

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Sept/Oct/Nov 2013 • Vol. 17, No. 1

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Happy 17th Birthday, Grapevine! This is our 100th edition of the St. George Grapevine! We started sending this newsletter out in 1996. We, the staff, thank you, our readers and contributors for your support and articles over the years!



Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

As we start a new Orthodox liturgical year on September 1, I've been pondering the summer break that leads to low attendance at parish activities and worship services. That exercise has led me to a strange thought process.

I'm willing to bet that several of our parishioner families, who are dog owners, have experienced "separation anxiety" in their pets. For most of the dogs that have occupied our household over the years any manifestation of this condition has been minimal. That is until we met Otis.

Otis is our son Tim's Weimaraner who came to live in our household last winter upon Tim's return from warrant officer school and helicopter pilot training at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Thence began our experience with separation anxiety to the extreme.

Dogs can experience separation anxiety when they are separated from their guardians, the people to whom they're attached. They become upset, and this can manifest itself in destructive behavior such as chewing on household objects, door frames or window sills and digging at doors and doorways. Otis has exhibited "all of the above."

Tim did a good job training Otis from a pup. He primarily used crate training, which was appropriate, as he was absent from his townhouse many hours each day. Over time Tim began to allow Otis to roam around while alone. The main frustration that he experienced upon returning home was finding chewed paper products scattered around.

That all changed when Tim moved

back in with us. Otis now had three human beings around and came to expect that at least one of them would always be present.

When Tim would leave to fly with his guard unit, Otis was down to two of us. After those first few times when we had to leave him alone, we'd return home to find the chewed paper. Upon a later separation we discovered that he had found his heartworm medication and had consumed several months worth of doses (the veterinarian assured us he'd be fine).

Deciding to limit Otis' roaming territory, we began to send him to the basement and close the door at the top of the stairs. This worked for a few times. Then in succeeding returns home, we began to find (in escalating destructiveness) scratches on the bottom of the door, chewing on the top of the handrail, and finally, Otis greeting us as we entered. It seems his frantic scratching around the doorknob taught him that he could open the door.

Next step was barricading the door with a doorjamb. The scratches on the bottom of the door deepened and those around the doorknob multiplied. The final episode was returning home to find that Otis' strength had pushed the bottom of the doorframe about eight inches from the wall. His nose was sticking through the opening wondering where we'd been.

Final solution: removing the damaged door, resetting the door frame and confining Otis to his crate once again when vacating the house.

So, how does this relate to my pondering regarding our return from a summer break? I've been wondering if we've experienced separation anxiety, but somehow in reverse.

Our Guardian, the One to Whom we are attached through our baptism, the

One Who cares for us, our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ did not separate Himself from us over our summer break. We separated from Him by our absence from Divine Services and spiritual disciplines. Did that separation cause us anxiety?

Oh, that we would be like Otis, but get separation anxiety in reverse. That when we separate ourselves from our Lord, we would become anxious; that we would do anything to find Him and be reunited to Him; that we would hate being separated and be depressed until that reunification.

This is what truly being a Christian means. Being truly "alive" depends on our constant relationship and union with God, Who is Life itself.

Maybe dogs, like Otis, have something to teach us. And that is when we are not in close relationship with God, we would experience "spiritual" separation anxiety.

Welcome back to St. George Cathedral and to another year. And may all of our efforts draw us ever nearer to our Lord and to each other, such that we will experience "spiritual" separation anxiety when we are apart! ✝

RADIO PROGRAM

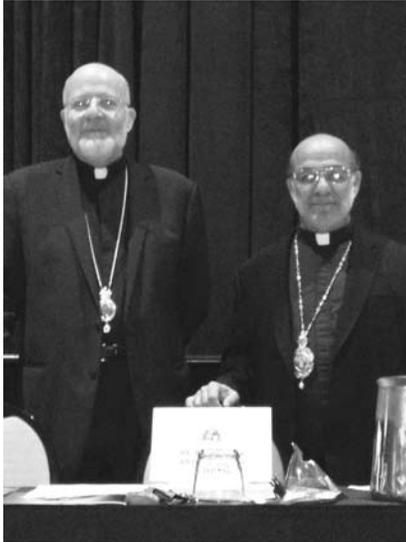
"Come Receive the Light"

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. ✝



Houston Hosts Most Hospitable

By Maryann Skaff



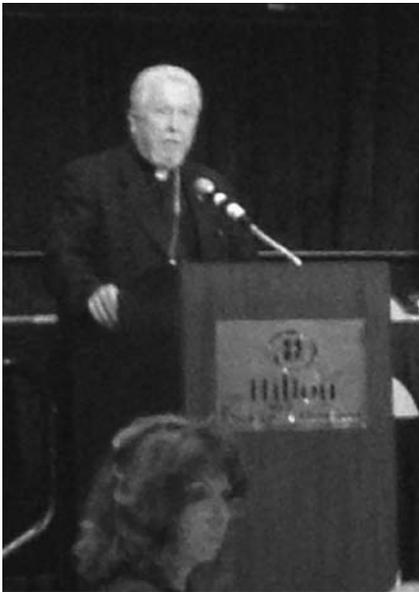
Houston, TX, hosted the 51st Antiochian Archdiocese Convention July 21-28. My husband and I were delegates along with Fr. Olof and Khuriyee Eva. St. George Parish of Houston was our gracious host along with their assistant priest who is none other than our own Fr. Simeon.

The convention seemed to run smoothly with great entertainment from International Night, Western Night, New Orleans' style Masquerade Ball to the Banquet and Hafli. Yes, beef was bountiful and we met new friends, rekindled old friendships and even learned a few things about the Archdiocese and the Bible. The Bible Bowl was a highlight of the week with each diocese cheering on their team and each member of the audience answering the questions in his head. Next year's topic is the Book of St. Luke.

Every organization had separate meetings earlier in the week and then gave reports at the General Assembly.

Fr. Olof serves as chairman of the Archdiocese's Department of Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Faith Relations and gave his report to the General Assembly. In part he reported serving on the steering committee for Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A., a coalition of five Church Families, Historic Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical Pentecostal, and Historic Black along with Christian Service Organizations.

Fr. John Dixon of Holy Spirit Church in Huntington and Fr. Samuel Haddad of St. Nicholas Church in Beckley were also WV delegates. Although Houston's heat was a bit unbearable, the hospitality of the host parish made the conference very enlightening. ✝



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St. George Orthodox Cathedral
P.O. Box 2044
Charleston, WV 25327
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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 three months and is mailed during the first week of the month.





Parish Life Conference Highlights

We congratulate those who received awards at this year's Eastern Dioceses Parish Life Conference in Allentown, PA, on July 3-7. Creative Festival Winners: Audrey Abdalla, 1st Place in Art, 2nd Grade; Alana Choueiri, 2nd Place in Art, 3rd Grade; Matthew Choueiri, 3rd Place in Art, 6th Grade; Georgie Abdalla, 3rd Place in Poetry, 2nd Grade. May God grant them many years!

Eastern Diocese PLC in 2014 will be hosted by St. George of New Kensington, Pa, at the Antiochian Village next summer. Boston hosts 2015 national convention. ✠

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/ 7: Worship Space (in the sanctuary)
- 11/14: Salvation History (conf. center)
- 11/21: Great Ecumenical Councils-1 (conf. center)
- 12/ 5: Great Ecumenical Councils-2 (conf. center)
- 12/12: Church Doctrine (conf. center)
- 12/19: Sacraments (conf. center)

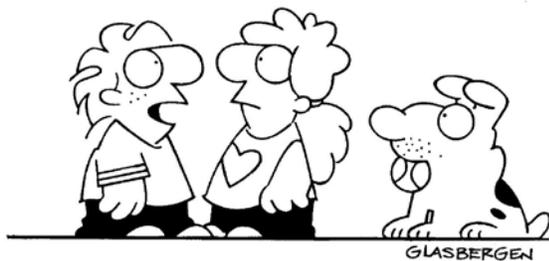
The class is open to all parishioners and anyone interested in becoming a member of the Orthodox Church. ✠

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

(Nov. 19, 1863)

"The most important question in any war is, 'Why are we fighting?' And no figure in history has answered that query as potently as Abraham Lincoln did. Lincoln had hoped that the Battle of Gettysburg would effectively end the Civil War in July 1863. Four months later, as the war dragged on, he dedicated the Gettysburg cemetery appealing to his countrymen to continue their sacrifices to ensure 'that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.' His speech helped bolster support for the war until it ended, nearly a year and a half later."

Reprint from USA Weekend Nov. 2007. Rep Steve Israel, d. New York ✠



"In Sunday school we learned how Jesus made a thousand meals from some bread and fish. My mom can do the same thing with Thanksgiving leftovers!"

Letters from Camp



Dear Father Scott,

Thank you so much for the scholarship to the Antiochian Village Church Camp. I learned a tremendous amount of facts about the Orthodox faith. I made a lot of new friends. We did so many great activities. This year was a lot of fun! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Katie Nester

St. George Orthodox Cathedral

Annual Dinner October 13, 2013 12 noon - 6 p.m.



St. George Conference Center
Corner Court & Lee Streets
Charleston, WV
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.



Classroom Word Search

Find the words in this grid. Words can go horizontal, vertical and diagonal.

T	N	K	N	C	M	J	P	E	N	S	F	T	N	N	Z	K	G	N	L
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| BINDER | DESK | NOTEBOOK | PENS |
| BOOKS | ERASER | PAINT | PROJECTOR |
| CALENDAR | FILING CABINET | PAPER | PUPILS |
| CHAIR | FLAG | PAPER CLIPS | RULER |
| CHALK | GLOBE | PENCIL | SCISSORS |
| CHALKBOARD | GLUE | PENCIL | STICKERS |
| COMPUTER | MARKERS | SHARPENER | TEACHER |

Teen SOYO



October is youth month! Please support our Teen SOYO and their projects and be generous when making a donation to sponsor the annual Special Olympic Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village this month. The teens will also read the Epistle, collect the offering and usher the Communion lines this month.

Election of new officers will be held in September so all teens of St. George watch the bulletin for meeting times! ✝



Fellowship of St. John The Divine

September is Fellowship of St. John the Divine month so members will be reading the Epistle, collecting the offering and ushering the communion lines.

Among the specific ministries which the FSJD perform are Community Outreach, Visitation, Spiritual Enrichment, Library, Bookstore and Prayer Net. Thank you to all who reach out to others in one way or another! ✝

Deadline for next issue
Dec 2013/Jan/Feb 2014: Nov. 15, 2013.

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

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: Why do candles Go Before the Gospel?

A: When the priest carries the Gospel Book in a procession during the liturgy, the altar servers carry candles before him to show that the word of God is a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path."

The candles that go before the Gospel Book tell us that the word of God is truly a light for the darkness in which we walk.

The purpose of God's Word is to show us the way, to prevent us from stumbling in the darkness, and to lead us home to God.

We need to listen carefully when God's Word is being read in church.

We need also to read God's Word every day in the holy Bible or a Bible story book. God's word is like a flashlight in the darkness.

St. Isaac the Syrian said, "Reading the Word of God is the light of the soul."

KEY VERSE: *The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5).*

God's Word is like a flashlight in the darkness.



From Let's Take a Walk throughout Orthodox Church. By Anthony M. Coniariis



Church School News

By Layla Michael

Welcome Back! We look forward to starting the new Church School Year!

I hope everyone had a fun, safe, and relaxing summer. September 8th is our first day back to Church School starting at 9:45 am, please be on time so that all the teachers and children can get acquainted with each other in the limited time they have for Church School.

Our open house will be held on September 29, 2013 EVERYONE is invited to come and join us from the congregation to see how our Church School is run and to meet the teachers and talk with them and our children about another exciting year.

Our Halloween party will be on October 27th from 4-6 pm. Pre-school to fifth grade will be in the lower level for fun, food, and activities. The Middle and High School grades will meet in the teen room where they will be doing pumpkin carving, fun activities and of course food to enjoy. Please bring a cake, package of cookies, or cup cakes for our annual cake walk. Fr. Stephen will be on hand as well to give fun facts and the true meaning of Halloween.

We look forward to seeing the children dressed up in their favorite costume and having a great time.

Godparents Sunday is scheduled for



November 17th. All Godparents of Church School children are invited to attend Church School with their Godchildren to learn along with them on this very special day. Following Liturgy the entire Congregation is invited to join us for a special coffee hour to honor ALL the Godparents of our Cathedral.

Please note if anyone is willing to help with Church School this year, we could always use the extra help. Please contact Layla Michael. I also want to again thank all of the parents that continue to bring their children to Church School. We have a wonderful opportunity every Sunday during the year to help our children to realize the importance of what it means to be an Orthodox Christian. Any parent that has not brought their children to our Church School, please consider doing it this year. We welcome EVERYONE with open arms! Take for a moment all of the other activities in a child's life in today's world. We only ask for an hour or so every Sunday for their Christian education. Ask yourselves is an hour too much to ask for God's children to learn about His teachings? I hope and pray that we see everyone back again for an exciting year and that we see a lot of new smiling faces! We as parents set the example. Please take advantage of this opportunity for the future of our Cathedral. ✝

Grandparents'
Day is Sunday,
Sept. 8.
May God
grant them
many years!

GRANDPARENTS' RAP

By Maryann Skaff



Everyone has heard who's best by far,
The real truth is that they ALL are stars.
For where would we, the grandchildren be,
If God did not create, Jiddi Adam and Sitti Eve.
From our parents true love, we did evolve,
But thanks to grandparents our world revolves.

Who gives us extra-special treats
Candy, money and praise that can't be beat.
Whose kibbee tastes better than our mother's,
Whose friendship means more than our father's.

Who babysits for our working parents,
Whose patience and love is always present.
Who attends our recitals, lessons, and games,
Then praises each of us, for our fame.

Who tells us to go, to Church and Sunday School,
And reminds all children, to follow the Golden Rule.

Today we honor those very special parents,
Those awesome, "sweet" dudes that are in our presence.
To all Sittis and Jiddis everywhere, we thank you and love you,
And may God keep you in His care.



Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

Well, Ladies, now that Labor Day has passed, it is time to put away the white shoes but leave a few summer clothes near at hand for the warm September and Indian Summer days we may still encounter by Mother Nature. Be Prepared!

We hope you are prepared to start back to Guild meetings the first Monday of each month.

Our next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 pm (since the first Monday of Sept. is a holiday).

Our annual dinner is Oct. 13 from Noon to six pm. Food preparations have begun but volunteers are needed that weekend. Contact Mary Dooley or Joy Browne to volunteer. Home baked ethnic pastries are welcomed to be sold in the grocery store, so contact Maryann Skaff if you want to bake something. On Sat., Oct. 12, volunteers are needed to set tables and cut and package bread and baklava for carry out orders. We appreciate everyone's help from teens to seniors to make this dinner a success!

FYI: This was the 40th anniversary of the Antiochian Women organization who have contributed over \$2.5 million to the Archdiocese through their annual women's projects since 1975. Past projects included orphanages, seminary funds, Antiochian Village, clergy fund, St George Hospital in Beirut, St Thekla convent to name a few. 2014's project is the orphanages in Lebanon and Syria and will be distributed through the Patriarchate. Your annual Christmas card donation to the Ladies Guild is the money we send for this annual project. Please be generous this year! Many thanks to all who contributed in the past to our Christmas Card letter.

See you Sept. 9 at 7 pm! ✝

Senior Fellowship

Summer is slowly slipping away as September strolls in with the falling of autumn leaves and the sights and sounds of football everywhere you turn!

Senior Fellowship will kick off its fall programs with a get-together in September and November. We may also try to carpool and see the "lights in St. Albans" in November or December. Watch the bulletin for details. See you in September! ✝

Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with Psalms. - Psalm 95:2



CALENDAR



September:
 1: Labor Day Celebration Activities
 4: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 8: Start regular hours: Jr. Choir, 9:00 AM; Church School, 9:45 AM; Matins, 10:00 AM; Liturgy, 11:00 AM
 9: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 14: Liturgy–Elevation of Cross, 10:00 AM
 17: Senior Fellowship 5:30 PM; FSJD Meeting, 7:00 PM
 19: Communion for Shut-ins
 20-22: St. Thekla Pilgrimage–Ant. Village
 21: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM; Baptism, 10:30 AM
 23: Begin Kibbee preparation
 24-26: CCT Steering Comm. Mtg., Chicago, Fr. Olof attending
 29: Church School Open House, 9:45 AM

Sept 2013

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Oct 2013

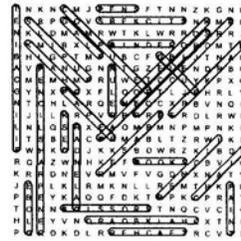
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Nov 2013

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



October:
 1-4: Dioceses Clergy Retreat, Frs. Olof & Stephen attending
 7: Begin Baklawa preparation; Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 9: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 13: Annual Dinner
 15: Icon Festival Comm., 7:00 PM
 17: Communion for Shut-ins
 19: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM
 22: James Dent Dinner
 26: Liturgy–St. Demetrius, 10:00 AM
 21: Church School Halloween Party, afternoon;



November:
 4: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 5: FCA Sports Memorabilia Auction, 6 PM
 6: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 7: Evening Liturgy–Archangels, 6:30 PM; Basic Class, 7:30 PM (every Thurs. except Thanksgiving)
 9: Wedding, 1:00 PM
 10: Sojourner’s Thanksgiving Dinner; Choir Festival, 3:00 PM
 13: Senior Fellowship, 5:30 PM
 15: Advent Begins
 15-16: Dioceses Fall Meeting–Souder-ton, PA
 17: Godparent Sunday
 20: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM
 21: Communion for Shut-ins
 30: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM; Choir Cantata Rehearsal

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