Reminder Save the Date:
Festival 2018 July 29th

Next planning session: June 24th

- We need volunteers for Saturday prep and Sunday Setup and Clean Up (and of course join us for Metaxa hour after the Festival).
- Placemat sign-ups are off to a great start. If you'd like to add your name, please e-mail nvpitt@gmail.com with your information and donation.
- If you can't make the Festival prep or volunteer, donations are welcomed to offset expenses. Please send to: Dormition Mother of God, 600 S. Willard Street, Burlington, VT, 05401.
MESSAGE FROM FATHER

Elder Sophrony of Essex on the Theotokos

Our Panagia was pained much more than all other women, much more than all other mothers in the world, because no one else was struck, to no one else was done evil like that which was done to Her, the greatest evil of the whole world. They crucified Her Son.

And seeing Him upon the Cross, She was pained so much in her heart...Because of this She can understand every painful existence, and She suffers together with every human who is pained, because She exactly knows what "pain" means. When the soul is seized by the love of God, then, O, how gracious, beloved and joyous is everything! Love, however, goes together with sorrow, and the deeper the love is, even greater is the sorrow.

The Theotokos never sinned, not even in thought, and She never lost grace, and even She had such great sorrows. When she stood beside the Cross, then Her sorrow was impassable like the ocean, and the pains of Her soul were incomparably greater than the pain of Adam after the expulsion from Paradise, because Her love was incomparably greater than the love of Adam in Paradise.

And though She survived it, She survived only with divine power, with the strength of the Lord, because His will was for the Theotokos to later see the Resurrection, and later, after His Ascension, that She might remain the consolation and joy of the Apostles and of the new Christian people. We do not reach the fullness of the love of the Theotokos, and because of this we cannot conceive of the depth of Her sorrow.

Her love was perfect. She loved her Son and God incomparably, but She also loved the people with great love. And what did She sense, then, when they whom She herself loved so greatly and whom She so greatly pained for their salvation, when She saw them crucifying her beloved Son?

This we cannot conceive of, because our love for God and man is small. However, the love of Panagia was incomparable and inconceivable, thus incomparable also was her pain, which remains inconceivable to us.

The Theotokos did not relate in the Scriptures Her thoughts, nor her love for Her Son and God, nor the sorrows of Her soul at the hour of the Crucifixion, because even then they couldn't conceive of it. Her love for God was stronger and more fervent than the love of the Cherubim and Seraphim, and all the powers of the Angels and Archangels were amazed with Her.

Ο Γέροντας Σωφρόνιος για την Παναγία

Η Παναγία μας, πόνεσε πιο πολύ απ’όλες τις γυναίκες, πιο πολύ απ’όλες τις μανάδες του κόσμου, γιατί κανένα δεν έβλαψε, σε κανένα δεν έκανε κακό κι’όμως Της έκαναν το μεγαλύτερο κακό όλης της οικουμένης. Σταύρωσαν Τον Υιό Της.

Και αντικρύζοντάς Τον πάνω Στο Σταυρό πόνεσε τόσο η καρδιά της...Γι’αυτό μπορεί να καταλάβει την κάθε πονεμένη ύπαρξη, και συμπάσχει με τον κάθε άνθρωπο που πονά, γιατί ακριβώς, ζέρει τι πάει να πει «πόνος». Όταν η ψυχή κατέχεται από την αγάπη του Θεού, τότε, ω, πώς είναι όλα ευχάριστα, αγαπημένα και χαρμόσυνα! Η αγάπη, όμως, αυτή συνεπάγεται θλίψη· και όσο βαθύτερη είναι η αγάπη, τόσο μεγαλύτερη είναι και η θλίψη.

Η Θεοτόκος δεν αμάρτησε ποτέ, όπτε και με το λογισμό, και δεν έχασε ποτέ τη χάρη, αλλά και Αυτή είχε μεγάλες θλίψεις. Όταν στεκόταν δίπλα στο Σταυρό, τότε ήταν η θλίψη Της απέραντη σαν τον οικειό, και οι πόνοι της ψυχής Της ήταν αυθόρκητα μεγαλύτεροι από τον πόνο του Αδάμ μετά την εξοσή από τον Παράδεισο, γιατί και η αγάπη Της ήταν αυθόρκητα μεγαλύτερη από την αγάπη του Αδάμ στον Παράδεισο.

Και αν επέζησε, επέζησε μόνο με τη θεία δύναμη, με την ενίσχυση του Κυρίου, γιατί το θέλημά Του ήταν να δει η Θεοτόκος την Ανάσταση και ύστερα, μετά την Ανάληψη Του, να παραμείνει παρηγοριά
και χαρά των Αποστόλων και του νέου χριστιανικού λαού. Εμείς δεν φτάνουμε στο πλήρωμα της αγάπης της Θεοτόκου, και γι’ αυτό δεν μπορούμε να εννοήσουμε πλήρως το βάθος της θλίψεως Της.

Η αγάπη Της ήταν τέλεια. Αγαπούσε άπειρα τον Θεό και Υιό Της, αλλ’ αγαπούσε και το λαό με μεγάλη αγάπη. Και τι αισθανόταν άραγε, όταν εκείνοι, που τόσο πολύ ή υπήρχε αγάπη και που τόσο πολύ ποθούσε τη σωτηρία τους, σταύρωναν τον αγαπημένο της Υιό;

Αυτό δεν μπορούμε να το συλλάβουμε, γιατί η αγάπη μας για τον Θεό και τους ανθρώπους είναι λίγη. Κι όπως η αγάπη της Παναγίας υπήρχε απέραντη και ακατάληπτη, έτσι απέραντος ήταν και ο πόνος της που παραμένει ακατάληπτος για μας.

Η Θεοτόκος δεν παρέδωσε στη Γραφή ούτε τις σκέψεις Της ούτε την αγάπη Της για τον Υιό και Θεό Της ούτε τις θλίψεις της ψυχής Της κατά την ώρα της σταυρώσεως, γιατί ούτε και τότε θα μπορούσαμε να τα συλλάβουμε. Η αγάπη Της για τον Θεό ήταν ισχυρότερη και φλογερότερη από την αγάπη των Χερουβείμ και των Σεραφείμ, και όλες οι δυνάμεις των αγγέλων και αρχαγγέλων εκπλήσσονται με Αυτήν.
PARISH MINISTRY DIRECTORY

PARISH COUNCIL: Georgia Maheras (Pres.) – georgiajohn@gmail.com; 857-234-5171(c)
   Nancy Pappas Trombley (VPres.) – nancyt79@comcast.net; 802-652-0249
   Roy Barnes (Secretary) – rbarnes12543@student.mbts.edu; 802-497-0543
   Vasilios Contis (Treasurer) – vcontis@msn.com; 802-662-4396
   Dave Hunt – 2dhunts@gmail.com; 802-524-2620
   Nectar Rorris – 802-863-4375
   Sotos Papaseraphim – sotosandmaria@gmail.com; 802-878-1163
   Nick Pitt – nvpitt@gmail.com; 802-734-3316
   Steve Yialiades – workingbirds@aol.com

EDUCATION MINISTRY: Georgia Maheras, Sunday School Coordinator

PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD: Theodora Contis (President)—tcontis1@msn.com; 802-899-2893
   Aleka Michaelides (V. Pres) – alekam@live.com
   Tammy Validakis (Secretary) – tammysi@gmavt.net; 802-917-1113
   Maria Michaelides (Treasurer) – meroulavt@comcast.net; 802-878-3933

ORDER of AHEPA: Greg Lambesis, President

PROTOPSALTRIA: Presvytera Mari Papayiannis

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS — Georgia Maheras, Parish Council President

It’s Festival Time!

We are gearing up for our 2018 Festival. This year’s event is on July 29th. We need Volunteers throughout the week before, but especially on Saturday the 28th for prep, Sunday the 29th to work the event, and Monday the 30th for clean-up. Every minute counts! Please let Nick Pitt know when you can help out.

Mailing Address Change: Please note that effective 1/1/2018, we changed our mailing address. The mailing address will be: 600 S. Willard Street, S. Burlington, VT, 05401. Mail sent to our PO Box will be forwarded for the first half of 2018.

Are you getting our emails? We send a Church bulletin out once a week and other announcements. Please contact Father Andreas or Roy Barnes to be added to the list!

Father will be on vacation July 14th-21st. If you need any assistance please call Georgia Maheras at 857-234-5171 or email at georgiajohn@gmail.com
**Coffee Hour Sponsors Needed for the Summer**

One of the things that helps our parish thrive is our fellowship at coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy. To be part of that important ministry, to sponsor a coffee hour, in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a family milestone, a graduation, a birthday or an anniversary, sign up on the sheet in the church hall or call Prez Anthe (865-4416)

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**Philoptochos News and Announcements**

The Philoptochos Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

Come and join us in doing the charity of our Orthodox Christian faith in this place.

♥ Philoptochos means "friend of the poor."
♥ We invite ALL women of our parish to become members and join us in the charitable work of Philoptochos.
♥

The end-of-the-year dinner was wonderful, great company as well as great food. The regular schedule of Philoptochos meetings and activities will begin again in September. However, our chapter is busy getting ready for the church's annual Festival participation.

♥ PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Monday, July 23 - 9:30 a.m. Crescent and koulourakia making and boxes.
Syrup making for diples.

Friday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. - NOTE NEW TIME
- Cupping of Baklava and Kataifi cupping. Diples dipped in syrup.
  *** Please bring your pastries this evening or Saturday evening.

Saturday, July 28 a.m. - 6:30 pm - NOTE NEW TIME
- Set up and receive the pastries at the church hall.

Sunday, July 29 at 10:00 a.m. Final set up outside. First shift sale persons and cashiers at their post by 11:30 am - **Please contact Theodora to sign up to help!**

Thanks in advance to everyone who helps us prepare, set up, bring pastry and work at our Bake Sales. God bless you!

**August 15**, our church's Feast Day. Artoclasia (Service of the Five Loaves).

♥♥♥♥♥♥

For up-to-date information about Philoptochos activities

Ask to be put on the Philoptochos e-mail list.

You do not have to be a Philoptochos member to be on this list.

Contact Theodora Contis (tcontis1@msn.com) to be included.
JOIN US!

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY!
Sunday, August 26\textsuperscript{th} will be Volunteer Appreciation Day! Join us for a celebration of all of our hard work at the annual Festival.

You Are Invited

The Eleventh Annual AHEPA/GREEK CHURCH Golf Outing

**Date:** Sunday, August 19, 2018  
**Time:** 2:30 registration, 3:30 Shotgun Start  
**Place:** Catamount Country Club, Williston, VT.

**Format:** Four-person Scramble
- $50/50 RAFFLE
- HOLE IN ONE PRIZE!!!
- PUTTING CONTEST!!!
- SILENT AUCTION

Our tenth annual Golf Outing will have a $70 per-person entry fee. This will include Greens Fees, Cart Rental, Registration, Gifts and Banquet ticket. Please ask Fr. Andreas or a board member for a registration form. Please return the golf outing registration form with your entry fee by August 5\textsuperscript{th} so we can arrange for space, gifts, and food for everyone. Prizes will be awarded for “closest to the Pin”, “longest drive”, etc.

**Proceeds to benefit the AHEPA education program.**

There will be a buffet banquet immediately following the golf at the Catamount Country Club serving a Greek Style Meal, Greek Salad and much more!

Non-golfers are welcome at the banquet- $25 Adults $10 Kids

Please contact Fr. Andreas @ 802-862-2155 or Greg Lambesis @ 802-524-3840
A Message about Stewardship:

June 1, 2018

Dear Parishioner,

I’m writing to give you a recap of 2017 and mid-year 2018 update on our Stewardship Program.

In 2017, we ended the year at $68,773.37 donations for Stewardship. This covered 41% of our annual operating expenses. To balance our books, the Parish Council authorized the treasurer to borrow $6,000 from our assets to cover the short fall.

Unfortunately, 2018 is shaping up to be more difficult than 2017. Through May 31st, we have raised $20,715 in Stewardship. Our Operating expenses were $63,060. Our Stewardship covered 33% of the operating expenses. We have borrowed $17,800 this year from the Camp Account to cover the short fall. Since 2016, we have borrowed a total of $31,960 from the Camp Account. If we continue at 2018 borrowing levels, the Camp Account will be depleted within a year. As you can see, this is not a sustainable financial model.

Here are the current balances in the investment accounts:

- Camp Account: $40,705
- Mary Pappas Account: $361,355*
- Sentinel Account: $18,000 (For Capital Improvements)
- Cunavelis Account: $13,000 (For Capital Improvements)
- Sarah Pappas: $5,000 (Non-Operational Funds)

* Mary Pappas’ gift has been invested and is growing with the interest re-invested back into the fund.

We collectively need to agree that the goal of the Stewardship program should be to cover 100% of our Operating Expenses. For 2018, the goal is set at $70,000. For 2019, we are proposing a goal of $75,000. As we did in 2017, our hope is, at the end of this year, with the community’s’ support, we will report to you that we exceeded the goal. To be clear, even if we achieve our goals for 2018 and 2019, we do not close the gap on our operating expenses. We will need to continue to borrow until we are able to generate a revenue stream that covers all our expenses.

As we said last year, our community relies on the generosity of individuals like you. We write to ask you to consider joining us as Stewards, or if you are a Steward, please consider a modest increase to your pledge.

Knowing we have assets to cover our expenses does not mean we stop giving our fair share. I have heard from many in the community with ideas of how to enhance our property and build for the future using the gifts we received. Quite frankly, there is no way to plan for the future if we cannot build a sustainable financial model today.

Thank you for your understanding and continuous support.

Nicholas Pitt – Parish Council Member

Georgia Maheras – Parish Council President
For 2018, our expenses exceed our income:

So far, our 2018 income has come from the following categories:

Our 2018 expenses go towards the following categories:
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<td><strong>3rd Matthew</strong></td>
<td>8:30a Orthros</td>
<td>9:30a Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Clergy-Lay Congress</td>
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<td>INDEPENDENCE DAY</td>
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<td>Holy Fathers</td>
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<td><strong>8th Matthew</strong></td>
<td>8:30a Orthros</td>
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<td>Festival Prep</td>
<td>Father at Metropolis Camp</td>
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<td>Notes: Fasting Rules:</td>
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<td><strong>9th Matthew</strong></td>
<td>8:30a Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>12:00p Greek Festival</td>
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**Holy Confession after Saturday Great Vespers**
### Fasting Rules:

- **Strict Fast**: No meat, dairy products, fish, wine or olive oil may be consumed.
- **Wine & Oil Allowed**: No meat, dairy products or fish may be consumed.
- **Fish Allowed**: No meat or dairy products may be consumed.

**Before Receiving Holy Communion**: No food or drink should be consumed after the previous evening meal; for evening Liturgies, do not consume anything after the mid-day meal.

### August 2018

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<td>8:30a Orthros</td>
<td>9:30a Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>No Fasting</td>
<td>Beheading of John the Baptist</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30a Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>11:00a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ</td>
<td>No Fasting</td>
<td>9:00a Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Strict Fast</td>
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*Holy Confession after Saturday Great Vespers*
July 29th is our ANNUAL FESTIVAL
12pm-5pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need people to help every day from July 23rd-July 30th to help with our biggest fundraiser of the year.

• Can you help the week of July 23rd with prep (baking, skewering, set-up)?

• Can you help by taking a shift on July 29th? Either serving, preparing food, washing dishes, clean-up, cashier?

Please sign up with either (or both!) the Philoptochos or Parish Council to let us know when you can help.