School Director and Director of Youth Ministries, then presented the certificates and gifts to each of the graduates. Father Jonathan assisted in passing out the gifts.

The ceremony finished after Senior Vasilia Galanis gave the closing prayer which ended with "In these coming years, Lord, keep and shelter us from all manner of evil, harm, danger, or distress. Let Your Spirit go before us. Pour into our minds and hearts the Spirit of Wisdom and Discernment, the Spirit of Truth and Justice, the Spirit of Love and Humility. For We trust in the words which You have said, 'Lo, I will be with you always.' Therefore, be with us now and unto the end of our days".

Congratulations to the class of 2023.

The graduates, families and friends, proceeded to Father C Hall for a video presentation featuring the graduates.



*Above, Vaki Karampourniotis, left, with senior Theodore Harakas. Below, Vasilia Galanis giving the closing prayer.*





## 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### ANDREW PETER BOUKIDIS

Weddington High School



Andrew is the son of Georgette and Pete Boukidis.

Andrew served as a Junior Marshal and was a member of the National Honor and National Math Honor (Mu Alpha Theta) Societies. He graduated Summa Cum Laude. He was also a member of the Make-A-Wish Club and the Robotics Club.

At Holy Trinity, Andrew participated in the Oratorical Festival, served as an altar boy, and was a member of GOYA. He played on basketball and soccer teams; danced at the Yiasou Festival and at the Hellenic Dance Festival.

Andrew will be attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh studying mechanical engineering.

### ELIAS ANASTASIOS CHRISTOPOULOS

East Mecklenburg High School



Elias is the son of George and Vickie Christopoulos.

Elias was an International Baccalaureate student, in the Top 20 of his senior class and awarded as an American Youth Talent by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

He was an intern at Bank of America; served in student government, was President of his school's quizbowl Club, vice president of his school's Chinese culture club, and studied Mandarin at University of Hawaii at Manoa, Beijing Language and Culture University, and Taiwan Normal University.

Elias will study for a joint degree in economics from Duke University in Durham, NC and Duke Kunshan University in China.

served as a N.C. Governor's Page.

Charles was Varsity Captain for the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Team, served on the International Baccalaureate Student Council, was a member of the Men's Cross Country Team, and served as President of the Homeless Veterans Support Club.

At Holy Trinity, he served as an acolyte and played on basketball and soccer teams.

Charles will be attending Washington and Lee University (Lexington, VA) as a Johnson Scholar this fall and major in Political Science, minor in Business Administration.

### ANGELIKI EXARHOS

Marvin Ridge High School



Angeliki is the daughter of Vasili and Vicki Exarhos.

Angeliki was a four-year A/B Honor Roll student, and a member of the photography and the FCCLA clubs. She was on the JV basketball team her freshman and sophomore years. She is a 2023 Chick-fil-A

Leadership Scholarship and a PTSO Scholarship recipient.

At Holy Trinity, Angeliki played basketball and soccer. She participated in GOYA, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and at HDF, she attended Winter Youth Rally (WYR), and was on the senior team that competed at QCC.

Angeliki will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte this fall.

### KATERINA BRIKAS

Myers Park High School



Katerina is the daughter of Theofilos and Soula Brikas.

Katerina participated in the dance program at Holy Trinity, both during the Yiasou Festival and at the Hellenic Dance Festival. She also practices taekwondo.

Katerina will be attending Appalachian State University in

Boone, NC.

### YIORGO EVANGELOS DIATZIKIS

Cannon School



Yiorgo is the son of Voula Diatzikis and the late Van Diatzikis.

Yiorgo is a member of the Cum Laude, National English Honors, and Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Societies.

He is founder and president of the Cannon School Debate Club and served as

treasurer of the Cannon Clean Creek Club. He was the starting goalkeeper for the varsity soccer team, as well as captain for varsity basketball team.

Yiorgo will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studying comparative literature and business.

### CATHLEEN BUIE

Cox Mill High School



Cathleen is the daughter of Chadwick Buie and Alexandria Buie.

She was on the Honor Roll and was enrolled in advanced placement and dual enrollment courses.

She is a member of HOSA-Future Health Professionals, a career and technical student

organization.

At Holy Trinity, Cathleen danced in the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Cathleen will be attending the East Carolina University Honors College majoring in nursing, in Greenville, NC.

### CHARLES WILLIAM EURIPIDES

Myers Park High School



Charles is the son of Gus and Joanne Euripides.

Charles ranked in the top one percent of his graduating class. He received an International Baccalaureate diploma and named a Commended National Merit Scholar. He attended N.C.

Governor's School East for Social Science and

### KALLIOPI PANAGIOTA FOTINOS

Lincoln Charter High School



Kalliopi is the daughter of Michael and Penny Fotinos.

Kalliopi was an A Honor Roll student and a member of the Beta Club. She was awarded summa cum laude.

Kalliopi participated in competitive gymnastics at LKN Gymnastics Academy for 14 years. She was

captain of the Lincoln Charter High soccer team.

At Holy Trinity, she participated on soccer and basketball teams, was a dancer for the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival. She attended the Winter Youth Rally.

Kalliopi will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall studying business.



## 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### AMALIA G FOURTOUNIS

Queens Grant High School



Amalia is the daughter of Georgios and Demetra Jamie Fourtounis.

Amalia was on the AB Honor Roll. She received the Spirit of Aphrodite award (for showing the true spirit of love, hard work, dedication and kindness). In addition to earning awards, her art was displayed at the

Mint Hill Arts Center.

At Holy Trinity, Amalia played soccer and basketball and danced at the Hellenic Dance Festival and the Yiasou Greek Festival. While a member of GOYA, she volunteered at the Vacation Bible School.

Amalia will be attending Central Piedmont Community College to earn her associate's degree in graphic design and then pursue a bachelor's degree in marketing at University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

### ANGELINA GALANIS

Weddington High School



Angelina is the daughter of Spiro and Dawn Galanis.

Angelina was on the A/B Honor Roll. She was a member of the Make-A-Wish, Teams, Cancer Awareness, and Food and Nutrition clubs.

At Holy Trinity, she participated in basketball, soccer, and volleyball sports teams; she danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and at Hellenic Dance Festival. Additionally, she volunteered at Vacation Bible School, attended the Winter Youth Rally and the Saint Stephens Summer Camp, and went on the senior trip to St. Photios.

Angelina will be attending Central Piedmont Community College majoring in health science and going into the dental program.

### VASILIA GALANIS

Weddington High School



Vasilia is the daughter of Spiro and Dawn Galanis.

Vasilia was on the Honor Roll, she passed the Greek Elinomathia tests and WorkKeys test.

She was a member of multiple clubs and organizations, including Make-A-Wish, Rachel Kindness, Letter to Rose, FFA, Cultural Awareness, and Cancer Awareness. She was also a club advisor.

At Holy Trinity, Vasilia participated on soccer and basketball teams.

Vasilia will be attending South Piedmont Community College (SPCC) to earn an associate's degree, then transfer to Wingate University to major in exercise science and pursue a career as a physical therapist.

### STEVEN AVERY GOODES-SHAW

Myers Park High School



Steven is the son of Vera Goudes.

At Holy Trinity, Steven graduated from the afternoon Greek Language School and participated in the Yiasou Festival Dance program through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Steven's talent includes writing music and playing alto and

baritone saxophone, bass guitar, guitar, bouzouki, piano, synthesizer, ukulele, and mandolin. At Myers Park, he was part of the Marching Mustangs, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Bluegrass Club, and played bass guitar in the band for the high school musical "Mamma Mia" in 2022.

He was a member of the Myers Park Rugby team and has attained the Boys Scouts of America Life Rank.

Steven will be attending Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, VA, studying a pre-medicine curriculum leading to admission to medical school.

### THEODORE ANDRE HARAKAS

Trinity Prep School



Theodore is the son of Georgia and Andre Harakas.

Theodore was on the A/B Honor Roll all four years in high school. He ran varsity cross country in school and was a member of the Beta Club

At Holy Trinity, he was in GOYA and volunteered at the

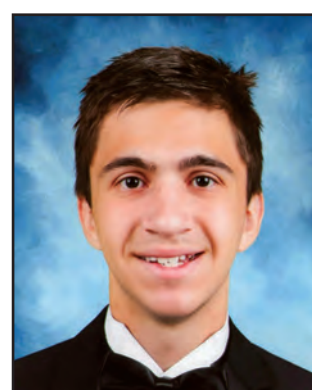
festival, Vacation Bible School, and the muffin ministry. He participated in the Greek Dance program for both the Festival and at Hellenic Dance Festival. He was a member of the Holy Trinity basketball and soccer teams.

Theodore will be attending Beacon College this fall.

Bios and photographs were provided by the student. Content has been edited to fit in the space available.

### NIKO DIMITRI HOLEVAS

Weddington High School



Niko is the son of Jimmy and Vickie Holevas.

Niko was on the A Honor Roll and a member of the Math and History Honor Societies. He was a member of the Engineering Club.

He volunteered for Muffin Ministries, Habitat for Humanity,

Beds for Kids, Samaritan's Feet, and Make-A-Wish programs organized through his school and Holy Trinity.

At Holy Trinity, Niko was an acolyte, danced at the Festival and competed at HDF, he attended St. Stephens Camp, Lenten retreats, and Winter Youth Rally. He was a member of soccer and basketball teams, a member of GOYA and volunteered at Vacation Bible School.

Niko will be attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering.

### ALEXIS VICTORIA KALTSOUNIS

Weddington High School



Alexis is the daughter of Angelo J. and Vickie Kaltsounis.

Alexis was an AP/ Honor student while dual enrolled with SPCC college classes. She passed A2 and B1 of the Ellinomatheia Exam to receive college credit. Alexis also participated as team Co-Captain for Walk MS for 3 years.

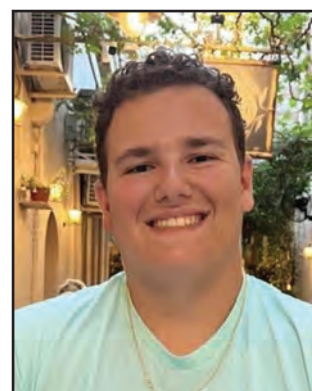
She was a member of the Make-A-Wish, Spanish, Who's, Food for Thought, Teams, Cancer awareness and Culture awareness clubs.

At Holy Trinity, Alexis was a GOYA member, volunteered at Vacation Bible School, participated on basketball and soccer teams, attended Winter Youth Rally, and danced at Yiasou Greek Festival, and at HDF.

Alexis will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte majoring in psychology.

### EMMANUEL "MANOLI" GEORGE KANELLAKIS

Fort Mill High School



Emmanuel is the son of George & Aikaterine Kanellakis.

Emmanuel was on the AB Honor roll.

Emmanuel participated in rec baseball, middle and high school football. He was also a Cretan Association of Carolinas



## 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

board member, and danced at the Greek Festival and at HDF. He was also a member of GOYA.

Emmanuel will be attending York Technical College (Rock Hill, SC) with plans to transfer to Clemson University to pursue a degree in Sports Management and Entertainment.

### KYRIAKOS IAKOVOS KARAMPOURNIOTIS

Gaston Christian High School



Kyriakos is the son of Vaki and Dia Karampourniotis.

At Gaston Christian, he was on several varsity sports teams including cross country, basketball, and tennis. He was the two time winner of the Christian Character Award. In tennis, Kyriakos was 2023 Conference Champ, made the All-Conference team and was the team MVP.

At Holy Trinity, he participated at HDF on the Platinum Award winning group, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, attended WYR, and was on the GOYA Leadership Team. He was an altar boy and played soccer & basketball.

Kyriakos will be attending Furman University and plans on studying pediatric sports medicine.

### THEODORA KOKALIS

Providence High School



Theodora is the daughter of George and Voula Kokalis.

Theodora graduated in the top 10% of her class and was an AP Scholar. She was on the A-Honor Roll, a member of the National Honors Society, and a bronze medalist for the 2021 Level 2 National Spanish Exam.

At Providence, Theodora was a member of the Women's Basketball team, winning the 2022 Conference Championship. She was a member of the Spanish Club and FFA (Future Farmers of America).

At Holy Trinity, Theodora danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, was a member of GOYA, volunteered at Vacation Bible School, and played basketball and soccer. She volunteered at multiple charitable organizations.

Theodora will be attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh in the fall, majoring in Marketing and minoring in Art/Design.

### ANASTASIA KOSTANTINI

Ardrey Kell High School



Anastasia is the daughter of Styliani Kostantini and Zisis Kostantinis.

Anastasia received recognition in the National Honors Technical Society for Medical/ Social Services and was in the National Honors Society.

At Holy Trinity, she was a member of girl's soccer team, basketball teams that competed at Winter Youth Rally and Queen City Classic, and participated in dance programs at Yiasou Greek Festival and the Hellenic Dance Festival. She volunteered at Vacation Bible School.

Anastasia will be attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington this fall majoring in Exercise Science towards her goal of becoming a pediatrician. She will instruct the rising kindergarteners for Yiasou Greek Festival.

### IOULIA YIANNA LAHANAS

Marvin Ridge High School



Ioulia, or Julie, is the daughter of Vas and Sophia Lahanas.

Julie achieved Academic Excellence Recognition at her high school and was in charge of the social media page for her marketing class.

At Holy Trinity she participated in GOYA, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and played basketball at the QCC. She enjoyed competing at HDF and was part of the Platinum winning group Armonia this year.

Julie will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall where she will be majoring in English and minoring in Psychology. She plans to volunteer as a Greek dance instructor for the rising Kindergarten class.

### JULIUS "JP" PAGAN

Myers Park High School



Julius is the son of Ms. Anna Pagan and Mr. Gil Pagan.

JP was on the Myers Park High School Rugby team. He also played for the Charlotte Cardinals Rugby Club.

At Holy Trinity, JP participated in the dance program at HDF 2023 (team awarded platinum) and at the Yiasou Greek Festival. He was on the basketball team that competed at the Winter Youth Rally and

the Queen City Classic.

Julius will be attending East Carolina University (Greenville, NC) majoring in economics with a concentration in economic data analytics.

### YIANNI PEROULAS

Providence Day School



Yianni is the son of Dean and Stacie Peroulas.

Yianni was an AP Scholar with Honors, a member of the National Honor Society, and made the Dean's List. He was awarded the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish and earned the Ellinomatheia Certificate of Proficiency in Greek

language. Yianni was a member of the Varsity Soccer team. He founded and served as President of the Providence Day Greek Society.

At Holy Trinity, Yianni danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at Hellenic Dance Festival. He was a GOYA board member and played on the basketball team. Yianni also plays guitar.

Yianni will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and major in Business, minor in Spanish.

### STEPHANOS SOUTZOS

David W. Butler High School



Stephanos is the son of Aristotle and Tina Soutzos

Stephanos was on the Honor Roll throughout high school and a member of the Athletic National Honor Society. He was captain of the varsity basketball team.

At Holy Trinity, Stephanos was a member of the basketball team and competed and won at QCC and Winter Youth Rally. He also participated at the Hellenic Dance Festival and other GOYA activities.

Stephanos will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and major in Business Administration.

Bios and photographs were provided by the student. Content has been edited to fit in the space available.



## 2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### LEAH MARIE TSEFRIKAS

Weddington High School



Leah is the daughter of John and Renee Tsefrikas.

Leah was an AP and Honors student and a member of the National, English, and History Honor Societies. She was dual enrolled at SPCC taking college courses. She was a N.C. All-State Athlete and Varsity Cheer Captain. For 4 years, she was a Cheerleading State

Champion and earned Varsity Letter. She was also a member of the WHOs, Rachel's Kindness Matters, and Mentors clubs at school.

At Holy Trinity, she danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, attended Winter Youth Rally, and was a member of GOYA.

Leah will be attending James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA) in the fall majoring in Health Science and cheering on the Co-Ed cheer team.

### ELENA ELIZABETH VRETTOS

Weddington High School



Elena is the daughter of Nick and Demetra Vrettos.

Elena was an AP Scholar, President of National Honor Society, a member of the National English and National Math Honor Societies, and a member of the World Health Organization for Students club.

At Holy Trinity, Elena was a dancer in HDF, the Yiasou Greek Festival and played basketball.

Elena interned at Novant Health Matthews and Mint Hill hospitals. She danced on the company team at Miller Street Dance Academy and is a lifeguard and swim instructor at LifeTime fitness.

Elena will be attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh to study Biological Sciences and plans to attend PA school.

### JOHN MICHAEL XYRAFAKIS

Myers Park High School



John Michael is the son of George and Kathy Xyrafakis.

John Michael was involved in many clubs and student organizations, including Best Buddies, Civitas, Unified Champions, and Metro Buddies serving as Secretary.

At Holy Trinity, he participated in the Oratorical Festival, was an acolyte and a member of soccer and basketball teams. He was active in GOYA serving as past class representative and as 2023 Co-President. He competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival and danced at Yiasou Greek Festival, attended Winter Youth Rally, St. Stephen's Camp and Lenten Retreats. He received an Odyssey Scholarship through HDF and will be traveling to Greece this Summer.

John Michael will be attending Central Piedmont Community College studying Communications.

## GRADS from the COLLEGE QUAD



### SOPHIA GILLETTE

Sophia Gillette graduated **Magna Cum Laude** from North Carolina State University in December with a degree in Political Science concentrating in International Politics and a minor in Environmental Science. She works in social media marketing and fundraising for a reproductive rights non-profit, and plans on continuing to work in the field of human rights.

She thanks her friends and family for their support over the past 4 years and is looking forward to her next adventures in life.

Sophia is the daughter of Joel and Irene Gillette.

### College Grads

We want to share your success with the community. Send your announcement and photo to [voice@htgo.org](mailto:voice@htgo.org).

## VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2023



VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2023 was held on June 12 - June 15. One hundred campers participated, and over 50 Goyans volunteered. This year's theme was the Light of God. Each day started with a morning prayer service, then the children rotated through six different sessions led by the Bible Camp Committee and Goyans: Orthodox Life (the daily lesson on the Light of God), Art, Music, Dance, Athletics, and Lunch. On Thursday, parents and grandparents were invited to the Cathedral for an end-of-week choral performance.

by Sarah Vastis





## WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT PRESCHOOL? by Maria Kleto

It is hard to believe how quickly the school year has gone by and that summer has arrived. May is always a busy month at the preschool as we wrap up the school year while trying to squeeze in as much learning, fun and fellowship before the year ends. It was rewarding to watch the children learn and grow throughout the year, approaching each new challenge with enthusiasm. We are immensely proud of them!

During the month of May, it is a time to review what the children have learned throughout the year. Other topics included spring and summer, sea life, insects, obeying God, Jonah and the Whale, just to name a few. They discussed Mother's Day and Father's Day and how much we love and respect our parents. On May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, we invited all our Moms and Dads to the preschool for a special coffee hour in honor of the Mother's Day and Father's Day celebration. We had a great turnout and the children enjoyed sharing that special time with their parents.

Over the last couple of months, the children worked extremely hard practicing their songs for the Graduation and End of Year Celebration program that was held on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. It was a special day to celebrate the graduation of our four years class and to honor all our preschool students. As always, all the children did an excellent job entertaining us with a medley of songs in Greek and English.

The end of each school year is always a bittersweet time for our staff. We will miss all our children over the summer, but especially our four-year-old class as they leave us

to go on to Kindergarten. We strive to provide each child with a solid foundation for them to build upon, and as they transition from Preschool to Elementary School, we wish our graduates many blessings in their new journey.

This year in June the preschool held three sessions of summer camp for the three- and four-year-old children. The camps took place on June 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. The camp themes were "Light of God," "Under the Sea" and "The Zoo." We had a great turn out and the children really enjoyed their summer camp experience. Thank you to Ms. Lisa Giotis and Ms. Stasy Skarlatos for the time and effort they put into planning and executing the camps. Great job ladies!

Our teachers for the 2022 – 2023 school year were, Lisa Giotis, Georgia Harakas, Angelina Korinis, Andrea "Mahe" Politis, Stasy Skarlatos, Alex Tatsis, Kim Tatsis, and Chrysoula Xyrafakis. It is with a sad heart that we will be saying good-bye to three of our teachers. Ms. Angelina will be retiring after 22 years at preschool, Ms. Mahe will also be retiring after 11 years and Ms. Chrysoula, who has been teaching for 4, will be leaving to attend Graduate School in Pennsylvania. You have all been such a blessing to our preschool family. We thank you for giving so much of your heart and soul to our children and the school; you truly touched the lives of so many children. Just as Christ is blessing the children, you too have blessed the children, our school, our preschool family, and your work sisters. May you have God's blessings as you begin on this new chapter in your lives. We will

miss you and we love you!!!

At HTGOP, we are blessed to have a wonderful group of parents in our preschool family. The involvement of our parents is a huge part of what makes our school so successful. On behalf of the staff, we want to thank and express gratitude to our parents for allowing us to share in the academic, social, and spiritual development of their children. Sharing your children with us was the most precious gift of all. We also would like to thank Fr. Jonathan and Fr. Christian for their love and spiritual guidance, the Preschool Board for their help and support in everything we do, and the Parish Council and the Holy Trinity community for their constant support of the preschool program and our fundraising efforts. As they say, "it takes a village to raise a child."

As we move forward into the new school year, we are looking forward to seeing our returning preschool families and getting to know our new families. We pray that God will continue to bless our preschool children and families, staff and board members, and the entire community.

*The Director will not be in the preschool office daily over the summer months. Please call or text Maria Kleto at 704-564-5842 during the summer break if you have any questions or need information regarding the preschool. You can also contact us by calling or emailing the Preschool Office at [preschool@htgo.org](mailto:preschool@htgo.org) or 704-333-4961.*

## SENIOR TRIP TO ST. PHOTIOS

by Vasilisa Galanis

My senior class and I recently traveled to St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine, FL. We left Charlotte on Thursday, May 16, everyone on the bus was filled with joy and excitement as we anticipated making new memories along the way.

On Friday, Father Jonathan started out the day with *morning group prayer*, an important part of the day, as they helped us grow together in our faith. Afterwards, we traveled to the St. Photios Shrine for a discussion about the founding of the city. We went to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) for a tour of the building and learned about the missionary efforts of spreading our faith to others. We learned there is always a way to engage and give back while spreading the Good News! In the afternoon, during free time, we were able to go to the beach. Later, we went to St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church for the Akathist service. Ending the day, we had nightly discussions with Father Jonathan to further deepen our faith.

Saturday morning, we had our prayer and then went to an *escape room* as our group bonding activity where we had to work together to escape, growing closer and learning from each other. Afterwards, Father Jonathan took the time to speak with each of us individually about our futures. In the afternoon, we shopped in St. Augustine and enjoyed some downtime. We attended Vesper services at St. Photios and shared a Lenten meal. Our evening ended with a nighttime discussion with Father Jonathan.

On Sunday, we attended the Divine Liturgy and then began our travels back to Charlotte.

This trip was an important part of our Senior Sunday school class because it helped us to integrate God into our daily lives and helped us get ready for adulthood. I am so grateful for this experience because it allowed our friendships to grow stronger as well as our relationship with God. Thanks to all the chaperones and Father Jonathan for the guidance they gave us.



Dr. George A. Limbanovnos, DC

Dr. Paul Elminowski, DC

Dr. Logan Hiers, DC

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**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** by Nick and Carmen KallelisUpdate of Capital Improvements Approved  
at the last General Assembly Meeting

Seventy years ago Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral was built. Over the years the facility has aged and weathered and the time has come for us to address several issues of repair and restoration.

The Parish Council reported at the Fall General Assembly Meeting that there were several major restoration issues that needed to be addressed. The building fund reserve had \$700,000 of which \$100,000 was committed to prior approved expenditures. The remaining balance of \$600,000 was available for upgrading the facility. The General Assembly approved the following expenditures:

1. The roof on Father C Hall was leaking. It was estimated a budget of \$120,000 was needed for the repair. As of this writing the roof has been replaced.
2. The Fr. C Hall façade around the top of the building is deteriorating and must be restored. The estimated cost is \$150,000. Additional bids are being investigated.
3. The entire parking lot needs to be repaved at an estimated cost of \$150,000. The most damaged area where trucks turn around has been temporarily repaired until further bids can be attained.
4. The security system needs to be upgraded to improve the safety and security of the facility. Estimated cost is \$85,000. This has been started but not yet completed. Ultimately, it will enable us to control who enters the buildings and provide remote access for approved entrance for church activities.
5. The HVAC system in Fr. C Hall needs to be replaced. Estimated cost is \$25,000.

In summary the upgrade is as follows,

\$120,000 Fr. C Hall roof replacement  
 \$150,000 Fr. C Hall façade repair  
 \$150,000 parking lot repaving  
 \$85,000 security system improvement  
 \$25,000 HVAC replacement  
 Total \$530,000

A reserve needs to be accumulated in the building fund. There are other issues which will require major expenditures. The most pressing is the replacement of the HVAC system in the Cathedral, which is estimated at \$225,000-\$250,000.

In the past the faithful have responded in an exemplary manner. Please include the building fund in your stewardship commitment for Holy Trinity and help build the reserve fund.

**PHILOPTOCHOS** by Pamela Bostian

Our Ladies Philoptochos chapter has been busy this spring!

The annual “End of the Year” picnic was held at Latta Park on May 9th. Board elections were conducted during this gathering.

The Board Member Oath of Office was administered on Sunday, May 14th after the Divine Liturgy. Congratulations and best wishes to our newly elected 2023- 2025 Board members: Cathy Poulimenos (President), Toulia Kourakos (1st Vice President), Mary Pappas (2nd Vice President), Toni Karnazes (Treasurer), Vickie O’Keefe (Assistant Treasurer), Effie Rodriguez (Recording Secretary), Pam Bostian (Corresponding Secretary), Diane Ramsay (Advisor), and Board Members Georgia Andrews, Joanna Adrinopoulos, Demetra Boardman, Angie Kastriches, Christina Katsanos, Cecelia Kotsipias, Lucy Pappadakes, Chris Pappas, Irene Politis, Frances Troupes, and Maria Wheatley.



May 14, 2023: The newly sworn in officers and board members with Father Jonathan.

We are excited to announce **Theodora Kokalis** as the recipient of the **Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship for 2023**. Congratulations and thank you to all 2023 scholarship applicants!

Our chapter sponsored a **reception luncheon in honor of Holy Trinity’s Name Day on Monday, June 5th**. Visiting priests (pictured below) and parishioners were in attendance.



**Our Festival Baking Schedule** is listed below (9:30am start time). All volunteers are welcome.

August 1 - 3	Tuesday-Thursday	Koulourakia and Baklava Bags
August 7 - 11	Monday - Friday	Regular Baklava
August 17 & 18	Thursday & Friday	Ice Cream Baklava
August 21	Monday	Karidopita
September 3 & 4	Sunday & Monday	Packing Pastries

**Save the Date:**

An Agape Celebration Luncheon, presented by the Philoptochos Northeast Conference, will be held in Raleigh, NC on Saturday, September 16th from 11:30am to 2:30pm. Please contact Pam Bostian ([agiaelpisphiloptochos@gmail.com](mailto:agiaelpisphiloptochos@gmail.com)) for more information and/or purchase of luncheon tickets, raffle tickets and sponsorships.

A reminder to our members: please don’t forget to send your annual stewardship to Philoptochos.



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Andre Harakas & John Tsumas



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## AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

## Congratulations



On June 2, 2023, the Trustees of the St. Photios Foundation, Inc. announced the results of the Third Annual Drawing Contest of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine. Held in conjunction with the annual commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople, students, ages 9-12 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, were encouraged to learn about the Fall of Constantinople and to express what was learned, through art.

The judges agreed that the \$250 winner of the 2023 Drawing Contest was 12-year-old Sofia Koutsoupas of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC.

Sofia is the daughter of Nick and Katerina Koutsoupas.

**Way to Go, Sofia!**

Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides  
Scholarship 2023

May 21, 2023: The Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides Scholarship for 2023 was announced and presented to Theodora Kokalis (r). She is pictured above with Selection Committee Chair Georgia Andrews.

The Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship selection committee announced the winner of this year's \$5,000 award during the Sunday school Graduation ceremony. The scholarship was awarded to Theodora Kokalis. Theodora will be attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

The scholarship was funded and named for Presbytera Kathryn. She served this community with her husband, Reverend Father Phaethon Constantinides (Father C) for 30 years. The scholarship is intended to be awarded annually to a qualified and deserving female high school senior from Holy Trinity.

Theodora joins previous winners Helen McGinnis (2018); Apostolia Liana Kendrick (2019); Elefteria Euripides (2020); Katerina Anastasia Peroulas (2021) and Maria Kaltsounis (2022).

## Become A Patron Of The 2023 Yiasou Greek Festival.

Contact Kathy Xyrafakis in the Cathedral Office before August 6, 2023, or download the form from the website:

<https://htgo.org/yiasou-festival-become-a-patron/>

## Attention Newlyweds and Graduates

To place your wedding or graduation announcement in *The Voice's* Around Charlottetown section, please email a photo (JPEG format) and a brief writeup to Kathy Xyrafakis ([kathy@htgo.org](mailto:kathy@htgo.org)).

We will include it in an upcoming issue.

100th Centennial  
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## 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*

*To Our Readers: We failed to include several notices In Memoriam from late 2022. They are included here with our apologies to their families and friends.*

2022



Ares Lambros Artemes

(1932 – 2022)

Ares Lambros Artemes, 90, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2022, in South Carolina, with his wife Brenda

by his side. He was born on February 19, 1932 in Gastonia, North Carolina,

Ares was preceded in death by his parents Lambros Artemis Antoniadou and Myrofora Pavlou Psaras Antoniadou, and his only sibling, Stella Artemes.

A celebration of life was held at 12:30 PM on Thursday, September 15, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with interment to follow at Evergreen Cemetery. Friends were greeted an hour prior to the service at the church.



Hariklia Canoutas

(1947 – 2022)

Hariklia Canoutas, age 74, passed away on September 13, 2022 in Chapel Hill, NC.

Hariklia was born on September 16, 1947 in the village of Agios Nikolaos in Evrytania, Greece, to Xristos and Viktoria Tiggelis. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband, Nick; her brother, Kostantinos Tiggelis; her sisters-in-law, Kassiani Nicopoulos and Vasiliki Psilopoulos; and her brother-in-law, Kostantinos Zaharopoulos. She is survived by her sisters Vasiliki Zaharopoulou and Marika Drella; brother-in-law, Anastasios Drellas; sisters-in-law Eleni Tiggeli and Helen Papanastasiou; and uncle, Giorgos (Xristina) Tsiamis; her children and spouses, Evanthia (Joshua) Nadel and Chris (Nancy) Canoutas; her

grandchildren, Nikolas Canoutas, Sofia Canoutas-Nadel, Rafael Canoutas-Nadel, Isabella Canoutas, Alexi Canoutas, and Ava Canoutas; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews in Greece and the United States.

The Funeral was held on September 19, 2022, 11:00 AM, at Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home Chapel in Shelby, NC. It was officiated by: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini. The burial was at Cleveland Memorial Park, Shelby NC.



James A. "Jim" Collis

(1945 – 2022)

"Jim," age 77, passed away on November 3, 2022, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, NC. He was born on August 6, 1945, in Domiani, Evrytania, Greece, to Evangelos and Stavroula Collis.

Jim is survived by his loving wife Maria and daughter Steffie Collis Rantzios; son-in-law Paul Rantzios; grandchildren Dean Rantzios and Malia Rantzios; sisters Maria Vlamis (Nick), Yiannoula Ginis (Thanassi); niece Margarita Vlamis; nephews Michael Vlamis, Dr. Costa Vlamis (Laura), Anthony Ginis, and Evan Ginis (Haroula); sister-in-law Eve Psilopoulos (Charlie Karukstis); brother-in-law Dino Psilopoulos. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The funeral was held on Thursday,

November 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home Chapel in Shelby, NC. The family received friends immediately following the service in the Chapel. Interment followed at Cleveland Memorial Park, Shelby, NC.



Philip Katopodis

(1928 – 2022)

Philip Katopodis passed away peacefully on Monday, September 26, 2022, surrounded by his family. He was born on January 2, 1928, to Dimitrios Katopodis and Ourania Stavrakas Katopodis in Karya, Lefkada, Greece.

Philip is survived by his loving wife Maria; his daughters, Joanna (Panagiotis) Sikiotis and Jerri (Tommy) Holevas; four grandchildren, Nicholas Sikiotis, Lea Holevas, Ronnie Holevas, and Maria Holevas. Also surviving are his siblings, Bill (Theodoula) Katopodis, Art (Olga) Katopodis and Loula (Angelo) Katopodis; his sisters-in-law, Loula Katopodis and Evangelia (Zois) Konidaris; his brother-in-law, Constantine (Bessie) Vrettos; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Ronnie Katopodis; his parents; his sisters Vickie (Spiro) Mikronis, Effie (George) Koucouliotis, and Erinne Katopodis and his brother, Paul Katopodis.

Funeral Services were held at 11:00

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## In Memoriam

*continued from prior page*

AM on Thursday, September 29, 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.



**John Konstandinos Stambolitis**

(1946 – 2022)

John Konstandinos Stambolitis, 76, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 13, 2022. John was born August 26, 1946 in Voutyro, Evrytania, Greece to Konstandinos Ioannis Stambolitis and Maria Dimitropoulos Stambolitis.

John is survived by his wife of 49 years, Stephanie Kyritsis Stambolitis; two children, Maria (Jimmy) Prassas and Konstandinos (Candace) Stambolitis; four grandchildren, John Prassas, John Stambolitis, Stephanie Prassas and Zachary Stambolitis, all of Charlotte; two sisters in Greece, Eli (George) Georgopoulos and Vasiliki (Serafim) Kantzios; and many nieces and nephews.

A trisagion was held at 10:00 AM followed by a funeral service at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.



**Theo George Thevaos, M.D.**

(1924 – 2022)

Theo George Thevaos, M.D., “Bones” to his fellow Star Trekkers, passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 97 on September 16, 2022, at White Oak of Waxhaw.

He was born on October 22, 1924, in Augusta, GA to George Thevaos and Helen Antonopoulos Thevaos.

He is survived by his loving son and daughter-in-law, Philip and Celia Thevaos, his granddaughters, Mary-Emma and Caroline, and numerous

nieces, nephews, and cousins whom he loved dearly. Predeceasing him were his parents, his wife, Artemisia “Artie”, and his brother, Dr. Deno Thevaos.

Visitation was held on Monday, September 19, 2022, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Thomas Poteet & Son Funeral Directors, Augusta, GA, and Trisagion Service at 7:00 pm that evening.

Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Augusta, GA, officiated by Presiding Priest Rev. Vasile Bitere. Interment followed at Magnolia Cemetery.



**Patricia (Voula) Triantis**

(1933 – 2022)

Patricia (Voula) Triantis passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 17, 2022 surrounded by her family. She was born on March 20, 1933 to the late Nick and Efrosini Karras in Paparousi, Greece.

Voula is survived by her five children, Maria Triantis, Nick (Kim) Triantis, Phillip (Elaine) Triantis, Frances (Bobby) Tsiabassis, Stefanie (Bruce) Oxendine; five grandchildren, Alexa (Kames) Richards, Leah Tsiabassis, Jonathan (Nicole) Triantis, Alex (Ivy) Triantis, and Evy Oxendine. Also surviving are her two great-grandchildren, Barrett and Riley Richards. She was preceded in death by her husband, John; sister, Angela Ballas, and brother, Tommy Karras.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church.

**2023**



**George Athans**

(1926 – 2023)

George Athans, 97, passed unto the Lord on Monday, June 19th, 2023. The funeral service was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at Panagia Eleftherotria

Church in Politia, a suburb of Athens, Greece. Burial followed in the village of Mikro Horio, where he was born on April 23, 1926.

George was survived by his wife, Denise (Sia), son, Athanasios (Tom) Athans and daughter Themis (Tammy) Athans Conits; son-in-law George John Conits; two grandchildren, Ioannis (Ian) George Conits (Eleni) and Athena (Nina) Denise Conits Marflake (Matthew); and one great-granddaughter, Maria Anastasia Conits.



**Konstantinos “Dino” Georgiou**

(1978 – 2023)

KANNAPOLIS - Konstantinos “Dino” Georgiou, 45, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Friday, May 26, 2023. He was born May 21, 1978, in Charlotte, NC.

Dino is survived by his parents, Nick and Margaret Georgiou; brothers, Bill Georgiou and Jimmy Georgiou/Andritsogiannis; nephew, Lambros Andritsogiannis; nieces, Athena Georgiou and Harekla Andritsogiannis. Also surviving are his uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Vasilios and Theodosia Georgiou; aunts, Elpida Papadimitriou, Ekaterina Georgiou; uncles, Stavros Papadimitriou, Ioannis Georgiou and George Nikopoulos.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Fr. Christian Siskos officiating. The family received loved ones and friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

**Albert M. Lyles**

(1926 – 2023)

Dr. Albert M. Lyles, 96, passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at Sharon Towers. He was born July 28, 1926, in Marion County, FL.

He was the primary author of Orthodox Iconography, which he saw as his principal scholarly achievement.

Dr. Lyles was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian and his son, Stephen. He is survived by his son, Lawrence Lyles, grandson James Albert Lyles and granddaughter Shannon Elizabeth Lyles.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, June 17th at Evergreen Cemetery in Charlotte at 10:30 a.m.



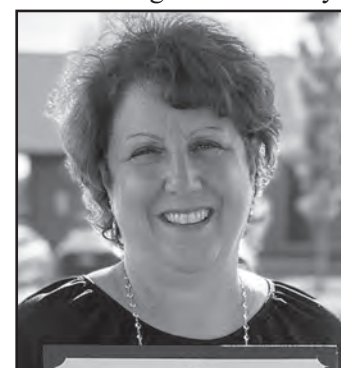
**Mary Hondropulos Milliones**

(1933 – 2023)

Mary Hondropulos Milliones died at her home on Friday, May 19, 2023. She was born on December 3, 1933 at New York Hospital in New York City, NY to Christos and Evangeline Hondropulos.

Mary is survived by her children, Natalie (David) Scott, Stacy (Susan) P. Milliones, and Lynne (David) Thomas; her eight grandchildren, Lauren Scott, Meredith Scott, John (Ashley) Scott, Ana (Theron) Bronson, Peter Milliones II, Christopher Thomas, Alexander (Kalene) Thomas, and Robert Thomas. Also surviving are her five great-grandchildren, David Scott, Caroline Scott, John William Scott, Henry Scott, and Theodore Bronson; nephews, Chris Hondropulos and Peter Hondropulos and their families. She was predeceased by her husband Peter Milliones.

Funeral Services were held 11:00 AM on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Fr. Christian Siskos and Fr. Robert Lawrence officiating. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.



**Adrienne Tsantes Shelton**

(1963-2023)

Adrienne Tsantes Shelton, 60, fell asleep in the Resurrected Lord on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

She was predeceased by her parents, John and Marie Tsantes, her in-laws, Charles and Louise Shelton, her sister, Diedre Brayall, many aunts, uncles, and her cousin Chris.

She is survived by her husband, Tim; her children, John and Marisa; her brother, Keith (Ashley) Tsantes and children Sophia and Evan; her best friend and sister, Amy (Garrett) Hogan; many cousins, nieces, nephews, and Godchildren.

Funeral Services were held on Friday, May 12, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The family received friends at 10:00 AM, with the service beginning at 12:00 PM. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.





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