



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Sep-Oct-Nov. 2012 • Vol. 17, No. 1

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



One of the aspects of my life that has always been a struggle is my reaction when something negative and unexpected confronts me. My immediate reaction is a thought-train that, at a minimum, includes mumbling and complaining. And at times these thoughts might include a string of profanity and blaspheming God's Name.

I try to justify it by thinking it's only a normal human reaction, that it's a left-over of my working in a shipyard at a young age and at least it doesn't escape my lips. Or if I'm honest, not very often.

"Oh, my!," you may say. Yes, even a priest has weaknesses that he must deal with. And in order to deal with these weaknesses we must seek the means to make a correction and effect a cure.

In this particular case I already know the means to that cure. The problem is the struggle to apply the medicine to eliminate the infection. So what must I do, or others like me who react inappropriately in similar circumstances, to correct this behavior.

In the last issue of the Grapevine I wrote about my recent health issues, and how God permits many things to impact us to aid us in seeking and living according to His Will. As part of the prayer I quoted, "In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by Thee."

St. Paul in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians shows us, by his own example, how we should react to negative and unwanted encounters. "...lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations (his visions of God and His Kingdom), a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said

to me, 'My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

This is how we should react. God permits these negative things to impact us in order to remind us that the enjoyment and the acquisitions of this created world is not the goal of our existence. Rather we are to seek the eternal Kingdom of God in which He dwells and to grow into His Likeness. And we have help in this endeavor.

"And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.' If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:5-11)

My task is not to complain when confronted with trials and tribulations. It is, rather, to recognize that these things are



Happy
16th Birthday,
Grapevine!

Thank you to all our contributors and readers!

gifts from God to help me refocus my attention away from this world and to concentrate on acquiring the Kingdom of Heaven.

Along with daily prayer and reading of Holy Scriptures there is another help that we can use in dealing with and understanding those trials that we must endure. My spiritual father continues to remind and encourage me to always be reading a spiritual work as part of my spiritual discipline.

We have many such books in our library and bookstore written by contemporary spiritual fathers which are beneficial in keeping us on track. Those who work there can direct you to titles that they're familiar with. Check them out and make them a part of your daily life.

As we begin another Liturgical year on September 1, may God continue to guide us and provide every means that would lead us deeper into His Fellowship and His Kingdom.



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.





The Great Physician

By Subdeacon George M. Damos

One of the most beautiful names given to our Lord Jesus Christ is that of the "Great Physician." He is given that name because He healed so many people during His time on earth. However, the many accounts of his healing raises questions about "divine healing" and its place in Christian theology. Some groups emphasize divine healing.

Jesus did perform many miracles of healing. Throughout the Gospels we read of such magnificent events. However, it is important to remember this was not Christ's main mission on earth. He did not become man to heal some people of their illnesses. He came to save all people from their sins, to save them from eternal death and separation from God. In reading the Biblical accounts of Jesus' works we find he did not heal everyone who was sick and believed in Him. Lazarus was a close and dear friend of Jesus, yet he became sick and died. St. Paul often asked Christ to "take away the thorn in my flesh," to heal him of an illness, but Christ told him, "My Grace is sufficient for thee..." Paul was not healed but was given the strength to endure his sickness.

Jesus performed miracles of healing to prove to people that He is truly God, that He is the promised Savior, the Messiah. In the Gospel of John Jesus explains, "... the same works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me." The average person did not know who Jesus is except by His works, great miracles of healing. However the matter of faith also

had a bearing. Jesus chose people who had great faith in Him. He comments to such faith often. "your faith has made you whole; go in peace." "Great is your faith, be it done according to your belief." "All things are possible to them that believe." Jesus did not perform many miracles in Nazareth as it is written in Scripture. This was due to the unbelief of the people. Jesus had grown up there and the people rejected His claim to be God. Today as it was back then, people need faith and trust in the Lord if they want to be healthy in mind and body, or even to bear up under sickness. Faith heals and faith helps us.

The Orthodox Church has always taught the place of prayer and faith in sickness and pain. One of the Sacraments of the Church is for the sick, i.e., Holy Unction. St. James talks of it in his epistle: "Is any sick among you? Let him call the elders of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord..."

It must be understood that sickness, pain, death, and suffering do not come from God. Yes God allows it but He does not will it. These events come from the world as it is, as man has made it. They come from the vast area of nature, corrupted by man's sin down through the ages. This allowance of such tragedies from God is to condition us and prepare us for salvation and eternal life. Why you may ask? What would we do if we were not challenged? We would surely lie around and become lost, that is lose our salvation through our slothfulness.

Remember the tower of Babel? The people were arrogant to the point of building a tower to heaven. In return for such a foolish act, God gave them different languages and therefore they were unable to communicate with each other. Then they had the chore of attempting to talk with each other. Maybe in the same way of our trial and tribulations it keeps us focused on seeking salvation and waiting appropriately for the Day of the Lord. The believing, trusting, loving Christian will be safe in the hands of the Great Physician not matter what; for He is with us always, even unto the end of the age. ✝

Parish Life Conference Highlights

We congratulate those who received recognition and awards at this year's Easter Dioceses Parish Life Conference in New Brunswick, NJ, on July 4-8. Creative Festival Winners: John M. Asseff II, 1st Place in Creative Writing, 7th Grade; Leeanne Mobayed, 2nd Place in Creative Arts, 11th/12th Grade; Scholarship Winners: Leeanne Mobayed, \$500 George L. Heider Scholarship; Pauline Minas, \$500 Josephine Malta Scholarship; Bible Bowl: Simone Assaley, Leeanne Mobayed and Will Tappe: 5th Place, Teens. ✝

Basic Class on the Orthodox Faith

Prior to the start of Christmas Lent (Advent), Fr. Olof will again be lecturing on the Basics of the Orthodox Faith. Sessions will be held Thursdays, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. The topics and the dates are as follows:

- 11/ 8: Worship Space (in the sanctuary)
- 11/15: Salvation History (conf. center)
- 11/29: Great Ecumenical Councils-1 (conf. center)
- 12/ 6: Great Ecumenical Councils-2 (conf. center)
- 12/13: Church Doctrine (conf. center)
- 12/20: Sacraments (conf. center)

The class is open to all parishioners and anyone interested in becoming a member of the Orthodox Church. ✝



THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral
P.O. Box 2044
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304-346-0106

A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian
Archdiocese of North America
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Editor: Maryann Skaff
Design: Rita Damos Kee

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<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>
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The Golden Parishioners of St. George Cathedral

You are cordially invited
Sunday, Sept. 16, 2012
at 5:30 p.m. as we honor our
Golden Parishioners
at a special tribute dinner.
St. George Conference Center
Ballroom, Charleston, WV
Tickets \$10 donation.
Golden Parishioners 80 and
older and clergy are free.
Tickets on Sale after church
during coffee hour.



Did You Know.....? Lest We Forget!

Hierarchs who served the Antiochian Archdiocese in North America, in chronological order in which they served.

The Archbishop SAMUEL (David), former pastor and archimandrite (celibate priest) of St. George Church in Toledo, Ohio, arrived in North America in 1920 from his ancestral home of Aitha Al Foukar, Lebanon and from the Husson family. He was consecrated as a bishop on April 19, 1936 as the first "Archbishop of Toledo, Ohio and Dependencies", an action which divided the Arabic-speaking Orthodox in the New World into the "Toledo/New York" schism. As he was being consecrated in Toledo by Russian bishops, ANTONY Bashir was being consecrated in New York for the Patriarchate of Antioch with the title of "Archbishop of New York and All North America". Because of the consecration of Archbishop SAMUEL in Toledo, the parish of St. George Church there divided into two parishes, the second being named St. Elias Church. Only twelve parishes followed Archbishop

SAMUEL's jurisdiction, including St. George Church in Charleston, WV.

During his episcopate, he helped many parishes and monastic communities in the Mother Country, especially Saidnaya Convent in Syria, published liturgical books in Arabic (still used today), mostly compiled and edited by his Chancellor, Archimandrite Ananias Kassab, who later collaborated with Archpriest Raphael Husson, long-time pastor of St. George Church in Charleston and Vicar General of the Toledo Archdiocese, to publish *The Worshipper's Handbook of the Divine Liturgy in English and Arabic phonetics*. The venerable Archbishop was elected to the Holy Synod of Antioch in 1953 and named a Metropolitan in 1955. He was responsible for bringing three deacons from Lebanon to the United States to serve in parishes here. One Deacon, later priest, Michael Howard, who died in an automobile accident on October 17, 1969, then Deacon Philip Saliba, now the Metropolitan of New York and All North America, and Deacon Emile Hanna, now a retired priest living in Canada. All three of these clergymen transferred

from the Toledo Archdiocese to the New York Archdiocese after a period of time in North America. Archbishop SAMUEL was known for his expertise in Byzantine liturgical music, being able to read Byzantine notation, and he chanted and recorded many of the hymns of the Orthodox Church which were widely distributed to the faithful in both archdioceses and beyond. Whenever he visited Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Brookline, MA, the student body, which included ten Antiochian seminarians, were mesmerized by his voice. And when he made pastoral visits to St. George Church in Charleston and served divine services here with Father Raphael Husson at the Altar, Archbishop SAMUEL at the bishop's throne and Protopsaltist John Husson at the chanter's stand, parishioners thought they were entering the gates of heaven. The Archbishop was very much loved by his flock. He fell asleep in the Lord on August 12, 1958, and is buried at a cemetery in Toledo, OH. His picture can be found in the corridor adjacent to the St. George, Charleston sanctuary. May his blessed soul rest in eternal peace! ✝



**St. George
Orthodox Cathedral
Annual Dinner
October 7, 2012
12 noon - 6 p.m.
St. George Conference Center
Corner Court & Lee Streets
304-346-0106**

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 \$14.00

Carry-out Orders

Ethnic Groceries (Lower Level)

Diners are invited to tour the sanctuary.

Let's Take A Walk Through Our Orthodox Church

By Anthony M. Coniaris

The Chandelier

If we look up in an Orthodox church we will often see a **chandelier** hanging from the dome or ceiling.

A chandelier is a beautiful collection of lights placed in the midst of cut glass and crystal. Together they sparkle with great beauty.

They remind us of the glorious beauty of the heavens with the sun, the moon, the planets, and the countless stars.

The chandelier reminds us that the heavens speak to us. They tell us of the greatness of God.

If the stars came out only once every one thousand years, we would stay up all night to see them. We would never forget what we saw.

But they come out every night to remind us of God's presence. We should not take them for granted. They tell of God's greatness. They show forth His glory.

Someone once called the moon "God's night light."

Every time we see the chandelier, it reminds us of how great God is.

He is the One who placed all those beautiful stars in the heavens.

He is the One who guides them. He is also the One who loves and guides us when we place our lives in His hands.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast

Thou made them all (Psalm 104:24). ✝



THANKSGIVING WORD SEARCH

Y G N I F F U T S H Y N R H T Y K S N
 P I L G R I M S A N W T N H A F P N R
 D C B N Y T U R K E Y L L D C I J Y W
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 P R X D L E D B H K V R B A N N J Y S
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- ABRAHAM LINCOLN
- BLACK FRIDAY
- CRANBERRY SAUCE
- FOOTBALL
- GATHERING
- HARVEST
- INDIANS
- IN LAWS
- NAPS
- PARADE
- PILGRIMS
- PLYMOUTH
- PRAYERS
- PUMPKIN PIE
- SPIRAL HAM
- STUFFING
- SWEET POTATOES
- THURSDAY
- TRADITIONS
- TRAVEL
- TURKEY



Letters From Camp

My visit to the Antiochian Village - By Caroline Cassis

This was my first time at the Antiochian Village. I shared a cabin with 6 other girls - including Katie and Grace from St. George - and our camp counselor. We worked hard to keep our cabin clean, doing daily chores like sweeping, cleaning the showers, toilets, sinks & mirrors, taking out the trash, etc. Some of the fun things that I did were: swimming, arts and crafts, archery, canoeing, and horseback riding. They have nine horses at the Village; we got to brush the horses before we rode them. The horse I rode was named "Peaches".

Carnival night was full of fun games that you could win tickets- if you won 12 tickets you could put a pie in the face of a counselor! On Glow in the Dark Night, we all wore anything white so we would glow under the black lights. They played music, and we all danced - it was so fun!

We attended church services every day before breakfast and before dinner. We also went to Liturgy service on Wednesday and Sunday. Since there was no choir, all of us became "the choir" and sang the parts in the book. I really enjoyed this because it made us all be a part of the Liturgy.

I can't wait to go back next year and see my friends!



Caroline Cassis & Grace Abdullah during archery lesson at camp.

Dear Father Scott and members of the Order of St. Ignatius, As a result of your support, I was able to attend camp at the Antiochian Village for the first time. Thank you very much for your generosity. During camp I learned about the Orthodox faith, met lots of new friends and people from across the country. I also learned that I'm pretty good at archery, arts and crafts, and singing and dancing. In short, I had a great time. I can't wait to go back next year. Thank you very best regards,
 Kate Nester

"Dear Fr. Scott & Parish Council,

"Thank you for paying my way to camp. I had so much fun my last year and grew close to so many people. I hope to go back next year as a CIT (counselor in training) and then go back as a counselor! God willing my hopes will be fulfilled. Thank you so much.

Simone Assaley"



Church School News



By Layla Michael

I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing summer break. Can you believe the summer is almost over and school has already started? Time really does fly by!

We are looking forward to another Church School year. My hope for the upcoming year is that we can get more parents involved in our Church School program. The only way we can better our program is for everyone to pitch in and give their thoughts, opinions, time, etc. I am always open to new ideas, but with them we need a way to make them come to fruition. That is the hard part, but with help and dedication all things are possible.

September 9, 2012 is our first day of Church School starting at 9:45 am.

Please do your best to be on time so that the teachers can make the most out of the time they have. I am confident that if everyone can have their children to regular school by 8 am or earlier, then they can all be on time for Church School at 9:45!!! September 30, 2012 will be our Church School open house.

Everyone is welcome to come upstairs and look around our classrooms/computer room, to see how things are run. October 21, 2012 will be the date of our Halloween party in the lower level of the church. We will have food, games, crafts, and activities for the children. Please bring a cake, cupcakes, or cookies for the cakewalk, and don't forget to wear your Halloween costume!!!!

November 18, 2012 is Godparents Sunday, all godparents of children enrolled in our Church School program are more than welcome to join their godchild in Church School. After liturgy we will have a special coffee hour for everyone in honor of all Godparents. Our Church School email address is stgeorgekids@yahoo.com



Children are great imitators. It is up to us to find them something great to imitate.

Anonymous



Senior Fellowship

"Ask and ye shall receive!" In our last newsletter we asked for names of reliable handymen for seniors and we got a response. Contact Maryann Skaff for details or attend our next get-together in late October.

The Parish Council is hosting the Golden Parishioner Tribute Dinner on Sunday, Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m. We invite everyone 79 and under to come and celebrate this memorable evening with our 80 and over honorees! Donation is \$10 per person - 79 and under. (80 and over and clergy are free.) Contact Beverly Howard for details.

Watch the bulletin for date and time of our October get-together.



Children will not remember you for the material things you provided but for the feeling that you cherished them.

Richard Evens



Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

We're back to our regular meetings the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m., except for this month our meeting is Sept. 10.

All women of St. George are invited and encouraged to attend our meetings which include sub-deacon George Damous' spiritual talks, committee reports and fellowship among the women who serve St. George.

Our next social outing is Saturday Sept. 8 to Charming Charlies's at the Barboursville Mall. The store has every imaginable color accessory one could desire! Refreshments will be served and car pooling available. Contact Natalie Tappe or Julie Mobayed for details.

Our annual dinner is Sunday, Oct. 7. Volunteers are needed all day and for setting tables on Saturday, Oct. 6. Contact Mary Dooley for details.

Contact Jewel Haddad if you would like to attend World Community Day for Church Women United - Nov. 2.

See you in September!



St. George Cathedral Foundation News

by Dr. Edward Howard, President

Back to Basics....

As a new school year and a new church year begins, we're reminded of the all too familiar theme of "Back to Basics". Everything starts anew...education, new ideas, challenges and our quest for achieving the best we can be as we build upon the basics of the past. And so it is with our church and parishioners. We witness it in our wonderful Sunday School teachers who teach and provide Orthodoxy basics for our pre-schoolers, in our great Ladies Guild who know the success of the basics and build from there, to our St. John the Divine and St. Ignatius organizations who provide the base for which our St. George Cathedral reaches out to our community as well as our Archdiocese and beyond. All of these organizations and those not mentioned provide the base that shows that Orthodoxy is alive and well and flourishing in our city, around the state and throughout our Archdiocese. As with anything, nothing can be built unless it has a solid foundation. And so it is with your St. George Foundation. That's our mission and the reason for keeping it strong and viable. And it is the commitment of those serving on the Foundation Board to insure that this base and our basics never crumble and never falter so that all of us can continue to build upon our solid foundation of Orthodoxy, our church, and all that are served by it.





Display your American Flag proudly on Nov. 11 to honor our service men and women - past, present and future!

Answers to Word Search

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



CALENDAR

- 1-3: Labor Day Celebration Activities
 5: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 8: Liturgy—Nativity of Theotokos, 10:00 AM
 9: Start regular hours: Jr. Choir, 9:00 AM; Church School, 9:45 AM; Matins, 10:00 AM; Liturgy, 11:00 AM
 10: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 13: Communion for Shut-ins; Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM;
 15: Baptism, 1:00 PM; Family Activity
 16: Golden Parishioners Dinner, 5:30 PM
 18-21: Clergy Retreat—Ant. Village, Frs. Olof & Stephen attending
 21-23: St. Thekla Pilgrimage—Ant. Village
 24: Begin Kibbee preparation
 25: FSJD Meeting, 7:00 PM
 25-27: CCT Steering Comm. Mtg., Chicago, Fr. Olof attending
 29: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
 30: Church School Open House, 10:00 AM

September 2012

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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30						

October 2012

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November 2012

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- 1: Begin Baklava preparation; Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 3: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 6: Fr. Olof—Vacation
 7: Annual Dinner
 12-14: Eastern Dioceses Fall Meeting
 15-16: WVCC Board Retreat—Fr. Olof attending
 16: James Dent Dinner
 18: Communion for Shut-ins
 21: Church School October Party, afternoon;
 25: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
 27: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM; Fr. Olof—Vacation

- 5: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 7: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM; Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 8: Basic Class, 7:30 PM (every Thurs. except Thanksgiving)
 11: Sojourner's Thanksgiving Dinner; Choir Festival—St. Marks, 3:00 PM
 13: FCA Sports Auction, 6:00 PM
 15: Advent Begins; Communion for Shut-ins
 18: Godparent Sunday
 20: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
 24: Baptism

Deadline for next issue:

Nov. 15, 2012. Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com

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