

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

May/June 2010 • Vol. 14, No. 5

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



We are still in the festal period of Holy Pascha/Easter, and for the next week or so we will still hear the Orthodox greeting and counter-greeting, "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!"

Unfortunately there are those of us who add another statement to these greetings, either consciously or unconsciously: "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! I'm Out'a Here!"

It never fails, but it seems that Orthodox Churches are plagued with an exodus following the Easter season. Attendance at Church services and Church School starts to drop off. It's as though a sense develops that Easter signals the start of summer vacation even when it occurs two months before summer actually arrives.

What are we to make of this? When we analyze this phenomenon it's obvious that church life with its cycle of services and activities doesn't come to a halt after Easter.

With most aspects of our lives we have a sense that it is good and proper to complete the task at hand. When we begin formal schooling with Kindergarten or even earlier it is a given that our education will continue each year at least through high school. Today that has expanded to an expectation of completing at least a bachelor's degree in college. There is no sense of taking time off or stopping before the goals are met.

And within that schooling, there is no sense of skipping certain classes, not completing assignments, or any such thing, because it would affect reaching the goal of completing our education.

When we participate in an athletic event there is no stopping or break until the game, the race or the series, whatever it may be, is over. If we quit before the end we lose.

In taking on assignments within our occupations no task is complete until every aspect of it is accomplished. A surgeon doesn't stop in the middle of a serious operation and say, "That's enough. I quit." An architect doesn't do three-quarters of a design and say, "That's enough. Let the engineers and the contractors figure out the rest." Anything short of completion is doomed for failure.

So, likewise, should be our attitude toward our life in Jesus Christ. A day should not pass in which we have not prayed nor read our scripture lessons. A week should not go by in which we have not gathered with our brothers-and-sisters-in-Christ to attend the Divine services in our church. Months should not go by in which we have not partaken of the Sacraments of Confession and the Holy Eucharist/Communion.

Jesus told His disciples how to take care of the task at hand, e.g., doing the work required of them and concluded His instruction with the words, "But he who endures to the end will be saved." (Matt. 10:22)

Endures to the...what? The "end." The "end" is when our physical life comes to a halt in dying. That may be tomorrow, next week, next month, next year or many years from now. It may occur at 10 years of age, 18, 25, 30, 50, 75 or 100. The key is enduring to the "end."

Let there be no "break," "time off," "vacation" or "sabbatical" from our life in Jesus Christ. May our prayer life, spiritual development and participation in the life of the Church and the Holy Sacraments grow ever more frequent.

May we, like St. Paul, reach the end of our life and say, "...the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also

to all who have loved His appearing." (2 Tim. 6-8)

Amen.



Summer Hours

Sunday, June 6, will be the last day for Junior Choir and Church School as we wrap up another year and take a break over the summer.

Summer hours for our services will begin the following Sunday, June 13. Matins will begin at 9:30 A.M. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 A.M.



Parish Picnic



The annual picnic will be held at Shawnee Park, shelter #4, in Dunbar on Sunday afternoon, June 13. Once again we will partake of great food and good fellowship for the whole family! The Church School is holding their "End-of-the-Year" event in conjunction with the picnic. See their article for more information. Mark your calendars and plan to attend now!



RADIO PROGRAM

"Come Receive the Light"

Our cathedral continues as a "Share the Light Parish" in support of Orthodox Christian Network (OCN). As such we still broadcast the program "Come Receive the Light" on WCHS, 580 AM, on Sundays at 8:00 A.M. Listening takes no more effort than getting up before 8:00 A.M., turning on your radio and tuning to the station. You will be rewarded with new knowledge in the Orthodox Faith. Try it, you'll like it!





Spring at St. George Cathedral!



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
P.O. Box 2044
Charleston, WV 25327
304-346-0106

A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Pastor: Fr. Olof Scott
Editor: Maryann Skaff
Design: Rita Damous Kee

Produced by The Fellowship of St. John the Divine, to promote activities and events about and for parishoners of St. George Orthodox Cathedral. We only list events as they are reported to us by organization reporters. We reserve the right to edit copy for space. Contact your church organization reporter for news or send your comments to The Grapevine, c/o St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Attn. Editor or email ritakee@aol.com.

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

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

Happy Mother's Day May 9 Happy Father's Day June 20

Q. Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year?

A. Father's day

Honor thy father and thy mother that their days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 20:12





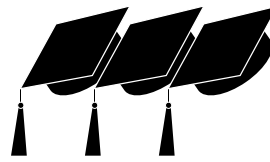
St. George Foundation News

The St. George Foundation will host a second complimentary seminar in its series on financial planning entitled "College Education Planning" on Monday, May 24th at 7:00pm, St. George Conference Center. If you don't know how to pay for rising cost of college tuition, need help in preparing for college testing, or just have questions about college admission and applications, this seminar will provide you with the information needed to address those and other issues.

The seminar will be presented by Jamie Dickenson, MBA, and Certified Educational Planner. She is the only Certified Educational Planner in the State of WV. As a CEP, she is dedicated in providing the highest quality of educational consulting services including: Admission Counseling, ACT/SAT Prep Sponsor, Scholarship Search, and Financial Aid. Jamie is a graduate of Marshall University with a BA degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Business Administration with emphasis on finance and accounting.

College preparation consists of big decisions with many options concerning your two most precious assets – your kids and your money. Jamie's job is to tailor your options while releasing you from anxiety during the application process.

Please join us on this most important topic. Reservations are preferred by calling Terry at St. George Cathedral's office, 304-346-0106. Refreshments will be served. ✝



...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

Attention, Graduates!

On Sunday, June 6, the cathedral of St. George will once again honor those who are graduating from high school, college, and graduate school. Please contact the church office to ensure that your family's graduate is included in this special occasion. ✝

Altar Boys Trip

In accordance with tradition (small "t") we have scheduled the annual Altar Boys Trip to the Cincinnati area as a reward for their service to our parish during the course of the year.

Departure will be from the church parking lot at Noon on Wednesday, June 9, with their chaperones. After checking into the hotel, the group has a chance to swim (weather permitting) before we proceed to the Great American Ball Park for dinner and baseball. The Cincinnati Reds will be hosting the San Francisco Giants at a 7:10 P.M. start.

After a short night's rest, the boys and their already-tired chaperones will invade Kings Island on Thursday, June 10. Departure from the park at 6:30 P.M. should ensure arrival back in Charleston around 11:00 P.M. ✝

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: Why Did Hannah leave her son at the Church?

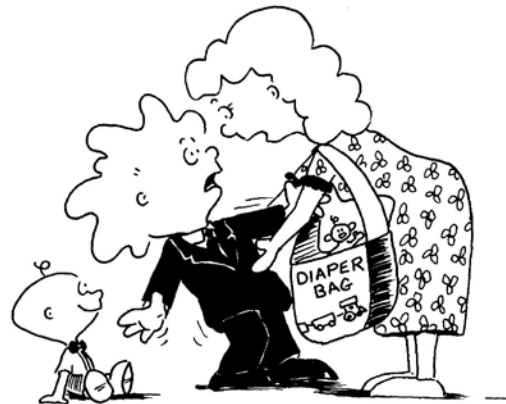
A: For a long time, Hannah was unable to have children, and that bothered her very much. One day, while crying and praying to God, she vowed that if God would answer her prayer and give her a son, she would give the boy back to God, dedicating his life to serving God. When Samuel was born, Hannah remembered her promise to God; a few years later, when Samuel was old enough to eat solid food, she brought Samuel to the tabernacle (the place where God's people worshiped). Leaving Samuel there was like leaving him at a boarding school, with people who would love and care for him and teach him God's ways. Hannah wasn't abandoning Samuel; she was leaving him with teachers who would train him to become a priest and servant of God.

Hannah's son was in good hands. Samuel grew up to be a leader of Israel and a spokesman for God.

KEY VERSES: "I asked [God] to give me this child. And he has given me what I asked for! Now I am giving him to the Lord for as long as he lives." So [Hannah] left him there at the Tabernacle for the Lord to use. (1 Samuel 1:27-28)

RELATED VERSES: 1 Samuel 1:1-28; 2:20-21

RELATED QUESTION: Why did God choose Samuel instead of a grown-up or someone who knew him better?



NOTE TO PARENTS: Questions like this one may have others hidden underneath: Will I be left alone with strangers? Does God think it's good for children to be left with strangers? Do my parents care about me? Be sensitive to this concern and reassure your children of God's care and your commitment to love and nurture them.

From 102 Questions Children Ask about the Bible. ✝



Congratulations Basketball Teams!

Our church league basketball players and coaches were honored at a luncheon on Sunday, April 11. A special thank you to MG and Vicky for donating the basketballs.

Many thanks to the coaches for their time and effort devoted to this year's teams: Jim Nestor - Instructional League; Kevin Abdalla - Elementary Boys; Greg Dooley - Middle School; Doug Skaff Jr and Dr. Paul Alex Skaff - High School Boys.

Congratulations to the elementary boys who went undefeated during the regular season and came in 2nd in the championship game !



Mothers and Fathers of St. George

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

1. Bob and Vivian (Ghiz)
2. Mary and Tom (Dooley)
3. MG and Vicky (Skaff)
4. Gerri and Fred (Krase)
5. Georgia and Mike (Howard)
6. Dot and Larry (Chapman)
7. Cy and Georgann (Faris)
8. Diane and Jim (Nestor)
9. Tony and Nina (Kazan)
10. George and Barbara (Hanna)
11. Phil and Gigi (Michael)
12. Amy and Bill (Thornton)
13. Lisa and Steve (Cassis)
14. George and Christine (Bsharah)
15. Dorothy and Bob (Haddy)
16. Suzanne and Adrian (Wilson)
17. Maxine and Paul (Skaff)
18. Neva and John (Haddy)
19. Diana and John (Shdeed)



Senior Fellowship

Our last get-together had everyone "tapping their feet" to sounds of the Fun Dancers showcasing our own Joyce Belay. We enjoyed their tap routines to great music of the 30's, 40's and 50's.

Our next get-together will be May 10 with dinner at 5:45 and a guest speaker on nutrition for all ages and medical cases such as diabetics. We will also be wishing a fond farewell to our co-founder and chairman of the Senior Fellowship for 24 years, Vivian Ghiz.

Vivian and George Moses (God rest his soul) began this organization in 1986 to reach out to the seniors of St. George once a month with great food, entertainment, informative speakers on all topics and a time to be with great friends. Under the dedication and spiritual leadership of Vivian and her committee, they have offered a little something extra for our Seniors (and some not so senior yet) from healthy meals with no salt to ice cream sundae socials.

We, the committee, have enjoyed serving with you and it has been an honor and blessing to be a part of this special outreach program to seniors. We thank you, and Bob for letting you give of your time and effort to this committee, and wish you both a safe journey as you start your new home in Wisconsin.

We hope the parishioners and seniors of St. George will continue to support the Senior Fellowship committee in the future.

See you May 12, and may God grant Bob and Vivian many, many years!



Antiochian Women (Ladies Guild)

Our last meeting before summer break will be Monday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. Several orders of business need to be discussed and we need all ladies present to vote on several issues.

Our annual dinner will be Oct. 3, 2010. Volunteers are needed and co-chairmen are also needed for some committees. All ladies of St. George are welcomed to chair a committee and help as well as the other parishioners of St. George. Please contact Mary Dooley or President Anne Marie Haddy.

Have a sizzling cool summer, ladies and we will resume meeting in August!



Church School News

By Lilah Michael



Christ is Risen!!!! I would like to welcome everyone back after a wonderful Easter Holiday. I hope everyone enjoyed their Easter with family and friends, and let us not forget what the TRUE meaning of Easter is all about! Our last day of church school will be June 6, 2010. We will have our church school awards handed out after services on this day. Please remember to continue coming to church school until the end of the year. We always notice a decline after Easter break with attendance but please let this year be different. There is still much for us to learn. We are all working on memory verses. Each grade has a goal that should be met by the end of the year. Please check with your child's teacher if you are unsure of their specific goal. Also, please work with your children at home on helping them memorize their goal.

We had many students show their creative talents by participating in the creative arts festival. We had approximately 45 entries turned in by the children representing St. George. A big thank you goes out to all who put their time and creative thought process in this. Good luck!!!!

There is some new church school news I would like you all to be aware of. The church school has set up an email address, specifically designed for

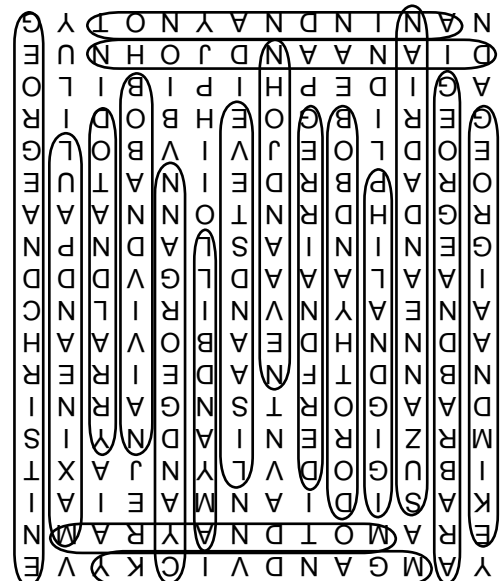
church school news. The address is stgeorgekids@yahoo.com. All parents of church school students, please send us an email so we can update our email list. I would appreciate all parents of church school children to keep this email address handy. This will allow the church school staff to send out friendly reminders and other important information to our church school families.

Our end of the year church school celebration is going to be a little bit different this year. We are actually going to be having our end of the year celebration in conjunction with our annual church picnic. This will be held on June 13. We are having a dunking booth, cotton candy machine, obstacle course, and a Jupiter Jump. It should be a lot of fun!! Try your best to come out and enjoy the day, and make great memories to last a lifetime.

Lastly, as our end of the year is fast approaching, I would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers for all of your hard work, time and dedication for the children of St. George. If not for all of your help none of our events, programs, and church school could not be possible. Also, thank you to all of the parents that has supported our church school this year and for many years to come. A very special thank you goes out to Laila Khoury for not only dedicating her time to teach in the church school, but she is the new church school representative on the parish council!! God Grant you many years!! May God bless you all with a safe and wonderful summer!!



Answers to Puzzle





CALENDAR

May

- 3: Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 3/4: Fr. Olof-CCT Meeting, Chicago
- 4: Daymark Dinner, 6:00 PM
- 8: Liturgy-St. John the Apostle, 10:00 AM
- 10: Sr. Fellowship, 5:45 PM
- 12: Evening Liturgy-Ascension, 6:30 PM; Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 14: Wedding Rehearsal
- 15: Wedding, 2:30 PM
- 16: Fr. Olof-Vacation Day
- 17: FSJD Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 18: St. George Night @ Appalachian Park
- 20: Communion for Shut-ins
- 22: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
- 23: Feast of Pentecost
- 24: Foundation Seminar, 7:00 PM
- 31: Apostles Fast Begins; Fr. Olof/Kh. Eva-Vacation

| MAY 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 | | | | | |

| JUN 2010 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | | 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 | | | |

June:

- 1-4: Fr. Olof/Kh. Eva -Vacation
- 2: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 6: Last Day Church School/Jr. Choir; Awards Sunday; Symphony Sunday Food Booth
- 9-10: Altar Boy Trip
- 11: Wedding Rehearsal, 5:30 PM
- 12: Wedding, 4:30 PM
- 13: Summer Hours--Matins, 9:30 AM, Liturgy, 10:30 AM; Parish Picnic-Shawnee Park
- 14-18: Vacation Church School, 6:30-8:30 PM
- 17: Communion for Shut-ins
- 19: Baptism, 11 AM
- 23: Evening Liturgy-Nativity of Forerunner, 6:30 PM
- 25: Wedding Rehearsal, 4:30 PM
- 26: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM; Wedding, 3:30 PM
- 28: Evening Liturgy-Sts. Peter & Paul, 6:30 PM
- 30: Parish Life Conference begins-Allentown, PA

Parish Life Conference Information

The 2010 Eastern Dioceses Parish Life Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Allentown, PA, June 30 - July 4, hosted by St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Allentown. Information regarding hotel, schedule, tickets and registration can be obtained from the website, www.stgeorgeplc2010.com.

Deadline for next issue: June 15, 2010.

Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
 U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Charleston, WV
 Permit No. 1133

THE ST. GEORGE
Grapevine
 St. George Orthodox Cathedral
 P.O. Box 2044
 Charleston, WV 25327

