

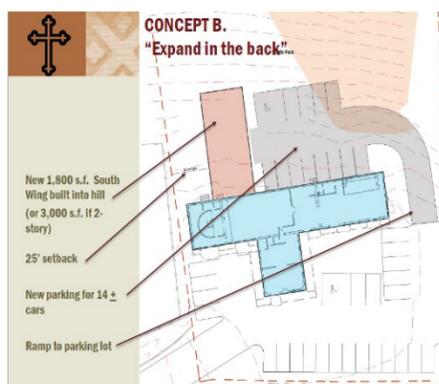


The Next 20 - Parish Facility Planning Underway!

With the advent of our 20th Anniversary, we pass a milestone in the life of our parish. Our community has always had a forward-looking orientation, and (now!) five years ago we implemented a Master Plan to guide our future direction. Part of that plan requires a sober assessment of our current facilities and infrastructure, with the hope that if we plan well, and execute even better, it will be possible to do even far more in the coming two decades than we have already.



A series of important - no essential - Facility Planning meetings is underway, the first having taken place on April 23rd, where four Concept plans were presented, discussed and 'dot voted' by those present. Vladimir Gavrilovic, assisted capably by his wife and co-planner Karen, led us in a dynamic program to simply and effectively begin this process. These plans, including one hybrid plan, will be reviewed and re-presented for further consideration at the coming sessions:



Monday, May 7 - 6:pm to 8pm and Monday, May 14th - 6pm - 8pm

A light meal was served to allow us to make it a 'working dinner', and the same format will be used for the next two sessions. It was the consensus of those who attended that this was indeed a worthwhile, and even inspiring event - and we look forward to the ways in which the Lord will guide us, and this process, in the coming weeks.

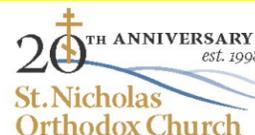
Please set aside these two coming Mondays, to join in the process and offer your suggestions and concerns to strengthen our capabilities to serve the Lord through the facilities He entrusts to us.

Next Lampada Deadline - July 3rd Themes: Summer - 20th Anniversary



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

Address Correction Requested



Lampada



May, 2018

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

20th Anniversary Celebration - April 21st



With the Paschal season now coming to full bloom after a downright cold and rainy (and even snowy) beginning, the Saturday of Thomas week (April 21st) served as a fitting moment for the faithful of St. Nicholas parish in Charlottesville to welcome our spiritual father and leader, His Eminence, Metropolitan Antony, to the community for the festivities surrounding the parish's celebration of its 20th Anniversary. His Eminence was accompanied, and capably served by Deacon. Volodymyr Jaworskyj, Subdeacon Mykola Zomchak and Seminarian Oleh Kravchenko of St. Sophia Seminary.

Inside this Issue

- 20th Anniversary Event p.1
- Service Schedule/Activities p.2
- Pastor's Message p.5
- Pani's Reflection p.6
- Financial Summary p.8
- Mrs. Stavrou - Uganda p.12
- Facility Master Plan p.16

Also travelling a distance for the celebration were V. Rev. Stephen and Panimatka Elizabeth Hutnick (who serve the parishes of Ss. Peter and Paul, Wilmington, DE; Holy Trinity, Whaleyville, MD and St. Nicholas, Dover, DE). The arrival of numerous guests, former student-members and friends who returned to St. Nicholas for the event brought great joy - including Reader James Burkeen, who was received into Orthodoxy at St. Nicholas and later ordained a reader by met. Antony after he moved to Wilmington, NC.

As in the Gospel accounts of Thomas Sunday, the presence of Christ was manifest to us in the presence of our Chief Shepherd, Metropolitan Antony - although while he didn't enter through closed doors, when the doors did open he was welcomed with the traditional Ukrainian greeting of bread and salt by Parish Board

Continued, p.5



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

Chair: Jacob Ritter Vice Chair: Dean Gakos Treasurer: Karen Gavrilovic Secretary: Karen Bowman At Large: Greg Stronko

Service Group Leaders

Hospitality: Randy Brogan Liturgy: Troy Hamilton Charitable Works: Open Evangelization: Open Buildings/Grounds: Mager Koromhas Library-Bookstore: Stanley Bright Religious Formation: Basil Finnegan Parish Ministry Coordinators Church School: Deena Gakos 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 columns for Date, Day, and Service Details. Includes: Fourth Sunday of Pascha - The Paralytic, Nine Martyrs of Cyzicus; Fifth Sunday of Pascha - The Samaritan Woman, The Righteous Longsuffering Job; Sixth Sunday of Pascha - The Man Born Blind, Virgin Martyr Glykeria; Seventh Sunday of Pascha - Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, Holy Martyr Thalelaeus; Pentecost Sunday - Sunday of the Holy Trinity.

--- No Fasting this week---



A Word on Finances

A full financial report was submitted when the budget was passed at our semi-annual meeting a few weeks ago, so there's no need for an extensive financial report for this Lampada, except to say that we are exceedingly blessed by our parishioners who commit themselves to the mission and ministry of our parish, supporting us through your sacred offerings.

The Parish Board will be working on a plan to reduce or retire our parish debt, hopefully by the 25th anniversary (we have 5 years!). This will be a major effort, but as discussed in the Parish meeting, by reducing our debt immediately, we pay less in the long run. This would also free us to seriously consider the financial possibility of implementing the long term Parish Facility Master Plan (see back page).

We are thankful for all of the support provided by our parish family and friends, and trust God that He will enable us to fulfill His commands to His disciples as reported by the holy evangelists, to carry out the mission to go forth and preach the Gospel to all.

Fr. Robert

Account Balances - As of 3/24/2018 - Parish Meeting. Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes: Contingency Fund \$25,011.70, General Fund 23,950.83, Project Fund 13851.82, Total 62,814.35, Mortgage Principal (\$230,870.34).

Soap Please!

The Charitable Works Service Group will be collecting bar soap during the Ss. Peter and Paul Fast, June 4- 29 for Crozet UMC's Food Pantry. You will find the collection baskets near our "babushka" in the narthex.

See Barbara Philips for more information.



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Table with columns for Prayers: Michele (health), Fr. Bazyl (health), Fr. Peter (health), Deacon Nicholas (recovery), Marie (hospice), Tim and Tonya, Special Intention (relationship); Special intention (marriage), Angela (special needs), Cora (healing), Anna - special need, Lydia (therapy), June (recovery at home); For the Departed: +Charita the Missionary, For all refugees who have died seeking refuge from persecution, For the victims of violence in Ukraine and in Gaza in recent weeks; For those who have died preserving our freedom: soldiers and first responders, And all of our departed family members and friends whom we have remembered.

General Intentions

- In Thanksgiving for our St Nicholas parish community as we continue to celebrate our 20th Anniversary.
For Ruth Garibaldi, for continued faithfulness in her walk as an Orthodox Christian.. Many blessed years!
For those graduating from college this month - including Mager, Matthias and Natalie. Many blessed years!
For those affected by the fire at the Mountain Mission School in Grundy, Virginia.
For the restoration of the mission parish in Ksumu, Kenya - taking place at the home of missionary Bill Black and for his personal ministry in Africa.
For all OCMC missionaries and all who so serve including for John and Mary, and for Renee Saur.
For Dorian, Natalia, Eugene and all who are imprisoned, and their families.
God's continued blessing and fruitfulness in the holy work offered to Christ by Frannie, Joe, Debbie, Lois, Gertrude, Junior, Jerry, Randy, Rayburn, Shea, Taylor, and all who serve those in need in SW Va.





Hospitality News!

Where has the year gone? Seems like only yesterday that we were having a planning meeting for the events of 2018 as well as our 20th anniversary and WHOSH—our lovely 20th anniversary Hierarchical Liturgy and Luncheon at the Greencroft Club are in the rearview mirror!! My thanks, on behalf of the Hospitality Group as well as the whole parish, to Pani Christine and all that she did in the planning with the club to make that day so special!! You are awesome, Pani!!

Thank you to everyone that assisted during Great Lent with the Presanctified Liturgy potluck meals as well as those who helped to set up the social hall for the post Paschal Liturgy Agape meal. It has been a wonderful time of fellowship and good conversation over delicious foods. Pascha night/morning proved to be filled with sausage, spirits and slivovitz!!!! Thank you to everyone who chipped in and helped with the often forgotten task of clean-up. It was much appreciated!!

Just when we thought there would be a rest after Pascha, we held our annual Bright Week Beer and Brats social on Bright Friday evening. This year's weather was top notch as well as the delicious food and drink shared by parishioners and guests alike! Stanley Bright and Tim Stratos showed some mean grilling skills and their help was much appreciated! Following a short prayer service and a sumptuous meal, it was fun to once again see the children run around in search of brightly colored plastic eggs on their egg hunt! Thank you to Ileana Hamilton for coordinating that. It was a great night to round out the first week of the Paschal season and we thank everyone that contributed to making it such a success!

While summer is often the time that a lot of other service groups take a pause in their work, Hospitality keeps on trucking. Later in the month of May, we will be coordinating along with the Community Care ministry, a reception for our graduating college and high school seniors following a Saturday evening Vesper service. Please consider joining us and honoring our young people!! Don't forget the parish Homecoming picnic on August 18th that will give us another opportunity to celebrate our parish anniversary with friends near and far!

Randy Brogan, Coordinator

Beer and Brats - It Must be Spring?

Once again, our parish brewmeisters offered samplings for a hefty crowd of Bright Week celebrants to enjoy the fellowship of a different sort of Paschal meal. The crowd of thirty or so of all ages enjoyed a hefty sampling of brats-sausage with all the fixin's, not to mention a selection of toppings and desserts.



Mager's learned a lot during his years at UVA.

Award winning brews by Dr. Jeff Shane, Fr. and Pani's horse vet - proved to be popular among the assembled samplers. We had a number of other guests and family members who joined us for the festive event.

A tradition seems to have been established - one that we can all look forward to celebrating in the years to come. And maybe a sister event in the Fall like Octoberfest would generate interest? Ω



Pani and Vladimir at work.



Liturgical Services (cont. from previous page)

Tuesday, May 29	6:00pm	Moleben (Intercession Service)
Saturday, June 2	7:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, June 3	First Sunday After Pentecost - All Saints	
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
	--- Beginning of the Apostles Fast ---	
Tuesday, June 5	6:00pm	Moleben (Intercession Service)
Saturday, June 9	7:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, June 10	Second Sunday After Pentecost - Sunday of All Saints of North America and Ukraine	
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, June 12	6:00pm	Moleben (Intercession Service)
Saturday, June 16	7:00pm	Great Vespers

Ongoing and Special Events Calendar

Evangelization/Outreach Service Group	6:30pm	Tuesday, May 1
Charitable Works Service Group	3:00pm	Saturday, May 5
Facility Planning Meeting II	6-8pm	Monday May 7
Buildings and Grounds Service Group	6:00pm	Thursday, May 10
Parish Board Meeting	6:30pm	Thursday, May 10
Book Study Group Meetings	1pm	Wednesday, May 16
	7:00pm	Wednesday, May 16
Facility Planning Meeting III	6-8pm	Monday May 21
Parish Prayer Vigil - Right to Life	12noon	Tuesday, May 22
Religious Formation Service Group	6:30pm	Tuesday, May 22
Book Study Group Meetings	1pm	Wednesday, May 23
	7:00pm	Wednesday, May 23
Evangelization/Outreach Service Group	6:00pm	Tuesday, June 1
Book Study Group Meetings	1pm	Wednesday, June 3
	7:00pm	Wednesday, June 3
Charitable Works Service Group	4:00pm	Saturday, June 5
Parish Board Meeting	6:45pm	Thursday, June 10
Buildings and Grounds Service Group	6:00pm	Thursday, June 10
Library Bookstore Service Group		TBA
Liturgy Service Group		TBA

- Looking Ahead -

Mission Trip to SW Virginia
 East West Encounter - 2018
 UOC 100th Anniversary (At Met. Center in NJ)
 Parish Homecoming



Week of July 9-13
 Friday, July 10
 Saturday, July 28
 Saturday, August 18

Many Blessed Years!

Birthdays

- John Murphy - May 5
- Amy Skretta - May 10
- Susan Murphy - May 29
- George Dilendorf - June 3
- Stephen Hoyle - June 12
- Barbara Phillips - June 14
- Stephanie Johnson - June 25
- Elaine Brogan - June 26

Saints Days

- Susan Murphy - May 5
- Amy Skretta - May 10
- Elaine Brogan - May 21
- Dean Gakos - May 21
- Elena Gavrilovic - May 21
- Ileana Hamilton - May 25
- John Gavrilovic - June 24
- Karen Bowman - June 29

A Warm Welcome & Congratulations!

To Dan Wright, who successfully defended his very interesting doctoral dissertation at UVA. His topic, on the theological writings of Met. John Zizoulas is timely, and I'm sure he would be happy to share with you his thoughts on the subject!

Dr. Dan, along with Sarah and the children hope to join us this weekend - and perhaps even for the Anniversary event in August.

Many blessed years!



Pastor's Remarks on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary

Note: At the Anniversary Luncheon I shared a few remarks for the occasion. I began with some very specific thoughts, extending my personal thanks to Met. Antony for his support of me and our mission. And I acknowledged the tireless loving care and ministry of Pani Christine both for me personally and for the parish. Because those words were meant to be personal for Christine and the Metropolitan, they will not be repeated here.

Pani Christine and I live near the I-64 Exit called Boyd Tavern, in Fluvanna County. The actual 18thc tavern building is located on Union Mills Road, just down from the turnoff to our subdivision. The old road going past here was called Three Chopt Road, which ran all the way from Richmond to the Shenandoah Valley, what is generally now the US 250 corridor. It's on that same road that our parish facilities stand, 26 miles from our home to the West.

The old Virginia taverns were not drinking saloons, but places of hospitality for weary travelers trudging the muddy roads of Three Chopt. People like Peter and Thomas Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette rolled through here. The taverns provided a place of refreshment, a meal, a place to lay one's head. They were essential to safety and survival in the early days.



Boyd Tavern, January 2014.

I'd like to make a comparison of our parish to such a place. Like a tavern, many who come to our parish do not stay very long. Sometimes it's a few weeks, sometimes a few years, but most move on as their lives call them elsewhere. Such is a 'university town'. But, from the beginning, Pani Christine and I made a point to try to open the doors of the mission parish to whoever God sent us. God took us up on that - and has sent us some amazing people. He asserted that He would move in His Church in ways, about which we had no idea. Let me introduce a few to you:

Dorian Lester - At the very first liturgy we served in the Holiday Inn on US29, we were joined by a Bulgarian woman named Valentina Joulebine. Valentina, along with her friend Dorian, were being accused of a high-profile murder - that they did not do. From a newspaper clipping they learned of the new mission, and sought it out. Dorian was not free on bail and never could come. Eventually, Valentina would be acquitted; but Dorian would have to agree to a plea bargain for a long-term incarceration in the Va. Correctional System. I visited Dorian at the Albemarle Jail; when he entered the prison system, he was able to be received into Orthodoxy, and eventually we reconnected when he was transferred to the prison in Augusta County. The opportunities to come to know Dorian have been a great blessing and encouragement to me. And, maybe most importantly, Dorian has become one who prays frequently for us as a parish - and intercedes for our special needs and petitions. That God would bless us with Dorian is beyond imagination, from the very first liturgy we served as a mission!

Bill Black - served as a missionary in Africa for three decades, and was received into Orthodoxy in Kenya, and eventually disassociated from his Protestant missionary network. Arriving in Crozet, we came to know him as an extremely gifted man of simple faith. Today he serves as a full time missionary in the Orthodox Church, with the blessing of Met. Antony and a living connection to our parish.

Two Characters - William and Doug - You might better recognize them as Fathers Paisius and Anthony, who have responded to the Lord's call in their lives during their time here, eventually being ordained as vocations from our parish. Others have been received into minor orders, such as Subdeacons James Guba, David Murphy, and Gordon Malick.

Some of the people - I'm sure - *are saints*.

The late **+Charita Stavrou** - Like Tabitha of Joppa, Charita had a ministry of sewing - and sewed the purple vestments I wear during Great Lent. Yet she had another calling - first in building churches in Africa and eventually as a full time missionary - a work she began **in her 70s!** Her loving witness was the stuff of legend - yet the Lord brought her through our revolving door for a time as well. *You can read a bit about her indomitable spirit as reported by Troy on p. 13.*

Another saintly man, of extraordinary grace and simple humility, was the late **Fr. +Peter Gillquist**, whose journey into Orthodoxy has led probably tens of thousands of people to the Faith. Although we were not part of the Antiochian Church, Fr. Peter was extraordinarily supportive of me, and us, in our early years visiting on a number of occasions - and who can forget the occasion of Fr. Peter's speech in the Dome Room of Jefferson's Rotunda, proclaiming Christ in the very bowels of American secularism.

Of course, we must never forget the contributions of the young, energetic, faithful and dedicated young men and women of faith who joined us during their years as students, and became fully a part of our community during their years in school. Some joined us for our Anniversary events, taking the time to remember and affirm the work in our midst as a witness to their love of Christ and us. Student leaders like the Schmalzbachs, the Karases, Andreaa Sandu, Neda and Maria Cvjetic, Elysa (and Ben) Mills, Alexis, Mager and others - to name a few - have been powerful witnesses to Christ and changed us because they

Continued, page 12



My Mission Experience with 'Mama' Stavrou

By Troy Hamilton

In the summer of 2008, I was blessed to participate in a very brief two week Orthodox Christian Missionary Center (OCMC) trip to Uganda. I didn't really notice Charita Stavrou, at OCMC Headquarters where three teams were meeting before being sent out to Albania, South Africa, and Uganda. Charita would continue on to Tanzania after Uganda.

This team at the time was considered experimental in nature because it was made up of Medical professionals who were prepared to conduct day long medical clinics to provide assistance for folks around Gulu, Uganda. While the people were waiting for care, the second component of the team would teach.

Our team left Jacksonville, FL with four such teachers; Charita was one of the teachers, a young man from Holy Cross College was another (he would not make it past Miami), the Team Doctor's son who was attending Holy Cross at the time and myself. So a team of three would be sharing the Gospel with a few hundred people per day who were waiting for medical help.

Our team was delayed leaving the Jacksonville Regional Airport because the plane was overweight. Charita had asked me how many bags I was carrying over and checking. I had one green duffle bag and a carry on backpack, but Charita talked to me into taking a box of school uniforms. Our team was carrying some medical supplies, a normal amount of luggage, and all of Charita's handmade school uniforms - all bound for Tanzania. One instruction I remember was to let Charita do her own thing because she was to remain in Africa beyond the teams two week trip. She was tagging along with us, but her real intent of the trip was to take those uniforms to Tanzania. We didn't expect Charita to do a lot of teaching; she was relatively advanced in age, not a seminarian, and rather inconspicuous and quiet in her humble, black clothing.

Little did we know, we would spend more time trying to get Charita to take a break from teaching - and venture to the shade, or taking a break to drink water, not standing in the full heat of the day! If there were people waiting for medical care she was preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. She had lessons prepared on Creation, the Life of Christ, and many other salvific topics hand written in her notebook. I didn't get to hear her lessons because if I wasn't teaching a group that was waiting, she would jump in and teach for us. I look back at those four days of filling prescriptions and teaching and freely admit that Charita was outworking two youthful seminarians little more than half her age!

Hospitality is important in Uganda and eating lunch, the mid-day meal, was part celebration and a chance for local community leaders to speak with the Americans. I found this respite enjoyable on many levels until I realized that whatever Charita ate was done in very short time and she was back teaching the folks while they were eating their meal. One excuse to get her to slow down some was to let her know that her translator was needed in the makeshift pharmacy or needed a break. She would promptly enlist another local who spoke English and continue teaching.

When I return to Uganda year I will ask around about Charita and maybe have a few more stories to tell, but the underlying theme is that God has work for all of us to do. If we can find our calling it is quite likely we will engage with an intensity that Charita exhibited in the few days that I was able to spend with her - an intensity within her from years of obedient service to Christ. Ω

Ed. Note: Mrs. Stavrou, the daughter of our former parishioner, Irene Lohkamp, reposed in the Lord in March. She was an inspiration to us all - may her memory be eternal - in the Risen Lord.



DESTINATION UGANDA

Troy will be heading back to Uganda over Memorial Day for a short term mission trip, this time, in conjunction with Lift up Uganda, a medical mission not-for-profit headed by Sue Nelson, who has served on many trips to Uganda, including those with OCMC.



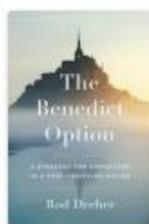
Please 'lift up' Troy and those who with whom he will serve, and especially those he is called to serve in the course of his mission work. If you can provide additional support, or to get more information about the trip, ask Troy about it - and you can check out the organization at: <http://www.liftupuganda.org>. May God all who so serve!



Religious Formation

Book Study Group Meetings

In May we will begin a short series of book studies weekly on Wednesdays - two separate sessions to be offered at church on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. The focus will be on the best-selling book, *The Benedict Option*, by Orthodox author, Rod Dreher. In the book, the author asserts that the ‘culture wars have been lost’ and that Christians in the West will increasingly experience challenges where the shifting cultural sands become increasingly unstable, and that Christian churches may be persecuted. The book analyzes the situation, then proposes options for Christians based on a review of how the monasteries founded by St. Benedict, in the Middle Ages, formed stable educational and spiritual communities to foster life of Christians and the culture as well. We’ll ask the question, “Is Dreher right?” If so, what does that mean for Christians? What does that mean for us?



There will be a session held on Wednesdays at noon (at church) for those who are only able to come during the day, and then a similar session for those who work the day shift - at 7pm. Sessions will take place on

Wednesday, May 16 Wednesday, May 23 Wednesday, May 30

When we find out who’s coming, we can fine tune the schedule accordingly. We may extend the study by a week or two, but generally it’s difficult to have such events during June due to the travel schedules of parishioners. Due to the generosity of the Larson Foundation donation, copies of this book will be made available for the nominal price of only \$5. Please contact Basil Finnegan if you would like to receive a copy at the reduced price. We are grateful for this gracious donation for our betterment and growth in the Faith.

Other Religious Formation Resources

Basil Finnegan is a fan of **podcasts** (as are a number of our parish members) and he has compiled a short list of podcasts that are of particular interest. Check out the following for your edification:

- * The Whole Counsel of God – Fr. Stephen De Young – The Gospel According to Luke (beginning January 9, 2017)
- * Search the Scriptures – Dr. Jeannie Constantinou – The Book of Daniel (beginning March 1, 2018)
- * Transforming Our Lives in Christ – Fr. Evan Armetas – The Gospel According to Mark (beginning February 19, 2013)

Pastor’s Anniversary Remarks, cont. from p.4

loved us. For all we are deeply, deeply grateful to God. Some have left for a time, and boomeranged back to us for a time!

We recall the countless others who have served us - people like the guest speakers at the Festival of the Book or our more recent East West Events like Dr. Vasilea Digidiki. We remember those who have offered retreats to us, like the late Fr. +Frank Estocin, and Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha, who himself is confronting difficult moments in his life. And of course we recall the ministry of Fr. Dcn. Nick Zachary, Fr. George Hill, and others.

And we must remember and recall with joy, the faces of the dozens of children who have brought life and joy to us. They are the children of God, the energetic, happy and at times rambunctious children who have come to characterize this parish community in the last dozen years. We recall those who have served in all of our many activities - our parish board and service groups that form the backbone of our parish life and enable us to try to serve God in some way.

These are simple snapshots of people who have come through here – through whom I have been blessed, and our parish community as well. Like coming to an old time tavern, these people came to us. There were only a few people who we sought out in any way really. But we’ve been so blessed because of *them* - and indeed - each of *you* who reads this, because in some way you are part of us. In actuality, the people who came to us were seeking not a tavern, but a sacred place. And they have both found and revealed Jesus to us.

The Resurrection accounts are all about people discovering Jesus. It’s one of the reasons why our new **icon of Jesus, the Pantocrator**, is so important. It shows us that He is really present, to everyone who walks into the church. Sometimes, it’s those who come through our doors here who discover Jesus. In other cases, more often - it is we, who discover Him through those very people - who come through our doors.

In the end, you are here because you have entered through the doors of St. Nicholas parish – whether that was at a hotel on US 29, a basement office suite on Rio Rd, a rickety oil company warehouse on Ivy Road, or the former antiques store on Three Chopt Rd in Greenwood. You have really, however, entered a sacred place, where the Banquet of God’s Love is served and we have shared the hospitality of the Master and love of Jesus with one another - for twenty years now – and for this opportunity to know you, serve you and love you -and Him - I and we all are forever grateful. Ω



2018 Anniversary Event cont. from p.1

Chair, Mr. Jacob Ritter and by Miss Katrina Hamilton, who presented him with a lovely bouquet of flowers. V.Rev. Robert Holet, extended the handcross to the Metropolitan in welcome as well, and the celebration began formally with the vesting of the Hierarch in the nave.

Ordination to the Subdiaconate – Mr. David Murphy

However, before beginning the Hierarchical Liturgy, there were several important matters to be addressed. First, parish member - Mr. B. David Murphy, who has been a student at St. Sophia Seminary for two years - was ushered forth to receive the tonsure and ordination as a Reader. His Eminence exhorted David to immerse himself in the word of God in his own life, and practice the readings prior to proclaiming them in church, that the Word might richly speak to the hearts of the faithful.



Called to Ministry

Then, His Eminence, assisted by the subdeacons present, proceeded to vest David and ordain him to serve in the holy altar as a subdeacon. In doing so, he called him to be ever-faithful in his ministry to Christ, in all humility.

Blessing of the Dome Iconography

But there was one more task to be completed. Over the past four years, the parish had planned and constructed an interior dome of the church, to serve as a starting point for the implementation of a full iconographic schema for the church space. The dome was assembled and constructed by members of the parish Buildings and Grounds Service Group in 2017 and in December, iconographer Michael Kapeluck began the execution of the iconography for the dome with the painting of eight panels holding sixteen icons of the prophets. The prophets are arranged in groups of four, thematically, by the prophecies on their scrolls. Those on the East side, proclaim the Glory of Christ as Lord of all Creation; the North panels announce the saving coming of Christ in His Incarnation; the messages of the prophets on the South panels tell of the Cross and Resurrection of the Lord the West panels remind us that as Lord, Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. These prophets speak to the themes of the saving work of Christ that we profess in the Nicene Creed.



Jake and Katrina welcome the Metropolitan

The central icon, however, is the icon of Christ the Pantocrator – the Lord Almighty, exquisitely painted on the 10 foot hemispheric dome. Its size and breadth is captivating, and it was fitting the His Eminence would be the one to offer the consecratory prayers of this image – of Christ as the one Who presides over all of creation and all of us. While Mr. Kapeluck was unable to join us in person for the celebration, he was with us in our prayers of thanksgiving and will continue to be so as the icon speaks to the hearts of those who pray before it.



Hierarchical Liturgy

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated with joy – the responses being led by Pani Dobrodyka Christine Holet, leading the congregational singing along with the chanters of the parish. Parish members Subdeacon (Dr.) James Guba and Mr. Vladimir Gavrilovic served in the holy altar as well. The newly ordained Reader/Subdeacon David Murphy capably chanted the Epistle. After the Gospel reading, Metropolitan Antony invited the children to kiss the Gospel book and dismissed them -but then he paused and spontaneously called the children back up front and asked, “What is this book?”. Without hesitation, Shamus Hamilton proclaimed, beating the other children to the response, “It’s the ‘Gospel Book!’”, to the delight of all and the relief of his parents and the pastor. Metropolitan Antony then encouraged all the parents and the children to take the word of God to heart, to read it at home and make it a firm foundation of their lives. His Eminence



20th Anniversary Events cont. from p.1

continued his homily, including a reminder for us to recall the sacrifices of those who have gone before us that enable us to live our life in the Church,

With prayers and intercessions for the parish and the Church, the Liturgy culminated in the Consecration and Distribution of Holy Communion – received piously by most of the eighty or so faithful who had gathered for the event. Before the dismissal, the Metropolitan again paused the proceedings to call forth Karl and Karen Bowman, to receive a special *bramota* in acknowledgement as founding members of the parish, who have been present from the very first liturgy held in the Holiday Inn hotel on June 27, 1998. Another acknowledgement was made of the long-term, outstanding witness and service of Richard and Vonnie Zubyk, who were, unfortunately, unable to attend the day's events due to illness.

Anniversary Luncheon at the Greencroft Club

After the Liturgy and the requisite group picture, everyone proceeded on the gorgeous spring afternoon for a splendid luncheon at the nearby Greencroft Club. Those in attendance were greeted by a parish Timeline, created for the occasion by the Church School youth. A collection of photos highlighting the history of the church scrolled on a computer screen near the registration table - serving as points of interest to all in attendance. After the cutting of the anniversary cake, a short program was held. Jacob Ritter took a few moments to thank everyone for their support of the parish and in making preparations for the event.



Youth Challenge Question?

Fr. Robert took to the podium, for some remarks and reflections for the day. He spoke in acknowledgement and thanks for the personal love and ministry that Metropolitan Antony had extended to the parish from its very founding. In noting his numerous visits to the parish, Fr. Robert remarked that seemingly, every time the Metropolitan showed up, something wonderful happened soon thereafter – including major events like our property purchase, the parish Master Plan, and the Dome project. Fr. Robert then acknowledged the loving support of Pani Christine in her service of the parish community in powerful ways, as well as to him in his personal ministry. The parish lovingly acknowledged her as well.

Taking up a bit on the theme that Metropolitan had noted, about the uniqueness of St. Nicholas parish, Fr. Robert spoke about how the parish has ministered to



Fr. Robert's Remarks

many people, but often for just a short time – unlike so many of our established parishes who have had the same families living and serving in their midst for generations. Due to the highly mobile lifestyle of young families who come to the Charlottesville area, many stay for only a couple of years, then move on to new destinations. Yet, in the course of those short stays, the parish has been deeply touched by so many faithful people coming from a variety of backgrounds. [You can read a summary of these remarks on page 4.]

In Closing

Metropolitan Antony then again affirmed the parish as he spoke about the importance of being willing to dream and work to make the dream a reality – using the example of what has taken place in the parish as an example of how

dreams can come to fruition, and the work that it takes to make it so. And with his final blessing to wind down the events of the day, so many people remarked of how they were touched by the openness and warmth of His Eminence - in his formal remarks, as well as the casual interactions that so enriched so many.



Hramota for the Bowmans



The Youth Timeline

Commentary, next page



Community Care News

CHRIST IS RISEN!!

We congratulate Ruth Gariboldi on her Chrismation and reception into the Orthodox Church! Ruth was welcomed to the church at the Holy Saturday St. Basil Vespers Liturgy. On behalf of our parish family, she was given a wall cross made of olive tree wood from Jerusalem. We pray that our newest communicant and budding iconographer will continue to grow in the faith and become an active contributor to our parish family.



Ruth has been studying the Faith since beginning her training in iconography with Fr. Mefodi of St. Maximos Skete, fostered by a prayerful spirit and practice encouraged during her time in monastic community in the Catholic Church. May God grant many blessed years to Ruth and her sponsors, Karen and Vladimir Gavrilovic!!

A major milestone occurred in the lives of Natalie Hamilton and Simon Skretta during Holy Week. They were blessed to participate in the Sacrament of Confession for the first time. I don't know about you, but I remember mine as being both humbling and intimidating, and it can still be that way sometimes!! Many blessed years to both Simon and Natalie as they continue to grow in the faith with the sacraments of the church!

While all the 20th anniversary Liturgy and luncheon preparations were going on, the Community Care ministry had the privilege of putting together some welcoming snacks and beverages for the Metropolitan and his traveling party to enjoy in their hotel rooms and/or on their trip back to South Bound Brook. There's nothing like some munchies and a cold drink to make traveling and arriving at your destination so much easier. Refreshments were also provided for the Metropolitan as well as all those who served in the altar at the Hierarchical Liturgy.....and newly ordained Subdeacon David Murphy thought it was a sacristy party just for him!! Many blessed years by the way to David! It was wonderful to have such a compliment of clergy and servers at the altar and it was our pleasure to offer them some sustenance following Liturgy.

On May 19th following Vespers, our parish will honor college and high school graduates as well as the OCF graduates that have become a part of our parish family during their time here. **Please contact Father Robert and/or myself to let us know the names and schools of these graduating young people.** We look forward to celebrating them, honoring their accomplishments, and reminiscing together.

Thank you to all the parishioners that have stepped up and assisted with the work of Community Care. Just by the very nature of taking care of each other, we must be prepared for both the happy and sad times that arise as we never know when those events will pop up. Thank you one and all for being so cooperative and flexible with your time for both the benefit of those in your parish family as well as to the glory of God!!

In faith and in love,

Elaine Brogan, Community Care Coordinator

So What's Your Chapter in our Parish History?

Do you remember the first time that you walked through the door of St. Nicholas? Was there a pleasant, smiling face to greet you? What were your first impressions? Was there something that happened and looking back now, was so unbelievably funny, but at the time-not so much!

I think that we all have our stories about the first time that we came to worship at St. Nicholas. Even if you attended the first service at the Holiday Inn on Emmett Street, I'm sure there were some questions then-where do I go?, will I be the only one there?, will the sermon take forever?, etc. [Ed Note: Answer yes - was then, still now]

There are always stories attached to those situations which we experience for the first time. Please take some time, in this 20th anniversary year, to think of the beginning of your St. Nicholas story. Feel free to be brutally honest, if unfortunately, your first experience wasn't the best! Glory to God-you came back!! We can all learn from both the good and bad observations. If you choose to be anonymous, drop your reflection in the Charitable Works mailbox by the office to my attention or you can send me an email at ehbrogan@earthlink.net. It is my hope that we can collect these and possibly share them in future parish bulletins and/or Lampada newsletters throughout the year.

Let's continue writing the history of St. Nicholas parish together!



Young Adults,

Please see the one minute YouTube message from Bishop Gregory of Nyssa & Fr Stephen Loposky about the upcoming Young Adult Spring Retreat: <https://youtu.be/j4eT-3XmDgg>



LADIES ONLY

In April, a group of the young ladies of the parish gathered during Coffee hour to get to know each other a little better, and so enjoyed the time that some were able to share lunch together. As a result, it is hoped that they will be able to get together to meet at least monthly, to enjoy time together, share a meal, visit a winery, go hiking, engage in edifying conversation, or share common interests and activities.

At this point, the group is geared for young women, roughly in the early 20s through 30s whose focus will be pretty much self-directed, but can include any of a number of enjoyable and spiritually edifying activities.

Hopefully this will help our folks to realize their identities as Orthodox Christians in our parish community and beyond. Some of the women who gathered have expressed interest in carpooling to Orthodox Singles events, retreats or opportunities for service. For more info contact Maria at mariacontep3@gmail.com.



Remembering our St. Nicholas Experience, [cont. from previous page](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: mager koromhas [mailto:mck4pv@virginia.edu]

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 11:38 PM

Dear Father Robert,

I wanted to say thank you for inviting me to attend Divine Liturgy at St. Nicolas. I have enjoyed my visits there a great deal. What made the experience so special were the parishioners. They have noticed I was visiting and often went out of their way to make me feel welcome. On Sunday (the 29th of March) three people came up to bring me bread after they received communion. This has been very different than my experiences in other parishes and communities. It has been through these people that I have felt the Holy Spirit at St. Nicolas and that has made me excited every week to return on Sunday. This has increased my interest in Orthodoxy as a faith choice. I will not be able to come this upcoming Sunday as I must return home to Virginia Beach, but I hope to celebrate Pascha and Holy Week with you all.



In Christ,

Mager Koromhas

From: Robert Holet <rcholet@yahoo.com> Date: Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 9:49 AM

Hello Mager - Greetings to you in Christ.

Thanks for your kind note and sentiments. That St. Nicholas parish tries to offer kindness to you and others is because Christ has first offered His mercy to us! So we just want to share His blessings. Our parishioners are a very interesting group of people from many different places, so we try to create a sense of home for whoever seeks the Church. Don't worry too much about the Orthodox vocabulary. While there are lots of words and things that may be different, but they have a purpose. And just about the time one figures out all the terms, then somebody (like the bishop) shows up and starts using the terms in a different language like Ukrainian. But we eventually figure it out.

May God bless you in your travels and I look forward to having a chance to speak to you soon.

Fr Robert



20th Anniversary Event [cont. from p.6](#)

Time did not allow a full opportunity to tell all of the stories behind the Timeline made by the parish youth, or the revolving set of pictures on the computer screen that 'told the tale' of the growth of the parish from its infancy. But in the spirit of that growth, as part of the parish's 20th Anniversary celebrations, there will be a special effort made to prayerfully consider and study the long term facility needs of the parish, and a sincere effort to reduce or eliminate the parish debt – hopefully by the 25th Anniversary celebration.



The Shepherd encourages the Flock

Before his departure, His Eminence could not resist *one more* opportunity to gather with some of the children present at the event for one last picture in the midst of the lovely grounds of Greencroft. While pictures such as this will help us to remember the joy and blessings of the day, the spiritual awareness of the presence of Christ the Good Shepherd in the midst of His people, will remain in the hearts of the faithful for years to come. Ω

Pani's Anniversary Reflection, [cont. from p.8](#)

GOD MADE US A FAMILY

*We need one another, We love one another. We forgive one another
We work together, We play together, We worship together
Together we use God's Word, Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all men, Together we serve our God
Together we hope for Heaven, These are our hopes and ideals
Help us to attain them, O God, Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.*

I sent my mother and one of my sisters a link to the UOC article, so they could circulate it among the family. My sister responded with a note of congratulations. My mother's response is below. It provided a lot of material for meditation when I think about the next steps in our journey, as we began them on April 23. I hope that you see in me a bit of what she expresses so simply in these words.

"I have read the article you were so kind to send. I so wished that I could have been there. The tears were there reading what has been accomplished. The pictures are so warm and showing of God's love to people who show how much they love Him to work so hard to spread His Church.

I will be repeatedly going back and reading this and very much feeling a part because of you two wonderful people. I will also try to get some pictures developed to display on my wall.

Your congregation seems so happy. God bless all of you.

Love, Mom



Coming up for Air – and A Peek in the Mirror

By Pani Makta Christine

A few random thoughts on 2018's Pascha/20th Anniversary cycle....

- ◆ I am always amazed at the beautiful moments we experience during the Holy Week services. This year was no exception. I was particularly moved by Jerusalem Matins this year; in no small part because the melodies we use were given to me during our first Holy Week/Pascha in the UOC of the USA. Father Bazyl Zawierucha, who welcomed us into his Parish home for the first memorable weekend of service in the Metropolia, handed me the music and together we sang. *I will always be grateful to him for his kindness to both of us.*
- ◆ It often seems that tasks and calendar schedules seem much more do-able looking far ahead. I know that I *always* plan to have more energy and enthusiasm during this time of year than the running-on-empty tank that is my midnight Paschal reserve. And, while we normally take Bright Week to celebrate (and nap!), gradually working back into our “normal” routine, this year it was almost as if Pascha did not end the preparation – nor did it end the celebration!
- ◆ Based on the weather, there was no way to know what to expect for our celebrations. As it turned out, God was bountiful in His blessings to us. The weather was exactly what it was supposed to be throughout; not too hot, not too cold, enough rain; sunshine...it should not have been a surprise. I was humbled and thankful that we “lilies of the field” received all we needed.
- ◆ I was very thankful that Metropolitan Antony appeared to be in good health and great spirits for the time he spent with us. As much of a taxing of resources as we experience during the Paschal Season and the Thomas Sunday celebration in South Bound Brook, his own personal to-do list would dwarf our Parish responsibilities combined. *Eis polla eti, Despota!*
- ◆ All of our gatherings from Holy Week through the 20th Anniversary celebration seemed (to me) to be permeated with an underlying spirit which was a combination of humility, joy and thanksgiving. As Father and I reflect on 20 years (!) of working and praying that God would gather His people according to His will for us, one can tell much from observation about mindset; *those who walked with us through this time showed me their faith, confidence and belief in the future of this Parish.* I am beyond thankful for that.
- ◆ I was thankful that people from our early days thought enough of our Parish to travel and join us in celebration. We have received cards and notes from those who could not attend, but were with us in spirit – all adding to the joy of this time.
- ◆ I was sad that some were not with us. As the Metropolitan said in his remarks, we pray for those who were absent for just – and not-so-just – reasons. As in any family, people are missed when we come to the table.
- ◆ I have told several people that this Anniversary celebration was one of the easiest Parish events I can remember (Some Coffee Hours have been more complicated!). In reflection, I think the single biggest reason was that we didn't try to do too much. This could easily have been a larger-than-life project; it was instead a simple gathering of our Metropolitan and His flock. What a refreshing experience!
- ◆ I wondered how many people we would see at Liturgy on Sunday, after the festivities of the day before. I was pleased to see how many people came – and stayed around for a while, too!



I cannot tell you how much of a joy it is to see this group, at this time, moving through the intensity of Holy Week through the celebration of

I would be remiss if I did not include a reflection on the past 20 years of marriage to your Pastor. During his remarks at the luncheon, Father Robert was very gracious to include me. It is important for you to know how much of an inspiration he has been to me during this time. We are different in personality and temperament; our approaches to this work are not always the same. One thing that is constant is our shared belief that God is driving this effort. Our lives are a witness to that every day.

My husband's steadfast faith in the face of challenge and opportunity, his humility, his calm, quiet pursuit of God's plan – and his love for this Parish – all of this I have observed, almost from the outside looking in. There is no doubt that we are in this together; but the work is sometimes more isolating than you will ever know. In all of these years, through all of this time, we have remained a family. There is a framed poem on our dining room wall that speaks to this:

Continued, page 7



A few More Anniversary Notes from our Parish Family and Friends

Over the past few weeks we've received a number of greetings from people who have been members, or affiliated with our parish in the past. Some took the Anniversary event to be an occasion to visit in person. Others may come for our homecoming event in August. To all who have expressed your thoughts and best wishes and prayers, we are deeply grateful.



From OCMC Missionary Bill Black

Note: Bill sent this note on Friday, and unfortunately it was not possible to be read aloud at the Anniversary Luncheon:

Dear Friends at St. Nicholas parish,

Greetings from sunny, warm Kisumu on the shores of Lake Victoria in western Kenya! After your long hard winter, I mention the above only to remind you that you do have options! You are welcome here at my house whenever you are ready to come! I give God the glory for the twentieth anniversary of St. Nicholas parish. But I also recognize that God almost always uses means to accomplish His will, and many people there have worked very hard, serving in public ways or in quiet ways, to make this Church the vibrant presence of Christ that it has become. There are many who were part of our community who are no longer with us in this world. And many others who have joined us in the work along the way. May God richly bless you as you remember the good things our Lord has done in your midst, and the good people God has given you as His blessing here. But may this celebration not merely be a looking back, but a strong motivation as well to become what our Lord is calling us to be right here and right now, and in the coming months and years. St. Nicholas parish, you are off to a really good start. May you run the race with perseverance, with joy, and with all the love He gives you, so that you might become more and more the blessing and light of God right there where He has planted you, so that your neighbors may come to know and love and praise Him, too.



Dr. Bill Black

Director of Education and Stewardship, Diocese of Kisumu and All Western Kenya
Orthodox Church of Kenya
Senior Lecturer, St. Paul's University



From Larry Uzzeell - regarding Dorian Lester:

Note: Larry serves as our point person to stay in touch with those in prison.

As Fr. Robert has reminded us at the Luncheon, one of our most faithful parishioners has literally never visited our church building. Dorian Lester, serving a lifetime sentence at the Craigsville state prison, was chosen several years ago to be the prison chaplain's assistant. Among many tasks he helps other prisoners struggling with correspondence. Recently he asked the chaplain to look up the status of Natalia, another Orthodox prisoner; he confirmed that she is still at the Fluvanna prison. Dorian's personal prayer list includes the specific names such as Natalia's from our parish bulletins — now to include Vonnie Zubyk's. From his many personal letters to me I am convinced that his prayers for our parish are really special. Please continue to pray for him.



From Mager Korombas

Note: Mager, as a UVA student, was introduced to the Orthodox Faith during his college years and eventually was received into the Church and has become an active leader in our parish. He will be missed when he graduates this May! Mager found the original email exchange sent to him when he first inquired about St. Nicholas Parish:

Father and Pani, Christ is Risen!

I found this email that I sent after coming to services the first couple times back in 2015. Memories from the beginning of my journey to Orthodoxy. In Christ,

Mager

Continued, next page