



# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

VOL. 85  
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 2024

## The 2024 High School Seniors



*Holy Trinity's Senior Sunday School class celebrates their milestone accomplishment after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 19, 2024. See more about each graduate starting on page 7.*

### 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.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE....

**Reflections from the Pulpit 3**

**President's Comments 4**

**A News Roundup 5-6**

**High School Seniors 7-9**

**Vacation Bible Camp 11**

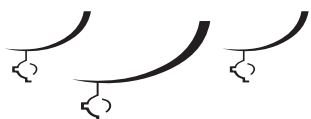
**Philoptochos 12**

**Around Charlottetown 13**

**PreSchool 15**

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HOLY TRINITY  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral



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Dear Readers,

While summer temperatures can be dreadful, this season serves as a great “reset” for so many of us. The summer months provide opportunities for travel and vacation, transitioning from one life chapter to another for many, and time to reflect. I recently visited a parish and spoke to someone with a good pulse on that community. When I asked how things were in the parish, they replied “things are good - same as normal. We get in a rhythm and just repeat.” While this might be suitable and acceptable for some, I considered if this is how Holy Trinity could be described.

In the months since our community celebrated our Centennial in September of 2023, the Cathedral has seen tremendous growth. New programming has been introduced and our newer ministries are being strengthened. Our Adult catechism class continues to reach space capacity and our fellowship ministries are seeing new leadership taking their reigns. Special committees and projects will soon be announced. I for one am excited to begin the new ecclesiastical year. Easy to say, we are not “sticking to normal” around here.

The first major event of our ecclesiastical year is the Yiasou Greek Festival. As our Cathedral’s largest outreach opportunity, this event needs the support of ALL. Time, talent, and treasures from the entire Holy Trinity family will ensure this year’s festival is both enjoyable and successful.

See you around, and happy reading!

JS

## STEWARDSHIP 2024

as of 7/25/24

YTD Financials	2024 YTD	2023 Total
Stewardship	\$421,005	\$653,756
Candles, Rentals, Other	\$134,757	\$262,912
Building/IRRC/Renov. Donations	\$72,837	\$46,763
Minus : Operating Expenses	-\$645,270	-\$1,197,359
Minus : Building Fund Expenses	-\$118,553	-\$321,212
<b>NET Ordinary Income (Deficit)</b>	<b>-\$135,224</b>	<b>-\$555,140</b>

★ **DID YOU KNOW that in 2024:**  
 Our average monthly Electric & Gas cost is \$10,134 so far.  
 Our average monthly Building Maintenance cost is \$13,791 so far.  
 We've only received 196 stewardship forms with a pledge amount on them.

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

2024 Stewardship Budget	\$710,000
2024 YTD Pledges (196 families)	\$275,010

## ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES

Thursday, August 1	Dormition Fast Begins
Tuesday, August 6	<b>Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Thursday, August 15	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am
Thursday, August 29	<b>Beheading of John the Baptist</b>
Sunday, September 1	<b>Ecclesiastical New Year</b>
Saturday, September 14	<b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>
Tuesday, September 17	<b>St. Sophia and Her 3 Daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love</b>

## EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

<b>Festival Preparations</b>	Jul 31 - Aug 2 Koulourakia and Baklava bags
	Aug 7 & 8 Baklava for Ice Cream
	Aug 9 Karidopita
	Aug 19-22 Baklava
	Aug 30 Diples
	Sep 1 & 2 Packing Pastries

## Yiasou Greek Festival • September 6-8, 2024

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED, PLEASE VOLUNTEER**

Thursday, August 15	Cathedral Office Closed
Monday, September 2	Cathedral Office Closed

## REMINDER:

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

# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

## HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

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## Rates are subject to change

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## Next Issue:

## DEADLINES:

for articles or photographs is:

**Friday, September 20, 2024**

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

for advertisements is:

**Monday, September 9, 2024**

Email to [voice@htgo.org](mailto:voice@htgo.org)



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by  
**Rev. Christian Siskos**  
Associate Priest

### 3 Lessons I Learned from Hearing Confessions

As an Orthodox Priest, I am privy to the intimate details of a person's heart.

Over the several years it has been sobering to listen to the pain and anxiety that everyone goes through.

The betrayals and the disappointments. The grief and the bitterness.

Their sins remind me of my sins. They remind me of my own need for confession.

And so, over the course of the years that I have been listening to confession, and the decades I have been going to confession, I want to share these three lessons with you. I think you will find them valuable as well.

#### Lesson #1 - Your Trauma Is Not Unique

If you've suffered pain and trauma, there's a lie you are tempted to tell yourself, "No one has ever suffered like me."

When you accept this lie, your trauma and sin become a wall that separates you from other people. You feel alone. And this breeds self-loathing and despair. You define your life by this one event or sin. And feeling lonely confirms the lie you tell yourself.

Trauma grows in loneliness but is healed in community.

Your trauma is not unique. You are not the first person to go through this pain. When you accept this you can begin the journey towards healing. You look for others who have suffered in the same or similar ways. Find a support group and immerse yourself in community. There you will find healing.

Confessing your pain is the first step towards entering into community.

#### Lesson #2 - Your Sin Is Like A Cancer

Think of your sin like a spiritual cancer.

Cancer can wreck havoc in your body for years before it is detected. You usually go in because of unrelated symptoms and then find a much deeper root cause. If it remains untreated it can lead to death. The best ways to catch cancer is by doing a yearly check-up with a doctor and by being self-attentive to any symptoms that may come up.

If caught, cancer treatments vary depending on the type of cancer. Some treatments are uncomfortable while other treatments deteriorate your body.

This is exactly what sin is like.

Sin is the cancer of the soul.

Sin remains undetected at first. It

slowly spreads to other spiritual organs; the heart, the eyes, or the mind. Sin taints everything it touches. And as it continues to grow symptoms will develop overtime.

If sin taints your eyes, you begin to watch more filthy images.

If sin taints your heart, you begin to see everything as evil and corrupted.

If sin taints your mind, you begin to cultivate insidious thoughts.

The priest is like a doctor and confession like your yearly check-up. You begin to treat your sin like cancer. Being self-attentive, you make an account of the various symptoms (small sins) that have accumulated since your last check-up. The doctor (the priest) then prescribes various treatments (the ascetical practices of the Church) depending on the type of cancer (passion).

When you understand sin as a cancer, you begin to actively live a healthy spiritual life that keeps spiritual cancer at bay.

#### Lesson #3 - You Are Lacking Healthy Shame

You and I (and society) need more healthy shame.

Healthy shame is like the signpost on the fence that reads "Beware of dog." This type of shame is a limit imposed on the soul. It signals to you, "You probably shouldn't be doing this because others are watching and there are consequences." You likely experienced this shame as a child. It stopped you from doing some stupid stuff.

I see healthy shame lacking in confessions.

Next time you go to confession, notice how you speak about your sins. There are

some sins that you feel ashamed about. These sins you often beat around the bush. You make excuses or justifications. You are ashamed to say the sin simply for what it is.

Other much worse sins you gloss over without a second thought. As though it were no big deal. I sense no shame in those sins.

Healthy shame orders your life properly.

Normally you feel bold when committing a sin and then shame when you go to confess it. But really, it should be the other way around. You should feel shame when committing a sin and bold when you confess it.

This is healthy shame at work.

This is how we grow spiritually.

The goal is "to make us ashamed where we ought to be but aren't; to make us free of shame where we are ashamed but shouldn't be; to make us exactly as ashamed as we ought to be, no more and no less, in all areas." (Quote from The Ethics of Beauty by Dr. Timothy Patitsas)

Learn to cultivate healthy shame in your life.

Integrating these lessons in your own life takes time.

I have learned that integrating these lessons in my own life has resolved a lot of my internal anguish. There is no longer this rush to solve every problem. It stops being less about me and more about Christ.

For God is working in the areas where I find myself lacking.

In Christ,  
+Fr. Christian Siskos  
Associate Priest



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## PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Vaki Karampourniotis



Beloved Holy Trinity Class of 2024,

Congratulations on completing high school—what an accomplishment! It's been a joy getting to know each of you this year in Sunday School. Your witty remarks, constant laughter, and smiles will be dearly missed. Now, you're all embarking on a new adventure where you'll be making your own decisions. Thankfully, you've been blessed with parents who brought you to our beloved Holy Trinity to participate in services, Sunday School, and numerous youth programs.

As you step into this next chapter of life, I'd like to remind you of some of the principles we discussed together: Remember to pray and cultivate gratitude for all things. *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances."* – 1 Thessalonians 5:16. Don't be afraid, for God is always with you, guiding you with a plan for your future. *"For I know the plans I have for you,"* declares the Lord, *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* – Jeremiah 29:11

Class of 2024, as you embark on this new journey, remember that the future is yours to shape. Believe in yourselves, stay curious, and never stop learning. Your potential is limitless, and I have no doubt that each of you will go on to achieve great things.

Each of you has a bright future ahead, and I want you to know that your Holy Trinity family is incredibly proud of you. We're here to support you and cheer you on as you continue your journey.

Lastly, remember the core lesson from Sunday School: Put God F.I.R.S.T. in every aspect of your life. Let Him be first in your **F**inances, first in your **I**nterests, first in your **R**elationships, first in your **S**chedule, and first in your **T**roubles.

Congratulations again, Class of 2024!

Το μήνυμα του προέδρου

Αγαπητά παιδιά της Αγίας Τριάδας απόφοιτοι του 2024, Συγχαρητήρια!

Μεγάλο κατόρθωμα να τελειώσετε το Λύκειο!

Είχα την χαρά φέτος να σας γνωρίσω από κοντά στο Κατηχητικό Σχολείο.

Θα μου λείψουν οι έξυπνες παρατηρήσεις, τα γέλια και τα χαμόγελά σας.

Και τώρα είσαστε όλα έτοιμα για καινούργιες εμπειρίες, στις οποίες θα πρέπει να αποφασίζετε μόνα σας.

Ευτυχώς, είχατε καλούς γονείς, οι οποίοι σας έφερναν στην εκκλησία μας την Αγία Τριάδα, να εκκλησιάζεστε, να παρακολουθείτε τα μαθήματα του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου και να συμμετέχετε στα προγράμματα της νεολαίας.

Καθώς ξεκινάτε το νέο κεφάλαιο στην ζωή σας, θέλω να σας υπενθυμίσω μερικές πρακτικές που συζητήσαμε τον χρόνο που περάσαμε μαζί.

Να θυμάστε να προσεύχεστε και να είστε χαρούμενα με ότι έχετε.

«Να είστε πάντοτε χαρούμενοι. Να προσεύχεστε αδιάκοπα. Να ευχαριστείτε το Θεό για το καθετί.» Θεσσαλονικείς 1 επιστολή 5:16.

Να θυμάστε να μην φοβάστε γιατί ο Θεός είναι πάντοτε μαζί σας, έχει σχέδια για σας και θα σας καθοδηγεί. «Ξέρω πολύ καλά τα σχέδια που έχω κάνει για σας. Θέλω την ευημερία σας και όχι την καταστροφή σας• θέλω να σας χαρίσω το μέλλον που ελπίζετε.» Ιερεμίας 29:11

Και τέλος, το κύριο θέμα το οποίο συζητήσαμε στο Κατηχητικό Σχολείο, να θυμάστε να βάζετε τον Θεό ΠΡΩΤΟ, σε όλες τις πτυχές στη ζωή σας. Πρώτος στα οικονομικά σας, πρώτος στα ενδιαφέροντα σας, πρώτος στις σχέσεις σας, πρώτος στο πρόγραμμα σας, και πρώτος στα προβλήματα σας.

Γνωρίζω ότι έχετε λαμπρό μέλλον. Θέλω να ξέρετε ότι εμείς εδώ στην Αγία Τριάδα είμαστε υπερήφανοι για σας και είμαστε πάντοτε εδώ για, να σας στηρίξουμε και να σας καμαρώσουμε!

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A NEWS ROUNDUP by The Voice Staff

**Feastday Panegyri**

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 we had our annual Community Picnic, the Panegyri, to celebrate Pentecost and Our Holy Trinity's Feast Day. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The delicious food was organized by John Frarakis and his team, music provided by DJ Kosta Housiadas, and many community members pitched in to make it a wonderful celebration.

Any event is only a success with the help of dedicated volunteers who planned, prepared, and served the community on this special occasion. Others made financial donations defraying the cost of the delicious food and drink. You will see their names nearby.

Thank you to the following for their generous donations:

- Nick Apostolopoulos
- Pete Boukidis
- Alex Brikas
- Hunter Clarke
- John Doulaveris
- John Hondros
- Kosta Housiadas
- Dino Kalevas
- John Karagounis
- Kostas Konstantinou
- John Kostopoulos
- Vasilios Liagas
- Lukas Livas
- Pete Marinakos
- Theophilos Moutselos
- Dean Peroulas
- Tommy Raptis
- Pete Spiro (Papaspirou)
- Ariousios Wine

Thank you to the following people for their time to help organize, prepare, and serve:

- George Andrews
- Tina Apostolopoulos & Henry
- John Bisbikis
- Georgette Boukidis
- Alex & Aleka Brikas
- Jimmy Christodoulis
- John Doulaveris
- John Fragakis
- Jimmy Fragakis
- Renee Fragakis
- John Georgopoulos
- Chris Holevas
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- Spiro & Eleni Karageorgos
- Vivian Karampourniotis
- Dia Karampourniotis & Boys
- George Karres
- Kosta & Corinna Konstantinou
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- George Liapis
- Gus Pappas
- Dean & Stacie Peroulas
- Jimmy Politis
- Bill Skenteris
- Christina Skiouris
- Stacey Vastis





## A NEWS ROUNDUP by The Voice Staff

AHEPA Marathon Chapter  
Announces Scholarship Awards

by George Zogzas

The Order of AHEPA Marathon Chapter #2 proudly awarded \$36,250 in scholarships to 17 college and high school students during a ceremony on Sunday, May 19 at Holy Trinity Cathedral. George Zogzas, Scholarship Committee Chairman, presented the awards.

AHEPA, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, was established in July 1922 in Atlanta, GA, with a mission to champion civil rights and combat discrimination, bigotry, and hatred. Emphasizing ancient Hellenic ideals, AHEPA promotes education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism. Marathon Chapter No. 2 was founded in Charlotte just two months later, in September 1922.

This year, the Scholarship Committee had the privilege of awarding two new named scholarships. The Pappas Family Foundation, led by Peter and Ellen "Sissy" Pappas, funded a \$5,000 scholarship in memory of their late father, Thomas P. Pappas, a longtime active member and former President of the Marathon Chapter. The second \$5,000 scholarship was named in honor of Khalil "Kal" Kardous, also a former Chapter President. Funds for this scholarship were raised by Kal's Pals through two events: a Cigar Night at LoSo Tavern on April 16 and a two-day document shredding event at Holy Trinity on April 19 and 20.

The local chapter also offers merit scholarships to qualified children and grandchildren of active members. Below are the names of this year's scholarship recipients, with named scholarships awarded to those with the highest overall scores.

**Thomas P. Pappas Scholarship (\$5,000.00)**

John Peter Sarantou

**Khalil E. Kardous Scholarship (\$5,000.00)**

Erinne Chrissa Kastanas

**Marathon Chapter No. 2 Scholarship (\$2,500.00)**

Charles William Euripides

**Venus Chapter No.102 Scholarship (\$2,500.00)**

Mallory Carlyle Hearn

**PSP John G. Plumides Scholarship (\$2,500.00)**

Alexis Danielle Christenbury

**Father "C" Scholarship (\$2,500.00)**

Demetra Panayiota Karres

**Larry C. Peroulas Scholarship (\$2,500.00)**

Theodora Voula Kokalis

**Chapter No. 2 Founders Scholarship (\$1,500.00 each):**

Heidi Nicole Emmanuel

Thomas Alexander Keretsis

Christos George Kokalis

Thomas Spero Koufaliotis

Leah Marie Tsefrikas

**Academic Award Scholarship (\$1,250.00 each):**

Stavros Paul Boardman

Theodore George Karres

Nicholas Peter Kastanas

George Konstantinos Pistiolis

Martha Brianna Russell

## Seniors Graduation

by George Zogzas

On May 19, 2024, the Senior Sunday school graduates 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 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.

Father Jonathan followed with his own congratulations, then asked if they know what a vocation is. He explained that vocation does not just mean a trade, or learning a trade, it means a calling. He continued that if we have a vocation, there must be a caller. "Who do we suppose the caller is" he asked the seniors, then pointed skyward to give them a hint. "It is God, God is the caller" he continued stressing that even though the graduates are headed in different directions, they, and we, share a common vocation. "Our vocation is to love God with all our heart, with all our might, with all our soul, with all our strength, and our neighbor as yourself."

Members of the class then spoke from the pulpit, First Alex Phillips, who served as co-President of GOYA addressed his classmates and the congregation. His very personal recounting of his own young life filled with physical and spiritual lows that, through persistence and determination, he was able to find his balance and lift himself to the highs of a true communion with God's grace.

He was followed by fellow GOYA co-President, Nicole Vastis. Her remarks began with "I am thankful for Holy Trinity in all it is: a hospital for the soul, a school for the wise, a basketball court for the 8th graders, and a ship steering us all to the gates of Heaven one day. It is a place of communion between us and God, but also communion between each other. Its stained glass windows and tile floors raised me as much as my own parents did."

Those remarks were followed by two special presentations. First, Mrs. Georgia Andrews presented the Presbyteria Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship to Ms. Meredith Boukidis

Next, John Shelton announced the #doyourbestgiveGODtherest award. The award recognizes a Holy Trinity senior for their involvement in our GOYA and youth programs. This year's winner was Ms. Nikki Blathras.

[See more about these two awards at Around Charlottetown, page 13]

George Zogzas presented the AHEPA Marathon Chapter No. 2 scholarships (see details in the related article nearby).

Sarah Vastis, Director of Youth Ministries, then presented the certificates and gifts to each of the graduates. Father Jonathan assisted in passing out the gifts as John Shelton called each graduate by name.

The ceremony finished after Senior Arianna Kefalas gave the closing prayer. In which, she prayed for God to "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; we trust in the words that you have said, 'Lo, I will be with you always'."

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



May 19, 2024 The 2024 Marathon Chapter Scholarship Award winners L-R: Rev. Fr. Jonathan Resmini, Ellen "Sissy" Pappas representing the Pappas Family Foundation, John Sarantou, Erinne Kastanas, Alexis Christenbury, Heidi Emmanuel, Thomas Keretsis, Brianna Russell, Nicholas Kastanas, Theodore Karres, George Zogzas, and Tommy Koufaliotis.



2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

EVANGELOS BEALL

Levine Middle College High School



Evangelos is the son of Trae and Maria Beall. Evangelos was Valedictorian of his school, a member of the National Honor Society, on the President’s List, and graduated with an Associate’s Degree. He was featured in CPCC Student Spotlight. He served in Student Government, was President of The Native Plant Club, was on the Varsity wrestling team and volunteered at the YMCA.

At Holy Trinity, Evangelos served as an acolyte, danced at HDF and the Greek Festival and played basketball. Evangelos will transfer to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Junior working towards his degree in Biology. Afterwards, he will apply to medical school and pursue becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

MEREDITH ANNE BOUKIDIS

Weddington High School



Meredith is the daughter of Georgette and Pete Boukidis. Meredith graduated Summa Cum Laude. She was a Junior Marshall, AP Scholar, and member of the National Honor, National Science, National English, and National Math (Mu Alpha Theta) Honor Societies. She was on the A-Honor Roll all four years. She was a member of the Make-A-Wish and Environmental Clubs. At Holy Trinity, she participated in basketball and soccer, competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival, volunteered and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival. She volunteered at Vacation Bible School and was a member of GOYA, serving as Fellowship Co-Chair in her senior year. Meredith will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to pursue a career in nursing.

KATHERINE “KATE” TAYLOR COOKE

Myers Park High School



Katherine is the daughter of Rebecca Cooke and Chad Cooke. She was the Role Play Winner for the district in DECA and chosen for the teenage NICU board for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. They planned fundraising galas for teens as well as spread awareness for the NICU unit at the Levine’s Children’s hospital raising over \$165K in two years. At Holy Trinity, she was active in the Greek Dance program, played basketball, and attended Winter Youth Rally. She has been in the Jami Masters Dance school since 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and is a member of Young Life. Kate will be attending North Carolina State University in the fall majoring in Fashion and Textile Management with Brand Management and Marketing Concentration.

NIKKI MARIA BLATHRAS

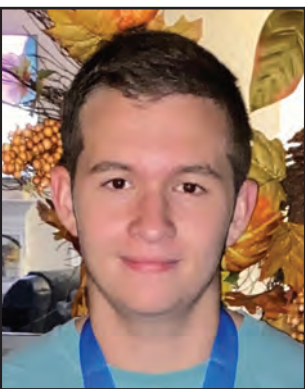
Providence High School



Nikki is the daughter of Constantine and Georgia Blathras. Nikki graduated Summa Cum Laude, was an AP Scholar with Honors, a member of the National and National Spanish Honor Societies and the National Society of High School Scholars. She received the National Spanish Exam GOLD Award and Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica Certificate of Excellence. She was Vice President and Secretary of the Spanish Club, a member of Beta Club, Key Club, and played on the JV Girls Basketball team. At Holy Trinity, she played on basketball and soccer teams, coached soccer, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival. She was the Fellowship and Witness Chairperson of GOYA and participated in the Oratorical Festival. Nikki will be attending the University of South Carolina studying BioChemistry and Molecular Biology.

KONSTANTINOS BRIKAS

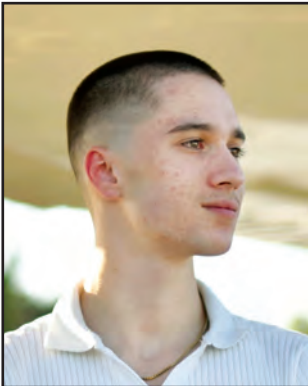
Myers Park High School



Konstantinos is the son of Theofilos and Soula Brika. At Holy Trinity, he played on the basketball teams and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival. He has been participating in Taekwondo for six years, earning a silver medal in a tournament. He has played Go football and basketball. Konstantinos will be attending Central Piedmont Community College in the fall studying Business Administration.

KONSTANTINOS CARLYLE CORNWELL

Indian Land High School



Konstantinos is the son of Demetra and Carlyle Cornwell. He was active at Holy Trinity participating in basketball, dancing at the Yiasou Greek Festival, and competing at the Hellenic Dance Festival. He has been flying since the age of 10, working towards obtaining his private pilot’s license at ACES Flight School in Rock Hill, SC. Konstantinos will be attending the Academy of Aviation in Gastonia NC studying for and obtaining a commercial license to become a pilot.

NINA CHRISTODOULIAS

Arday Kell High School



Nina is the daughter of Gus and Andrea Christodoulis. Nina was an Honor Roll Student. She played both field hockey and basketball. At Holy Trinity, Nina competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, and participated on soccer and basketball teams. Nina is planning on attending Paul Mitchell School to pursue and passionately embrace her dream of becoming both a cosmetologist and esthetician.

ELENI FIORE

Weddington High School



Eleni is the daughter of Dr. Louis & Effie Fiore. Eleni was on honor roll for all four years and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She was a member of the Make-A-Wish, Who’s, and Mentor’s Clubs. She was on the Varsity Track & Field team for 4 years, serving as captain of pole vaulting and long jump since her sophomore year. At Holy Trinity, Eleni completed the Greek language program, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, and competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival. Eleni announced her commitment to continue her academic and athletic career, pole vaulting Division 1 Track & Field at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

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



## 2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

### NICKOLAOS DIMITRIOS FORNIOTIS

Weddington High School



Nickolaos is the son of Jimmy and Dimitra Forniotis.

Nickolaos was on the A/B Honor Roll in High School. He completed the full Sunday School and Greek School programs, earning the certification of the Greek Ellinomathia.

At Holy Trinity, he participated in basketball, including

the Queen City Classic, attended the Winter Youth Rally and St. Stephens Camp, competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival, and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Nickolaos plans to attend Central Piedmont Community College to pursue a career in the automotive industry.

### AVA NICOLE KATOPODIS

Ardrey Kell High School



Ava is the daughter of Nick and Aphrodite Katopodis.

Ava achieved Academic Excellence Recognition throughout her four years in high school. She has been on the honor roll and was a member of the National Technical Honor Society. She has been a member of several clubs including DECA, Young

Professors, and Writing Club.

At Holy Trinity, she danced for the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival. She also participated in the Sunday School and Greek School programs.

Ava will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte this fall majoring in Business Administration/Marketing.

### EFFIE MARIE KONTOS

Lincoln Charter School



Effie is the daughter of Jimmy and Stacy Kontos.

Effie graduated in the top 10 of her class and was awarded Summa Cum Laude. She was on the A-Honor Roll and a member of the National Honor Society. She was enrolled in Advanced Placement classes and dual enrollment courses with Gaston College.

At Holy Trinity, Effie was a member of GOYA and participated in Winter Youth Rally and QCC. She played recreational soccer and basketball and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival. She volunteered at multiple charitable organizations and was involved in various clubs at her school.

Effie will be attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh in the fall majoring in Finance.

### SERAFIM GEORGOPOULOS

Myers Park High School



Serafim is the son of John and Hresanthe Georgopoulos.

He was a member of the Honor Roll, he wrestled for his school and was a member of the Automotive Club. He worked with his parents at their business daily.

At Holy Trinity, he participated in

all of the Youth Programs including soccer and basketball. He danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival. He attended the Preschool, Sunday school and Greek school. He was an active member of GOYA.

His hobbies include Mixed Martial Arts, earning his Black Belt from Charlotte Martial Arts Academy. He enjoys woodworking and playing the drums.

Serafim will attend Central Piedmont Community College studying different trades to find the one he would like to make into a career.

### ARIANNA LEIGH KEFALAS

Myers Park High School



Arianna is the daughter of Angelo and Katherine Kefalas.

Arianna was on the A/B Honor Roll and a member of the National Honor Society. She was a member of the Think Pink, Cargo for Combat, Crafting Care, MP Blue Skies, and Fostering Friendships Clubs.

At Holy Trinity, she participated in soccer,

basketball, and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival. She competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival, was a GOYA Leader, attended Winter Youth Rally and Saint Stephen's Camp. She volunteered for Vacation Bible School as well as Muffin Ministries.

Arianna will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall.

### NICOLE SOPHIE KOSKINAS

Weddington High School



Nicole is the daughter of George and Vickie Koskinas.

At Holy Trinity, she participated in soccer and basketball including the Winter Youth Rally and the Queen City Classic, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival. She was a member of

the GOYA.

Nicole will be attending Western Carolina University (Cullowhee NC) in the fall focusing her studies on Business and Accounting.

### JAMES ANDRE HARAKAS

Carmel Christian School



James is the son of Andre and Georgia Harakas.

James was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Carmel Christian U.S. History Award. He also earned the DECA Award in Entrepreneurship. He was captain of the Varsity Cross Country team, and a member of the Beta,

DECA, and Conservation Clubs.

At Holy Trinity, he was a member of the GOYA leadership team and founded the Unto Ages of Ages ministry. He participated in basketball and soccer, competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival.

James will be attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh this fall.

### LENNA PAPPAS KELLY

Myers Park High School



Lenna is the daughter of John and Effie Kelly.

Lenna participated in competitive gymnastics for 8 years with All-Stars & Perfect Balance.

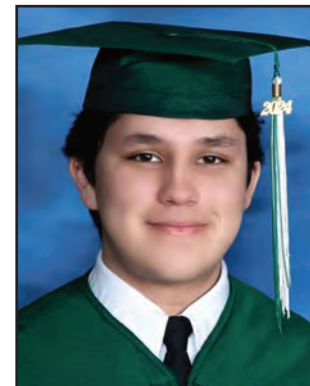
At Holy Trinity she was a GOYA member, volunteered at Vacation Bible School, attended Winter Youth Rally and Saint Stephens summer camp. She went on the senior trip to St.

Photios. She played on the soccer team, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, and competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival.

Lenna will be attending Appalachian State University (Boone NC) majoring in Interior Design.

### BENJAMIN DIMITRIOS KOSTOPOULOS

Myers Park High School



Benjamin is the son of John and Jessica Kostopoulos.

Benjamin was a 4-year A Honor Roll student while dual enrolled in CPCC college classes. He was a member of the National Honor Society and passed the A1 Ellinomatheia exam to receive college credit. He was a member of

the Helping Hands and Spanish Clubs.

At Holy Trinity, he served as an Acolyte and played on soccer and basketball teams. In GOYA, he was the Service Chair on the leadership team. He danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival and competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival, attended Winter Youth Rally, St. Stephen's Camp, and Lenten Retreats.

Benjamin will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall, majoring in Business and Spanish.



2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

KARIS JANE MANN

Myers Park High School



Karis is the daughter of Angela Carras and Richard Mann.

Karis was on the Honor Roll throughout high school. She was a member of the DECA Club.

At Holy Trinity, she participated in soccer and basketball. She was also in the Greek Dance Program that participated at the Yiasou Greek Festival.

Karis will be attending Appalachian State University (Boone NC) in the fall and will be majoring in Political Science.

ALEXANDER GRAHAM PHILLIPS

Marvin Ridge High School



Alexander is the son of James and Maria Phillips.

Alexander was on the Honor Roll. He was a member of the Varsity Wrestling team, served as captain, and made it to the Regional Round of the State Championships in 2024.

At Holy Trinity, he was a member of GOYA and served as Co-President his senior year.

Alexander will be attending Central Piedmont Community College in the fall and studying Commercial Real Estate.

NICOLE LEA VASTIS

David W. Butler High School



Nicole is the daughter of John and Stacey Vastis.

Nicole was an Honor Roll Student, a member of the National Honor and International Thespian Societies, the Chamber Chorus, a Capella Club and Drama Club. She participated in the Mars Hill Music Festival.

At Holy Trinity, she participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, played on the soccer team, volunteered and danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival, was on the Bible Bowl team at Winter Youth Rally, was a member of GOYA, and volunteered for Muffin Ministries, Vacation Bible School, and Christmas Pageant. Her other activities included volleyball and voice lessons.

Nicole will be attending Mars Hill University (Mars Hill NC) studying Music Education.

CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE MINGO

South Point High School



Christopher is the son of Maria and Mark Mingo.

Christopher was on the A-Honor Roll, a member of the National Honor Society, and the recipient of the AP Scholar Award.

At Holy Trinity, he participated in basketball, competed in the Hellenic Dance Festival, and was a member of GOYA leadership. He was on the Varsity Cross Country team at his high school, and helped found the chess club.

Christopher will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the fall, majoring in Economics.

KONSTANDINA ELENI PITTMAN

Ardrey Kell High School/  
Levine Middle College High School



Konstandina is the daughter of Kathy and George Pittman.

Konstandina was a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club, serving as student coordinator.

She has shared her passion for photography with various organizations and school projects. Her work has been featured by Biggs Camera.

At Holy Trinity, she attended Greek School graduating with top honors including the AHEPA and Ancestral graduation project awards. She received the Ellinomathea Certificate, Levels A2 and B1 with Arista, securing 6 college credits. She participated in the Yiasou Greek Festival Dance, on soccer and basketball teams, competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival, and volunteered at Vacation Bible school.

Konstandina will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall studying Data Science.

DEMI JOANNA VLAHOS

Myers Park High School



Demi is the daughter of Danny and Sandy Vlahos.

Demi has been on the A/B Honor Roll throughout high school.

At Holy Trinity, she attended Preschool and Sunday school. She was a member of GOYA, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, competed at the Hellenic Dance Festival, and was a Vacation Bible School counselor. She played soccer and basketball.

Demi will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the fall pursuing a degree in Environmental Biology.

VIRGINIA ELIZABETH O'BRIEN

Myers Park High School



Virginia is the daughter of Kara and David O'Brien.

Virginia is an Honors/CPCC dual enrollment student. She was a member of the DECA Club, participated in basketball and track & field. She is a team lead at her job at Green Brothers and a caterer for Best Impressions, and a part of the Saint Jude's Leadership Society

At Holy Trinity, she played on soccer and basketball teams, danced at the Yiasou Greek Festival, and competed at Hellenic Dance Festival. She was a member of GOYA, volunteered at Vacation Bible Camps, attended Winter Youth Rally, and St. Stephens Camp. At St. Nektarios, she was a member of the St. Phoebe's Ministry.

Virginia will be attending the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the fall to study business.

PANAYIOTIS GEORGIOS THANOS

Weddington High School



Panayiotis is the son of George and Vicki Thanos.

Panayiotis was on the AB Honor roll. He was involved in the Engineering and Future Farmers of America Club.

At Holy Trinity, he played soccer and basketball. He was an acolyte, danced at the Greek Festival, competed at Hellenic Dance Festival, attended St. Stephens Camp, and Winter Youth Rally. He was a member of GOYA and volunteered for Muffin Ministries. He graduated from Greek School with honors.

Panayiotis will be attending University of North Carolina at Charlotte to study Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Motorsports.

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



## HOLY WEEK AND GREAT PASCHA





## VACATION BIBLE CAMP



VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2024 was held on June 10 - June 13. Ninety-eight campers participated, and over 40 Goyans volunteered. This year's theme was Warriors for Christ. Each day, the children learned about a different warrior Saint, including St. George, St. Demetrios, St. Theodore, St. Menas, Sts. Constantine and Helen, as well as the ultimate warrior for our souls, Our Most Blessed Panagia! Each day started with a morning prayer service, then the children rotated through six different camp sessions led by our Clergy, the Bible Camp Committee, and the Goyans. On Thursday, the children attended Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Ascension and then parents and grandparents were invited to attend an end-of-week choral performance at which the children sang songs learned throughout the week, including our Church Hymn and Ti Ipermaho.

- by Sarah Vastis





**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** by Nick and Carmen Kallelis**What Makes a Church Successful?**

St. John Chrysostom emphasized that “The most basic task of the Church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts of all those under his authority, and to encourage those gifts to be used to the full for the benefit of all.”

Our Clergy wholeheartedly embrace this principle, and our Parish Council and Ministry Chairs are dedicated leaders in their roles.

Personal involvement is crucial for the stability and growth of our church community. Active participation from parishioners is the cornerstone of a successful church.

As members of the parish, we all have a responsibility to contribute by using our God-given gifts of time and talent. There is an abundance of untapped talent within our church community. Consider taking a leadership role in one of our ministries or even starting a new ministry that interests you.

As we approach the end of summer, we are gearing up for our annual festival. We urge everyone to volunteer for at least a day or a few hours to ensure the success of this important event. Bring along your family and friends to join in the effort. Volunteering together with loved ones is not only fulfilling for you but also supports our church.

Our ministries are actively seeking new members. The choir, in particular, is in need of voices. The hymns and prayers sung by the choir enrich our liturgy immensely. If you are interested in joining the choir, please reach out to Lucy Pappadakis at [lucy\\_38@hotmail.com](mailto:lucy_38@hotmail.com). Additionally, the stewardship committee welcomes new members. You are invited to attend their monthly meetings to learn more about this vital ministry. Contact Nick Kallelis at [nickvmi57@gmail.com](mailto:nickvmi57@gmail.com) for more information.

The success of our church community hinges on your willingness to share your time and talents. Let us all unite in using our gifts to support our Clergy, Parish Council, and our entire church community.

**YIASOU FESTIVAL BAKING AND PACKING SCHEDULE**

July 31 - August 2	Wednesday-Friday	Koulourakia and Baklava Bags
August 7 - 8	Wednesday & Thursday	Baklava for Ice Cream
August 9	Friday	Karidopita
August 19 - 22	Monday-Thursday	Baklava
August 30	Friday	Diples
September 1 & 2	Sunday & Monday	Packing Pastries

**PHILOPTOCHOS** by Pamela Bostian

This spring was a busy one for our Chapter; we're happy to share these highlights!

**HC/HC Lenten Tray**

On Sunday, April 7th, a collection tray for the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Lenten Fund was available during the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. Donations received went towards the operating expenses of the college.

**Families Forward Charlotte**

On Monday, April 8th, our members volunteered at Families Forward, participating in their Weekend Food Packs Program. As part of our national commitment to Feed the Hungry, our Chapter contributed \$1,000 to supply the backpacks that our volunteers filled with child-friendly food items. Backpacks are provided to Title I school students to ensure they have enough to eat over weekends and holidays.

**Classroom Central Charlotte**

During our General Meeting on March 12, 2024, our Chapter hosted Daren Blow, a guest speaker from Classroom Central, who shared their mission of ensuring all children and their teachers have access to the school supplies and classroom materials needed to succeed. Inspired, members assembled pencil kits as a team-building activity during the meeting. On April 15, members volunteered at the Classroom Central distribution center and followed with a total financial donation of \$463.

**His Grace Neophytos Kong'ai, Bishop of Eldoret and Northern Kenya**

During our General Meeting on April 9th, 2024, we welcomed His Grace Neophytos Kong'ai, Bishop of Eldoret and Northern Kenya as our guest speaker. Bishop Kong'ai devotes most of his time ministering to children and families in need. He helped build an Orthodox primary academy (St. Nicholas Academy), a medical clinic (St. Luke), and the Parish Church of St. Anthimos. Motivated by this mission, our Chapter made a generous donation of \$1,000 toward Bishop Kongai's ministry.

**Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship**

Five applications were received for this year's Presbytera Kathryn Tuntas Constantinides Scholarship. The 2024 scholarship of \$5000 was awarded to Meredith Anne Boukidis during the Sunday School graduation ceremony on May 19th. Congratulations to Meredith and to all applicants!

**Pascha and Holy Week**

Our Pascha Bake Sale was held on April 21st and April 28th following the church services, and it was a tremendous success! Tsourekia, Koulourakia, frozen Spanakopita and Tiropitakia were available for purchase. On Holy Wednesday, May 1, our members dyed eggs and filled 50 orders. Others decorated the Epitaphio and the church in preparation for Holy Week services.

**Easter Homebound Community Visits**

Our Chapter made heartwarming visits to bring gift bags of Easter joy to 36 members of our homebound community. The visits are a reminder of how compassion and community connects us all.

**Board and General Meetings**

Our final Philoptochos Board meeting for the year was held on May 9th followed by our end of year General Meeting on May 16th at Ilios Crafted Greek at Stonecrest.

**Save the Dates: Yiasou Festival Baking and Packing (see nearby)**



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Birthdays  
& Mondays.



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Andre Harakas & John Tsumas



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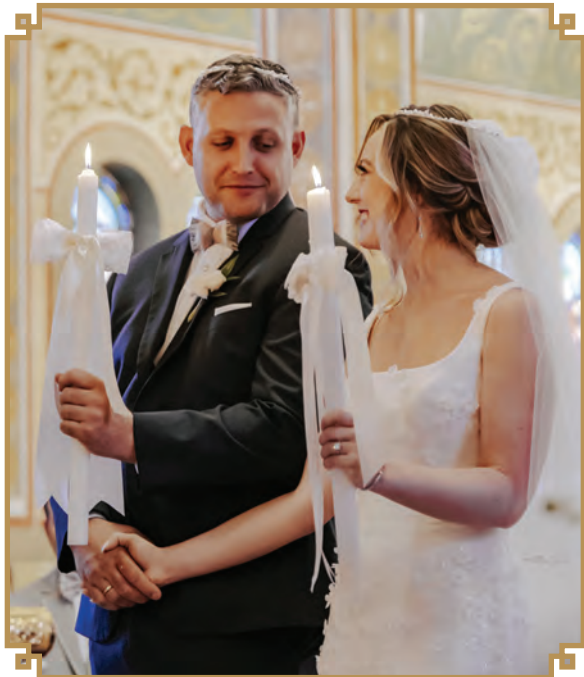


**South End**  
3015 South Boulevard  
(704) 665-6371



AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

Halas - Zimmerlink



Felicia Halas and John Zimmerlink were married on Saturday, June 15, 2024. Felicia is the daughter of Gus and Valerie Halas. John is the son of Lisa and John Zimmerlink. The wedding ceremony took place at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. A wedding reception followed at the Carmel Country Club. The couple honeymooned on the island of St. Barth.

Birth Announcement

Parents Nikos and Katerina Koutsoupas announce the birth of their daughter Elpiniki Aikaterini born Thursday May 2, 2024. Also celebrating are her four siblings Sofia, Effie, Amalia, and Panos and grandparents Panagiotis and Maria Koutsoupas of Charlotte, NC and Thanasi and Connie Bitsakos of Nørre Broby, Denmark

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 write-up to Kathy Xyrafakis (kathy@htgo.org). We will include it in an upcoming issue.

Announcing

**Carolinas Commercial Brokerage**

A Charlotte based firm

We help clients:

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- ✓ Investments through 1031 tax deferred transactions [1031 transactions are handled by Hazlehurst & Blake PLLC law firm].
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2024 Scholarships and Awards

Presbytera Kathryn Constantinides Scholarship



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 Meredith Boukidis (with Selection Committee Chair Georgia Andrews). Meredith will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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.

Meredith joins previous winners Helen McGinnis (2018); Apostolia Liana Kendrick (2019); Elefteria Euripides (2020); Katerina Anastasia Peroulas (2021), Maria Kaltsounis (2022) and Theodora Kokalis (2023).

#doyourbestgiveGODtherest award



John Shelton announced the #doyourbestgiveGODtherest award. The award recognizes a Holy Trinity senior for their involvement in our GOYA and youth programs. This year's winner was Nikki Blathras (pictured above, at right, with John). Nikki will be attending the University of South Carolina (Columbia).

Nikki joins last year's recipient, Theodore Harakas.



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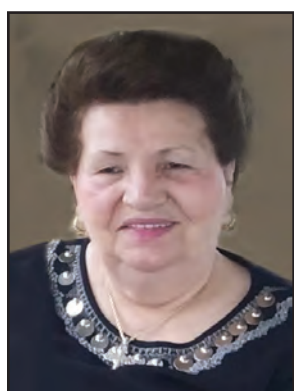
3347 Darlington Rd. Matthews, NC 28105



## 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*



KATINA G. ANTONIOU, passed unto the Lord on Monday, May 27th, 2024.

Katina is survived by her cherished daughter, Maria Al Ashban, and her devoted son, Tom G. Antoniou, along with their spouses and families. She was a proud grandmother to six amazing grandsons and a great-grandmother to six wonderful great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her dear sister, Dina Beligrinis, and her family, as well as her brother, Nick J. Apostolopoulos.



CHRISTINA PARHAS BESSEAS, age 88, passed unto the Lord on Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

Christina was preceded in death by her husband, Theodore, and her siblings, Maria Angelopoulou, Haralambos Parhas, Prokopios Parhas, and Anastasios Parhas. She is survived by her daughters, Evelyn Zehia (Anthony) of Cary, NC, and Pamela Bostian (Rocky) of Kannapolis, NC; her granddaughters, Barbara Preusse (Michael) of Charlotte, NC, and Christina Moore (Curtis) of Raleigh, NC; her great-grandchildren, Anthony and Amelia Preusse; her brother, Christos Parhas of Athens, Greece; and several nieces and nephews.



DIMITRIOS KATSANOS, age 90, passed unto the Lord on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Ekaterini Katsanos; his son, Vasilios Katsanos and his wife, Susan; daughters, Fotini Kaltsounis and her husband, Spiro; and Mary Liapis and her husband, George; grandchildren, Christian Katsanos, Jimmy and Cathy Bisbikis, Angelo and Maria Kaltsounis, DeeDee Kaltsounis, and Katie and Tommy Karadimas and great-grandchildren, Lexi and Paul Bisbikis and Mary Karadimas. He is also survived by his siblings, Christodoulos Katsanos, Maria Politis, Gus Kanos and his wife, Chris; and George Katsanos and his wife, Christina. Jimmy was preceded in death by his sister, Fotini Katsanos and husband Spero; his brother, Peter Katsanos and wife, Athanasia; his sister, Vasiliki Doulaveris and her husband, Apostoli and brother-in-law, Nick Politis.

## Condolences

Our condolences to the families and friends of Anna Georges and George Pavlakos. May their memories be eternal.

## IN APPRECIATION

The family of Haralabos Kakavitsas would like to thank everyone for all of your love, prayers, calls and cards during their difficult time of his passing.

## ΘΕΡΜΩΣ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΜΕ

Η Οικογένεια του Χαράλαμπου Κακαβίτσα σας ευχαριστεί όλους για την αγάπη σας, τις προσευχές σας, τηλεφωνήματα, της κάρτες σας, και την συμπαράστασή σας για την απώλειά τους.

## Psalm 22+

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake, Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil;

Your cup runs over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord to the end of my days.

*From the Orthodox Study Bible*

*+(Commonly referred to as Psalm 23 in the King James Version of the Holy Bible)*



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# WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT PRESCHOOL?

by Maria Kleto and Lisa Giotis

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 learning, fun, and fellowship before the year ends. It was extremely rewarding to watch the children learn and grow throughout the year, approaching each new challenge with enthusiasm. We are very proud of them and all they have accomplished

sessions of summer camp for children ages three to five years old. The camps took place on June 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. The camp themes were “Warriors of God,” “Space Camp” and “Red, White and Blue.” We had a great turn out. Instructors Lisa Giotis, Stasy Skarlatos and Aggie Poulos planned and ran the camps.

Our teachers for the 2023 – 2024 school year were: Caitlyn Elf, Lisa Giotis, Cetta Hankins, Georgia Harakas, Irene Lowder, Aggie Poulos, Stasy



in preparation to move on to the next grade level.

In May we review the entire school’s year’s program reinforcing their learning. Additional themes included spring, summer, sea life, insects, obeying God, Jonah and the Whale. They discussed Mother’s Day and Father’s Day and how much we love and respect our parents. On May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<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.

Through the past month children worked very hard practicing their songs for the Graduation and End of Year Celebration, held on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. It was a special day to celebrate the graduation of our four years old 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.

In June, the preschool held three

Skarlatos, Alex Tatsis and Kim Tatsis. Thank you, ladies, for your hard work and for another great year! Caitlyn and Cetta will not be returning in the fall. We wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

During the summer, we will be preparing our school and classes for the start of preschool on Monday, September 16. But first, we will be staffing the Preschool sponsored Playland Beverage Booth at the Yiasou Greek Festival taking place on September 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact one of the co-directors if you would like to volunteer.

*The Co-Directors will not be in preschool office daily over the summer months. Please call or text Maria Kleto at 704-564-5842 or Lisa Giotis at 704-807-5926 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 or 704-333-4961*

# HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

To Holy Trinity Community:

The Foundation is pleased to report that 2023 was another productive year. We held eight meetings with 90% attendance in 2023.

Financial results show the approximate value of assets at the end of the year was just under \$1.7 million, up 8% from the end of 2022. Restricted funds of \$1,248,507 represent the total of all memorials, donations, and bequests received since 1973. While restricted funds cannot be spent, they are invested to earn income that can be distributed. Revenues totaled \$105,337 in 2023 comprised of \$63,235 in dividends & interest and \$42,102 in memorials and donations received. Grants and donations made totaled \$41,500 (details below), or approximately 2.4% of average assets.

On Sunday, February 5, 2023, we held our annual Memorial Sunday which included the reading of the names of family and friends remembered through donations to the Foundation. Afterwards, we hosted a luncheon for the community celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Foundation’s establishment in 1973. A permanent reminder of that date was achieved with the placement of two plaques with the Foundation’s mission along with the names of the first Trustees and witnesses.

Our thanks to outgoing Trustees Nick Kallelis and George Watson, III. We welcome newcomers George Copsis and Tommy Skenteris.

Please reach out to any of the 2024 Trustees listed below with questions. You may also email us at [info@htgof.org](mailto:info@htgof.org), or visit our website, <https://htgof.org>.

----- THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
February 25, 2024

GRANTS AND DONATIONS MADE IN 2023 sorted largest to smallest amount, then alphabetically):	
Recipient	Amount
The Saint Sophia School	\$5,000
International Orthodox Christian Charities (I.O.C.C.)	\$3,000
Alexander Youth Network	\$3,000
Crisis Assistance Ministry	\$3,000
Dilworth Community Association	\$3,000
Holy Cross School of Theology	\$3,000
Hospice & Palliative Care	\$3,000
Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)	\$3,000
Safe Alliance	\$3,000
Second Harvest Food Bank	\$3,000
Socrates Academy, Inc. (for 7 <sup>th</sup> graders to Greece)	\$3,000
St. Hermione Home, Inc.	\$3,000
Thompson Child and Family Focus	\$3,000
Saint Basil Academy	\$500
Total Donations and Grants	\$41,500

2024 Board of Trustees		Term Ends
		Dec:
Dr. George Andrinopoulos	Chairman	2024
Nick Kantsios	Vice Chair	2025
George C. Zogzas	Secretary	2024
George C. Copsis	Treasurer	2028
Yianni Haralambous	Trustee	2026
Nick X. Nixon	Trustee	2026
Tommy Skenteris	Trustee	2027

This report is provided in compliance with the terms of the Indenture dated February 5, 1973, that created the Foundation over fifty years ago. The report was was first made available at the Parish Assembly held on February 25, 2024.





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