



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

July/August 2010 • Vol. 14, No. 6

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



“Summertime and the livin’ is easy. Fish are jumpin’ and the cotton is high.” Although not quite summer yet, this Gershwin tune was going through my head a few weeks ago. At the time I was lazily floating in a tube down the Chattahoochee River in northern Georgia.

Floating near me was Kh. Eva and my sister, Pat. They tied their tubes together for mutual support. I preferred to go it alone.

I don’t know what it is about floating down a river, but each time it always provokes me to think about life and its experiences. You might remember that this space has contained two previous analogies following whitewater rafting trips down the New River. Well, here we go again.

This experience was not like a white-water trip. First of all, one person, one tube. Second, the Chattahoochee is a fairly calm river with rapids that don’t go above Class 1. It is also fairly narrow, not very deep, and the flow is not swift.

Recommended along with the tube rental was purchase of a pole, similar to a walking stick about six feet long. It was explained that it would come in handy to avoid rocks and the river bank. And if stuck in shallow water, an eddy or on the rocks in a rapid, you could pole yourself out of the situation.

The experience of this float trip was about what I expected. There were mild to semi-swift rapids interspersed with calm currents. Occasional rocks jutted out of the water and fallen trees surrounded by brush encompassed the river banks.

Most of these hazards could be seen before you reached them, and the exercise of the pole would keep you out of trouble. However, there were always unseen obstacles.

Shallow sections would result in your tube dragging the river bottom. Underwater rocks were always ready to stop your movement by getting hung up on them. Backwater eddies following a rapid could find you just spinning in place, all forward and backward movement stopped.

The pole ended up being the solution to most problems, but it took some time to learn the best way to use it in each circumstance.

Along the way we would encounter someone who was making the trip without a pole. These people found that arms and legs alone were not enough to get them out of their individual predicaments. Fortunately other floaters would offer assistance and finally get them on their way.

As before this trip reminded me of our life’s journey. The length of our life trip includes twists, turns, calm places, rapids, eddies, unseen hazards and many other things. When starting out and along the way we can’t see very far ahead. Only God knows the entire route, and He recommends that we trust in Him by our faith to see us through. I thought of the pole recommended by the tubing company as my faith.

Without the pole my journey would have been very difficult. Poleless people were stuck behind or upon rocks, spinning in eddies or stuck in the fallen trees and brush along the riverbank. By using a pole I slowly gained experience in the best ways to employ it, and my journey was relatively easy.

And so it is with our life’s journey as Christians. Our pole, our faith in Jesus Christ, is necessary throughout all of our life’s experiences. There may be periods of calm when our life just “floats along.” In those times we are tempted to not use the pole.

But I found myself using it to position myself so that I could examine the scenery

around me rather than just float and spin randomly. In so doing I was rewarded with a greater understanding of the world around me. And, when I encountered difficulties further downstream the use of the pole in calm waters had developed further knowledge on how to use it when things got tough.

Throughout our Christian life, let us exercise our faith in Christ regularly. Each day should see us in prayer, reading Scripture and seeking His Will in all that we encounter. It is the “pole” that help us in times of difficulty and trial, without which our life becomes “hung up” or “spinning in an eddy.”



...It is for us to pray not for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks, to go forward with a great desire forever beating at the door of our hearts as we travel towards our distant goal.

Helen Keller

RADIO PROGRAM

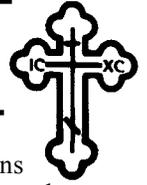
“Come Receive the Light”

Our parish continues to be a supporting partner of the popular Orthodox radio program, “Come Receive the Light,” which airs on WCHS, 580 AM, Sundays at 8:00 A.M. There is no better way to grow in the knowledge of the Orthodox Faith, to be inspired and to prepare for the Divine Services than to tune in every Sunday morning. It costs you nothing and you gain something. ✝



Pray for Those Who Do Nothing For You

By Subdeacon George M. Damous



When Jesus called the twelve Disciples, he gave them the power to heal as we see in the Gospel of Mark and Luke. Then the Apostles passed this healing power onto others. These healers were the holy "godbearers" whose lives attest to the many healings they performed and would be called physicians. Christ, Who truly is the only physician is the One Who heals, not the Apostles and saints.

Prayer is the most important component of the healing event because it is the foundation and a necessary element of all the others. "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray that he may patiently bear his illness, but that he may also be delivered from it" (James 5:13). In order to be granted the desired healing, God asks for only one thing of us, that we pray to Him in faith. What one receives from God is according to the measure of one's faith. Christ told the centurion, "Be it done for you as you have believed." Jesus also said to many Whom He healed, "Your faith has made you well." In order to receive the Grace of God, one need only face it and be open to it. Jesus assures us of this: "Whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive it if you have faith" (Matt 21:22).

St. Paul tells us to bear one another's burdens as written in Galatians. St. Cyril of Jerusalem also writes there is such power in faith that the believer is not saved alone but some have been saved through

the faith of others. The fact that a person can be healed by the prayers of others, or those of many, is revealed in the Gospels in the story of the paralytic. Christ does not heal when He sees this man's faith but when He sees the faith of those who brought him. Therefore, a Christian must not only pray for himself, but also for the health of his ailing brothers. If one member suffers, all suffers together as written in I Corinthians 12:24-26. Through this unity as Christian brothers and sisters, it is no longer one person in his weakness and his limitations who prays to God, but all, through the communion of the saints which is realized in Christ through the Spirit which is in the Church.

Therefore communal prayer is the prayer best suited for obtaining the healing Grace of God. "Pray for one another that ye may be healed" (James 5:16). Praying for the healing of each other becomes the spiritual responsibility of all Christians. When one is moved by those who are suffering and he shares in that suffering and is compelled to relieve them of that suffering, he is able to reach up to God with a pure prayer. "The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects" (James 5:16).

In the early Church many had the gift of healing along with other gifts. However as time went on, many did not maintain the gifts that only come through faith and of course the Grace of God. St. John Chrysostom explains this drop in "physicians" was due in part to the need of the people for tangible, earthly signs. People had difficulty conceiving of a spiritual grace that can be obtained only through the eyes of faith. This is why there are signs and miracles for the non-believers. Some are able to separate

their faith from these signs but not many. God wanted to show us that our faith is separate from guarantees and signs. The more impressive the events are, the smaller our faith becomes. In other words if everything of God is proven to us through earthly means then we have no faith.

By praying for others, that is, the whole Church prays for others, then our faith may heal those with little faith. This is why we pray for all people. Yet our prayers must come from faith not signs. If for example it was proven that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was in the wrong place or the Shroud of Turin was not authentic, what would that have to do with one's faith? Just as important, if your belief is based on an individual such as a Church leader or clergyman and that person offends you, do you abandon your faith? Do you stop worshipping God? If you refuse to attend the Divine Liturgy because of such individuals, then you refuse to worship God. If you believe in God because of these earthly things then you have no faith. For you only believe through signs and are dependent on these signs. The evil one will destroy your weak faith by destroying the signs and guarantees that you hold dear.

Understand, miracles are beautiful and inspiring, but do not allow your belief in God to be dependent on such things. Pray for everyone just as God loves everyone. Pray for those who do nothing for you just as God even loves those who do not love Him. Have faith through the faith of our fathers and the Grace of God, not through earthly things.



Life In The 1500's

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine



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<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>

The St. George Grapevine is published every two months and is mailed during the first week of the month.

Do You Know this Parishioner?

HEIGHT: 5'4 1/2"
COLOR OF EYES: Brown
HOBBIES/INTERESTS: All Sports
FAVORITE COLOR: Pink
FAVORITE FOOD: Egg McMuffin
FAVORITE SHOW: Sports Center
OCCUPATION: School Librarian





St. George Foundation News

Dr. Edward Howard, President

The St. George Foundation hosted a second complimentary seminar on the evening of May 24th at the St. George Conference Center entitled "See the Writing on the Wall...College is just around the Corner". Ms. Jamie Dickinson, MBA, and the only Certified Educational Planner in the State of WV, was the featured speaker. Dedicated to providing the highest quality of educational consulting services, Ms. Dickinson's presentation included important information relative to Admission counseling, ACT/SAT Preparation, Scholarship Search and Financial Aid. All parishioners were welcome to attend. Many of those attending were parents of children in elementary, middle and high school. As Ms. Dickinson stated, "It's not too early to start planning for your children's future since college preparation consists of big decisions with many options concerning your kids and your money." Ms. Dickinson is known for travelling around the country and visiting various colleges and universities learning specific requirements that must be met for entrance and for financial aid at those institutions of higher learning. She re-

lated that because of the high competition for entrance and financial aid each year, many of those requirements in courses and community service start as early as middle school. As a certified educational planner, her job is to tailor the parent's options for their children's educational future thus releasing the parents from anxiety during the planning years and college application processes. Light refreshments were served throughout the evening and a question and answer session was held following the conclusion of Ms. Dickinson's presentation.

For those who missed this important seminar, Ms. Dickinson can be reached at 888 Oakwood Road, Suite 320, Charleston, WV 25304, Tele: (304) 556-4807.



Under King David's rule, there were more than one million men who could handle a sword in Israel.

1 Chronicles 21:5

Creative Festival Winners Announced

The Creative Festival Coordinator has announced the winners throughout our Eastern Dioceses for 2010. They will receive either a medal or an icon from His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP at the Awards Ceremony during the Parish Life Conference in Allentown, PA. There are five competitive categories: Art, 3D Art, Writing, Poetry and Photography. Congratulations to our winners.

3D Art: Tarek Jarrouj, First Place-Grade 1; Emma Dooley, Third Place-Grade 4; Alanna Mobayed, Third Place-Grade 7; Megan Bsharah, Third Place-Grade 8.

Writing: Matthew Ede, Second Place-Grade 6.

Poetry: Brent Bsharah, First Place-Grade 1; Joseph Michael, Second Place-Grade 2; Kadin Jarrouj, Third Place-Grade 2; Jenna Bsharah, First Place-Grade 5; Luke Lowen, Tie Third Place-Grade 8; Ashley Bsharah, First Place-Grade 12.

Photography: Matthew Choueiri, First Place-Grade 3.



Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: Why Did God Give Moses So Many Laws For The Israelites To Obey?

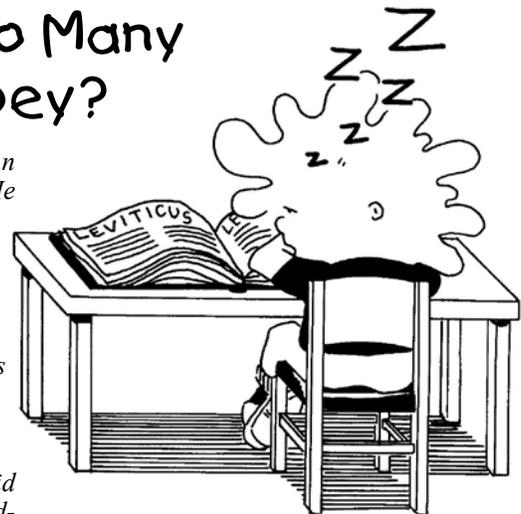
A: Moses led the Israelites to Mount Sinai, where God met with Moses and gave him laws that are recorded in the book of Leviticus. When we read Leviticus, it seems as if God gave the Israelites a lot of laws to obey. Actually, today most cities and towns have far more laws than are listed in Leviticus. (The basic laws are the Ten Commandments—many of the other laws grew out of these.) Some of the laws God gave helped organize the Israelites into a nation; some helped keep the people healthy; others told them (and us) how to live. God knew what was best for the people, and he wanted what was best for them, so he gave them many instructions.

KEY VERSES: *Moses kept on speaking to the people of Israel. He said, "Listen carefully now to all these laws God has given you. Learn them, and be sure to obey them!" (Deuteronomy 5:1)*

RELATED VERSES: *Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-22; Galatians 3:24*

RELATED QUESTION: *Why did God give Moses only ten commandments? Why didn't the rest of the Israelites go up the mountain with Moses and talk to God?*

NOTE TO PARENTS: *The law guided the Israelites, but it also shows us that we are sinners. That*



is, it shows us that we can't obey perfectly. You can use this to explain how we all break God's law, making us guilty before God and in need of salvation through faith in Christ.



From 102 Questions Children Ask about the Bible.



Senior Fellowship

Senior Fellowship will try to resume its get-togethers in August if all goes well. The committee will meet soon to make plans for the Fall. Watch the bulletin for details and enjoy your summer. ✝

Antiochian Women (Ladies Guild)

Our Summer break will come to an end in August. August 2nd at 7:30 pm will be our next meeting. All women of St. George are welcome to attend the meetings and participate in our projects and programs for the rest of 2010. The Annual Dinner is Oct. 3 and volunteers are needed in every aspect of the dinner. Contact Mary Dooley or Anne Marie Haddy. See you Aug. 2! ✝

Do You Know this Parishioner?



HEIGHT: 5'4"
 COLOR OF EYES: Brown
 HOBBIES/INTERESTS: Bowling and Golf
 FAVORITE COLOR: Pink
 FAVORITE FOOD: Safeeha
 FAVORITE SHOW: Law and Order
 OCCUPATION: Retired (WV Dept. of Welfare)

Six Little Ways to Mean More to Your Church



Be an On-Timer



Be a Friendly Greeter



Be a Cheerful Giver



Be a Willing Helper



Be a Hymn Singer



Be an Earnest Pray-er

Word Search

THE LORD IS MY . . .

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| BREAD | PROPIATION |
| BUCKLER | PROVIDER |
| DELIVERER | REDEEMER |
| FATHER | REFUGE |
| FORTRESS | REWARD |
| GOD | ROCK |
| GOODNESS | SALVATION |
| HEALER | SAVIOUR |
| HELPER | SHEILD |
| HORN | SHEPHERD |
| JUDGE | SONG |
| KING | SUFFICIENCY |
| LIGHT | TEACHER |
| MASTER | TOWER |
| PEACE | VICTORY |

X	P	R	M	H	D	T	T	R	E	F	U	G	E	R
N	Y	R	E	N	O	E	R	E	H	T	A	F	E	B
G	O	C	O	P	O	R	L	P	C	D	W	W	Y	E
X	O	I	N	V	L	I	N	I	Z	A	O	B	V	D
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I	E	R	R	E	E	T	I	R	A	L	O	E	O	P
J	L	U	R	T	E	S	I	F	V	S	A	S	R	E
U	A	O	V	E	R	M	S	P	F	R	T	S	Y	H
D	E	I	D	E	L	O	E	S	O	U	O	E	U	S
G	H	V	W	A	W	K	F	R	P	R	S	C	R	O
E	I	A	I	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	P	N	K	N
N	R	S	L	V	X	R	Q	U	T	H	G	I	L	R
D	L	I	E	H	S	X	B	Z	B	G	N	I	K	Q



Preschool Teacher Sets Record!

In 1977, the superintendent of the Sunday School asked Gladys Howard to teach the preschool class. Gladys was hesitant, but the superintendent encouraged her to try it for a year. That one year turned into 33 years and Gladys Howard became the longest serving teacher at St. George. She has also out served all superintendents.

Now "Aunt Gladys" or "Miss Gladys" (the name her pre-schoolers call her) is stepping down from her full time position of teaching 3-5 year olds, but will continue to assist the new pre-school teacher!

Aunt Gladys made a lasting impression on her students, past and present and tried to start them off right in learning about the Church and Jesus.

When she takes communion, some of her students step out of the pew to hug her. And many students she has taught, she has seen grow up, marry and send their children to her class.

The class averaged 12 children, most Sundays, but if a child missed 2-3 weeks,

Aunt Gladys would call to check on them.

The pre-schoolers project for the year was learn to make the sign of the cross and its meaning. At the end of the year, the children would receive an award in Church. She also stressed upon them how to behave in Church, not to sit on the top step during the children's sermon and not to run in Church.

She would encourage all her students to participate in the Church School Christmas programs, always reminding them "you can do it".

Aunt Gladys started a class project for each child to donate money for "God's House." At first, it was any amount they wanted to give. Now, the children are asked to bring a quarter each week and at the end of the year a cashier's check from the preschoolers is given to Fr. Olof in Church.

The class also has had some social activities with parties and end-of-year outings. She has received some special gifts over the years including a ruler that



had "Aunt Gladys" printed on it, and a wooden apple that read, "We need more teachers like you."

She has taught many of the pre-schoolers for 3 years and some don't want to leave her class and move on to Kindergarten. But she gives them a hug and sends them on to enrich their spiritual knowledge.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. And that is exactly what Aunt Gladys has tried to do for the last 33 years.

She was presented with an icon of the Good Shepherd by Fr. Scott in Church and a Willowtree angel statue by the Church School. A special coffee hour was held in her honor by the Church School with a beautiful cake and flowers.

Aunt Gladys, you are loved by all the children you have taught, and their parents, for your dedication to teaching at St. George. May God grant you many, many years!



Prayer Corner Shelf

A Prayer Corner - an ancient Orthodox Tradition as the family's place of worship in the home.

Orders are being taken for Prayer Corner Shelves (with engraved Orthodox Cross)! Available as a corner shelf, or as a straight shelf. Available in light wood stain, or dark wood stain. Please come to the St George Bookstore to see the samples, and place orders. Other items available include: Hanging Vigil Lamps and Brackets, Table Vigil Lamps, Incense Burners, Incense & Charcoal, Icons, Candles, Daily Devotional Calendars and Prayer Ropes.

SAVE THE DATE

Icon Festival

Oct. 16 & 17, 2010

St. George Cathedral

More info soon!

A Moment with Him



We mutter
and sputter
We fume and
we spurt,

We mumble and grumble,
Our feelings get hurt.

We can't understand things,
Our vision grows dim,
When all that we need
Is a moment with HIM.

—Author unknown



Golf Wordplay

See if you can identify the golf term from the high falootin' description given below.

Example: An "Aerodynamic Feathered Flyer" is the vocabulary - intellectual's way of saying "Birdie."

- 1 Concavity Covered Sphere
2. A Limb of the Vertebrate family Canidae
3. Cross-Sectional Julienne
4. Hydrogen Dioxide Danger
5. Haliaeetus Leucocephalus



CALENDAR

JUL 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUG 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

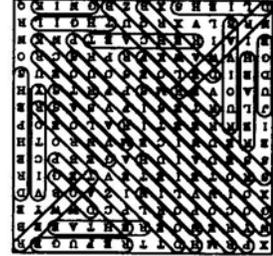
July:

- 1-4: Parish Life Conference—Fr. Olof attending
- 6: Pastoral Committee, 7:30 PM
- 12: Icon Festival Planning, 7:30 PM
- 14: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 15: Communion for Shut-ins
- 17: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM;
- 18: Baptism, 1:00 PM
- 19-23: Clergy Symposium—Frs. Olof & Stephen attending
- 23: Wedding Rehearsal, 6:00 PM
- 24: Wedding, 4:00 PM
- 30: Wedding Rehearsal, 6:00 PM
- 31: Wedding, 4:00 PM

August:

- 1: Dormition Fast begins
- 2: Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 4: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 5: Evening Liturgy—Transfiguration, 6:30 PM
- 6-8: Shums il Bir Anniversary
- 15: Feast of Dormition
- 16: Pastoral Committee, 7:30 PM
- 19: Communion for Shut-ins
- 21: Baptism, 11:00 AM
- 28: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
- 29: Beheading of John Baptist
- 31: Evening Liturgy—Indiction, 6:30 PM

Deadline for next issue:
Aug. 15, 2010.
 Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com



Answers to Puzzle

- 1. Golf Ball
- 2. Dogleg
- 3. Slice
- 4. Water Hazard
- 5. Eagle

Answer to Do you know - Marie Cassis page 4 and Terry O'flesh page 2.

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