

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Sept./Oct. 2010 • Vol. 15, No. 1

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

Happy New Year! The first day of September marks the Indiction, the beginning of the

Orthodox Christian year.

On September 1, one of the saints that are commemorated is Symeon Stylitis (the Stylite). His title derives from his great feat of asceticism, ascending a sixty-foot pillar and staying there twenty-four/seven for forty years.

I am struck by at least two questions. Why would someone do this? Why is this saint commemorated at the beginning of our Liturgical year?

The answer to the first can be understood to some degree by St. Symeon's life story.

Symeon began his young life as a shepherd who had deep Christian roots originating in the city of Antioch. At a time when severe ascetical practices were taking place in Egypt with St. Anthony and St. Savvas, Symeon vowed to carry out a similar life in his native Syria.

Whatever prompted Symeon to ascend the pillar, located sixteen miles from the city of Aleppo on the road to Antioch, is open to speculation. It may have been prompted by a desire to equal the spiritual efforts of the Egyptian monastic luminaries.

George Poulos in his "Orthodox Saints," Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 1976, writes: "This was no mere publicity-seeking flagpole stunt. It was a well thought-out plan to present the appealing starkness of a lone figure's vigil for Christ with the bare necessities of life being provided by devoted followers. His self-denial was subordinate to the main purpose of his thought-provoking venture, which was to bring his fellow man an acute awareness of and a closer proximity to God."

The area that Symeon occupied allowed him to either stand or sit but not lie down. Day after day, year in and year out, he endured whatever the weather brought. During one Lenten season he stood erect for twenty days, then sat in meditation for another twenty days, during which time his only sustenance was water.

Pilgrims by the thousands came to view this amazing spectacle and hear the wisdom that Symeon would impart to them. The ruins of his pillar are still evident today and are considered a shrine to the greatest ascetic of them all who died in 459 AD.

The answer to my second question is less evident. By commemorating Symeon on the first day of the Orthodox New Year, the Church just might be urging us to imitate him.

Say, what! Should each of us find a pillar to ascend? Well, maybe. In a spiritual manner, so-to-speak, to the degree that we can.

In the helter-skelter, fast-paced, bustling and noisy environment that we live in, it is almost impossible to be in communion with God. It becomes incumbent upon us then to find our "pillar," our place of isolation, our place of silence, of quietness from the raging world around us.

Each day let us strive to retreat to our prayer-corner. Let it be in a space in our home where there is no TV, no radio, no iPod, no cell phone—nothing except our icons, our Bible, God and us.

Let us in the quietness of this experience, on our spiritual pillar, talk to our Lord in prayer and listen for His "still small voice" which will lead us to follow His Will for our lives.

May our effort to ascend our "pillar" of reduced worldly sensations produce a daily habit that will lead us closer to Christ and His Church. ✠

Holy Land Tour with Bishop THOMAS

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Bishop THOMAS as their guest is being planned for the first twelve days of June, 2011. The organizer of this pilgrimage is Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky of the Orthodox Church in America parish in Binghamton, NY. All information regarding dates, itinerary, fares, etc. must be obtained from Fr. Ilya, 53 Baxter Street, Binghamton, NY 13905-2029, Phone # 607-797-1058. As details are firm they can also be found on the website <http://orthodoxtours.com> ✠

Icon Festival

Oct. 16 & 17, 2010

Iconographers will display, sell and demonstrate the art of writing icons. Holy Cross Hermitage in Wayne County will display and sell antique Russian Icons. Paul Finley, Executive Director of Antiochian Village Retreat Center will speak on "Icons, Not Idols: A Call to Christians to Give their Sight to God." Sat. Oct. 16, 10 am - 4 pm; Sun. Oct. 17, 1-4 pm. St. George Cathedral. Free admission and parking. ✠

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. ✠



Maintain Your Spiritual Well Being

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

People sometimes talk of being tired and not feeling up to doing the things they used to do. They may not have the motivation to participate in activities they had traditionally been a part of. This may be seen in attending family gatherings and picnics, completing certain tasks at home or work, and yes unfortunately coming to Church to worship God. It is with great concern to hear people say, I get nothing out of the Liturgy; or I am bored; or I just don't feel like coming anymore. Then the excuse is made that one can worship God at home or watch evangelists on television. These thoughts are definite signs of fatigue, or of one's spiritual life diminishing. Some people will also argue as we age these activities are unnecessary, such as attending church, coming to Bible study and Adult Class. Some will argue with this observation since some people believe increasing numbers of people are attending Church. Unfortunately this is not an accurate observation. We must also look at how we attend church. Are we as concerned about being late for Liturgy as we are for work? Are we as concerned as to the proper dress for Church as we are for work or a social function? Are we as respectful to being in God's presence as we are to national leaders? How we pray is how we believe. Is it truly proper to show such disrespect to God by being late or dressing improperly by scantily covering our bodies? Some of the services that

we had believed to be very important in the past are now minimized in our minds and therefore we fail to see the necessity in attending. This is not only a modern day problem, but if you look at the Saints of the church especially St. John Chrysostom he speaks of the same lack of motivation. This is the work of evil that drains our mental energy, our physical energy, and our spiritual energy.

This fatigue may suggest that we need to renew our commitment to God. A healthy spiritual life should heighten our sense of accountability to God. We may need to take time each day or several times a week to talk to God, to read the Scriptures, to read from the church fathers. I am not talking about a theological interpretation of the rubrics of the Divine Liturgy; that is not necessary. We do need a renewal of our faith in God.

We tend to look to others to make changes in the Church such as reaching out to parishioners who have fallen away; however the change needs to come from each one of us. False doctrine, apathy, and a lack of discipline together help to diminish the spiritual life of the church. We must be alert to false doctrine. The things we listen to and read; where does it come from; is it approved by the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church is the authority on Christian doctrine since we are Orthodox. Apathy is destroyed when we accept one another for we are a fellowship, we are a family of God.

"Behold the bridegroom comes at midnight and worthy is he whom he shall find watching but unworthy is he whom he shall find heedless. Beware therefore O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep lest you be given unto death and shut out from the kingdom. But rouse

yourself crying Holy Holy Holy art thou O our God."

This Troparion of the Bridegroom is not only for Holy Week but for all times. Be alert, do not be weighed down with sleep; i.e., this is the way evil tires us so that we do not keep our faith strong so that we do not be watchful. By not being prepared our faith wavers and we may be "shut out from the kingdom of God." Will we be as the virgins who were prepared and had their lamps lit or will we be as the unprepared virgins who are shut out when the Bridegroom (Christ) comes? The more we avoid or not follow through with things the harder it is for us to begin again. This is a discipline. When we follow a set of actions on a regular basis, we will continue to do so until the action is disrupted.

Set an example not only for our children but for each other. Remember when the paralytic was healed? Jesus said you are healed by the faith of those around you. So we each need to keep our faith strong so that others faith may also be strengthened.

Come to adult class and bring your children to Church School and Church. Do not deprive them of the faith of their fathers. Do not keep them away from Christ. Remember what Jesus said: "Suffer (allow) the little children to come unto me..."

A few of the Adult Class topics for this year include: 1)Understanding God's Will; 2)Dealing with Grief; 3)To Truly Forgive; 4)Perfect Prayer; 5)Understanding Church. ✝

SAINT THEKLA THE PROTOMARTYR & EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES

Commemorated on Sept. 24

Troparion

O glorious Thekla,
companion of Paul the divine,
you were enflamed
with the love of your Creator,
by the teaching of the divine preacher.
You despised the passing earthly pleasures,
and offered yourself to God
as an acceptable and pleasing sacrifice,
disregarding all suffering.
Intercede with Christ your Groom
to grant us His great mercy.



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 parishioners 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.

Do You Know this Parishioner?

HEIGHT: 5'4"
COLOR OF EYES: Dark Brown
HOBBIES/INTERESTS: NY Yank-
ess
FAVORITE COLOR: Blue and Gold
FAVORITE FOOD: Sfeeha
FAVORITE SHOW: Jeopardy
OCCUPATION: Lawyer





Sunday Night Bible Study Begins

Beginning Sunday evening, September 19th at 6:30 pm, Fr. Stephen will be holding an ongoing Bible study, working our way through the scriptures, every Sunday evening. The first study will be an introduction, and discussion of Genesis 1:1-2:3. Our Lord Jesus Christ said that what was written in the Law and the Prophets, the Old Testament, was written concerning Him. This means that for the Christian, the entirety of what is found in the Scriptures is teaching about Jesus Christ, and who He is. This Bible study will focus on helping those who participate, learn how to read the Bible and see Christ through its pages, and thereby to draw closer to Christ through personal reading and study of the Scriptures. The goal of the study, though this will obviously take years to accomplish, will be to read through the entirety of Scripture, including the 'Apocrypha' and other portions of Scripture that are not well known. The passages for each week will be listed in the bulletin, and posted in the Church, so those who can only attend occasionally are still invited and welcomed to participate. The Bible Study will be discussion-style, and will be held in the downstairs meeting room/chapel area. ✠

St. George Cathedral Foundation News

by Dr. Edward Howard, President
St. George Foundation

The St. George Foundation members are excited to announce they will be planning new seminars for their fall series. The seminars' purpose is to educate our parishioners on subjects they feel will be informational and educational to them and their families. It is hoped that the parishioners of St. George Cathedral will offer to the foundation board members any ideas for seminars or information they would like to learn more about in the near future. Please feel free to contact any of the following members of the St. George Foundation:

Dr. Edward Howard
Mr. Ronald Murad
Dr. Paul Alex Skaff
Dr. Nick Cassis
Dr. Muhib Tarakji
Dr. Alex W. Skaff
Mr. David Cassis
Mr. Geoff Haddad
Fr. Olof Scott

We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

Kid's Corner - Q & A

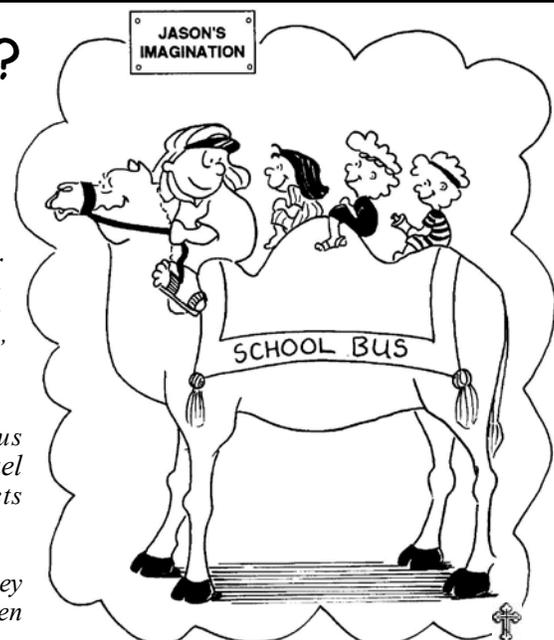
Q: How Did the People travel?

A: People in Bible times didn't have cars, trains, buses, or airplanes, but they still had to travel from town to town. Usually they walked. If you've ever taken a hike, you know that you walk until you're tired, and then you rest. You may even have to pitch a tent and camp out for the night before getting to your destination. Then you start hiking again the next day. That's what people did back then whenever they walked a long way. If they could afford it, people also rode on donkeys, camels, or horses. Sometimes people (usually kings, soldiers, or rich people) would ride in chariots that were pulled by horses. And, of course, when they had to travel over water, they went in boats or ships.

KEY VERSES: *"Eat it with your traveling clothes on, prepared for a long trip. Wear your walking shoes and carry your walking sticks in your hands. Eat it quickly. This observance shall be called the Lord's Passover."* (Exodus 12:11)

RELATED VERSES: Exodus 12:34, 37-38; 13:20; 1 Samuel 25:18; Matthew 21:1-11; Acts 1:12

RELATED QUESTION: *Did they have trains in the olden days when Jesus was down here?*



From 102 Questions Children Ask about the Bible.



Antiochian Women (Ladies Guild)

Labor Day officially ends our summer break and now it's time for our Annual Dinner on Oct. 3. Preparation of food has begun, but volunteers are still needed before, during and after the dinner! Contact Mary Dooley, Anne Marie Haddy or a Guild member to offer your assistance!

Our Guild has voted to eliminate the dues that members paid each year and hopes all women of St. George will join us at our next meeting on Monday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The Ladies Guild is not restricted to a select group of women. It is for all Antiochian Women of St. George to participate. We encourage all ladies of St. George 18 and over to come to our meeting to understand the purpose of our ladies' organization. You may have new ideas and skills to benefit St. George. Remember the ladies are the backbone of this church and we need all of the ladies input.

Meetings are the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. See you on Sept. 13! ✝

Senior Fellowship

We are back, Seniors! Hope your summer was great! Senior Fellowship has regrouped and will hold its first fall get-together on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 5:45 p.m. After dinner, Mr. A. Richard McGinnis from Thomas Hospital will discuss "Nutrition for Health Concerns." We invite all adults to attend, but you must RSVP by completing the form placed in the bulletin in October.

Our second fall get-together will be Tuesday, Nov. 9 with dinner served at 5:45 p.m. followed by Dr. Bruce Cassis presenting a slide show by powerpoint on his trip to Lebanon. Pictures of a traditional Lebanese wedding and his day at a dental clinic will be included. So mark you calendar now for Oct. 12 and Nov. 9. Watch the bulletin for details. ✝

Word Search

Spiritual Gifts & Fruits And Those Who Possess Them

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| DEACON | KNOWLEDGE |
| DISCERNMENT | LOVE |
| ELDER | MERCY |
| ENCOURAGER | MIRACLES |
| EVANGELIST | PEACE |
| FAITH | PRAISE |
| FAITHFULNESS | PROPHECY |
| GENTLENESS | PROPHET |
| GIVER | RIGHTEOUSNESS |
| HEALING | SELF CONTROL |
| HELPER | TEACHER |
| HOPE | TONGUES |
| JOY | WISDOM |



St. George Orthodox Church

Annual Dinner October 3, 2010

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.



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

Prov. 22:6



Church School News

By Lilah Michael



Welcome back to a new church school year!!! We hope everyone had a safe and memorable summer break. Our Church School staff is anxiously waiting the children's arrival. Please welcome our new staff member this year, Kristy Edstrom. She has graciously volunteered her time to teach our third grade class, thank you. We are still looking for volunteers to help with our rotations, please contact me if anyone is interested in this position.

The first day of Church School will be on September 12, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. Please do your best to be on time, and all children are to report to their designated classrooms. Being on time helps the teachers make the most out of the lessons that have been prepared for them. We have an exciting year planned and hope to get all of our children involved for the upcoming year. Our open house is sched-

uled for September 26, 2010. Please plan on attending our open house and feel free to bring a guest that has never experienced our Church School. Come and witness what happens weekly and how religion impacts the lives of our children.

Another event coming up soon is our Halloween Party. The party is scheduled for October 24, 2010, with more details to follow soon. Our Church School has a new email address, which we will be implementing quite often due to the high cost of postage. Delays, events, upcoming information, etc. will be emailed to all those who would like to be notified on our email list. We will be checking this email periodically. The address is stgeorgekids@yahoo.com, please email me if you are not already on our list and would like to be. Please mark these dates on your calendars. ✕



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

Prov. 8:33

Teen Programs begin for 2010-11 Year

Teen SOYO began its year with a meeting on August 29th at which elections were held and plans were made for the coming year's service projects and activities. At this meeting, elections were held, with Will Tappe elected as President, Gregory Ede as Vice-President, Leeanne Mobayed as Treasurer, Pauline Minas as Secretary, Wilson Skaff as Sergeant-at-Arms/Parliamentarian, Simone Assaley as Chaplain, and Alanna Mobayed as Historian. Congratulations to all of the new officers on their elections.

Family Night activities will also resume on Sunday, September 12th from 4-6 pm with activities for all ages. The theme for the first Family Night will be the Elevation of the Cross, which feast is celebrated in the Orthodox Church on September 14th. A light dinner of pork barbeque sandwiches will be provided. Participants are encouraged to register with Laura Ede or Mark Choueiri, and to bring a covered dish to share.

Experiences at Camp 2010

Dear Father Scott,

This year at camp was probably the best thing that I have experienced. Camp is so fun, and there's so much to do. My favorite part of camp this year would probably have to be the challenge course. On the challenge course, you do many challenging yet fun activities with your cabin. Some things are harder than others, but the feeling you get after completing them is priceless. I think that all the other kids at our church should go next summer. It is an experience unlike any other.

Philip Summers



A Teacher's Code of Ethics

- As a teacher in my church, I will do my best
- To approach my task each Sunday with a prepared heart and a reverent attitude.
- To make every effort to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and to lead my pupils to do the same.
- To contact absentees promptly, personally, and persistently.
- To set an example in attendance, punctuality, and stewardship.
- To make my instruction personal and practical, adapting the lesson to the needs of my class members.
- To make a conscientious effort to win every pupil and to help him or her live as a Christian disciple.
- To cooperate gladly with my pastor, Sunday school director, and other officers.
- To use every possible method of improving my teaching.
- To esteem Christ first, others second, and myself last

Do You Know this Parishioner?

HEIGHT: 5'3 3/4"

COLOR OF EYES: Brown

HOBBIES/INTERESTS: Watching Sports; Crossword Puzzles

FAVORITE COLOR: All of them

FAVORITE FOOD: Lebanese

FAVORITE SHOW: Wheel of Fortune & Jeopardy

OCCUPATION: Homemaker



Happy
Birthday
Grapevine
14 years old!



CALENDAR

September:

- 1: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 6: Labor Day
- 7: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
- 12: Start regular hours: Jr. Choir, 9:00 AM; Church School & Matins, 10:00 AM; Liturgy, 11:00 AM
- 13: Begin Kibbee preparation; Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM; Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 16: Communion for Shut-ins; WVCC 130th Unity Dinner/Concert—Clay Ctr.
- 20: FSJD Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 21-24: Diocesan Clergy Retreat—Ant. Village, Frs. Olof & Stephen attending
- 25-27: St. Thekla Pilgrimage—Ant. Village
- 25: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM; Fr. Olof—Vacation
- 26: Church School Open House, 10:00 AM
- 28: Begin Baklawa preparation; St. Ignatius Social, 6:30 PM
- 29-30: CCT Steering Comm. Mtg., Chicago, Fr. Olof attending

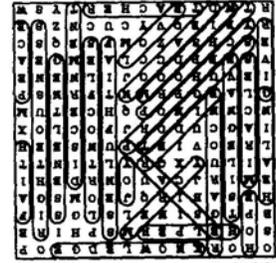
SEPT 2010						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

October:

- 1: Wedding Rehearsal
- 2: Wedding, 2:00 PM
- 3: Annual Dinner, Noon—6:00 PM
- 4: Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
- 6: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
- 8: Wedding Rehearsal, 5:15 PM
- 9: Wedding, 4:30 PM
- 10: Wedding, 5:00 PM
- 12: Senior Fellowship, 5:45 PM
- 16-17: Icon Festival
- 18: WVCC Annual Mtg—Fr. Olof attending
- 19: James Dent Dinner
- 21: Communion for Shut-ins
- 22-24: Wedding in Potomac, MD—Fr. Olof participating
- 24: Church School October Party, afternoon;
- 25: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
- 26: St. Ignatius Social, 6:30 PM
- 30: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM
- 30-31: Fr. Olof—Vacation

OCT 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						

Answers to Puzzle



Answer to Do you know - Becky O'fesh page 2 and Libby O'fesh page 4.

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

"A child is known by his doings whether his work be pure or right."
Prov. 20:11

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
P.O. Box 2044
Charleston, WV 25327

Grapevine
THE ST. GEORGE

