



# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY



VOL. 86  
NO. 04



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)

FOURTH QUARTER  
2025

The 2025 Christmas Pageant  
Sunday December 14, 2025



*Then the angel said to them. "Do not be afraid for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: you will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in manger."*

--- Luke 2: 10-12

## Our Vision

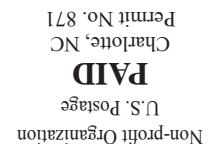
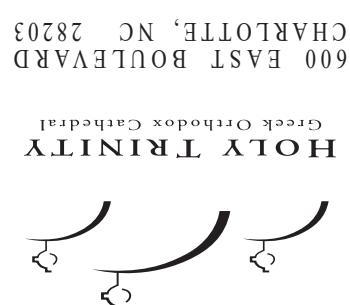
With the Grace of God, to provide a loving and caring Community where all belong to Christ, through worship, sacramental life, everyday spiritual discipline, sanctification, education, witness and fellowship.

## 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
- Youth Activities 6-7
- Veterans Day 8
- Greek School 10
- Preschool 11
- Philoptochos & Choir 12
- Around Charlottetown 13
- In Memoriam 14



## THE EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers:

Happy New Year! And welcome back. The fourth quarter of each year is when we settle into most activities at Holy Trinity culminating with the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our schools are in full swing. Especially notable is the Holy Trinity Preschool. On Sunday, November 23, they celebrated their 25 year anniversary. Hundreds of Holy Trinity children have gone through the program starting as toddlers through 4-year olds. The curriculum focuses on developing the skills to ready them for kindergarten and beyond. They also get practical exposure to our Orthodox faith (page 11).

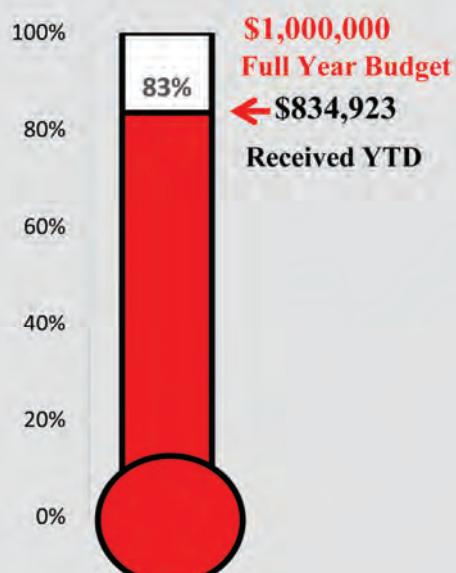
We celebrated the service and sacrifice of our military veterans on November 16 (page 8). Catch up with the latest news from Greek School (page 10), Philoptochos and Choir (page 12).

We begin a new feature with this issue, Ministries in Focus. Young Adults (page 8) and Agape (page 15). Please check them out. Thanks for reading.

GZ

voice@htgo.org

### 2025 STEWARDSHIP As of December 31, 2025



## ECCLESIASTICAL SERVICES

February 23	<b>Great Lent Begins</b>
March 25	<b>Annunciation of the Theotokos</b> Orthros 8:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
April 5	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Orthros 8:45am Divine Liturgy 9:00am
April 6-11	<b>Holy Week</b> Consult the online calendar for times at htgo.org
Sunday April 12	<b>Great and Holy Pascha</b>

## STEWARDSHIP 2025

as of 12/31/2025

YTD Financials	2025 Total	2024 Total
Stewardship	\$834,923	\$737,569
Candles, rentals, other	\$250,718	\$226,609
Building/IRRC donations	\$107,134	\$346,288
Minus: Operating expenses	-\$1,435,903	-\$1,295,749
Minus: Building fund expenses	-\$169,974	-\$473,560
Net Ordinary Income (Deficit)	<b>-\$413,102</b>	<b>-\$458,843</b>

Did You Know that in 2025:  
Average monthly electric/gas/water/trash cost was \$11,996,  
Average monthly building maintenance cost was \$15,220.

It costs about \$3,669/day to operate our 600 East Blvd facilities BEFORE any of the renovations expense  
We received 229 stewardship forms in 2025 with a pledge amount from the 1206 families on our mailing list

Please fill out your stewardship form for 2026 with ALL information along with an estimate of what you may offer financially and which ministries you would like to join.

☺ Thank you to all who gave of your time, talents, & treasures in 2025 to help our beautiful Cathedral provide a Christ-filled community through worship, education, and fellowship. May we all have a Healthy and Happy 2026.



Free Delivery

- 15% off the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Every Month on all Non-Prescription Items
- Drive Thru
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Six Month Supply Discount
- US Post Office

**SOUTH END**  
2334 South Blvd  
(704) 523-8608  
[www.cannonpharmacies.com](http://www.cannonpharmacies.com)

**SOUTH PARK**  
4501 Cameron Valley Pkwy  
(704) 367-7440

**Tell our advertisers that  
you saw their ad in:**

**THE VOICE**  
To place an ad, contact  
Business Manager  
George Andrews at  
[gandrews2018@gmail.com](mailto:gandrews2018@gmail.com),  
or 704.364.7224

## Next Issue:

## DEADLINES:

for articles or photographs is:

**Friday, March 27, 2026**

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

for advertisements is:

**Monday, March 16, 2026**

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

# THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

## HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

600 East Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
704-334-4771  
[www.htgo.org](http://www.htgo.org)

## THE VOICE STAFF:

George Zogzas, Guest Editor  
Ellen Couchell, Editor  
Roxanna Dimitriu, Editor  
Frances Zogzas, Copy Editor  
George Andrews, Business Manager

## CLERGY:

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini, *Dean*  
Rev. Fr. Christian Siskos, *Associate Priest*  
Rev. Fr. George Politis, *Deacon*  
Rev. Fr. Jerry Hall, *Retired Priest*

## CATHEDRAL STAFF:

Sarah Vastis, *Parish Administrator*  
Kathy Xyrafakis, *Ministry Coordinator*  
Frances Zogzas, *Financial Secretary*  
George Petsas, *Facilities Coordinator*  
Robert Brendle, *Dir. of Youth Ministries*  
Eleni Karageorgos, *Athletic Director*  
Sarah Kakouras, *Parish Receptionist*  
Irina Monzolevskaya, *Organist*  
Dimitri Petropoulos, *Chantor*  
Angelo Tatsis, *Building Assistant*  
Maria Kletos, *Preschool Co-Director*  
Lisa Giotis, *Preschool Co-Director*  
Olympia Koutsokalis, *Greek School Dir.*

## 2025 PARISH COUNCIL (term ends):

Vaki Karampouriots (26) *President*  
Gus A. Pappas (25) *Vice President*  
Maria Diamantis (27) *Secretary*  
Penelope Hefner (27) *Asst. Secretary*  
Georgette Boukidis (26) *Treasurer*  
Nick Goanos (27) *Asst. Treasurer*

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Tina Apostolopoulos (26)  
Hunter Clarke (25)  
Drew Dudley (25)  
Kathy Kanellopoulos (25)  
John Mahairas (25)  
Constantine Moschopoulos (27)  
Serafim Pistioli (26)  
Roula Skenteris (26)  
Christina Skiouris (27)

## THE VOICE Advertising Rates

Rates are for ads in four issues.

## Rates are subject to change

Ad Size	B&W	Color *
2 1/2" X 5"	\$275.00	\$300.00
5" X 5"	\$500.00	\$550.00
7 1/2" X 5"	\$750.00	\$825.00
5" X 10"	\$950.00	\$1,050.00
7 1/2" X 10"	\$1,425.00	\$1,550.00

Ad Size for portrait or landscape orientation.

\* Color ads on back page only.

We also offer assistance with ad design.

Contact George Andrews at 704.617.1603,  
[gandrews2018@gmail.com](mailto:gandrews2018@gmail.com) or send an email  
to [voice@htgo.org](mailto:voice@htgo.org)

Use ADVERTISE in the subject line.

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE PULPIT



by  
**Rev. Dr. Jonathan Resmini,**  
 Dean of the Cathedral

### Reading the Scriptures Daily: An Orthodox Christian Way of Life

In every Orthodox church, the Holy Scriptures are everywhere—proclaimed aloud in the services, sung in the Psalms, depicted in iconography, and woven into our prayers. Yet for many faithful Orthodox Christians, daily personal engagement with Scripture can feel unfamiliar, intimidating, or even unnecessary. Some wonder: *Isn't Scripture primarily something we hear in church? Isn't interpretation the responsibility of clergy or scholars?*

The Orthodox Church answers these questions with a clear and loving invitation: **Scripture belongs to the whole Church**, and daily engagement with it is not only encouraged—it is a vital part of our spiritual life.

#### Scripture as Life, Not Information

From an Orthodox perspective, Scripture is not a textbook of religious facts, nor a collection of isolated moral teachings. It is the **living testimony of God's revelation**, given within and preserved by the Church. We do not read the Bible merely to learn *about* God; we read it to encounter Him.

This is why the Church always approaches Scripture prayerfully. Before the Gospel is read during the Divine Liturgy, we pray: “*Illumine our hearts, O Master who loves mankind, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge.*” This prayer reveals something essential: Scripture is understood only when the heart is illumined, when reading is joined to humility, repentance, and prayer.

Daily reading of Scripture, therefore, is not an academic exercise. It is a **discipline of attentiveness**, a way of placing ourselves daily before the voice of God, allowing His word to shape our thoughts, desires, and actions.

#### The Church Gave Us the Scriptures

One of the most important truths often overlooked is this: **the Bible did not create the Church; the Church preserved and recognized the Bible**. The books of Scripture were written, collected, read, and affirmed within the worshiping life of the early Christian community.

Understanding this protects us from a common modern misunderstanding—that the Bible can be interpreted apart from the Church, or that every reader is equally authoritative on its meaning. In Orthodoxy, Scripture is never separated from **Holy Tradition**, which includes the liturgical life of the Church, the writings of the Fathers and Mothers, the Ecumenical Councils, and the lived experience of the saints.

Daily Scripture reading, then, is not an individualistic activity. Even when we read alone, we read **with the Church**, guided by the same faith that has been handed down for centuries.

#### Scripture in the Liturgical Life

The Orthodox Church is saturated with Scripture because **the Bible was meant to be heard and prayed**, not merely analyzed. The Psalms form the backbone of nearly every service. The Gospels and Epistles are read continuously throughout the liturgical year, ensuring that the faithful are immersed in the whole narrative of salvation.

This liturgical use of Scripture teaches us how to read it properly. We learn that passages are not isolated proof texts but part of a larger story—the story of God's covenant, fulfilled in Christ, and lived out in His Body, the Church.

When we read Scripture daily at home, we are extending what happens in church into our personal lives. The words we hear proclaimed on Sunday become the words that guide us on Monday.

#### How the Orthodox Church Interprets Scripture

Orthodox interpretation of Scripture is deeply **Christ-centered**. All of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation,

finds its meaning in Christ. The Old Testament is not discarded but fulfilled; the New Testament is not detached but rooted in what came before.

The Fathers of the Church teach us to read Scripture on multiple levels: historical, moral, and spiritual. Events are real, but they also point beyond themselves—to Christ, to the Church, and to our own transformation. This approach guards us from both rigid literalism and vague symbolism, keeping us grounded in the fullness of the faith.

Daily reading, when done patiently and humbly, trains us in this way of seeing. Over time, Scripture begins to interpret *us*, revealing where we need repentance, healing, and growth.

#### Practical Encouragement for Daily Reading

For those unsure where to begin, the Church offers wisdom: **start small and be consistent**. A short passage from the Gospel, a Psalm, or the daily Epistle reading is more fruitful than ambitious plans that quickly fade.

Always begin with prayer. Read slowly. Do not rush to conclusions. If something is confusing, let it be. The goal is not mastery but faithfulness.

Most importantly, Scripture should lead us to **love**—love of God and love of neighbor. If our reading does not make us more patient, more merciful, more humble, then we have missed its purpose.

#### An Invitation to Go Deeper

Because Scripture is so central to the life of the Church, I will be offering a **Thursday evening catechism class** devoted specifically to this topic. Together, we will explore:

- + The history and formation of the biblical canon
- + How Scripture is used liturgically in the Orthodox Church
- + How to read and interpret the Bible from an Orthodox Christian perspective

+ How daily Scripture reading fits into prayer, fasting, and the sacramental life

This class is intended not only to inform but to encourage—to help each of us grow more confident, faithful, and prayerful in our engagement with God's word (see details below).

#### Scripture as a Daily Encounter with Christ

In the end, daily reading of Scripture is not about discipline alone. It is about **relationship**. The same Christ who speaks to us in the Gospel at the Divine Liturgy speaks to us quietly when we open the Scriptures at home.

When we read daily, we place ourselves before Him again and again, saying with our lives, “*Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.*”

May we learn not only to read the Scriptures, but to **live them**, so that the word of God may take root in our hearts and bear fruit for the life of the world.

**Holy Trinity Cathedral**

**Reading Scripture with the Orthodox Mind**

Join us for a 7-week transformative journey in the Scriptures as the Orthodox Church received, proclaimed, and lived them for two millennia

**EXPLORE HOW:**

- Scripture shapes our worship, doctrine, and spiritual life
- The Church uses Scripture to articulate the Faith
- We read Scripture devotionally as Orthodox Christians

Whether you are new to Orthodoxy or seeking to deepen your faith, this series will help you encounter Christ in Scripture and grow in your understanding of the life-giving Tradition of the Church. All are welcome!

**NEW CATECHISM SERIES**

**Thursdays from 6:00-7:30PM Beginning 1/29/26**

**Holy Trinity Social Room**

**1/29 READING THE BIBLE THE ORTHODOX WAY**  
**2/5 SCRIPTURE, LITURGY, AND WORSHIP**  
**2/12 SCRIPTURE AND DOCTRINE**  
**2/26 SCRIPTURE IN PRIVATE DEVOTION**  
**3/5 GUIDED READINGS IN THE GOSPELS**  
**3/12 GUIDED READINGS IN THE EPISTLES**  
**4/2 SUMMARY OF THE JOURNEY**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**FRJONATHAN@HTGO.ORG**

**ELAINE FAGAN**  
**BROKER | REALTOR®**  
 Licensed in NC & SC  
 Selling Greater Charlotte & Blowing Rock/Boone

704.936.6566  
 elaine@liveloveinvestclt.com  
 www.LiveLoveInvestCLT.com

**Selling, Buying or just need Friendly Advice (Μιλάω Ελληνικά)**

**(704) 844-1004**

**SOUTH 21**  
**MATTHEWS**

**THE OASIS OF THE HAMBURGER**

**HOURS:**  
 Tuesday - Thursday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm  
 Friday - Saturday 11:00 am - 9:30 pm  
 \*Closed Sunday & Monday

11450 E. INDEPENDENCE BLVD.  
 MATTHEWS, NC

## PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Vaki Karampourniotis

## A Heartfelt Gratitude



Beloved parishioners of Holy Trinity Church, I pray this message finds you well.

As we look back at the end of another year, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the countless blessings we have received. One of the greatest blessings in our Holy Trinity community embodies the dedicated volunteers. Their selfless commitment and tireless efforts make a profound impact on our mission and ministry.

The volunteers are often described as the backbone of any community, and this is especially true for our Holy Trinity. Whether it is preparing for Yiasou Greek Festival, leading our beautiful choir, or participating in community service projects, each volunteer plays a vital role. Their passion and enthusiasm not only enrich programs but also inspires others to get involved.

***“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” – 1 Peter 4:10***

Here, the volunteers embody the spirit of service that Jesus taught us. They give their time and talents to ensure that our church is a welcoming, nurturing place for all. From setting up for Sunday coffee hours to preparing meals for those in need, they demonstrate kindness and compassion in every action, reinforcing their love to serve others.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the invaluable contributions of our volunteers, too many of you to name individually. Your dedication exemplifies the love and commitment that lies at the heart of the church. Thank you to all volunteers for making a difference every day. Together, we can continue to spread hope and compassion in our community. Let us remain grateful, supportive, and inspired as we journey forward in faith and service.

***“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”***

***– Psalm 136:1***

## Me Eγκάρδια Ευγνωμοσύνη

Αγαπητοί ενορίτες της Αγίας Τριάδας, προσεύχομαι αυτό το μήνυμα να σας βρίσκει όλους καλά.

Καθώς πλησιάζουμε στο τέλος ακόμα μιας χρονιάς, είναι μια υπέροχη στιγμή να αναλογιστούμε τις αμέτρητες ευλογίες που έχουμε λάβει. Μία από τις μεγαλύτερες ευλογίες στην κοινότητα της Αγίας Τριάδας είναι οι αφοσιωμένοι εθελοντές μας. Η αυτοθυσία και οι ακούραστες προσπάθειές τους έχουν ανυπολόγιστη επιρροή στην αποστολή και τη διακονία μας.

Οι εθελοντές συχνά περιγράφονται ως η ραχοκοκαλιά κάθε κοινότητας, και αυτό είναι ιδιαίτερα αληθινό για την Αγία Τριάδα μας. Είτε πρόκειται για την προετοιμασία του Φεστιβάλ Γιάνσου, για την καθοδήγηση της όμορφης χορωδίας μας, είτε για τη συμμετοχή σε προγράμματα κοινωνικής υπηρεσίας, κάθε εθελοντής παίζει έναν ζωτικής σημασίας ρόλο. Το πάθος και ο ενθουσιασμός τους όχι μόνο εμπλουτίζουν τα προγράμματά μας αλλά και εμπνέουν άλλους να συμμετάσχουν.

***“Ο καθένας από εσάς θα πρέπει να χρησιμοποιεί το δώρο που έχει λάβει για να υπηρετεί τους άλλους, ως πιστοί διαχειριστές της χάριτος του Θεού σε διάφορες μορφές.” – 1 Πέτρον 4:10***

Οι εθελοντές μας ενσωματώνουν το πνεύμα της υπηρεσίας που μας δίδαξε ο Ιησούς.

Δίνουν το χρόνο και τις ικανότητές τους για να εξασφαλίσουν ότι η εκκλησία μας είναι ένα φιλόξενο, τρυφερό μέρος για όλους. Από την προετοιμασία καφέ την Κυριακή μέχρι την προετοιμασία γευμάτων για όσους έχουν ανάγκη, δείχνουν καλοσύνη και συμπόνια σε κάθε ενέργεια, ενισχύοντας την αγάπη τους να υπηρετούν τους άλλους.

Κλείνοντας, θα ήθελα να αφιερώσω μια στιγμή για να αναλογιστώ τις ανεκτίμητες συνεισφορές των εθελοντών μας, Καθώς είσαστε πολλοί να σας ονομάσω τον καθένα ξεχωριστά. Η αφοσίωσή σας παραδειγματίζει την αγάπη και τη δέσμευση που είναι το κέντρο της εκκλησίας μας. Ευχαριστώ όλους τους εθελοντές μας που κάνουν την διαφορά καθημερινά. Μαζί, μπορούμε να συνεχίσουμε να διαδίδουμε ελπίδα και συμπόνια στην κοινότητά μας.

Ας παραμείνουμε ευγνώμονες, υποστηρικτικοί και εμπνευσμένοι καθώς προχωράμε με πίστη και υπηρεσία.

***“Δώστε ευχαριστίες στον Κύριο, γιατί είναι καλός· η αγάπη του διαρκεί για πάντα.” – Ψαλμός 136:1***

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

***- Corinthians 9: 6 -11***

Are you a writer?  
A photographer?  
Skilled in the use of InDesign?

The Voice, your community publication, can benefit from your time and talent.

Email EDITOR at  
voice@htgo.org to learn more.

Shop the  
**HOSANNA BOOKSTORE**

Find books, bibles, icons, gifts and more for adults and children to enhance your personal journey in our faith.

**copycatprinting**  
print • copy • design

- Design & Layout
- Stationary
- Brochures
- Newsletters

**(704) 529-6606**

Diane Solomon Gilbert

4612-B South Blvd.

Charlotte, NC 28209

fax (704) 529-6616

info@copycatsouth.com

www.copycatsouth.com

## A NEWS ROUNDUP

by The Voice Staff

## Elections 2025

On Sunday, December 7, 2025, Holy Trinity held its Parish Elections. Voters were electing candidates to fill five Parish Council and one Foundation seat. The five Parish Council members whose terms ended in 2025 were Hunter Clarke, Drew Dudley, Kathy Kanellopoulos, John Mahairas, and Gus A. Pappas. Two of the five chose to run for another three year term (Kanellopoulos, Pappas). The ballot included six additional candidates: George Andrews, Hresanthe Georgopoulos, George Liapis, Bill Katsaros, Dino Pappas, and Nicholas Stavros.

Nick Kantsios completed his five year term on the Foundation this year. Trustees must stay off the Board for at least one year before running again. One candidate was nominated to fill the one open seat. The candidate was George Zogzas (Guest Editor of The Voice).

As in the recent past, parishioners could cast their vote electronically when they appeared in person on Election Day on the Holy Trinity campus. Elections Committee chair Leonidas Kyriazis and the committee conducted an orderly and smooth election process.

A total of 343 ballots were cast.

See election results at right.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Candidate	% Votes	# Votes
Andrews, George	19%	284
Pappas, Gus	19%	279
Pappas, Dino	17%	254
Georgopoulos, Hresanthe	12%	175
Kanellopoulos, Kathy	11%	161
Liapis, George	11%	154
Katsanos, Bill	7%	102
Stavros, Nicholas	4%	56

## CATHEDRAL FOUNDATION

Candidate	% Votes	# Votes
Zogzas, George	100%	309

## Meet the New Members

The Voice asked the new members a few questions. Their edited responses follow.

## George Andrews



*Q. What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?*

A. I consider it an honor and privilege to serve our community on the Parish Council. I feel that I have the knowledge, experience, and career reputation to provide

meaningful recommendations to the Parish and the Council.

*Q. What areas do you want to focus on during your term?*

A. I would like to focus on the results of the "Vision Through Faith 2050" survey results. The survey results and the response by the Parish Council to the results is vital to the future of our community.

*Q. What opportunities and challenges do you see?*

A. I believe the recent Holy Trinity Future Planning Survey results will reveal a desire by the community for the Parish Council to move forward with a specific plan for Hellenic Park. The challenge will be for the Parish Council to present a Hellenic Park plan that will be acceptable and approved by the General Assembly.

*Q. What would you like to see the community do to support your efforts?*

A. The future of Holy Trinity is in the hands of the younger families and younger generation members of our community. They need to get involved and participate in every General Assembly and serve on the Parish Council.

*Q. Have you served before? If so, when and where (if not at Holy Trinity)?*

A. I have served multiple times on the Parish Council during the tenures of Fr. Michael Varvarelis and Fr. Angelo Artemas (of blessed memory).

## Hresanthe Georgopoulos



*Q. What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?*

A. I've tried to serve Holy Trinity through many different avenues and as much as I could while owning a business. Having recently sold that business and

having more time to dedicate this seemed like the natural next step.

*Q. What areas do you want to focus on during your term?*

A. Two main areas that I feel strongly about is preserving the Hellenic culture of Holy Trinity as long as possible and making sure our Youth are the number one priority.

*Q. What opportunities and challenges do you see?*

A. The biggest challenge will be to make sure everyone feels like I care about their opinions even if we disagree on things.

*Q. What would you like to see the community do to support your efforts?*

A. I would love for the community to pay their stewardship. In order to grow and have more offerings, this is critical. I would also like for them to come to the general assemblies so they have a good understanding of how the church operates.

*Q. Have you served before? If so, when and where (if not at Holy Trinity)?*

A. This is my first term on Parish Council.

## Dino M. Pappas



*Q. What made you accept the challenge of serving on the Parish Council?*

A. Ever since leaving the Parish Council, I have wanted to return but could not dedicate the focus and attention required. I owe everything I have to this parish and the

church that has blessed my family and me, and I felt this was the right time to run for the PC.

*Q. What areas do you want to focus on during your term?*

A. Continuing the efforts of the previous parish councils and setting our parish on a course that will make it a beacon of Orthodoxy.

*Q. What opportunities and challenges do you see?*

A. Opportunities and challenges can be thought of as the same thing. The three opportunities/challenges I see are as follows: (1) how do we retain our youth when they enter adulthood, (2) how do we assimilate people finding Orthodoxy into our Parish, and (3) what does it mean to be Greek Orthodox specifically at Holy Trinity?

*Q. What would you like to see the community do to support your efforts?*

A. Pray for us and forgive us for our short comings.

*Q. Have you served before? If so, when and where (if not at Holy Trinity)?*

A. Three consecutive three year terms at Holy Trinity (2011-2019); serving as Vice President (2016, 2017) and President (2018, 2019).

**YOUTH NEWS** by Robert Brendle**Fall Festival**

Our annual **Hope and Joy Fall Festival** was a huge success this year, thanks to the leadership and enthusiasm of our GOYANs! They organized rides, games, a costume contest, and made sure there was plenty of candy for everyone. It's always inspiring to see our older friends guiding the younger children with joy, teamwork, and service—strengthening friendships and building community along the way.

**Greenville Cup**

St. George in Greenville hosted its first-ever Greenville Cup basketball tournament, and Holy Trinity represented Charlotte incredibly well! Team Brendle (Junior Boys) and Team Kotrotsios (Senior Boys) both took first place, while Team Skenteris (Senior Girls) and Team Vastis (Senior Boys) earned second. Team Bingham (Junior Boys) also brought home first in the Junior Boys Silver Division. It was a fantastic weekend of fellowship and sportsmanship—we are incredibly proud of all our athletes and coaches!

**Team Bingham Soccer**

Congratulations to Team Bingham for an outstanding season and for bringing home the Fall Middle School Soccer Championship! Their hard work, teamwork, and dedication on the field made us proud and showcased the spirit of fellowship and sportsmanship that defines Holy Trinity Athletics. Great job, players and coaches!

**GOYA Bonfire**

Our GOYA bonfire was a night full of fun, fellowship, and faith! Students gathered around the campfire for games, hotdogs, and plenty of s'mores. Father Christian shared a wonderful lesson on the power of silence and the Jesus Prayer, reminding us how even quiet moments can deepen our connection with Christ. It was an evening of joy, friendship, and spiritual growth for everyone who attended.

**Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser**

The inaugural Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser was a tremendous success! With incredible support from both Holy Trinity community and the wider Charlotte area, we sold over 1,500 pumpkins and raised more than \$3,500 for our youth department. We are so grateful to everyone who volunteered, shopped, and helped make this event a memorable celebration of community, fellowship, and fun—while supporting the growth of our Youth Ministry!



**Stacks Kitchen**

Good Food & Plenty Of It!

<p><b>Waxhaw</b> 704.243.2024</p>	<p><b>Matthews</b> 704.841.2025</p>
---------------------------------------	---

[www.stackskitchen.com](http://www.stackskitchen.com)

**YOUTH NEWS** by Robert Brendle**Hope / Joy Pumpkin Patch**

Holy Trinity's Hope & Joy children had a fantastic time at Hall Family Farms for this year's Pumpkin Patch Trip! Kids enjoyed running through the fields, riding fun attractions, playing games, and meeting some friendly farm animals. The day ended on a sweet note with s'mores and pizza with Father Jonathan, followed by a late-night hayride to top off the night.

**Norfolk Basketball Tournament**

Congratulations to our Holy Trinity teams for another fantastic showing at the Norfolk Basketball Tournament! Team Kotrotsios brought home another gold for Charlotte, while Team Skenteris secured an impressive second-place finish. With performances like these, gold is on the tip of our tongue—the youth continue to show incredible skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship on the court!

**Sunday of Service**

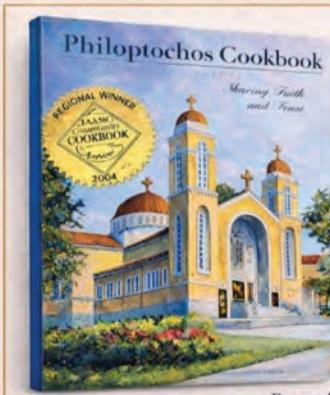
A huge thank you to our Service Committee and the entire Sunday School program for their incredible efforts! Together, we packed over 200 goodie bags and made more than 400 sandwiches for those in need. It's truly inspiring to see the impact we can make when we come together as a community, serving others with love and dedication.

**Adult Basketball**

What an incredible first season for the Orthodox Men's Basketball League at Holy Trinity! Organized by George Holevas, over 35 men came together to enjoy fellowship, competition, and fun on the court. Team Stergiou, led by number one overall pick George Copsis, captured the inaugural championship, capping off a fantastic season. On top of the excitement, the league proudly donated over \$500 to support the Holy Trinity Athletic Program. We can't wait to see what next season brings!

**Christmas Pageant**

A big, heartfelt thank you to Yiannoula Kakouras and everyone at Sunday School; teachers and volunteers helped orchestrate this year's Christmas Pageant! Every year, it's such a joy to bring all the kids together to share a beautiful performance, celebrating Christ's incarnation, with our community. And of course, we can't forget the highlights that always bring smiles: our beloved camel and the star that shined extra bright in the sky this year!



**Philoptochos Cookbook**  
*A Taste of Greek Tradition*  
Sharing Faith and Feast

**Proceeds support Philoptochos charitable works**

**Philoptochos Cookbook**  
*A Taste of Greek Tradition*  
Sharing Faith and Feast

**A beautiful gift for:**

- Bridal showers
- Housewarmings
- Christmas & holidays
- Hostess & thank-you gifts

**\$20 per copy**

Available through  
Agia Elpis Philoptochos  
agiaelpisphiloptochos@gmail.com

## VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION November 16, 2025



In an annual tradition, Holy Trinity recognized military veterans in the community on Sunday, November 16, 2025, immediately following the second Divine Liturgy. They served in United States and Hellenic forces. Pictured above are the individuals on hand. They include:

L-R, front row: Ernest Dugo, Arthur Pappas, George Andrinopoulos, George Andrews, Pete Van Dell, Angelo Tatsis, Nick Karnazes

Second row: Nick Hondros, Nicholas Stavros, Spiro Pappas, George Diatzikis, Sam Vastis, Harry Cavalaris

Back row: Peter Burlos, Nick Patitsas, Fr. Jonathan, Steve Emmanuel, George Vasiliadis, David Proctor, Perry Vastis, Clifford Greene, Drew Dudley

If you served, please reach out to Veterans Committee Chair George Andrews at [gandrews2018@gmail.com](mailto:gandrews2018@gmail.com) or 704-617-1603

## MINISTRIES IN FOCUS: YOUNG ADULTS

**Who We Are:** All Young Adults Ages 18-35

**Meeting Times:** Typically, Bi-weekly (Check Calendar and GroupMe for Latest Updates)

**Our Mission:** To cultivate and strengthen relationships among our young adults through both faith and fellowship. We strive for the fullness of the Orthodox Christian faith through attainment of the image and likeness of God (Theosis) and by practicing the four circles of Christian living: Worship (Liturgia), Witness (Martyria), Service (Diakonia) and Fellowship (Koinonia).

**Interested and want to join?** Please reach out to any of the committee members:

Yianni Margiotis ([ymargiot@gmail.com](mailto:ymargiot@gmail.com))

Jonathan Diamantis ([jonathan.c.diamantis@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.c.diamantis@gmail.com))

Robert Brendle ([robert@htgo.org](mailto:robert@htgo.org))



**WINTER YOUTH RALLY** by Robert Brendle**Bible Bowl**

We couldn't be more proud of our Bible Bowl team and the dedication they showed this season. Practicing twice a week for the entire month of December is no small commitment. They met it with focus, teamwork, and faith. Finishing 3rd place out of 65 teams is an incredible accomplishment and nothing to shake your head at. Their hard work truly showed, and we're excited to see how this experience continues to shape and inspire the entire community moving forward.

**Team Brussel**

Team Brussel (Brendle/Russell) came to play this year at Winter Youth Rally. In a hard-fought game that came down to the wire, the boys fell just short of bringing home the 1st place trophy. A couple shots fall, and it's an entirely different ball game. We are incredibly proud of their effort, teamwork, and heart. We can't wait to see them move up to the senior division, especially as Pavlos Konstantinou gets set to match up with George Tsigardas—a matchup the entire community has been waiting for.

**Team Kotrotsios**

Team Kotrotsios had an incredible run and proudly brought home the 2nd place trophy this Winter Youth Rally. The boys played with energy, grit, and great chemistry, proving they belong among the best. As they head into their senior year, they're hungry for one more run and their chance to finish strong by bringing home the gold. We're proud of the work they've put in and can't wait to see what's next.

**REUNION** by Cathy (Karnazes) Tsoulos

It's been 26 years since we were all together in the hallways of the church basement for our Sunday School class, but in so many ways, it feels like just yesterday. We are undeniably still a family at heart. I believe we all felt it when we lost our beloved classmate Pete Politis. So in a very small and humble attempt to honor him and our group, we gathered for our first reunion on Sunday, November 22, 2025. Eighteen alumni gathered to celebrate the best HTGOC Sunday School class ever, the class of '99!



We laughed like old times and shared life stories. The bonds we managed to create within the setting of our Greek Orthodox faith, all those years ago, have outlasted the tests of time. Many of us are still regularly connected in friendship and community. Some of our classmates have even started families through marriage. Our fellowship is such a blessing. It was a personal and heart-warming event that we hope to make an annual occurrence. Here's to many more years of family and friendships!

**Dedication of a Memorial Bench**

On Sunday, November 16, 2025, Fr. Jonathan blessed the bench placed at the drop-off circle at the entrance to the covered walkway behind the Sanctuary of the Cathedral. The bench is in memory of Pete Politis, son of Louie and Irene Politis. They were joined by family and friends for the blessing and dedication.

## NEA &amp; ΦΩΝΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΑΣ

## FIRST DAY OF GREEK SCHOOL BLESSING



Στιγμιότυπα από τον Αγιασμό έναρξης της νέας σχολικής χρονιάς στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος 2025-2026



## OXI DAY 2025

Με μεγαλοπρέπεια και ιδιαίτερη υπερηφάνεια γιόρτασαν και πάλι φέτος την επέτειο της 28<sup>ης</sup> Οκτωβρίου 1940 οι 60 μαθητές του Ελληνικού Απογευματινού Σχολείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος. Μαθητές, εκπαιδευτικοί, γονείς και πλήθος φίλων τους, ανταποκρινόμενοι στην πρόσκληση του σχολείου, τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους την θαυμάσια αυτή εκδήλωση και βροντοφώνησαν για άλλη μια φορά το μεγάλο ιστορικό «OXI», το ηρωικό κατόρθωμα που, ευτυχώς, άλλαξε τη ροή της παγκόσμιας ιστορίας.



Ο προϊστάμενος π. π. Κρίστιαν Σίσκος κήρυξε την έναρξη των εκδηλώσεων με προσευχή. Αφού τραγουδήσαμε όλοι μαζί τους εθνικούς ύμνους Ελλάδος και Αμερικής (με ειδική συνοδεία σαξοφόνου, εκτελεσμένη από τον απόφοιτο Κωνσταντίνο Βλάχο Μόμπλεϊ), στη συνέχεια οι μαθητές όλων των τάξεων τραγούδησαν αξέχαστα τραγούδια της εποχής εκείνης και έκαναν μια ιστορική αναδρομή στα ηρωικά γεγονότα του έπους του '40 με απαγγελίες ποιημάτων και παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Επίσης, είχαμε μια ιδιαίτερη απαγγελία ποιήματος από τον πατέρα ενός από τους μαθητές μας, τον κ. John Stavrakos, με τίτλο «The Greek» του John Dennis Mahoney. Θερμότατους χαιρετισμούς απήγουναν επίσης η διευθύντρια του Ελληνικού Σχολείου κυρία Ολυμπία και η πρόεδρος του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Δασκάλων κ. Μαρία Ασπρογιάννη. Ευχαριστούμε για την υποστήριξη προς τα παιδιά μας. Και του χρόνου!

Για την αναγνωστική σας απόλαυση, μοιραζόμαστε το ποίημα που απαγέλθηκε στην εκδήλωση.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND GREEK SCHOOL END OF YEAR PARTY

Οι μαθητές του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου είχαν τη χαρά να τραγουδήσουν τα Κάλαντα για την κοινότητά μας κατά την ετήσια φωταγώγηση του Χριστουγεννιάτικου Δέντρου. Τραγούδησαν τρία τραγούδια και δέχτηκαν μια ευχάριστη έκπληξη με την επίσκεψη του Άγιου Βασίλη, ο οποίος εμφανίστηκε μαγικά στην οροφή! Η εμφάνισή τους καταγράφηκε και υποβλήθηκε στο Antenna στο πλαίσιο της εκδήλωσης *Christmas All Around*, η οποία γιορτάζει τις ελληνικές κοινότητες της διασποράς που γιορτάζουν τα Χριστούγεννα σε όλο τον κόσμο.

Ο Σύλλογος Γονέων και Κηδεμόνων (PTO) διοργάνωσε επίσης ένα υπέροχο Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πάρτι για τους μαθητές μας, που περιλάμβανε Ελληνικό Χριστουγεννιάτικο Μπίνγκο, πίτσα, ζεστή σοκολάτα και δώρισε στους μαθητές πουλόβερ με το νέο λογότυπο του σχολείου μας, στο πλαίσιο του εορτασμού της εκατονταετηρίδας του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου.

Στιγμιότυπα από τη χαρούμενη Χριστουγεννιάτικη γιορτή των μαθητών του Ελληνικού Σχολείου του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος.



Οι Μαθητές, οι Ιερείς, οι Εκπαιδευτικοί, ο Σύλλογος Γονέων και η Διεύθυνση του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος εύχονται σε Όλους τους Γονείς και σε Όλα τα Μέλη της Ευρύτερης Ελληνοαμερικανικής μας Κοινότητας Καλές Γιορτές και Καλή Χρονιά με Υγεία, Ειρήνη, Δημιουργία και Αισιοδοξία.



## WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT PRESCHOOL?

by Maria Kleto and Lisa Giotis

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



November 23, 2025: Past and current students, faculty, board members, and directors posed for a group picture celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Holy Trinity Preschool. This followed a short program of songs performed by the current students and staff.

### Celebrating 25 Wonderful Years at Holy Trinity Preschool

On Sunday, November 23, we marked a very special milestone—the **25th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Preschool!** Our preschool first opened its doors in the fall of 2000, and what a journey it has been. To celebrate, we invited past and present staff members, students and their families, Preschool Board members, and Parish Council Liaisons to join us during church coffee hour. It was a heartwarming day of fellowship and gratitude.

We extend our deepest thanks to all of you—our preschool families and the Holy Trinity community—for your love and support throughout the years. Each of you has played an important role in the success of our program and in shaping the lives of the children who have walked through our doors.

### Beginnings

The vision for our preschool started in 1998 under the guidance of Fr. Stelyios and Pres. Georgia Muksuris. A dedicated committee worked tirelessly to bring this dream to life. Some of the original members included Gus Psomadakis, Maria Phillips, Lisa Giotis, Helen Holevas Nikolakakos, Chris and Tina Balosos, and Dina Koutsoupias.



2001: Early staffers and organizers. L-R, Christina Iv, Gus Psomadakis, Fr. George Daskalakis, Anna Holevas, Aggie Poulos, Dina Koutsoupias, Presbytera Maria Dalber, and Georgia Nixon.

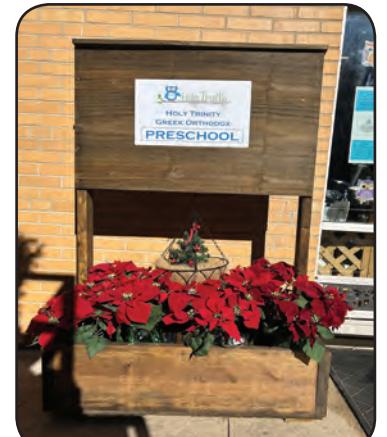
After two years of planning and hard work, the preschool opened in October 2000 with 16 students and three classes: two-year-olds, three-year-olds, and four-year-olds—each with two teachers. Our first directors were Maria Phillips (Fall 2000–January 2001) and Georgia Nixon (January 2001–May 2011). The inaugural teaching team included Presbytera Maria Dalber, Presbytera Evangelia Daskalakis, Anastasia Holevas, Christina Iv, Dena Koutsoupias, Anna Nixon, and Aggie Poulos.

### Growing Together

Since then, enrollment has ranged from 16 students to over 60 per year, sometimes with multiple classes per age group. Over 1,000 children have begun their educational journey here at Holy Trinity—a true blessing! Thank you to all our parents for sharing your children with us. We look forward to many more years of learning and laughter together.

### A Special Thank You

We also want to recognize **Matthew Spetz**, a former preschool student who completed his Eagle Scout Project for us earlier this year. Matthew created a beautiful sign and planter box combination, along with a large wooden bench for the preschool entrance (pictured below). His thoughtful gift means so much to us. Congratulations, Matthew—we are so proud of you for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout!



### Looking Ahead

As we welcome the New Year, it's time to start planning for the upcoming school year. **Fall registration for the 2026–2027 school year opens soon!**

#### Registration Dates:

**January 15 (Thursday):** Currently Enrolled Students & Siblings

**February 1 (Sunday):** Orthodox Community

**February 15 (Sunday):** Open Registration

For more information, contact:

Co-Directors: Ms. Lisa Giotis (704-807-5926) and Ms. Maria Kleto (704-564-5842)  
Preschool Office: [preschool@hto.org](mailto:preschool@hto.org) or 704-333-4961.

## PHILOPTOCHOS by Demetra Boardman

## Fall &amp; Winter Highlights

This fall and early winter were wonderfully active for our Chapter, and we're excited to share some of the season's highlights!

Our annual **Holiday Bake Sale** was once again a tremendous success. Over several days, volunteers came together to prepare parish favorites—koulourakia, spanakopita, baklava, tiropitakia, pastichio, and more. We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who baked, packed, organized, or supported the sale. Your efforts help fund our philanthropic ministries throughout the year.

In December, our Chapter brought joy to our homebound parishioners through **Christmas visits**, delivering forty-four beautifully prepared gift bags. These visits offered comfort, companionship, and a reminder that our parish family holds each of them close in love and prayer throughout the year.

Philoptochos continued its commitment to **feeding the hungry** by sponsoring Christmas families, providing turkeys for local food banks, and coordinating food collections for Second Harvest. Through partnerships with Families Forward and Nourish Up, we extended our outreach even further, offering nourishment and dignity to our neighbors during the holiday season.

**Operation Classroom** was especially active this fall. Our parish contributed generous amounts of wipes, tissues, pencils, and other supplies to local students and teachers. Members also volunteered at Classroom Central, helping sort and stock essential

educational materials. Looking ahead, in January our Chapter will assemble pencil-pouch kits so that more members can participate in this impactful ministry.

Together with our Preschool, we launched a combined **coat, blanket, and warm-clothing drive** benefiting the St. Hermione Women's Shelter. This joint effort strengthens our service to women and families in crisis, especially as winter temperatures set in.

Our Philoptochos family also enjoyed many opportunities for **fellowship and celebration**. Members attended the CMF Luncheon, gathered for Friendsgiving, and enjoyed Christmas outings at Ballantyne's Backyard for the Carolina Light Spectacular. The season concluded with our annual Christmas Dinner at The Reid House—a warm and joyful highlight for all who attended.

In addition to these activities, the Chapter provided baked goods and assistance for parish events such as the InReach Luncheon and Veterans Sunday Coffee Hour. We also participated in HTGOC Ministry Sunday and Philoptochos Sunday, sharing information about our mission with parishioners after both liturgies.

As we reflect on these months of service and fellowship, we are deeply grateful for the dedication and generosity of our members and supporters. Together, we continue to live out the mission of Philoptochos—offering faith in action and love in service.

## CHOIR NEWS by Olga Yamalis

As we step into a new Ecclesiastical year, our music ministry continues to grow and inspire. The HTC Choir has been busy with exciting changes and meaningful events that have brought our community together in worship and fellowship. Here's a look at what's been happening:

The HTC Choir began the new Ecclesiastical year with two exciting changes:

**A new start time** for the second Liturgy, which now begins at 10:00 AM.

**A new choir director**, Olga Yamalis, who brings her talent and leadership to our music ministry.

On **Sunday, October 5**, we celebrated **National Church Music Sunday**, honoring both the HTC Byzantine Chanters and the HTC Choir. After the first Liturgy, the chanters received a prayer on the solea, and following the second Liturgy, the choir was offered a prayer as well. These prayers asked for God's strength, guidance, and support in their sacred work and recognized their vital role in uniting the church through hymnology. As church musicians, their contributions enrich our liturgical services and deepen our worship experience. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do!

On **Saturday, November 15**, the HTC Choir participated in the annual Charlotte spiritual IOCC event, "**Peace on Earth Christmas Concert and Market**," hosted at Holy Trinity. This beautiful evening brought together Orthodox marketplace vendors and

holiday music from **seven Charlotte-area Orthodox churches**, creating a space to showcase products, connect with the community, and support a global cause. The participating churches were:

Holy Trinity

St. George Eritrean Tewahdo

St. Luke

St. Mark Coptic

St. Nektarios

St. Sarkis Armenian

St. Simeon Serbian

The HTC Choir performed:

*The Hymn of the Holy Trinity*  
(Evlogitosi Christe O Theos)

*The Apolitikion of the Nativity* (I Yennisis Sou Christe)

*The Greek Carol: Snow on the Belltower* (Honia Sto Kambanario)

*The Icarian Carol*

All choirs then joined together in a triumphant finale, singing **The First Noel**, **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**, and **O Come All Ye Faithful**. The sound was truly incredible—a joyful celebration of faith and music!

A heartfelt thank you to **Dr. Philip Thevaos**, who served as Festival Music Director, conducting and orchestrating this event for all Charlotte-area Orthodox choirs. We are deeply grateful to Philip and to everyone from Holy Trinity who participated and made this evening so special.



L-R: Members at the National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon in Atlanta (September 27); the InReach celebration; volunteering at Classroom Central; and Ministry Sunday November 2 at Holy Trinity.

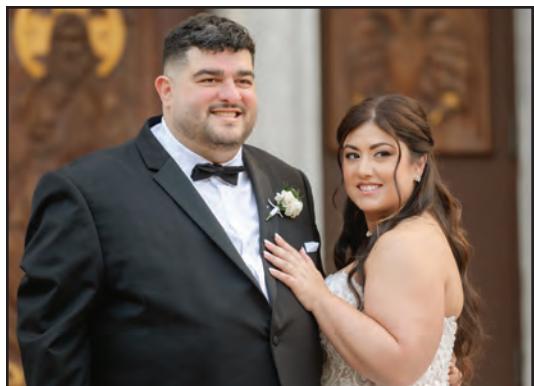
I.O.C.C. Peace on Earth Christmas Concert and Market  
Grand Finale



## AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

**Hammond - Lowder**

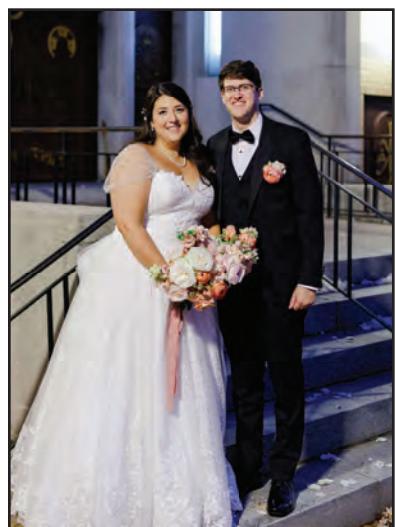
Elana Hammond and Paul Lowder were married on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Charleston, SC. Elana is the daughter of Kelly and the late Joey Hammond. Paul is the son of Irene and Craig Lowder. The couple will honeymoon in Costa Rica early next summer. They reside in Columbia, SC.

**Archangel Michael Awards****Karras - Pritsis**

Evelyn Karras and Theodore Pritsis were married on Saturday, October 4th, 2025, in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte, NC. Evelyn is the daughter of George and Helen Karras. Theodore is the son of Chris Pritsis and Katherine Sakaloglou-Gilantzis. A reception followed at Father "C" Hall. The couple honeymooned in the Balearic Islands and reside in Clemmons, NC.

**Panos - Kroustalis**

Alexa Panos and George Kroustalis were married on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in a ceremony at the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Miami, FL. Alexa is the daughter of Thomas Panos and Mari Acosta. George is the son of the late Gregory and Angie Kroustalis. A reception followed at Villa Woodbine. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia. They reside in Charlotte.

**Vlandis - Bates**

Stephanie Vlandis and Logan Bates were married on Sunday, November 16, 2025 in a ceremony at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Stephanie is the daughter of Penny and Bill Vlandis. Logan is the son of Rick and Laura Bates. It was followed by a reception at The Revelry Camp North End. The couple honeymooned in Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii. They reside in Huntersville.

**FOREVER YOUNG CELEBRATES BIRTHDAYS**

On Thursday, October 16, 2025, the Forever Young attendees recognized those celebrating birthdays in September and October. Pictured above, L-R: Jimmy Pappas, Mike Pappas, Georgia Andrews, Helen Nakos, Christina Katsanos, Olympia Bisbikis, Steve Panteliodis, and Parthena Panteliodis.

**REMINDER:**

Please complete and submit your 2026 Stewardship Forms. Don't delay. The information you provide is vital to developing the best future for the community.

**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.

## 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*



EVA NTHIA GEORGIOU ASPROGIANNIS, age 90, passed away on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. Born on May 2, 1935, in Kalesmeno, Evritania, Greece, she was the daughter of Nikolaos and Vasiliki Katsoudas. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, George; her daughters, Anastasia Denaux (Charles) of Denver, NC, and Christy Tomberlin (Bryan) of Iron Station, NC; her grandchildren, Kathryn Geerken of Charlotte, NC, Nikolas Geerken (fiancée Larissa Smith) of Toccoa, GA, Christopher

Tomberlin (Kelsey) of Mooresboro, NC, and Mary Houser (Rankin) of Bessemer City, NC; three great-grandchildren, Emmie Tomberlin, Tucker George Tomberlin, and Maisie Parkin; her sister, Katherine Kiriakopoulou (Georgios) of Halandri, Greece; many nieces and nephews in the United States, Greece, and Australia; and step-grandchildren, Joshua Denaux of Salisbury, NC, and Sarah Parkin (Brad) of Rockwell, NC. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Chrisanthi Katsoudas, Eleni Tsiligiannis, Maria Papanikolau, and Georgios Katsoudas.



PETER JOHN COUCHELL (PANAGIOTIS IOANNIS KOUTSOGEORGAS), age 90, passed away on Monday, October 6, 2025. Born on June 4, 1935, in Arahova (Karyes), Laconia, Greece, he was the son of the late John Peter and Anastasia (Drougas) Couchell. He is survived by his wife, Faye; his children, John Couchell (Stavroula), Anastasia Petrou (Petros), Christopher Couchell (Jacquelyn), Sister Emily of Holy Dormition Monastery, and Stephanie Couchell; his eight grandchildren, Maria and Diana Couchell and Catherine, Peter, Elizabeth, Francis, Genevieve, and Gregory Couchell; his brother, George Couchell (Helen); his sister, Presvytera Vivian Bacalis (Very Rev. Father Nicholas G. Bacalis); niece, Presvytera Lea Tsahakis; nephew, John George Couchell; nieces, Katrina Kellen

and Anastasia Stonestreet; and many grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, and family in America and Greece. He was preceded in death by his sister, Emily Crambes (John) and his niece, Ana Sistare.



BESSIE (VASILEIA) VLAHOS HOLEVAS, age 96, passed away on Friday, October 31, 2025. Born on September 15, 1929, in Lamia, Greece, she was the daughter of Demetrios and Maria Vlahos. She is survived by her three children, Dr. John Holevas (Anastasia), Jimmy Holevas (Vickie), and Tommy Holevas (Jerri); her six grandchildren, Lea, George Dimitri, Ronnie, George John, Maria, and Niko; and many nieces, nephews, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 42 years, George Holevas; her sister, Zoe Mamblekos; and her brother, Athanasios Vlahos.



CONSTANTINE PANOURGIAS (DINO PANOS), age 95, passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2025. Born on May 21, 1930, in Anatoliki Frakista, Evrytania, Greece, he was the son of the late Evangelos and Eleni Karagounis Panourgiyas. He is survived by his siblings, Lambrini Panourgiyas Phillos, Haralambos (Harry Panos) Panourgiyas (Katherine), and Evangelos (Van) Panourgiyas; nieces, Vasiliki Phillos and Lia Panos; nephews, Angelo Phillos (Jill) and Spiro Phillos; great-nieces, Lambrini, Mariel, and Georgina Phillos; great-nephew, August Constantine Enos; and numerous cousins, relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, George Phillos, and his niece, Angel Panos.



JOHN ALEXANDER POLITES, age 99, passed away on Saturday, November 1, 2025. Born on December 22, 1925, in Agia Vlacherna, Greece, he was the son of Alexander John Polites and Maria Polites. He is survived by his daughters, Maria Polites Wheatley and Loula Polites Plyler (Jim); his son, Alexander John Polites (Windy); his grandchildren, Johann Wheatley, Robert Wheatley, Evan Wheatley, Lindsay Plyler Martin (Wes), James Plyler Jr. (Gatsey), John Robert Plyler (Anna), Alex Polites Guy (Derek), Kinzey Polites Ledford (Rion), and John A. Polites (Lindsey); and numerous nieces, nephews, and godchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Lemonia Triantis Polites; his parents; and his son-in-law, Ronald Wheatley.



IRO ANTONOPOULOU KOSKINAS, age 90, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 19, 2025.

She was born on July 17, 1935, in Karpenisi, Evrytania, Greece, to Nikolaos and Maria Antonopoulos.

Iro is survived by her children, Aphrodite Koskinas (fiancé Terry Lardakis) and George Koskinas (wife Vickie); her cherished grandchildren, Chrysa, Nicholas, Nicole, and Sam; and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sam Koskinas; her parents; her brothers, Kosta, Aleko, and Theofilos Antonopoulos; and her sister, Ivi Antonopoulos.

To my dear Holy Trinity Cathedral Family,

I am incredibly thankful and deeply touched by everyone who kept me in their prayers while I was in the hospital. During such a difficult and vulnerable time, your prayers, kind words, and love gave me strength, comfort, and hope. I truly felt surrounded by support, even when I was at my weakest. I thank God for each and every one of you and for the way you showed up for me. From the bottom of my heart, I am so grateful and will never forget your kindness.

---- Love, Kiki Kalevas

**Kenneth W. Poe**

**Funeral Service**

1321 Berkeley Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204  
704-641-7606 [www.KennethPoeServices.com](http://www.KennethPoeServices.com)

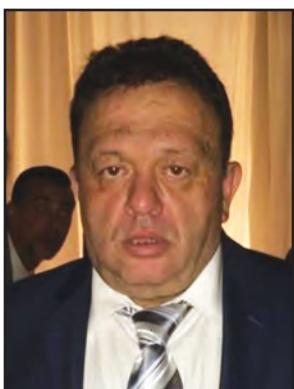
*"Dedicated to Serving the Greek Orthodox Community"*



*Andrew Bahanovich, Funeral Director, has faithfully served the Greek Community, while being a valued staff member of Kenneth Poe Services.*

**FAMILY OWNED ....Traditional Burials.... Pre-Planning Available**

## In Memoriam



STAVROS (STEVE) NIKOLAOS SOTIROPOULOS, age 69, passed away on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Born on July 25, 1956, in Kaltezes, Arcadia, Greece, he was the son of the late Nikolaos and Asimina Sotiropoulos. He is survived by his wife, Tina (Vlachos) Sotiropoulos of Charlotte; his sons, Nikolaos Sotiropoulos and Peter Sotiropoulos (fiancée Diana Llamas), all of Chicago; his siblings, Despoina Mitsias, Athanasia Tyrovolas, and Diamandis Sotiropoulos, along with their families in Greece; his cousins, Toula Photopoulos, Tom Giannibas, and Matoula Vastis and their families; and many nieces and nephews in the United States and Greece. He was preceded in death by his parents, Nikolaos and Asimina Sotiropoulos.



DIMITRA "TOULIA" TSOUROUDIAKAKIS, age 82, passed away on Saturday, November 8, 2025. Born on July 21, 1943, in Athens, Greece, she was the daughter of the late George and Evangelia Zaharopoulos. She is survived by her daughter, Sandy Vlahos (Danny); her grandchildren, Taxe, Panos, and Demi; her sisters, Cathy Kefalas and Meena Stathopoulos (Spero); her sister-in-law, Tula Zaharopoulos; and many nieces, nephews, and godchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Panagiotis Tsouroudiakakis; her son, George Tsouroudiakakis; and her brother, Kosta Zaharopoulos.

ANDY VRANTSIS, age 54, passed away on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. Born on May 16, 1971, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, he was the son of Konstantinos and Veatriki (née Dimou) Vrantsis. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth (née Keramaris); his brother, Themistoklis (Tom) Vrantsis and wife, Marzena (née Skowronska); his niece and nephews, Konstantinos, Olivia, and Andreas; and his godchildren, Efstratia (EZie) Koumoustiotis and Dionysios Chaudhary.

Carolina  
Funeral Service  
&  
Cremation Center



5505 Monroe Rd  
Charlotte, NC 28212  
704-568-0023

[www.carolinafuneral.com](http://www.carolinafuneral.com)

Dignity Afforability Simplicity

Steven Kuzma  
Owner/Director

We are deeply grateful to the parishioners who sponsored poinsettias "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" loved ones. These flowers not only enhance the beauty of our church at Christmas, but also represent prayers, memories, and thanksgiving offered to God during this Holy Season.

### In Memory of

Eftihia Anastasi  
Soterios & Helen Andrews  
Andrew Bakis  
Coy & Brooks Buck  
George Burlas  
Angelo & Irene Evangelatos  
Jackie Gerdin  
Vasileia Holevas  
Chris Hondropulos  
Eva Hondropulos  
George Katsanos  
Louise Kokenes  
Steve Kokenes  
Mary Millions  
Nathalia Millions  
Peter Millions  
Tom Millions  
Frances K. Nixon  
Angela Sophia Panos  
Constantine (Dino) Panos

The Papapitsios Family  
George T. & Jennie B. Pappas  
George & Susan Pavlakos  
Joanne Pavlakos  
Panagiotis Photopoulos  
Anastasios & Maria F. Pitsikoulis  
Crist A. & Marie P. Pitsikoulis  
Dimitrios (Jimmy) Skotidas  
John Stambolitis  
The Sugar Family  
Cassie Anne Thomas  
John & Voula Triantis  
Bobby Tsabassis  
Chris Tsoulos  
Evangelos Tsoulos

### In Honor of

Kristan & Rahul  
Stephanie Stambolitis

## MINISTRIES IN FOCUS: AGAPE

The Agape Ministry helps our youngest children (PreK) and their families build a foundation of love for the Church and community through fun, faith-filled activities all year long.

To learn more, please contact Anastasia or Vivian.

Anastasia Koutsoupias  
[anastasia.mariotis@gmail.com](mailto:anastasia.mariotis@gmail.com)

Vivian Cutajar  
[fotinosv@gmail.com](mailto:fotinosv@gmail.com)



Perfect For  
Game Days,  
Birthdays  
& Mondays.



Catering with Chick-fil-A is easy! We offer a wide range of options from our signature Chick-fil-A Chicken Nugget Trays to our wonderful selection of Boxed Meals. Keep in mind that we also cater our breakfast, so if you are having an early meeting, don't forget Chick-fil-A!

Andre Harakas & John Tsumas



Bank of America  
101 South Tryon St  
(704) 344-0222



Cotswold  
4431 Randolph Road  
(704) 366-0073



South End  
3015 South Boulevard  
(704) 665-6371



## GET SOCIAL WITH HOLY TRINITY

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

@holytrinitycharlotte



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral



**Dimitra Tula Kourakos**

ABR, CRS, CDS Lic NC & SC

**RE/MAX EXECUTIVE**

Cell: 704-641-9996  
Dimitrak@gmail.com  
[www.sellingcharlottenow.com](http://www.sellingcharlottenow.com)

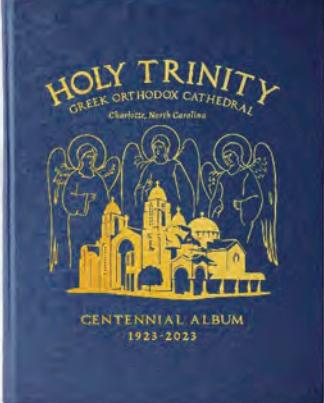
*"Let's unlock the door to a place your family can truly call home."*

  
**Showmars**  
southern • fresh • greek

Built on family roots, Showmars' founder George Couchell combined the Greek flavors of his childhood with his love of the Carolinas 40 years ago in 1982. A pioneer of the fast-casual concept, Showmars has something for every guest who walks through its doors, from its wild-caught World Famous Fish Sandwich to its original Pita Burgers™, traditional Gyros, and fresh Greek Salads. **Southern. Fresh. Greek.** that's Showmars' signature and promise.

 [showmars.com](http://showmars.com)

*Available in the Hosanna Bookstore \$100*



**The HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM  
*Bring home our parish's history and the commemoration of the centennial celebrations.*



Coming Soon to Uptown Charlotte



**The Best Relationships Start With Trust**  
Business | Commercial | Personal | Mortgage

HomeTrust Bank has always been about relationships. Let us help you prepare for what's next.

  
**Kosta Koutsokalis**  
Business Banking Area Manager  
NMLS ID# 2064386  
6310 Fairview Rd. Charlotte, NC 28210  
704.971.7029  
[htb.com/southpark](http://htb.com/southpark)

 Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender

  
**HomeTrust Bank**

 Certified 2024

240610-1234019591