

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Sep/Oct 2009 • Vol. 14, No. 1

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



“Well if you ever planned to motor west, take my way, that’s the highway, that’s the best: Get your kicks on Route 66...” Written by Bobby Troupe in 1946

and first recorded by Nat King Cole the same year, there are many of us who remember this tune.

Then for the next generation the TV series, “Route 66,” ran from 1960 to ‘64. The characters, Tod Stiles, first along with Buz Murdock, and then Lincoln Case, traveled back and forth across America each week encountering many adventures along the way.

Even the youngest among us this day know about Route 66. The popular 2006 Disney/Pixar movie, “Cars,” tells the story of Lightning McQueen, a hotshot rookie race car who discovers what life is all about when sidetracked to the little sleepy forgotten town of Radiator Springs along old Route 66. My two grandsons love this movie, and when playing with their cars they pretend that they are driving over it.

Route 66, the old “Mother Road,” was completely paved by 1938 and ran from Chicago to Los Angeles. It became the main thoroughfare for most everyone who traveled from the Midwest to southern California. Easterners would find their way to St. Louis and pick up the road there.

During the “Dust Bowl” days of the ‘30’s, thousands of people from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas made their way along this route to seek a new life in California. And in the ‘40’s after WW II, several St. George Charlestonian families made their way along the same route to resettle and start anew in Los Angeles.

I first experienced Route 66 at the tender age of eleven. My father announced sometime during the winter of 1953 that he wanted to drive to California and back

over his annual two-week, yes that’s correct, “two-week” vacation.

On a Saturday morning in July of that year we embarked from Philadelphia and headed west. We picked up Route 66 in St. Louis and followed it to LA, stopping at many a historic site or natural wonder along the way.

In the late ‘70’s Route 66 was completely by-passed and paralleled by the interstate system. I-44 from St. Louis to Oklahoma City and I-40 on west to Los Angeles have made Route 66 a memory of the past. Sections of the old road with its vacated buildings and old businesses can be seen from the new highway as you speed by at 75 to 80 mph.

I’ve traveled this route with my family three times now. The first was in 1981 pulling a pop-up camper. The second with a motor home in 1989, and lastly, just Eva and I in our van this summer to the archdiocese convention and back.

Taking side-trips today off the interstate onto stretches of the old route and through the downtown of places like Tucumcari and Gallup, NM, Kingman, AZ, and Barstow, CA, is like traveling back in time. I experience anew the feelings and the memories that I accumulated on my previous visits along this historic route.

What has this reminiscence of an old highway have to do with Orthodoxy? Everything! September 1, each year, marks the beginning of a journey. And it’s the same journey every year, the liturgical year of the Orthodox Church.

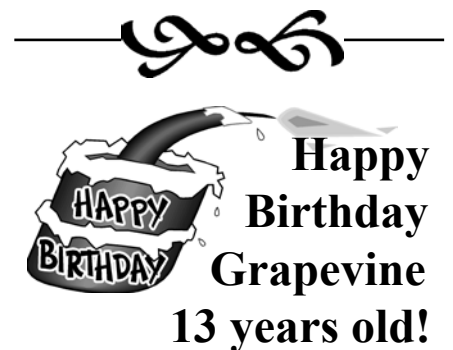
From now we begin anew the experience of the daily cycle of services with its fixed feast days. We will journey through the lenten cycles and encounter the paschal cycle that leads us toward Easter, through it and beyond.

This is a highway that we must travel if we are to truly experience our faith in Holy Orthodoxy. Sitting at home and reading about Route 66 or watching an old

movie about it is not the same as “experiencing” it. You have to leave the house, get into a vehicle and travel over it.

In this issue of the Grapevine you will find various vehicles that will help you make the trip of Orthodoxy. Beyond the normal schedule of Church School and our worship services we have two new vehicles: Family activities which will be on one Sunday afternoon each month and a 4-part lecture series by Fr. Stephen. Read about them and mark your calendars to be in attendance.

Old Route 66 brings back many memories from our country’s historical past. The annual road of our Orthodox Faith returns us to our two thousand year history and our reconnecting with the saints that have gone before us. Let us journey together. Let no one be left behind. ✝



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. ✝



Why Do We Believe?

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

This sounds like a question that a Christian would be challenged with by a non-Christian. However, what is paramount is why do you believe and can you answer the question. Some intellectuals will give logical commentaries and arguments as to why they believe. The self righteous will explain the laws and regulations of Holy Scriptures. The zealots will say they "love" Jesus because He loves me. Others will say a friend brought them to Jesus. A recent article talked about a new member of the Church being enthused by seeing the parishioners singing and "participating" in the Liturgy compared to another parish where the members just "stood" there. Then there are the Christians who are consumed by their love of God. They may say they love Jesus for His sacrifice and God's love for us; yet when they are pushed as to why, or maybe the question is how did you come to love God so much or believe in Him? How did you come to be so devout and the answer may be "I am not sure." But what kind of answer would that be?

Let us look at St. Paul. Paul (formerly known as Saul) hated and persecuted the Christians and probably others. He did not intellectualize the faith; he did



not discuss the rules of faith; he most assuredly did not state he had love for Jesus; and one would wonder if anyone would even think to try to bring him to God. In Acts 7:51-60, Stephen speaks to the people and says they resist the Holy Spirit among other things and the people become enraged and they stone him. "... and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul" (Acts 7:58). "'And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed.....And he knelt down cried out...Lord do not hold this sin against them. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul was consenting to his death" (Acts 7:59-60). Yet he did come to God. How? Truly through the Grace of God!

Paul is the perfect example of God's grace. No sin is too great for God to forgive. Paul writes: "...though I formerly blasphemed and persecuted and insulted Him; but I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 1:13-14). Salvation happens at God's initiative, not ours. No one can take credit for getting saved. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God - not because of works...." (Ephesians 2:8-9). After his conversion, Paul's actions and thoughts changed. Grace is not about adding good deeds to your life; it is about inner transformation. God makes us new people and transforms our thoughts, actions, and desires. When we experience God's grace, we want to serve Him on a daily basis.

So when some say they are not sure how they became so faithful, remember St. Paul - only through the grace of God. Yes some may bring us to Church and begin fertilizing the soil so we may be open to receive more readily the Grace of God but it is up to God. This is not to say we sit and wait to receive but we must "knock so the door will be opened to us." Those who may say they come to Church because their parents did may actually be coming to Church because of the Grace of God and may be attempting to turn their backs on God. God is relentless and an aggressive lover of His creation. Others attend and are faithful because of some "unknown" desire or hunger; that is the Grace of God which has changed us as it did St. Paul. ✝

Spiritual Enrichment Events

By Fr. Stephen

There are two events coming up in the life of our Cathedral which deserve special attention, because they represent opportunities for all of us to continue to deepen and enrich our spiritual lives. The first is the beginning of our Family Night program, which will start on the afternoon of September 20th from 3 to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in the Family Night program, and there will be learning groups for adults and children of various age groups, as well as opportunities for families to spend time learning together. The Youth Committee believes that this program will be a source of enrichment not only for the members of our parish as individuals, but also for our families.

The second opportunity coming up is a lecture series which will be given by Father Stephen beginning on October 18th. This lecture series, entitled 'Who is Jesus?' is aimed at answering the questions being raised today in our culture and in our educational institutions about who Jesus was, and in some cases whether he ever existed. A popular atheist movement has arisen on our college campuses and many of its influential members, like Richard Dawkins and Bill Maher, joined by religious scholars like Bart Ehrmann, are actively arguing in every media venue available to them that Christianity is a myth. This lecture series will focus on answering the questions being raised by these men and others. Hopefully, this will be a valuable educational opportunity for both our young people and adults, and inviting friends who may consider themselves atheists, be 'fans' of these authors, or just share some of these questions is strongly encouraged. ✝



Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Proverbs 3:13



2009 Archdiocese Conference
Report from Palm Springs, CA:
HOT! HOT! HOT!



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
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Church School Search-A-Word

A S T R A E V I T A E R C A
 B E R C H T R E H C A E T M
 E X C U T H A C E O E B H E
 S A H A P E F R T S D I E F
 U P R I S O C E E U C B O I
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 M U S T N E R A P R E D O L

1. BE ON TIME
2. BIBLE VERSES
3. CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
4. COMPUTER TIME
5. CREATIVE ARTS
6. FIELD TRIPS
7. LORD'S PRAYER
8. MUSIC
9. PARENTS
10. PRAYERS
11. SIGN OF THE CROSS
12. STUDENT
13. SUPERINTENDENT
14. TEACHER
15. TEN COMMANDMENTS
16. THE BEATITUDES
17. THE CREED
18. THE ORTHODOX FAITH



"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Prov. 22:6



Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: How did Daniel sleep with the lions without being afraid?

A: Daniel was a young man when he was captured and taken to Babylon. He lived the rest of his life there, serving four kings, but he always remained true to God. One day, when he was an old man, the last of these kings, Darius, signed a law stating that no one could ask a favor of (or pray to) anyone except him, the king. (This was a trick by some powerful men to get rid of Daniel.) Because Daniel ignored the new law and continued to pray to God, the king had to punish him by putting him into a den of lions. Daniel spent all night with the lions but wasn't hurt.

The Bible doesn't say that Daniel wasn't afraid. Rather, Daniel was will-



ing to face the lions because he trusted in God. Daniel had seen what God could do (see Daniel 3:1-30 and 5:1-31) and believed that obeying God was right, even if it meant being in danger. Even if Daniel was afraid, he faced the lions *bravely* because of his confidence in God.

KEY VERSE: "My God has sent his angel. He shut the lions' mouths so that they can't touch me. I am innocent before



God. And I have not done anything wrong to you." (Daniel 6:22)

RELATED VERSES: Psalms 3:6; 23:4; 27:1; 91:5; Daniel 6:1-28

RELATED QUESTIONS: Why did they want to throw Daniel in the lions' den? What would have happened if Daniel had obeyed Darius and didn't pray three times a day anymore?





Thank you so much for sending me to camp, I'm having a great time!

Love,
Shirah Perry
Fan

Dear Father Scott,
Thank you for paying for everyone to go to camp. It was very generous. I always have a great time and love seeing all of my friends. Thank you again.

From,
Simone Cassaley

Dear Parish Council,
Thank you for sending me to camp. I had a lot of fun. I rode a horse for the first time. I made new friends.

I enjoyed the activities, I learned about my faith. My counselors were funny. Thank you again.

Love, Matthew Ede

THANK YOU

Dear Parish Council,
Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to return to the Antiochian Village; it was a wonderful experience. At the Village, I went to church many times, I met new friends and reunited with old ones, played various sports and participated in other physical activities, I learned a lot in Christian Education, and mainly, had a lot of fun and memories

while experiencing God everyday. It was truly a wonderful experience that I will cherish and remember for a long time. Thank you very much and God Bless!!

Love,
Gregory Ede



St. George Orthodox Church Annual Dinner October 4, 2009

12 noon - 6 p.m.

St. George Conference Center
Corner Court & Lee Streets • 346-0106

Menu:

Kibbee - Ground Meat & Wheat • Yabrah - Cabbage Rolls
Loobia Bunadoora - Green Beans in Tomato Sauce • Rooz
'B Sharyeea - Buttered Rice with Orzo • Salata - Salad with
Oil & Lemon Dressing • Baklawa Dessert - Multi-layered
Fillo & Nuts • Pita Bread • Coffee / Ice Tea

Donation \$12.00

Carry-out Orders • Ethnic Groceries (Lower Level)
Diners are invited to tour the sanctuary.

A Child's Ten Commandments For Parents

1. My hands are small; please don't expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture or throw a ball. My legs are short; please slow down so that I can keep up with you.
2. My eyes have not seen the world as yours have; please let me explore safely. Don't restrict me unnecessarily.
3. Housework will always be there. I'm only little for a short time - please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world, and do so willingly.
4. My feelings are tender; please be sensitive to my needs; don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness.) Treat me as you would like to be treated.
5. I am a special gift from God; please treasure me as God intended you to do, holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner.
6. I need your encouragement to grow. Please go easy on the criticism; remember, you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.
7. Please give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I'll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires of me.
8. Please don't do things over for me. Somehow that makes me feel that my efforts didn't quite measure up to your expectations. I know it's hard, but please don't try to compare me with my brother or my sister.
9. Please don't be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from parents, just as parents need vacations from kids. Besides, it's a great way to show us kids that your marriage is very special.
10. Please take me to Sunday school and church regularly, setting a good example for me to follow. I enjoy learning more about God.



Youth Month

October is dedicated to youth month in the Archdiocese. Our teens will be participating in the service and collecting donations for the Special Olympics Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village. Teen SOYO members come from all over North America to volunteer their time to reach out to others: "In as much as you did it to one of the least of My brethren, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

Please be generous when asked for the donation.

Also Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 8 are youth family night at St. George.

Please fill out the forms mailed to you and return to St. George (this includes extended family members, too).



Church School News

By Layla Michael

The Church School wants to welcome back all of our young parishioners and all of the Church School Staff for a new and exciting year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer break. We will be starting off our new year with a kick-off luncheon scheduled for August 30, 2009.

Our first day of church school will be Sept. 13, 2009, with NEW church school hours starting at 9:45 a.m. I hope that everyone does their best to be there on time. All children are to report to their designated classrooms. Being there on time helps the teachers and staff to make the most of the lessons prepared for our children.

The church school is having an Open House for the parents and congregation on Sept. 27, 2009 starting at 9:45 a.m. Make

sure to come and see our new computer lab, our children are very excited to start working on our new computers. We look forward to implementing new computer programs for our children to learn the orthodox faith in a fun and captivating setting. We would again like to say thank you for all of the support for our computers for the church school. We would especially like to thank John Haddy and all the parish council for allowing us to have these computers to use this year and for many years to come.

Another upcoming event we have scheduled is our Halloween Party. The party will be held on October 25, 2009. We are tentatively scheduled for a costume party in the lower level of the church. We are also waiting to hear of a new Halloween tradition for our older students. More details will follow. Please mark all of these dates on your calendar! God Bless you all.



Senior Fellowship

Senior Fellowship will take a break in September due to the preparations for our Annual Dinner on Oct. 4. A Senior trip is planned for Oct. 15-17 at the Antiochian Village for a Seniors's Retreat: "What's on your Bucket List." In other words what are you doing now to prepare yourself, from an Orthodox view, before you kick the bucket! There is a fee for room and board. Contact Vivian Ghiz or Maryann Skaff if you are interested. Details will be placed in the bulletin.

So Seniors, RSVP as soon as possible! Our next get-together will be in November.



Get out of the Car

(This is supposedly a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida.)

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle.

She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her lungs, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second threat. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition.

She tried and tried, and then she realized why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12 packs of beer in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces further down.

She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake.

The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing.

He pointed to the end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun.

No charges were filed.

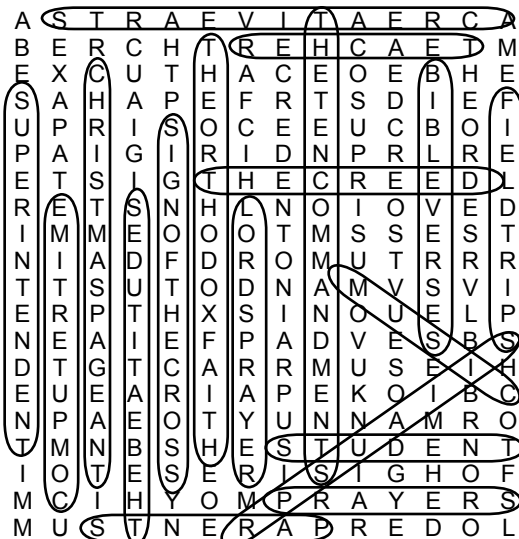
Moral of the story? If you're going to have a senior moment...make it memorable.



"Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not."

Prov. 8:33

Answers to Search-A-Word



Antiochian Women (Ladies Guild)

Summer is gone and the Ladies Guild is meeting again. on the first Monday of each month. Preparations have begun for the Annual Dinner on Oct. 4. Cabbage rolls were made the end of August. Kibbee will be made the week of Sept. 14. Volunteers are still needed for cooking, set-up, take-down, servers, and runners, grocery store and carry out. Contact President Mary Dooley, or a Guild member. Also, we can use ethnic cookies for sale in the grocery store. Contact Maryann Skaff for details. Tickets for the dinner can be picked up during coffee hour. Join us ladies on Monday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m.



CALENDAR

SEPT 2009

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			

September:

- 1: FSJD Mtg., 7:30 PM
- 4: Wedding Rehearsal, 4:00 PM
- 5: Wedding, 4:30 PM
- 7: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
- 9: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 13: Start regular hours: Jr. Choir, 9:00 AM; Church School & Matins, 10:00 AM; Liturgy, 11:00 AM; Special Congregation Mtg., 1:00 PM
- 14: Begin Kibbee preparation; Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM; Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM; Pastoral Comm., 7:30 PM
- 15: WVCC Board Mtg., Huttonsville, Fr. Olof attending
- 17: Communion for Shut-ins

- 19: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM
- 20: Family Night Activities, 3:00–5:00 PM
- 23-25: Diocesan Clergy Retreat–Ant. Village, Frs. Olof & Stephen attending
- 25-27: St. Thekla Pilgrimage–Ant. Village; Fr. Olof vacation
- 26: Liturgy, 10:00 AM
- 27: Church School Open House, 10:00 AM
- 28: Begin Baklawa preparation; CICSC Board Mtg–Conf. Ctr., 7:00 PM
- 29: St. Ignatius Social, 6:30 PM
- 30: CCT Steering Comm. Mtg., Chicago, Fr. Olof attending

**Deadline for next issue:
October 15, 2009.**

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

OCT 2009

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

October:

- 1: Fr. Olof returns from Chicago
- 4: Annual Dinner, Noon–6:00 PM
- 5: Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 9: Wedding Rehearsal, 5:30 PM
- 10: Wedding, 5:30 PM
- 11: Lecture Series, 6:00 PM
- 14: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 15: Communion for Shut-ins
- 15-17: Sr. Citizen Retreat–Ant. Village
- 17: Fr. Olof–Vacation day
- 18: Family Night Activities, 3:00–5:00 PM
- 19: WVCC Annual Mtg–Fr. Olof attending
- 25: Church School Halloween Party, afternoon; Lecture Series, 6:00 PM
- 26: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
- 27: St. Ignatius Social, 6:30 PM
- 31: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM

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