



Diocesan Church School Camp - 2015!

An important rite of passage for young children is usually their summer camping experience. Whether it be day camp, sleeping under the stars with their scout troop, or spending a good part of their summer at a sleep-away camp, it's safe to assume, that some precious childhood memories will be created at such an activity. We are fortunate in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA that we have such a lovely camp, nestled along the Allegheny River in Northwest Pennsylvania, above Pittsburgh. We're really excited to share with you the experiences of 2 of our young parishioners, Katrina and Gregory, as related by their moms.

Q) What were your first impressions of the camp?

K-I thought it was really pretty and that people must have put a lot of thought and effort into building it.

G-I've been there before (Mommy and Me in 2012), and I sort of knew what to expect, but because it was a "different camp," I didn't know what to expect.

Q) Tell us about your cabin and your cabin mates. Where were they from?



K-I loved the bunk beds and the storage spaces under the benches. The girls were mostly nice and friendly. I made 3 really good friends. A few of them were from Philly and two were from California!

G-I was in Boys cabin #7. My cabin had 4 bunks with one in our counselor's room. We had 9 windows and other campers would bang some of the windows to scare us. My counselor was Nikolai, from Rhode Island. In my cabin were Daniel, Anthony, and Alex-all from Pennsylvania and Warren from Rhode Island.

Q) What was your favorite thing about camp?

K-The crafts, hiking, church and getting to experience the myrrh streaming icon. The icon was my #1 favorite!

G-Evening prayers. I liked the chapel in the evenings and only 2-3 lights would be on.

Q) What was the worst thing about camp?

K-The homesickness!!

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Next Lampada - October, Theme: Fall



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 6981

Charlottesville Virginia 22906

Address Correction Requested



Lampada



August, 2015

Your Word O Lord is a Lamp to my feet, a light to my path.

A New Beginning - Bill Black Returns to Ministry in Africa



Our time with missionary Bill Black came to a close on July 20th, as our parish offered the OCMC Commissioning Service for Bill as he departed for Nairobi, Kenya in missionary service. He will teach at the Patriarchal Seminary there under the spiritual leadership of His Eminence +Makarios, presiding Metropolitan under the Patriarchate of Alexandria. His focus will be to prepare candidates for ordination as equip lay leaders who will bring the gospel to the ever-growing Church in Kenya and throughout Africa. While most of the students are from Kenya, the seminary has historically served much of the African continent.

Bill's return is the fulfillment of a deep desire and calling to continue this ministry begun three decades ago after a short term missionary trip, his doctoral training at Cambridge, and subsequent service as a missionary in the Protestant Church. We continue to pray for him in this next phase ministry. *You can read Bill's farewell reflection on p.7.*

Reflections on Our Mission Trip to Grundy

When I first went to Grundy in Southwest, Virginia about eight years ago in order to deliver blankets from our parish to the RAM Health Fair, I couldn't wait to leave. This year when I went as a part of a five person team for a short summer work mission, I couldn't wait to get there and wished I could have stayed longer. I only wish all of you could have been there with us to experience the faith and love of a community that continues to suffer enormous economic and social problems: more layoffs in the coal mines, more drug and alcohol problems, more young people abandoning the area in search of jobs, more elderly people living alone in remote mountain areas with no help, Christian ministries struggling to keep up with the needs of the community, and children still hungry most of their young lives. The sorrows and needs of the people are not, however, what I first think of when I think of Grundy. It is the witness of the faith, perseverance and love of the people we know there.

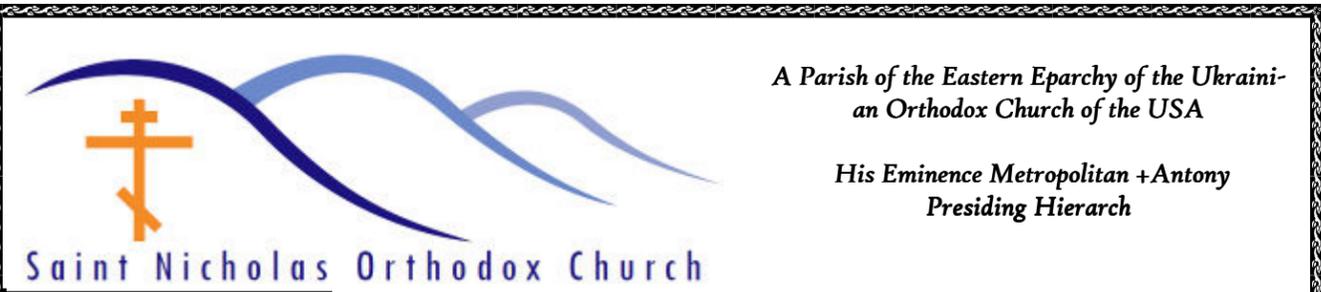


This year our trip to Grundy was slightly different than usual. In the past we had always worked with Buchanan Neighbors United (BNU) in the summer, but Gertrude, the director, and Junior, the construction supervisor of BNU, had decided to take at least a year off from the large scale home rebuilding projects. We had no contact there for our usual summer work program, so had decided we probably couldn't go this year, we were delighted to learn that a Baptist Church outside of Grundy was looking for a group to help with some home remodeling work. Our parish (plus Harmon United Baptist Church and their pastor. Shea Shrader) decided to try out the new relationship over a three day period. Five of us (Fr. Robert, Tim Stratos, Stan

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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

Chair: Vladimir Gavrilovic

Vice Chair: Randy Brogan

Treasurer: Karen Bowman

Secretary: Cynthia Patzig

At Large: George Dilendorf

Service Group Leaders

Hospitality: Vacant

Liturgy: Bryan Alexander

Charitable Works: Vacant

Evangelization: Basil Finnegan

Greeters: Karen Gavrilovic

Buildings/Grounds: Dean Gakos

Liturgical Music - Pani Matka
Christine Holet

Webmaster - Karen Bowman

Community Care - Elaine Brogan
Library-Bookstore - Vacant

Contact Information

Parish Office - 434-973-2500

Phone at Church: (540)-456-6981

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.stnicholasorthodoxchurch.org

To reach Fr. Robert - First call the rectorry phone: 434-973-2500 and leave a message. If you are unable to reach him at that number, leave then try the cell phone: 434-987-8170. The cell phone is used only on travel trips.

Email is checked daily.

Liturgical Services Schedule

Subject to Change

Sunday, August 9	TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Holy Apostle Matthias
	8:45am Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, August 12	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Friday, August 14	6:00pm Great Vespers - <i>Feast of the Dormition of the Godbearer</i>
Saturday, August 15	8:00am Divine Liturgy - Feast of the Dormition of the Godbearer
	7:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, August 16	ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Postfestive of Dormition, Icon of Christ 'Not made by human Hands'
	8:45am Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, August 19	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, August 22	6:00pm Holy Baptism - Ephrem Gakos
	7:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, August 23	TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Leavetaking of Dormition, Holy Martyr Lupus
	8:45am Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, August 26	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Friday, August 28	6:00pm Great Vespers - <i>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</i>
Saturday, August 29	Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
	8:00am Divine Liturgy
	7:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, August 30	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Holy Patriarchs Alexander, John and Paul
	8:45am Matins
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
	4:30pm Sacred Crowning in Marriage - Jacob Ritter and Kelly Schantz
Wednesday, September 2	6:00pm Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)



Let Me Tell You a Story...

Father Robert asked me a couple of weeks ago to share with you about our recent guest from Latvia. I imagined writing an essay that shared information. But here I am, and all I can do is tell you our story.

I was always afraid to turn my life completely over to God because I was afraid He would send me to Africa. After getting to know Bill Black, (our own Rdr. Joseph), maybe that wouldn't have been so bad! But it was not part of my plan. I had my own ideas on how my life would go, and it involved putting down roots and having a family. Eventually, the

Lord got my attention though, and I became willing to do things according to His will for me. For those of you who know me, you know that I do not have children of my own, but I do have children I love very much. God put a man in my life who already had four. I instantly picked up the step-mom role, and have been very blessed to have each of these people in my life. I now have the big family I always wanted with a couple of sons-in-law and three grandchildren. I am so, so grateful for the love we share. But the plight of orphans has always been on my heart.

Now I have another son as the mission field came to our house this summer. I didn't have to go to Africa. A 14 year old teenager from a small village in Latvia became part of our family for five weeks. Through a wonderful program called *New Horizons for Children*, we were able to bring over T. who currently lives in foster care in Latvia. Check out nhfc.org for information about their Eastern Europe program that ministers to children from Latvia and Ukraine.

T. is a typical young teenager in many ways. He loves action movies, video games, cartoons, the Simpsons, Legos, potato chips, hotdogs, sweet drinks, and not always doing what is asked. He really likes fast cars. But in many ways he is atypical. His parents and grandparents are not dead, but they are not involved in his life. That is actually a good thing for many reasons. He is in a wonderful, loving foster home. But he wants more. Over these days of interaction, it is obvious to me that he longs for the stability of a permanent family. I cannot imagine how it must feel to be facing the future on your own. But that is certainly what T. and so many like him in Eastern Europe are facing.

Today he is safe with this amazing foster family. But at some point he will have to deal with the predators who prey on these orphans. He will have to figure out how to make a life for himself in a culture that does not value the least of these. So I do not think he is typical. Despite the heartbreak of his past, he laughs and jokes. He dreams of having a fast car that he will keep spotlessly clean. He dares to hope. As I said, I cannot imagine growing up with so little security. But somehow he is managing.

T. is also difficult to be around sometimes. He does not want to delve deeply on any topic or talk seriously. The constant joking becomes a tiresome cover. But I am not sure I can blame him. I would be terrified if in his situation. Whatever difficulties I had with my family while growing up - - they were there. Even when I was at my most rebellious - - they were there. Karl and I put him on a flight to Brussels on Sunday, and I miss him terribly. He is now back in his village in the south eastern part of Latvia. I have no idea what is next for him or for us, but I know I want to see him and hear his voice.

NHFC is committed to caring for orphans and to sharing the love of Christ with them. My prayer is that somehow God was able to do that with our messy, broken lives. I pray that St. Thomas will intercede and that Christ will touch T.'s heart in a new way. I pray that somehow we have given him a taste of family, stability, and the love of Christ. Having him here has opened my heart in new ways. I have so much to be grateful for; I have so much to be hopeful about; I have so much to be repentant about - so much love in my life. Thank God for this opportunity.

Fifty percent of orphans in Eastern Europe are dead by the age of 25. Of those who make it, a large percentage will deal with trafficking, prostitution, criminal activity, and addiction. Statistically, it is a very bleak future. Please pray for T. and those who live with Aunt Olga and Uncle Peter. Please pray for this new child of my heart.

Karen Bowman

3rd Annual St. Nicholas Golf Outing
Saturday, September 26th 4:00pm
Waynesboro Golf and Game Center

- 9 holes: Par 3 Golf Course (Best Ball Format) (played at Night with Glow in the Dark Balls!) \$25.00 / Adult, \$20.00 Child (10-15 years old)
- Putt Putt Golf Outing for the little ones! \$15.00 Adult, \$10 / Child (under 10 years old)
- Prices Include Fellowship Dinner / Prizes
- All proceeds benefit the St. Nicholas Charity Fund

Contact: Randy Brogan for details
540-255-4067
Email: RANDALBROGAN7006@comcast.net



SW Virginia Ministry *Continued, from p.1*

Bright, me (Cynthia) and my 18 year old grand daughter, Joanna) went down on July 12th and came back on the 15th. The most important result of this summer trip was establishing a connection with Harmon Baptist Church that has the potential for becoming a strong and lasting relationship. This was sort of a test run for both parties; at the end of three days we all felt confident we would like to work together in the future.

It was probably good that we sent down a small group this year, not only because of our short stay but also because of the type of jobs Harmon Baptist had set aside for us. These were smaller jobs than some we had done previously with BNU, but the Baptist church hadn't been sure what our skill levels actually were and didn't want to give us more than we could handle. Fr. Robert, Stan and Tim did some roof repairs, put in ramps, and did some other small jobs. At the end of three days, Pastor Shrader was very impressed with the skill level of our small group of guys and is interested in having us work on some much larger, more complex projects in the future. From our point of view, I think all of us were impressed with Pastor Shrader. He is a young pastor, full of energy and ideas. In the few years he has been at Harmon church, it has grown tremendously. It is obvious that he loves and cares about the people of Grundy and brings new ideas, enthusiasm, talents, and hope to a community that is often fractured, discouraged and depressed.

While the guys worked on houses, Joanna and I spent one day helping the Gift of Love ministry sort and mark clothes for their clothes closet. We spent a wonderful day there enhanced by an incredible country style lunch some of the women had fixed for all of the workers. On another afternoon we spontaneously decided to try to find Junior's house (which was across the mountain) because we had heard that he had fallen off a roof a week earlier and had broken a few ribs. That was probably the highlight of our time in Grundy. He welcomed us into his home and we visited with him for nearly an hour and a half. He welcomed us as family and opened up his home and his heart without a moment's hesitation. We laughed and we cried together. He told us about his wife and her death. (Joanna is going to paint a picture of his wife and send it to him.), I told him about Dennis' death. He gave us flower seeds from his garden, offered us bologna sandwiches, showed us his house. I will always thank God for that visit; it was so filled with love!



Joanna learns about the Sunrise Center

On Tuesday evening, we had a small community dinner for our friends in Grundy at the Catholic church. It was a much smaller group this year because some of our regular ministry partners were sick. Junior of course couldn't make it because of broken ribs. Gertrude was coming down with the flu. Our friend Jerry who has worked in the prison there and also runs a Christian 12-step alcohol and drug recovery group treating health problems at the doctor's office. Lois with Gift of Love was away trying to arrange help for her very elderly mother. Lois also had fallen the night before and wasn't feeling very well. Even though it was a smaller group this year, it was still a wonderful evening in which everyone

had a chance to talk about their ministries. Fr. Robert led the group in a short Orthodox prayer service before supper as he has done in the past. To see Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants joyfully praying together in a Catholic church is amazing!

There are some things that were troubling this time. One is that some of the ministries we have worked with are ending: Gift of Love is closing (except for the shoe ministry), Buchanan Neighbors United is probably going to remain closed. Charlotte from Sunrise Center is planning to retire (but the center will probably remain open). Another obvious change is that our ministry partners are aging and are having more health problems. For the most part, there are almost no volunteers within the community to replace them. The very positive result of this trip, however, was the connection with Pastor Shrader and his church. This could lead to an involvement in other ministerial needs in Grundy. That often seems to be how it is: God closes one door and opens another.

Joanna summed up the trip the best when I asked her how she would best describe her impression of the people in Grundy. Without any hesitation she said, "Loving, hospitable, accepting, open hearted". Absolutely! That's why I could have stayed!

Cynthia Patzig

Account Balances - As of 8/6/2015	
As of 8/6/2015	
Account	8/6/2015 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Contingency	30,247.30
General	14,806.19
Project	22,381.04
TOTAL Bank Accounts	67,434.53
Liability Accounts	
Mortgage Principal	-256,559.28
TOTAL Liability Accounts	-256,559.28
OVERALL TOTAL	-189,124.75



Liturgical Services (cont.)

Saturday, September 5	<i>Vespers Schedule to be Announced</i>	
Sunday, September 6	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Miracle of St. Michael at Colossae	
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
Monday, September 7	6:00pm	Great Vespers - Nativity of the Godbearer
Tuesday, September 8	Feast of the Nativity of the Godbearer	
	8:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, September 9	<i>No Moleben this week</i>	
Saturday, September 12	<i>Vespers Schedule to be Announced</i>	
Sunday, September 13	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Sunday Before Exaltation of the Cross	
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
	12:00pm	Great Vespers - Feast of the Exaltation
Monday, September 14	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
	8:00am	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, September 16	6:00pm	Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, September 19	7:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, September 20	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Sunday After Exaltation of the Holy Cross	
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy
Wednesday, September 23	6:00pm	Moleben (<i>Intercession Service</i>)
Saturday, September 26	7:00pm	Great Vespers
Sunday, September 27	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Holy Martyr Callistratus and Companions	
	8:45am	Matins
	9:30am	Divine Liturgy

Events and Activities

Parish Board Meeting	9:30pm	Saturday, August 15
Work Party	9:30am - ?	Saturday, August 22
Evangelization/Outreach Svc Group	6:00pm	Tuesday, September 1
Charitable Works Service Group	5:30pm	Saturday, September 6
Fall Parish Meeting	7:00pm	Sunday, September 13
Buildings and Grounds Svc Group	TBA	
Library-Bookstore Service Group	5:30pm	Saturday, September 19
Parish Family Golf Outing (<i>tentative</i>)	TBA	Saturday, September 26
OCF Fall Retreat		To Be Announced
Ongoing Events		
Inquiry into Orthodoxy	After Liturgy	Weekly as needed

Many Blessed Years!

Birthdays

Saints Days

"In God's family there are no stepchildren."

Dorian Lester



The Exodus

Recently at a meeting with local ministers I mentioned, 'The Exodus'. They found it hard to believe. As I explained, The Exodus is an annual occurrence, more or less, in our parish when, usually around mid-spring, we get word of the pending departure of many key members/families in our parish. Often the percentage of active parishioners heading for the exits is around 15%, and this year it seems higher. This occurs, of course, because of the demographics of our parish where a large percentage of people are young families associated with educational endeavors that wind down in the spring, and they take on new positions in other parts of the country in the summer. Among our departing families this year will be the Siebekings, and the Duncans, preceded by Elysa Miller (her third Exodus!), Bill Black, Eric Taft, Rachel Arnold, and the students active in our parish like Matt and Katie Karas, John Gavrilovic and Julia Harrison. (*I'm missing someone???*) Whew! This particular 'class' of departing folks has been really active in our parish, supporting our liturgical, social and spiritual life in countless ways. And they're just downright *great people* - who will be sorely missed! And there are a few other families who are planning....



This annual situation is challenging for our parish - and always requires a special effort by all of our parish leaders to, first of all, not get depressed! Everybody will be missed - but let us celebrate the good things that God is, and will be doing in their lives! Hopefully, they've received something during their time here that will allow them to carry it as a gift to other Orthodox Christians, in other parishes - and even other parts of the world. Relationships can be sustained over a distance when love is present! But, The Exodus does require us to 're-group and re-equip' our parish service groups and ministries that have been so dependent upon these folks for their ongoing inspiration and energy.

In biblical times, the Exodus was the migration of the God's people of the Covenant, the Israelites, to the Promised Land. It was an act of God's grace - leading the people from one state and place to the place where they truly belonged. As this happens for those exiting, it should also be happening to us all. The Israelites came to a 'new place' in the desert and faced their limitations, struggled with them, and asked God to reveal Himself and lead them. This is what the parish must also do. As God raised up, taught and disciplined (*'disciplined'*) new leaders in the desert (Moses, Aaron, the elders, etc.) so also He raises up new people to serve, and eventually to lead. This is an ongoing process - as each of us becomes aware of how God has blessed us to participate in, and hence serve, the Christian community with the unique gifts entrusted to us.

Our parish thrives when our Parish Services groups meet regularly, work together, plan and execute their given tasks with faith and joy, as service to the Lord, leading all of our parishioners to engage in their work. Every person who comes to our parish has something special to contribute, and it is one's moral and spiritual responsibility to seek out ways to serve the Lord in the Church. This requires a 'willing spirit' and much self reflection, openness and creativity, being willing maybe to try something different in the parish than what has been done before.

Of course, during the month of August, we remember the Special Exodus - the falling asleep in death of the Most Holy Godbearer, Mary. In Orthodoxy, we see that many events in life remind us that our time here is brief and passing very quickly. The Dormition is a reminder to us of two things - first, *because* this time is passing and we must prepare ourselves for the Second Coming, the Judgment and the final Encounter with our Lord in heaven at death. But we are also reminded how we do this best - by taking advantage of 'The Day' the Lord has made - today - to serve Him.

Again, we extend our best wishes to those who have been such an active and essential part of our living Christian community, and our prayers for you and your new life. We pray for all who remain - that we can not only 'fill the gap' left by those who are departing, but indeed thrive in powerful new ways, led by the Spirit, to serve the Lord in faithfulness. Ω

Ministry of Intercession

As a pastor, there are many needs that come to my attention - many of which are beyond the ability of me, or often anyone else, to 'problem-solve'. In situations where there is seemingly no solution, what do we do?

Answer - We pray!



I have asked Eileen Opincar and Cynthia Patzig to help us, as a parish, become more sensitive to the needs around us, and through prayer, lift these people and situations, and our world, up to the Lord. We will be looking for concrete, Orthodox, ways we can form this ministry that can engage those involved at the core of this ministry, but indeed all parish members, to look beyond our own needs, to the needs of those around us. If you have any suggestions, or would like to participate actively in this ministry (under the umbrella of the Charitable Works service group, please let me know. We will also revise certain ways in which prayer intentions are handled in the Church. More to come.



A Time of Transition

As summer draws to a close we face a natural time of transition in our parish. We are both blessed and challenged to be in a part of the country that is so transient and it is at this time of year that our parish feels those blessings and challenges most acutely. The challenges come with the natural transitions of people ascending the steps of their lives. They change jobs, change houses, begin to change diapers - their lives get more full in many ways, and some who have given so much to our parish of their time, talent and treasure move on to other places. The blessings, though, come in the new life that comes into our parish with each new person that walks in our doors, each family, each student, retiree or seeker that parks in our gravelly lot and crosses our squeaky threshold.



This summer, our parish has some unique challenges in that all or almost all of our service group leaders and a majority of our parish board will be transitioning out of their positions this fall. As the parish board has pledged to make this the year of 'volunteer support,' we have been uniquely challenged by God to fulfill that pledge in the face of this turnover of leadership at one time. As I mentioned in the announcements on a past Sunday, we ask each parishioner to be open to what God may open in their lives through the opportunity to serve. Space doesn't permit me to write on what the Scriptures and the fathers and mothers have said about the spiritual benefits of service. It is enough hopefully to simply say that if our goal in our lives as Christians is to be one with God, we should remember that He *came to serve and not to be served*.

During the coming weeks, a board member, our priest, or a service group member may tap you on the shoulder and ask if you've ever considered serving in.... There may be a natural reaction of caution if that happens. That's fine and we should indeed protect our families and ourselves from a brittleness that could come from being stretched too thin. However, from personal experience, I would suggest avoiding a sudden response lest you risk shutting out a doorway to salvation in your life. Think, meditate and pray on the request and make sure your answer comes from the fruit of that thought and not from the jerk of a knee. You may indeed find that God is offering you an opportunity for greater freedom through voluntary service. Whatever your decision, let it come from your heart and be open to that still small voice.

May this be a blessed time of transition to all with spiritual fruits that ripen in their season !

Vladimir Gavrilovic, Parish Board Chair

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Michelle (health)	Special Intention (abused child)	Matushka Julianna	Basil (health)
Michelle (health)	Barbara and family	Special Intention (counselling)	Denby and Helen
Hayley (health) and family	Michael and Arlene (health)	Lindsay and family (faith)	Mary (health, loss of son)
Will and family	"Doc" (recovery)	Pauline (health)	Ivan (Hospital)
Jerry, Frannie (health)	Cathy (cancer)	Demetra (health)	All of our Senior parishioners!
Andy and Sue	Fr. Paisius (health)	Allena (mental health)	
Millie (health)	Fr. Michael	Tatiana (health)	

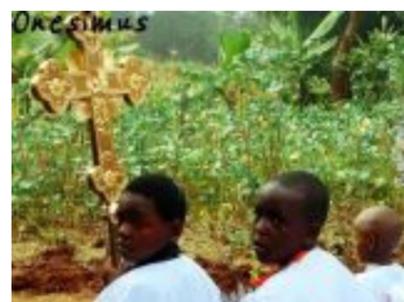
General Intentions

- For +William McGrath, father of Fr. Paisius McGrath, who reposed in the Lord this week. Memory eternal!
- For Stephanie and are deployed to abroad in service to our country.
- For all of our parish programs, especially our iconography/dome project.
- Special Prayers for the victims of the terrorist attacks on our Christian brothers and sisters in Libya, Kenya, and other areas of Africa and the Middle East ,
- For those afflicted by the earthquakes in Nepal, for the repose of those who have died.
- For Dorian and all who are in prison.
- For those who suffer from mental illness, and especially for those afflicted by drug and alcohol abuse.
- Fr. Anthony Perkins and Fr. Paisius McGrath and all called to holy ministry in the Church.
- For God's continued protection, direction and fruitfulness in the holy work being offered to Christ by Frannie, Joe, Debbie, Lois, Charlotte, Gertrude, Junior, Jerry, Randy, Rayburn and all who serve those in need in SW Va.





10th, and they've assigned me a church history course to teach, 'The History of Monasticism'! But being a missionary is not about going overseas and being a university professor and teaching courses, even Christian courses. Instead, that's just a front. I could be a gardener, or an auto mechanic, or a sales person, or a stay-at-home mom or dad, or the front desk guy at the YMCA. Because the real thing that a missionary does is reach out to the people God brings to me, in this case my students and my colleagues, and love them as Jesus has loved me. Any spiritual transformation that takes place will not



New Life!

happen through the readings I assign or the assignments I give (though God can certainly use them). But His ordinary way of touching the lives of people with His transforming power is through relationships. My mission is to make disciples, and that happens conversation by conversation, relationship by relationship, through serving, giving, listening, welcoming.

I'm going to Kenya. OK, that's pretty exotic. And I've been given the label 'missionary', and that's really exotic. Sometimes the presence of people like us missionaries and us clergy give people the impression that we pay those people to do the 'ministry' so that we can live our ordinary lives and then come by every week or so and benefit from the good things they do. That's a common attitude in the churches and amongst Christians of all stripes. But that's not what we find in the NT. That's not an attitude that's shared by the Apostle Paul. It's what one might

call missing the point when it comes to what Jesus is doing when He calls us to Himself.

It's really pretty simple. Have you been loved by Jesus? Have you been welcomed by Jesus? Have you been embraced by Jesus? Forgiven by Jesus? Blessed by Jesus? 'As I have loved you,' says the Lord, 'so you should love one another.'

You see, from Jesus' perspective, I am not the only missionary in this room right now; I'm not the only called one. There is a call on your life today. And there is a call on this parish today. Many of you have already demonstrated that you get it. Because when this hurting, confused soul wandered in your door a couple of years ago, you loved him. And you took him by the hand when the storm got fierce. And you helped him get to his feet when he was knocked down. And now you are sending him on his way.

God is going to bring someone else into your lives, into this parish, for you to welcome, for you to love. And then someone else. And someone after them. And as you take risks to love people, you will find that God helps you, He gives you the energy. He gives you the vision. Resources are provided as if from nowhere. Love is a lot like the muscles of this body of ours. Use it or lose it, I've been told.

But most people don't just show up here like I did. Most people have no reason to walk through those doors. Most people have no idea of the hope that is the center of your life. What Jesus said to his first disciples He says to you and me right now: Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of people. It's not just missionaries! It's our call as Jesus' disciples today, as Jesus' Church today. We don't wait for the fish to come to us; instead we go to where the fish are and we throw our nets.



So here's my parting challenge, both to you and to me. Who are those individuals that God is bringing into your life right now. Who is God asking you to welcome, to listen to, to help, to support, to hug, to come alongside of, to be there for? Now that you are beginning to see, make a plan and do it. Find ways to love this person. And then see what happens and learn from your experience. And then for us as a parish. Who is God calling us to engage with? Are these people who we will find coming through our door, or do we need to go where they are, or both? Do we need to do something intentional with the university community? Do we need to gird up our loins and pull together some sort of focused, intentional outreach like a bookstore or coffee shop or a school? The need is there. The call is there. What will we do? Jesus says, 'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.' (Mt. 5:14-16)

My prayer for you as I go is that when other people come into your life, or find us as a parish, or those we get to know as we follow Jesus and reach out to those around us – My prayer is that each one of these people that God will bring across our paths will see Jesus and experience His love, just as I have, in this place. I am so very grateful

(Dr.) Bill (Rdr Joseph) Black,
OCMC Missionary



In Our St. Nicholas Social Circles!

Typically, we don't have a lot of social events in the summer because our parishioners are often travelling all over the place. But as soon as everyone begins to return, we can schedule some special fellowship events. Here are a few things in mind:

A Warm Welcome!

Is extended to our returning world travelers, John and Mary Sweigart, with daughters Elise and Kirsten, who are stateside for their annual visit. The girls have spent a full summer at the camp at Antiochian Village, while the parents have made their way around half the country making their usual array of visits to family, friends and supporters. We extend special congratulations to Elise on her completion of her high school studies! She will be attending college stateside for near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Our welcome is warm, but not as warm as where they come from - the Sultanate of Oman! (The heat index in some areas of the Arabian peninsula have hit record levels of 185°!)

You are Invited!

Stan Bright will be opening his new pool and so we will have a 'Pool Blessing and Picnic' at Stan's home (south of Staunton) on Saturday afternoon, August 15. If you would like to come or need directions, contact Stan at meadowood26@juno.com.

The Holy Baptism of Ephrem Gakos, the son of Dean and Deena Gakos, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 22nd at 6pm. Do come to join in this important of the Holy Church!

Save the date for the Sacred Crowning in Marriage of Jake Ritter and Kelly Shantz, scheduled for Sunday, August 30th at 4:30pm. Come to offer your prayers to the Lord for God's blessings upon Jake and Kelly.

And a Heartfelt Goodbye!



To John Gavrilovic, who has relocated to Harrisburg Pa. following his graduation from Va. Tech. Many blessed years!

Church Camp - by Katrina and Gregory Continued from back page

G-No air conditioning-not much warm water. The way to get hot water in the shower was to have someone flush the toilet! Less rain would have been good.

Q) What was your favorite thing about church at camp?

K-The beauty of the chapel, the icons!

G-There were two things: Getting to sing in the choir with Reader Nick (Perkins) and serving in the altar. I was able to read the verses at the Saturday night Vespers. That gave me a happy feeling in my belly. I served morning and evening prayers when my cabin served. It was fun because it is something I don't normally do. At the Sunday Liturgy, I served with Bishop Daniel and helped him to vest. After Liturgy, he placed his mitre on the head of each of the servers!

Additional Gregory observations:

*It was fun when the power went out! we went to the Millennium Building and played games...The food was really good-especially the peroghis! ...Cross stitch was fun crafts

Observations by Katrina's mom:

Troy and I were very impressed with All Saints Camp. It was very hard, for me especially, having so little contact with Katrina. But we loved having access to the Bunk1 website. It really eases some anxiety, although they were very inconsistent about uploading the photos and newsletters. They didn't upload anything until the third day, by which time I was a bit of a mess! I loved that the kids got to experience the miraculous icon. And the crafts and activities were wonderful. Katrina learned so much, and although it was a challenge getting through two whole weeks away, she had an amazing time.

Gregory's mom:

I was afraid that I was looking forward to this experience more than Gregory was and that one of those early nights, my phone was going to ring. To the contrary, when Randy and I arrived to pick him up, I almost didn't recognize this child who came running toward us. He asked if he could stay for the second week! All Saints Camp is a lovely spot nestled in the mountains and I think the fact that we had been at the camp settled me as to how things are run. The attached clergy as well as the director and activities personnel really do strive to make the experience an enjoyable one for all children. Over the years, they have appreciated the time that it takes the folks from St. Nicholas to drive up to the site. We obviously aren't disappointed and keep going back. Please feel free to chat with any of us about this great experience!

Katrina, Gregory and their parents





Update - Parish Projects and Activities

Iconography-Dome Project Update

In early July we held an important meeting on the status of the iconography and dome project. We've divided the work into two distinct efforts - the dome build out and the wall iconography build out. Florin Moldovan created two models (cutout -even including insulation!) to help us visualize how the dome would be built in side the ceiling area. Basil Finnegan has created to-scale drawings and the next step is finalize the design, get an engineer or architect to sign off on the plans, secure approvals from the County, order materials and 'get-er-done'! Florin believes that the project can be completed in-house at a very reasonable cost, and we will be soliciting help for people to offer their services in doing things like carpentry, hanging sheet rock, painting and general labor assistance.



The second part of the meeting focused on the layout of interior millwork - columns and arches - to serve to set a pattern in the nave of the Church into which iconographic images can be laid out in a cohesive way. Again, the need here is to formalize the plan and get accurate sketches. Ashley Malcolm has put many of the drawings on the PC in 'Sketch Up' software, which allows us a 3D view of the space. We have viewed a number of iconographic schemes and color trends and these need to be finalized as well. Meetings will be held in mid-August to move these efforts and finalize the plans. These plans will be presented to the parish at the Fall Meeting, where the assent of the entire parish will be requested so that we can begin to carry out the plans.

Please consider setting aside some funds to donate for icons that will become a part of the new icon schema, and for the overall buildout of this phase of church beautification. A formal request will be made once we have the details in place.

HVAC Replacement - Church Nave

In conjunction with the iconography project, we will be replacing the Heating/Air Conditioning in the church nave. This will be particularly opportune as the current system (now defunct) is also not energy efficient. New, high efficiency units will be installed in a configuration that will respect the new iconography of the Church. The HVAC in the North wing is also no longer functioning properly and will be replaced. Bids are being prepared and will be let, hopefully in the very near future. While we will endure this summer with a sub-par system, hopefully our overall energy usage will be much improved moving forward.



Evangelization - Outreach - Greeters

Greetings fellow Parishioners! We've had a steady stream of visitors over the summer months as folks vacationing in the area have joined us for services. It's especially nice to see returning guests who feel like our Parish is a familiar church home away from home. Thinking about the people who make it to and through our doors made me think a bit about those who don't find us - travelers or area residents without a permanent church home. As part of the Evangelization & Outreach Service Group, greeters have a particular responsibility to be welcoming on Sunday morning, but I hope all of you will think of yourselves as "greeters" each and every day. I have found myself on several occasions in conversations with people who are from traditionally Orthodox cultures, who know someone who is Orthodox or sadly, those who have heard of it only recently because of world events. The Orthodox cross I wear daily (or someone else's) has also been a conversation starter. In a few lucky instances, I have had the church "business" card on hand to share and in every instance I wished I had one to offer. I can't say that it has brought anyone through our doors, but I hope one day someone will arrive for a visit on a morning I'm greeting and say - "I came because you gave me this card." So, be open to opportunities to "greet" people whether you are in church or not~ Take a few of our cards to keep in your purse or pocket - you never know who God will put in your path!

Here are some events being considered for the coming months: *(See the info on the Golf Outing on p.10)*

Festival of the Book 2016 - We're again hoping to sponsor a Festival of the Book Speaker next spring. We have formed a committee to explore the possibility for a speaker for the Festival and for our parish Lenten Retreat.

Crozet Arts and Crafts Festival - There may be an opening to have a parish presence at the Fall festival this year, or the Spring Festival next year. We will know very soon.



From the Mission Fields

Excerpts from Bill Black's Commissioning Address to the Parish (July 19)

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak...Welcome others as Christ has welcomed you. (Rom 15:1)

'Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you,' writes St. Paul. Or another way to say it is, 'Accept one another, as Christ has accepted you.' Or, 'Appreciate one another, as Christ has appreciated you.' Or 'Embrace one another, as Christ has embraced you.' Or, 'Forgive one another, as Christ has forgiven you.' Or as Jesus Himself says, 'Love one another, as I have loved you.' However you want to say it, this is what the gospel does. This is what happens in a community when 'Christ is in our midst.' This is what Christians look like when they are being the Body of Christ. This is what I found when I came to St. Nicholas more than two years ago...

... I didn't know what I would find when I walked in through that door in May of 2013, but it didn't take too long before I realized that Jesus is here. And where Jesus is, it doesn't matter if the place is a beautiful cathedral with floor to dome icons, or a mud-walled hut, it doesn't matter if you have a brightly colored flock of clergy bustling about or a lone reader chanting a service, it doesn't matter if you've got a ton of programs for every demographic or if you are struggling to find somebody, anybody to teach Sunday School to the children. Because where Jesus is, where Jesus shows up, love happens. And where love happens, healing happens. And where healing happens, lives are changed. And where lives are changed you find people looking and behaving more and more like Jesus. And when that happens, we've become a beachhead of the Kingdom of God in this place.

When I came here 26 months ago, I was, as we say in South Carolina where I'm from, a hurtin' puppy. [But] The fact that I am still here is a clue that things did not go very well. When I started attending here, I was in pain. I was disoriented, I was ashamed, I was trying everything I knew to keep my life as I knew it from falling apart.... I went from being a university professor to losing my family, my home, my job and my calling, living in a small room provided by a kind old man in a little town in central Virginia of all places.



His Eminence knows the best places for Roast Lamb!

But as this small tragedy was unfolding in my small life, I was coming here week by week. I got to know Fr. Robert. Several of you decided to take a risk and sit next to the new guy during our fellowship hour. And I decided to take a risk and let some of you know what was really happening. I've been in many contexts before where the sort of things I had to share would result in being removed from positions or ostracized from the community I was a part of. But instead of being shunned or punished, you listened to me, and you loved me. In those moments, in those dark days, you were the very love of Jesus, listening to me, encouraging me, giving me a hug. I will forever be grateful.

The rest of my time here is like a dream. Out of the wreckage of my old life, at my lowest place, when I was back in Nairobi in February of 2014 to sell all our furniture and things and draw a line under my life in Africa and my career as a missionary - it's at that point that God opened His door. Two days before I was to come back to the States, Fr. Evangelos, a friend of mine who was now vice rector of the Orthodox seminary in Nairobi, asked me, 'Now tell me again why are you leaving us?' And I said, because marriage is likely ending in divorce. I think I've pretty much disqualified myself from being of any further use in Christian ministry. To which he said, 'You know, this is precisely why Jesus came, so that our sins might be forgiven. And not only that our sins might be forgiven, but that we might be given a second chance. Joseph, we really need you here, we really want you here. In fact, His Eminence Makarios, the Archbishop of Kenya wants you to come and teach at the seminary there.' I was stunned. I had actually come to his office to sign over my car to the Archdiocese, because I was donating it for their use. But Fr. Evangelos took the papers that I had just signed and said, 'I'm not going to take these papers to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Instead, I'm going to put them in this folder, and put them in this drawer and keep them right here. Because when you come back, you are going to need a car.'

I could tell more stories. But it's enough to say that somehow, God then opened the door for OCMC to take me on as one of their missionaries. And somehow, with the astonishing help of this parish and many of you, I was able to raise two years of what it takes to keep a missionary on the field. And that brings us to right here right now.

Tomorrow, I'll be getting on an airplane that will take me first to Paris and another one on to Nairobi, and then I will get settled in my new home at the seminary and start teaching courses at the University. I actually start teaching on August

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