



Parish Picnic, cont. from p. 1

From the comments (most of which were amazement at what had been done), it seems that the shed may have a temporary life while we are transitioning to the next stages of our property development! To be determined....

The weather was another huge surprise; amidst days of frequent rain and heat, a day that started with pouring rain cleared during the moments we were praying at the beginning of the BBQ. No rain for the remainder of the day – just clouds and a breeze, which should come as no surprise. The BBQ Vendor, ACE BBQ, provided a fabulous smoker with a beautiful little porker cooked to perfection and served with enthusiasm. People brought sides and desserts. And, a special surprise - a Shaved - Ice truck visit sealed the day, a real hit with the kids.

After the food fest, we were heard a presentation, capably offered by Vladimir Gavrilovic, on the progress made on our plans for our church property development, and it offered a good opportunity for attendees to ask questions and make comments about the possibility of constructing a new Church temple. You can view the presentation on the parish website: <http://stnicholasorthodoxchurch.com/facility-plan/>



Many thanks to those whose hands helped to prepare and transform our property into the happy space it became on August 18!

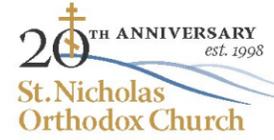
And Many Blessed Years to those who will help to determine the future of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church!

Next Lampada Deadline - November 12th Themes: Nativity Fast - St. Nicholas Feast



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 6981
Charlottesville Virginia 22906

Address Correction Requested



Lampada



September, 2018

O Lord, You are a Lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Let's Have a Picnic!
20th Anniversary Celebration - August 18th

20th Anniversary BBQ Brings Happy Surprises!

We had decided long ago that the final organized event for our 20th Anniversary Celebration would be some type of homecoming, and we wanted to invite current and former parishioners and friends to celebrate with us, and to hear about our plans for the future of St. Nicholas parish. A BBQ was selected as the best event to welcome everyone to pray and party; our Communications team and Leadership Board worked on a plan and, together with our Hospitality and Buildings and Grounds Service Group, made August 18 an altogether delightful day.



The venue was one of the biggest surprises for most attendees. Buildings and Grounds had emptied our storage shed some months ago and it was standing unused and forlorn but with potential – so the event was staged in the shed and the adjoining large lawn area, all of which was transformed into a “rustic barn” venue. **Continued, back cover**



September - Beginning of the Liturgical New Year

September 1 serves as the beginning of the Liturgical year. This usage is based upon the old Roman (Byzantine) calendar going back to at least the 7th century, which reckoned the beginning of the year not in January, but September. The Church uses this occasion to bring a spiritual message to the world - the fulfillment of God's plan for us is in our midst - in the person of Jesus of Nazareth- the Messiah (Christ).

Aptly, the gospel reading for the day (Lk. 4:18ff) recalls the visit of our Lord to the synagogue, and his reading of Isaiah's prophecy announcing the arrival of the new messianic age,



“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.”

This day is not among the greatest liturgical feasts, but nonetheless has an important message of spiritual renewal. It's a lot better celebrating the New Year in a way that is *spiritual*, and not cluttered by worldliness of holiday excesses.

His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, has taken this day as a day of remembrance concerning our stewardship of all that the Lord entrusts to us in our lives, notably the environment.

You'll find the Patriarch's message on the occasion on page 5.

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A Parish of the Eastern Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

His Eminence Metropolitan +Antony Presiding Hierarch

Parish Leaders

V. Rev. Robert Holet, Pastor Leadership Board (until 9/23)

- Chair: Jacob Ritter
Vice Chair: Dean Gakos
Treasurer: Karen Gavrilovic
Secretary: Karen Bowman
At Large: Greg Stronko
Service Group Leaders
Hospitality: Randy Brogan
Liturgy: Open
Charitable Works: Open
Evangelization: Open
Buildings/ Grounds: Florin Moldovan
Library-Bookstore: Stanley Bright
Religious Formation: Basil Finnegan
Parish Ministry Coordinators
Church School: Susan Murphy
Greeters: Karen Gavrilovic
Liturgical Music: Pani Christine Holet
Web Communications: Karen Bowman
Community Care: Elaine Brogan
Parish Office - 434-973-2500

Contact Information

Address: 7581 Rockfish Gap Tpk (US 250), Greenwood, VA
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6981, Charlottesville, Va. 22906
Email: info@stnicholasorthodoxchurch.com
Pastor: fr.r.holet@uocusa.net
Web: www.33-AD.org
To reach Fr. Robert:
First call the rectory phone: 434-973-2500 and leave a message. If you are unable to reach him at that number, then try the cell phone: 434-987-8170. The cell phone is used primarily during travel.
Email is checked daily. Social media is not appropriate for personal communication on parish matters.

Liturgical Services Schedule Subject to Change - See the Online Calendar for Updates

Table with 3 columns: Day, Date, and Service Details. Includes dates from Sunday, September 2 to Sunday, September 30, with specific feast days like 'Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost' and 'Feast of the Nativity of the Godbearer'.



Treasurer's Report, cont. from p.14

Of course we provide this at each semi-annual parish meeting as well. Note that while we have spent more than we have collected this year, we budgeted funds from our project accounts to finish up our dome iconography and to offset some anniversary expenses; we did not expect to fully fund these efforts from our operating budget or this year's collections.

In addition to providing an income and expense report, this is a good time to share some additional financial information:

- Certificate of Deposit: For a couple of years, the Board has discussed ways to increase passive income generated from our project and contingency funds since interest rates have been abysmally low.
Debt Retirement: We are formally kicking off the debt retirement initiative in the coming weeks. We already made our first additional principal payment in August from earmarked donations that have come in since our March Parish meeting.
Special Donations: Should you have any special donations that you would like to direct toward our 20th Anniversary celebrations (the celebration in April, the BBQ and the gift of appreciation to Father and Pani Christine) they may also be placed in the special slot of the donation box or, included with your regular check with a note on the memo line.
Earmarked Donations: I track special donations in Quicken to assure they are used for their intended purpose and transfer funds to appropriate bank accounts monthly if the project funds are not to be expended immediately.
Electronic Donation Options: The Board is exploring options to allow donations to the church electronically through our website.

That last bullet takes me back to the donation box that stands outside the Nave and why I haven't yet gone to an electronic option for our family tithe even though writing checks is another mundane, secular task. My dear, late father-in-law regularly tithed to the Parish and I watched him place a check in that collection box nearly every Sunday, right up until the week of his passing.

National Calendar of Events

Mary Photini has compiled a comprehensive Google Calendar of Orthodox events around the country and around the world, under the auspices of the national Assembly of Bishops. Check this out at: www.assemblyofbishops.org/orthodox-events/

Events are also broken out by category, such as:

- Choir-related/Liturgical Music Events
Clergy-only events
Iconography Exhibits/workshops
Marriage / Family-events
Missionary Work
Online Webinars (lectures, etc)
Women's Retreats, Men's Retreats
Youth & Young Adult events
IOCC / OCMC
OCF

Karen Gavrilovic, Treasurer



Treasurer's Update – August 2018

As I sat down to write this after an hour or so of paying church bills, reconciling accounts and updating Quicken, at least two or three songs with the chorus of "Money, Money, Money" were floating through my head. Ask me what they were if you want an earworm! However, thinking of our financial blessings as "money" cheapens the currency (I

couldn't resist) and keeps us in the secular realm. Wearing my church treasurer hat, I spend more time in that realm than I would like and I struggle sometimes to remember that this mundane work has a higher purpose.

Casting about for a more appropriate soundtrack for my brain, what comes to mind is the doxology I heard growing up in the Methodist church, when the ushers would carry the collection plates forward to the altar - "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow..." I have been to some Orthodox churches that take collections during the Divine Liturgy but, I much prefer our humble white box that stands outside our Nave waiting for us to give willingly as we are moved – not because we are reminded or feel obligated to give because we are in a public setting. I believe this is intentional in this Parish because Fr. Robert truly believes, as he frequently reminds us, that our treasures are more than just paper and coin, and that stewardship comes in many forms.

Nonetheless (you knew it was coming), it is my obligation as your Treasurer to make sure you know where your monetary gifts are going and to ensure that you feel confident that the Board is exercising proper stewardship of our blessings in ways that fulfill our Parish mission and that serve the Lord above all else. For that reason, an income and spending report is included in each Lampada.

Account Balances - As of 8/29/2018 (Includes unrealized gains) As of 8/29/2018

Account	8/29/2018 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Contingency (370)	15,042.89
General (922)	18,593.78
Project (821)	15,824.91
TOTAL Bank Accounts	49,461.58
Liability Accounts	
Mortgage Principal	-225,147.14
TOTAL Liability Accounts	-225,147.14
Investment Accounts	
CD (729)	10,000.00
TOTAL Investment Accounts	10,000.00
OVERALL TOTAL	-165,685.56

Continued on p.14

Income/Expense by Category - YTD

1/1/2018 - 8-29-18

Category	1/1/2018-8/29/2018
INCOME	
Collection	87,301.54
Interest Inc	46.16
Misc income	1,017.20
FROM General (922)	12,853.00
FROM Project (821)	10,637.29
TOTAL INCOME	111,855.19
EXPENSES	
Administrative	0.00
B&G Op	3,921.42
B&G Proj	187.44
Charity Operating	8,636.70
Comm Op	1,469.50
E&O Op	1,063.44
Hosp. Op	935.20
LG Op	2,055.99
LG Proj	10,330.29
Lib. Op	594.15
Liturgy Group	496.84
Mortgage interest	7,674.77
PB Op	63,271.10
PB Proj	3,882.55
RF Op	222.00
Telephone	162.15
TO General (922)	10,637.29
TO Project (821)	12,853.00
TO Mortgage Principal	8,965.91
TO CD (729)	10,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	147,359.74
OVERALL TOTAL	-35,504.55

Liturgical Services (cont. from previous page)

Monday, October 1	8:00am	Feast of the Protection of the Godbearer Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, October 3	6:00pm	Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, October 6		<i>No Vespers this Week</i>
Sunday, October 7		Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, October 10	6:00pm	Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, October 13	7:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, October 14		Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost - Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy

Ongoing and Special Events Calendar

Evangelization/Outreach Service Group	6:30pm	Tuesday, September 4
Charitable Works Service Group	9:15am	Saturday, September 8
Buildings and Grounds - Shrine/Play area Project	6:00pm	Thursday, September 13
Parish Board Meeting	6:30pm	Thursday, September 13
Liturgy Service Group (tentative)	6:30pm	Saturday, September 15
Facility Planning Committee		To be announced
Parish Semi-Annual Meeting	After Liturgy	Sunday, September 23
Parish Prayer Vigil - Right to Life	12noon	Tuesday, September 25
Religious Formation Service Group		TBA
Evangelization/Outreach Service Group	6:00pm	Tuesday, October 2
Ministry week in SW VA (RAMM event)	-- Thur. October 4 -	Saturday October 6 --
Charitable Works Service Group	4:00pm	Saturday, October 6
Parish Board Meeting		TBA
Buildings and Grounds Service Group	6:00pm	Thursday, October 11
Library Bookstore Service Group		TBA
Special Program - Pornography and Sexual Addictions		Saturday, November 17

⊕ Looking Ahead - Special Seminar ⊕

One of the great spiritual battles of our age are of a sexual nature, including the struggle against sins of fornication (illicit sexual activity), homosexual attraction, gender confusion, and especially internet pornography. To help us all better understand the psychological and spiritual dimensions of the tendency toward the use of pornography, and its many associated evils, our parish will hold a program this Fall (*tentatively November 17th.*) Mr. Dan Zeiss (LPC, MA) and Dr. Chris Buckingham (LCPC, LPC) will offer an interactive seminar to teach about how the mind reacts to such imagery, and how addicting behaviors emerge and can be treated. We will also address some of the spiritual dimensions of this as illumined by the Orthodox spiritual tradition. More details will be released soon. *Note - attendance at this informative seminar in no way implies that one is engaged in or addicted to such behaviors. An in-depth understanding of psychological and physiological aspects of our struggles against temptation can be of great spiritual benefit to ourselves and help us to assist others as well. College students encouraged to attend.*

Many Blessed Years!

Birthdays

30

Saints Days

PARISH MEETING NOTICE!

Our Fall Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, September 23 after the Liturgy. We will elect new officers to the Parish Board, and discuss the Mortgage Debt Reduction Program and the Facility Master Plan in addition to other important activities. The meeting will conclude by 1pm.



Beyond the Twenty Year Line

With last week's picnic, we're winding up our second Twentieth Anniversary celebration and this initial period of thanksgiving and reflection on the blessings of God in our parish. Now it is time to focus on some aspects of what the *present* and the *future* may hold and to prepare ourselves to work to fulfill the mission of the Church as led by the Holy Spirit. This is an important time and one for which prayer, discernment, open discussion and engaged participation is essential in order to direct the efforts of our small community to do those things which the Lord would have us do - small or great. But then we also must **do** what is set forth.



We've started a helpful process of discussion on the matter of our **Parish Facilities** - with the special gifts of those on our **Facilities Planning Committee** who have already met to begin the process of refining our plans and making a concrete proposal that can serve as a comprehensive plan for our facilities in the future. Just last week, it again became clear to me, that this process will never be complete without the engagement of many more parish members, asking the right questions in small groups, and making the needs of the parish known to the parish as a whole and the Facility Planning Committee in specific. These are examples of questions that need to be asked:

- What is the desirable facility population size that this parish facility needs to aim for? What can we support?
- What types of kitchen facilities do we need? - a commercial kitchen? Do we want to offer community meals and public events? Space for how many people in the hall is required? Will the hall be rented to outside parties?
- Will we change our approach to church school, requiring a new, different kind of space?
- What is the purpose of our library? Do we want space for 400 books or 4000? Bookstore space?
- What types of charitable ministries to those in need will require dedicated space? Workshop space? Storage?
- What types of office and meeting space do we need?
- If a new church is built, what will it look like? How large? How will it be appointed? Materials? Style?
- How do we manage, administratively, all of our parish needs both practical and spiritual? Who do we need to hire and how will we pay them?

Ideally, each Service Group would be prepared to *enthusiastically* tackle these kinds of questions in the coming months.

As was mentioned in the facility discussion after the Picnic, I am hopeful that the occasion of the Facility plan will afford the parish and our members to grow in our understanding of the *beauty and spiritual value of authentic Orthodox architecture*, in its many forms as expressed in ancient and more recent cultures. Such a grounding is necessary if we are to rightly propose and build out a sacred structure for the Orthodox worship of God, and consistent with the universality of the Church, inclusive of our (Virginia - America) culture as well. This process will involve significant study and perhaps visits to other churches and a visit of one experienced in these things to teach us appropriately.

The **Mortgage Reduction Drive** is getting underway. This program is not open ended, but we will be contacting our parish members, past members and friends to offer them an opportunity to participate. By reducing or eliminating our mortgage we free up needed funds for ministries, and the possibility of future building projects and better loan equity.

The Oasis Project - will be a follow-up to the Benedict Option discussions in June and reviewed on August 28. The goal of this project will be three-fold: 1) To help parish members identify neighbors nearby for mutual support 2) Support the local gathering of parish members at fixed times and places locally to develop community connections and personal faith 3) Create 'oasis' spaces for these dedicated purposes. If undertaken, this effort will require suitable (new) facilities, leadership training, and liturgical prayer forms consistent with our parish practice. In every case, the goal of this is to strengthen overall parish life, not dissipate it. A pilot version may be started later this year.

Spiritual Support - Addictions - The widespread growth of addictions of every sort, including alcohol, drugs and pornography, is a threat to every family and our parish life. To combat this spiritual and psychological problem, a tentative program is being set up for Saturday, November 17th. (See p. 3)

Men's Fellowship - It has become clear to me that over the years, the Church has shifted in its way of ministering to men, particularly in this age of sexual confusion. Historically and anthropologically, men had particular roles which they

Continued, page 7



Our Community Cares

Here we are at the end of the summer, but it has been far from quiet within the walls of St. Nicholas!

We began the summer bidding farewell to Fr. George and Pamela Hill and their children as they completed their time here in Charlottesville and moved on to Fort Hood, Texas. Over the past four years, we have watched their children grow, their family add a plus one with the marriage of eldest daughter Alexandra to Aaron, and experienced some thought provoking sermons delivered by Father. We appreciate and thank him for his service to our country as well as his counseling of students at the JAG school and VMI. If you haven't seen it already, please stop by the far corner of the hall to check out the flag and plaque posted there in Father's honor. It has been our pleasure getting to know all of them and we wish nothing but the best as they begin this new assignment in Texas!

While summer affords many of us the opportunity to travel to other locales, it also brings new and old friends to visit with us. Among the few that worshipped with us over the summer were Janella and Ben Gregoire and children, who vacation at Wintergreen and currently live in Virginia Beach. Former parishioners Sarah and Dan Wright and adorable Andrew, Ella, and George made two visits to Charlottesville-most recently to join in the fellowship of the 20th anniversary barbecue. The entire Karas family, including the newly-engaged Katie with fiancé George Johnson, who just happens to be related to Hunter and Stephanie Johnson, visited with us one Sunday. Former parishioners Barbara Vanderpool and her husband Frank Smith traveled



from Abingdon to join in the festivities of the barbecue as well. Even though people may come and go, there are those who stop by from time to time to join us just because. They may leave the area, but there is still the draw of our worship as well as the warmth of our community. Word has it that the Tafts will visit late in September, before the snow flies in Boston.

The end of July brought the Centennial celebration at the Consistory in South Bound Brook, NJ. While we all couldn't attend the Liturgy and Banquet, we were represented as a parish by Father Robert and Pani Matka Christine Holet, Michelle and George Dilendorf, and Greg Stronko. The joy of the weekend was however tinged by the car accident of Metropolitan Antony the night before the celebration. Several of the parish children created beautiful get-well cards that were sent along with a get well card from the "grown-ups" wishing Vladyka all the best. We are hoping to again send His Eminence greetings from the children once the Church School year starts up!

As of this writing, we are awaiting the arrival of little baby Gakos. Parish members will once again share in this bundle of joy by putting together meals and snacks for the soon to be family of 6! Watch for emails and/or the Sunday bulletin announcement to know when food may be brought to the freezer in the hall for safe keeping! While we look forward to the happiness of birth, we unfortunately must face the sadness of death. We offer our sympathies to Vonnice and Richard Zubyk at the passing of Richard's cousin +Walter and Samy Gadella at the passing of his mom, +Aida. *May the memory of these departed servants ever be eternal!*

As always, the care of our community isn't just the work of one person or our ministry group alone. Should you have a concern or know of a need in our parish, feel free to contact Father Robert that he may appropriately address the situation.

In Christ,

Elaine Brogan and Ministry members Deena Gakos, Pani Christine Holet, Subdeacon David Murphy, Amy Skretta

St.



*This Flag of the United States of America
Is proudly set forth*

*On this Third Day of June
in the Year of our Lord, 2018*

*In thanksgiving for the
Service of Reverend Father (Major) George
(Ruston) Hill,
Command Chaplain - US Army
His wife Matushka Pamela, and their children,*

*During their sojourn in midst of the flock,
of St. Nicholas Parish, 2015 - 2018*

*May the Lord grant repose to those who have died
in the defense of our nation, Memory Eternal!
May God Grant to the Hill Family, Many Blessed Years!*

Some People Need Certain Essentials...

The Charitable Works Group will be coordinating our parish effort to collect toilet paper during our Nativity Fast, November 14- December 24, for the Crozet UMC Food Pantry. Of course, non perishable foods are always welcome. Please look for our 'babushka' in the entrance area. Thank you!

Barbara Philips



Grundy and Points South and West

THE 2018 SUMMER TRIP TO GRUNDY was, as always, definitely worth the parish's time, finances, and energy. And - like every trip there - this one had its own distinct character. In fact it might be one of the more memorable trips there not only because we worked alongside two new organizations, but also because two of the women spent some time in the Appalachia Family Clinic being treated for several physical issues (which not only were painful but kept the same two women from being able to do much work) and the men experienced first hand some feuding neighbors to which event the police had to be called.

Our ministry there, however, continued in new ways. For the first time, we (Karen Bowman, Catherine Hoyle, Cynthia Patzig and Father Robert) were able to connect with the Mountain Mission School - a private Christian facility that takes NO federal funds. It is nearly 100 years old and meets the needs of children from all over the world regardless of race, age, color or creed. In fact an Orthodox high school student from the school attended our traditional community dinner along with another student from Africa and several staff members. Most MMS kids have lost at least one parent. Almost all are rescued from impoverished, high risk environments. At Mountain Mission all of the kids receive unconditional love, a home environment, traditional education, a chance to participate in great sports programs, and above all - all this is done in an unapologetic Christian environment. Most of the students graduating from high school from MMS go on to college and a number receive special scholarships. All of us who were blessed to be on their campus and to offer our limited help look forward to deepening that relationship in the coming years. We are hoping that in January, 2019 we will be able to have a representative from the school speak to us during coffee hour.

Another new resource was the Community Assisted Living program - which works to upgrade homes in the area. During this visit, we offered help building handicap ramps. Our guys (Karl, Tim, Tim's friend George, and Father Robert) worked long, hot days under the supervision of the program's job supervisor. Two ramps were constructed over several days. The work was very much like the work we were first doing there with Buchanan Neighbors United. Since BMU stopped remodeling homes some years ago, we haven't been able to find a similar organization. Now we have - and that's pretty exciting!

We will also be participating in the RAM (Remote Area Medical) health fair this fall. (October 5-7). This will be our first "parish experience" with RAM although Susan Murphy has helped in the past. Please keep the Health Fair and those who need care and those providing care in your prayers. I am sure we will bring back pictures and stories. Stay posted. Ω

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Howard (health) Fr. John (health) Barbara (hospice) Janice (continued progress) Cori (recovery) Cynthia (thanksgiving)	Fran Janet (hospice) Sasha (surgery recovery) For our senior members Fr. Deacon Nick, Fr. John, Fr. John	For the Departed +Bus (newly departed) +Aida +Bishop Epiphanius +Walter (newly departed) <i>For those who have died preserving our freedom:</i>	<i>soldiers and first responders</i> <i>For all refugees who have died seeking refuge from persecution especially in the Middle East</i> <i>For the victims of violence in Ukraine and Middle East</i>
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General Intentions

- **In Thanksgiving - for the grace of God bestowed upon our parish over these 20 years.**
- For Deacon Nick Zachary, recovering from surgery.
- For those imprisoned locally, and in our state and nation, especially Dorian, Natalia and Eugene, and for the ministry at the Albemarle Charlottesville Regional jail led by Chaplain Joseph.
- For unity of the Church in Ukraine and throughout the world.
- For the victims of the fires in California, and the repose of those who lost their lives, especially the firefighters., Randy, Rayburn, Shea, Taylor, and all who serve those in need in SW Va.
- For Dorian, Natalia, Eugene and all who are imprisoned and for those who minister to them. And for For the Good News Jail ministry of Chaplain Joseph Varaksa.
- For all people of good will and the Christian churches who support LOVE, INC.



2018 Anniversary Event cont. from p.1

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

By God's Mercy Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Plenitude of the Church: Grace, peace and mercy

From the Creator of All, our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ



Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Twenty-nine years have now passed since the Mother Church established the Feast of Indiction as the "Day of Protection of the Environment." Throughout this time, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has inspired and pioneered various activities, which have borne much fruit and highlighted the spiritual and ecological resources of our Orthodox tradition.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate's ecological initiatives provided a stimulus for theology to showcase the environmentally-friendly principles of Christian anthropology and cosmology as well as to promote the truth that no vision for humanity's journey through history has any value if it does not also include the expectation of a world that functions as a real "home" (*oikos*) for humanity, particularly at a time when the ongoing and increasing threat against the natural environment is fraught with the possibility of worldwide ecological destruction. This evolution is a consequence of a specific choice of economic, technological and social development that respects neither the value of the human being nor the sanctity of nature. It is impossible to truly care for human beings while at the same time destroying the natural environment as the very foundation of life, essentially undermining the future of humanity.

Although we do not consider it appropriate to judge modern civilization on the grounds of criteria related to sin, we wish to underscore that the destruction of the natural environment in our age is associated with human arrogance against nature and our domineering relationship toward the environment, as well as with the model of *eudemonism* or disposition of greed as a general attitude in life. As incorrect as it is to believe that things were better in the past, it is equally unfitting to shut eyes to what is happening today. The future does not belong to humanity, when it persistently pursues artificial pleasure and novel satisfaction—living in selfish and provocative wastefulness while ignoring others, or unjustly exploiting the vulnerable. The future belongs to righteous justice and compassionate love, to a culture of solidarity and respect for the integrity of creation.

This ethos and culture are preserved in Orthodoxy's divine and human ecclesial tradition. The sacramental and devotional life of the Church experiences and expresses a Eucharistic vision, approach and use of creation. Such a relationship with the world is incompatible with every form of introversion and indifference to creation—with every form of dualism that separates matter from spirit and undermines material creation. On the contrary, the Eucharistic experience sensitizes and mobilizes the believer toward environmentally-friendly action in the world. In this spirit, the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church emphasized that "*in the sacraments of the Church, creation is affirmed and human beings are encouraged to act as stewards, protectors and 'priests' of creation, offering it in doxology to the Creator*" (Encyclical, par. 14). Every form of abuse and destruction of creation, along with its transformation into an object of exploitation, constitutes a distortion of the spirit of the Christian gospel. It is hardly coincidental that the Orthodox Church has been characterized as the ecological expression of Christianity inasmuch as it is the Church that has preserved the Holy Eucharist at the core of its being.

Consequently, the Ecumenical Patriarchate's ecological initiatives were not simply developed in response or in reaction to the modern unprecedented ecological crisis, but as an expression of the Church's life, an extension of the Eucharistic ethos in the believer's relationship to nature. This innate ecological conscience of the Church was boldly and successfully declared in the face of the contemporary threat to the natural environment. The life of the Orthodox Church is applied ecology, a tangible and inviolable respect for the natural environment. The Church is an event of communion, a victory over sin and death, as well as over self-righteousness and self-centeredness—all of which constitute the very cause of ecological devastation. The Orthodox believer cannot remain indifferent to the ecological crisis. Creation care and environmental protection are the ramification and articulation of our Orthodox faith and Eucharistic ethos.

It is clear, then, that in order to contribute and respond effectively to the ecological challenge that we face, the Church recognize and research the relevant issues. We all know that the greatest threat to our world today is climate change and its destructive consequences even for our survival on the planet. This topic was paramount in the 9th Ecological Symposium, entitled "Toward a Greener Attica: Preserving the Planet and Protecting its people," organized by the Ecumenical Patriarchate last June on the Saronic Islands of Spetses and Hydra. Unfortunately, the recent devastating fires in Attica and the impending consequences of this immense environmental destruction constitute tragic proof of the views shared by the symposium participants on the severity of the ecological threat.

Venerable hierarchs and beloved children in the Lord,



Patriarch Bartholomew on Environmental Stewardship cont. from p.5

The ecological culture of the Orthodox faith is the realization of its Eucharistic vision of creation, summarized and expressed in its church life and practice. This is the Orthodox Church's eternal message on the issue of ecology. The Church preaches and proclaims "the same things" "at all times" in accordance with the unassailable words of its Founder and Leader, that "heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Lk. 21:33). Adhering to this tradition, the Mother Church calls upon its Archdioceses and Metropolises, as well as its parishes and monasteries throughout the world, to develop initiatives, coordinate projects, organize conferences and activities that foster environmental awareness and sensitivity, so that our faithful may realize that the protection of the natural environment is the spiritual responsibility of each and every one of us. The burning issue of climate change, along with its causes and consequences for our planet and everyday life, offer an opportunity to engage in dialogue based on principles of theological ecology, but also an occasion for specific practical endeavors. It is vitally important that you emphasize action at the local level. The parish constitutes the cell of church life as the place of personal presence and witness, communication and collaboration—a living community of worship and service.



Fires devastate the Greek coastline

Special attention must also be directed to the organization of Christ-centered educational programs for our youth in order to cultivate an ecological ethos. Ecclesiastical instruction must instill in their souls a respect for creation as "very good" (Gen. 1:26), encouraging them to advocate and advance creation care and protection, the liberating truth of simplicity and frugality, as well as the Eucharistic and ascetic ethos of sharing and sacrifice. It is imperative that young men and women recognize their responsibility for the practical implementation of the ecological consequences of our faith, while at the same time becoming acquainted with and promulgating the definitive contribution of the Ecumenical Throne in the preservation of the natural environment.

In conclusion, we wish you all a blessed ecclesiastical year and abundant benefit in your spiritual struggles, invoking upon you the life-giving grace and boundless mercy of the Giver of all good things, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, the *Pioneer and Perfector* of our Faith, through the intercessions of Panaghia Pammakaristos [Mary the Godbearer], whose honorable icon, the sacred heirloom of all Orthodox people, we reverently and humbly venerate today.

✠ Bartholomew of Constantinople

Ed. Note: While the opinions of many respected scientists are not in consensus concerning the existence or scope of climate change and its relationship to human activities, the essence of the message of His All Holiness is nonetheless sublime.

From the Religious Formation Service Group

As we head into this autumn, here are several ideas to help you grow in our most holy Faith, "once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3). First, stemming from our *Benedict Option* discussions, several have expressed interest in participating in weekday small group meetings in homes nearer to where we live. Second, Rdr.



John Hoyle will be ordering copies of the *Lenten Triodion* and *Festal Menaion* at our bookstore discount of 30% as a support for our spiritual reading and prayer. So let John Hoyle or Basil Finnegan know if you would like a copy. If there is enough interest we could get a 40% discount for an order of 10 or more copies of each book. As with *The Benedict Option* and *Parenting Toward the Kingdom*, the Religious Formation Service Group hopes to further underwrite the cost of those two books further lowering your cost to around \$10 for these \$35 hardback treasures. Third, Ms. Katia Ogan, an Orthodox seamstress in Oregon, will be providing a set of 12"x12" hemmed brocade cloths in the six liturgical colors: white, gold, blue, purple, red and green for use in home icon corners, to display in our homes the Church's liturgical seasons as reflected in the *Lenten Triodion* and *Festal Menaion*. The first set will be displayed at church. Perhaps some women in the parish who are good at sewing could produce the same locally for the same remuneration? Finally, on Ancient Faith media, we can recommend the popular podcast, *The Whole Council of God* by Fr Stephen De Young. Also, Fr. Stephen Freeman, a highly regarded expository bible teacher, has offers a series on the bible, notably the Gospels according to St Luke and St John.

Basil Finnegan, Coordinator



Right to Life Activities
A Personal Response Needed

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER are two months in which our parish and other churches (Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant) increase our efforts in support of Right to Life activities and prayer vigils. Of all that we as a parish can be involved with, nothing is more important than our witness in protecting and advocating for all human life - but especially the right to life of the unborn child.

As we were reminded at our last East/West event in July, the Orthodox Church has always had an unequivocal stand on this issue: without exception the unborn child always has a right to life. This is not an easy position to uphold in our society today. Believe me - I know. As a young woman I allowed myself to be drawn into the abortion movement. My friends and I thought the feminist movement and its corollary - the right of women to control their own bodies even if it meant aborting a child - was exciting and our personal right. It is the biggest regret of my life. Like many others who awoke from the stupor of a feminist pro-abortion position, I am now dedicated to ending this blight on our land. That is what motivates me to encourage all of you to participate in one or all of the activities and events during the following two months.

First consider joining us on the fourth Tuesday of the month (September 24th and October 22nd) in front of Planned Parenthood on Hydraulic Road in Charlottesville at noon for our monthly silent prayer vigil.

On September 27th through November 5th, we will once again present an opportunity for our parishioners to participate in the **40 Days for Life** event. This is the largest internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history which has been successful in actually closing abortion clinics. It was begun by a pro abortion woman who worked in an abortion clinic in College Station, Texas. After witnessing an actual late term abortion, she had a complete change of mind and began the 40 Days for Life movement. There are several ways in which we, as a parish, can participate in this effort, but the most important is to commit to *praying daily* during this time for the end of abortion in our community, our country, and the world. We may organize other efforts to witness during this specified time, so look for an update in the bulletin.



Finally our parish is again sponsoring a table at the Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia banquet on Saturday, October 20th. The evening includes a very nice dinner, music, and an inspiring keynote speaker. The event is free to those who register - although there is an opportunity for personal donations to the pregnancy centers. If you are interested in attending please contact Cynthia Patzig. The banquet not only provides a strong incentive and encouragement to be supportive of the Right to Life movement - but also to meet and come to know some fantastic, faith-filled people who share that same passion.

I hope you will think about joining us in one or all of these opportunities. It matters- a lot!

Cynthia Patzig

Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia - Annual Banquet and Ministry



Doubletree Hotel - Charlottesville

The annual banquets are scheduled for **Friday, October 19 and Saturday, October 20th** at 6pm at the Doubletree in Charlottesville. Once again, our parish is donating for a table at the Saturday evening banquet, and there's no cost to attend the dinner and program. The banquets offer a powerful vision for the restoration of the dignity of the unborn, through the unceasing efforts of the staff and volunteers of the Center. A solicitation of a free will offering will be made at the end of the program.

Reservations are necessary - please contact Cynthia Patzig or Fr. Robert if you wish to attend or need more information. It's a particularly important topic for young adults and college students, who may well be in the position of making a life or death referral to an unmarried pregnant friend to help save their baby from abortion..

May God bless their holy work!



Hospitality News!

If you like to party, have a good time, go shopping, and welcome parishioners and guests in the name of Jesus Christ, then the Hospitality ministry group is the one for you! We were very busy with some very exciting and fun times over the last few months.



Early in July, our parish once again co-hosted, with St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Charlottesville, the Third Annual East-West presentation. Along with the prayer service which began the evening, everyone in attendance enjoyed fine fellowship, delicious food-coordinated under the leadership of Pani Christine and the women of both parishes-as well as a thought provoking presentation. We look forward to being able to attend next year's offering at the new St Thomas Aquinas church!

The 20th anniversary barbecue was a fun time, arranged by the parish board along with Pani Christine. Building and Grounds should not be forgotten as they were the workhorses behind cleaning up the shed, the parish grounds and supplying power to the shed! Way to go, Tim!! A big thank you to everyone that made the old shed a really happening party venue. Who would have thought that the shed could have become such an awesome space! Thank you to everyone who contributed your time to set up and clean up the shed as well as those who contributed food to the menu!

Coffee hours have been a little low-key over the summer. We realize that folks are traveling and getting out of the normal routine of volunteering for coffee hours. With the beginning of the fall season, there will be more of a concerted effort to have individuals/families sign up to host a weekly coffee hour. There is nothing out of the ordinary expected and you don't have to provide a full-blown meal after Liturgy. Setting out the available foods, cutting some bagels, making sure that the condiments are on the tables and the all-important—turn on the hot water and especially the COFFEE POT!!! I would like to take this time to thank the following folks that have assisted most weekends to both do set up and clean up when we don't have anyone assigned: Karen Bowman, Greg Brogan, Basil Finnegan, Ruth Gariboldi, Karen Gavrilovic, Pani Christine Holet, Catherine and John Hoyle, Susan and SD David Murphy, and Cynthia Patzig. Thank you one and all for the help and assistance you offer that often goes unnoticed!

The Hospitality Group's next meeting is September 25th at 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, and we welcome any new members with their ideas that all contribute to offering sustenance and fellowship every week!!

Randy Brogan, Hospitality Group Leader

Remembering - the East-West Encounter, July 2018



Dr. Jim Jatras



Dr. Karen Pohailos



Good Food - Good Fellowship

The third East West Encounter served as a great opportunity to share the commonality of our spiritual tradition with Western Christians, with Dr. Jim Jatras exploring the ancient Chirsitan witness to the dignity of human life and Dr. Karen Pohailos, providing important insights on ways this can be carried out today with support of our church communities.

About 75 were in attendance - and the fellowship superb!



The Next Twenty, cont. from p.4



Not this Oasis!

needed to carry out for their own spiritual well being, as well as the care of the wife/family, the church, and society. These roles have been radically blurred in the post-modern era. The initial goal of the Men's Fellowship is to invite men to gather in a manly way, share their experiences and challenges, and learn from our spiritual tradition. An initial gathering meeting will take place on Sunday, September 9th after Liturgy. Men need spiritual fellowship with one another - not *only* social, secular interactions.

These are just a few of the efforts that are important - as I see it - for the real growth and development of the parish in the coming years. Nothing proposed here is beyond our grasp, if we are blessed by the Lord to do so, and apply our personal efforts. You will notice that each of these efforts will require special care and stewardship of our personal resources. Perhaps the greatest need is for leadership, and this will be addressed first in very specific ways in the course of the Oasis Project. Broader questions of clergy and lay leadership need to be explored to sustain future growth.

I would like to know if any of these projects lights a fire for you. Does the possibility of an enriching spiritual life in our parish interest you? Can you connect in any way with the projects above, or do you have other ideas for development in the parish context? My approach to all of this, like the Facility Plan, will be slow and deliberate. If there is support there will be an expenditure of personal and financial capital. If there isn't, there won't be such an expenditure of human or financial capital in the coming months.

Please pray in thanksgiving for God's blessings to our parish during these 20 years, allowing us a glimpse of a very promising future.

Fr. Robert

PS. - Our thanks to everyone who contributed to the 20th Gift presented to Pani and Me On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary! May God bless you for your kindness.



Pregnancy Center - Counselor Training



We would like to thank you for your continued prayers and support of The Pregnancy Centers. We are excited to announce our next Patient Advocate Training class for our Charlottesville centers starting September 10th! Is God calling you to serve with us? If you have a heart for helping women and can commit 3-4 hours each week, becoming a Patient Advocate at the Pregnancy Center may be for you.

Training will teach you how to engage, counsel and serve a woman facing unplanned pregnancy. Classes are fun and counseling is as simple as listening and allowing God to take the lead. There is a \$25 fee to cover materials and all 6 sessions are mandatory. Call/email/text today for more info and to sign up!

Register Today! Jillian@VirginiaPregnancy.org | 434.979.8888



Annual Fundraising Banquet Covenant Church of Christ - Rio Road Saturday, October 6th

"Love INC mobilizes The Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ."

We know that the needs of people in our area are overwhelming, and often beyond the capabilities of a single church or ministry. That is why our vision is to mobilize the members of local churches and ministries, partnering together with them and providing them with opportunities for service.

Love INC of Charlottesville / Albemarle coordinates the efforts of local congregations, such as ours, to extend the reach and capabilities of our churches to meet the people in need in our area. Their efforts go far beyond handouts - to truly transformational ministry in the lives of those served.

"Let us stop saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions." 1 John 3:18

Call 434-977-7777 or email office@loveincville.org for more information or to register for the banquet.



Building & Grounds Service Group

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"; Ecclesiastes 3:1.

Glory to Jesus Christ,

The B&G Service Group has decided to switch things up a bit this year. It has been determined that we, as a group, would like to change the previous meeting format - by which every monthly meeting used to be a discussion meeting. As such, the group will have a discussion meeting one month followed by a working meeting the next month. The intent is to discuss the items in need of attention during the discussion meeting, formulate a plan of action and, God willing, execute the plan during the next month's working meeting.

Though, it is early to tell with certainty, it appears that the new meeting format works wonders:



- ◆ During the month of June, the B&G has discussed and planned for patching the parking area; during the July meeting it has been executed.
- ◆ The main discussions at the August meeting evolved around the creation of a Meditation Garden/fencing in the grassy area around outside icon stand; the intent is to carry out the plan in September/October.

While some of us prefer doing something over talking about doing it (consider me guilty as charged!) everything must be given its due consideration and planning prior to acting upon it. The Ecclesiastes verse above reminds me of this quite often. Following the alternate meeting format will, hopefully, keep all the very gifted and dedicated members engaged in the process; take full advantage of everyone's gifts; and provide tangible results.

As always, should you see or know of something related to the B&G that needs attention, please contact myself or any of the B&G members and we will address it, as necessary.

As one of my previous supervisors used to always say *"no one of us is smarter than all of us"*, please do not be afraid to join the B&G Service Group – I promise you that you are a very gifted individual and the group will be complemented by your presence, talents and efforts.. In Christ,

Florin Moldovan, Group Leader

Evangelization and Outreach + Greeters

Evangelization and Outreach has several great ideas for projects and community initiatives but what we really need is someone to take a leadership role to make these projects a reality. Father Robert has been acting as de-facto head of E&O since I stepped away from the position last year but we all know his plate is overflowing! We have plans for Introduction to Orthodoxy events in the Crozet area and the Lake Monticello area, and have been discussing how we might use the "Becoming Truly Human" film as a way to engage those who might be seeking a deeper spiritual life.



E&O would like to explore options for sharing our message and advertising beyond print ads since fewer and fewer people, particularly young adults, are getting information from traditional sources. So we are looking for folks who are aware of what reaches people in a nearly post internet world. How do we invite people to discover Orthodoxy when there are so many competing platforms? Have you seen successful models in other parishes you have been affiliated with?

Our Greeters Ministry could also use some new faces, particularly younger adults and young parents. Regular church attendance is important to be an effective greeter since you need to recognize our regular parishioners and distinguish them from guests. Early arrival at church (by 9:00 ideally) is also required. We have training materials and guidelines to ensure consistency and an experienced greeter will work with you at the start. And that lovely nametag is certainly enticing, right? We have four regular greeters now who generally greet once a month; if we can work our way up to six greeters, we would have more scheduling flexibility and as well as back up for busy seasons.

E&O meets the first Tuesday of every month and the Greeter Ministry meets once a quarter with the E&O group. If you are interested in Evangelization & Outreach or the Greeters Ministry, please contact Karen Gavrilovic.

Karen Gavrilovic



Albemarle Charlottesville Jail Ministry

Recently, Samy Gadalla contacted the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Jail and learned of the ministry of the new chaplain there, Chaplain Joseph Varaksa, offered under the auspices of the Good News Jail and Prison ministry. Chaplain Joseph has gained the confidence of the jail administration to bring in concerned citizens and ministers on 'tours' of the facility, for those who may be interested in offering assistance to those in jail through under his direction. As he told the story of what an accused person encounters when arrested, and seeing (and feeling) the oppressive psychological and spiritual state that these men and women experience, it becomes quickly evident that much needs to be done. In a short time, Chaplain Joseph has earned the trust of many inmates, and the staff as he carries out his daily activities - teaching, encouraging, and supporting families, and staff in what is a very spiritually demanding position.

Opportunities abound for people to support this ministry, not only financially, but personally. For example, Chaplain Joseph is free to pass out spiritual materials to inmates - just last week, there were several adult baptisms in the jail! Perhaps there are ways we can get good spiritual literature for him to distribute, but also participate personally in leading bible studies or other ministries under his guidance. We have past parish members who have benefitted from such ministries. Hopefully, Chaplain Joseph will be able to visit our parish in the coming weeks to speak of his work - and let us support him through our prayers and if possible, personally.

LIBRARY/BOOKSTORE NEWS

The Library/Bookstore Service Group has continued to catalogue the books currently in our collection and has added new titles. We have also decided to have a member of the group in the Library every Sunday after Sunday School has finished to assist people in using the Library, finding books and checking them out, and shelving books which have been returned.



New library titles include:

- Exodus: St. John Maximovitch Leads His Flock Out of Shanghai, by John Dunlop
- At the Ringing of the Bells: The Paschal Martyrs of Optina
- Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy, by Andrew Stephen Damick
- Two volumes of the works of Matthew the Poor (Matta al-Miskin)

Also, the Library has acquired a fifty volume set of patristic homilies from St. Vladimir's. Be sure to stop by the library in the coming weeks and see what's now available.

Stanley Bright, Patricia Hardesty and John Hoyle



SEP 10 2018 Albemarle/Charlottesville Regional Jail Golf Scramble
Public · Hosted by Good News Jail Ministry

Old Trail Golf Course - 1pm \$100 per person.

Contact Fr. Robert if you would like to form a parish team or to play individually go to: www.goodnewsjail.org/charlottesillegolf

Report from Augusta Prison

Some good news! Finally I have learned that an Orthodox book has actually reached to the Craigsville prison's chaplain/librarian. Our fellow parishioner Dorian Lester sent me a letter this week, informing me that the chaplain now has a new copy of *Bearing God: The Life and Works of St. Ignatius of Antioch the God-Bearer* by Fr. Andrew Damick. I had ordered that book via the Ancient Faith store. (See <http://store.ancientfaith.com> Chaplain Robby Burke's mailing address: c/o Augusta Correctional Center, 1821 Estaline Valley Road, Craigsville, VA 24430.

If anyone wants to give Dorian a book, from my experience I recommend ordering a book only via an online store without mentioning any specific prisoner's name — mentioning only Chaplain Burke as the recipient. Importantly, do not try to send a gift personally from your own address or from our parish's address; instead use an institutional, shopping address such as Ancient Faith or Amazon. Note that Dorian is allowed personally to possess only ten books, but he can use the prison chaplain's library.

I am so grateful for his prayers for you all — and for yours for him...