Hail, Bridge that truly leads from death to life all who praise you... – Akathist Hymn
Χαίρε, η γέφυρα οντως η μεταγούσα εκ θανάτου πάντας τους υμνούντας σε... – Ακαθιστὸν Ὕμνον

DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
Greek Orthodox Church
600 South Willard Street • Burlington, Vermont
Parish Council
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Presvytera Aimee Ehrs
(217) 621-8260
aimee.ehrs@gmail.com

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Choir Director
Presvytera Anthe Athas

Cantor
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Theodora Contis
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SPONSORS NEEDED! This newsletter is our main outreach ministry, sending the message of faith and community to all the members of our parish and others. As a sponsor, you become an important partner in this ministry. Donation: $50 or more.

Please send the following information to Fr. Ephraim:

☐ Yes! I will sponsor an issue of THE BRIDGE ✺ Η ΓΕΦΥΡΑ.

Name ____________________________________________

In honor or memory of / To celebrate _____________________________________________________________________________
When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?..." (Acts 2:1–11)

In the beginning of this month, we celebrated Pentecost, the day on which the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles as flames of fire and gave to them the gift of preaching the gospel in various languages and to minister to the need of the people around them. The amazing thing about our Church is that it is filled and led by the Holy Spirit. If we are living the life in Christ—a life of worship, prayer, fasting, and the evangelic life of self-sacrifice and love for our fellow human being for the benefit of their salvation—then we are truly participating in the work of the One, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

In Holy Baptism we are assigned and anointed the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, this gift must be nurtured and developed in a full life in Christ Jesus:

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (1 Corinthians 12:4–11)

In the Orthodox Church, baptism isn't just a confirming of one’s faith or commitment to Christ, but rather it is the acquiring of the citizenship in the Kingdom of God, which is the Church. Mind you, the Church is not simply a building, nor a bureaucracy, but it is the living nation of God’s people. It is the body of Christ. Into this nation or body, we are grafted by baptism to fully, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, in our life in Christ Jesus to bear fruit. The allegory here clearly speaks of our participation in the All-holy Trinity. Through the Holy Spirit we are grafted into Christ, and through Christ we are made one with the Father. In this intimate communion with the Holy Trinity, we can and should experience a transformative grace, in which we become more God-like, not like a mirror image, but rather the perfection of the virtues in our own being.

This process takes time and work in our spiritual life. In prayer, fasting, and repentance, we make room for the Holy Spirit. And it is the Holy Spirit that makes the work of Jesus Christ possible in our lives. At our baptism, each one of us received a gift of the Holy Spirit. It will differ from person to person. We are all different, but we all also have something to contribute to the whole of the Church. And it is a specific gift that will help make the body complete in its ministry. Jesus Christ divided His various duties on the whole body. The bishop or the priest can’t replace the talents and ministries of the laity. All of us together comprise the fullness of Christ in our midst. Therefore when you are tempted to skip Church remember that you personally have a particular place and task in Church. Sometimes it is not as obvious as, let’s say serving as a priest, a chanter, in the choir, etc., but nevertheless not any less important.

When the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles it descended on frightened men, fearing for their lives. Afterward, the Apostles openly proclaimed in the Temple the passion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us embrace the gift of the Holy Spirit that God has bestowed on each and every one of us, and nurture it by an active and dynamic life in Christ, in our Church, so that without fear or hesitation we can proclaim that Jesus is our Risen Lord.

– Fr. Ephraim
Parish Council News

April 6, 2014

Fr. Ephraim indicated that he has now been approved by the Metropolis to conduct the marriage preparation program. Parishioners considering marriage will no longer have to travel to Boston for the program. He also reported that we were unable to obtain a chantier from the seminary for Holy Week.

The Building Committee reported that restructuring of the electrical outlet on the church sign is under consideration and will allow for such future use as adding Christmas lights during the holidays. Roof repairs to the church and the parish house will be considered once the weather has significantly improved.

A sound system to provide improved sound not only in the church but also in the community center as well as outside is planned for Holy Week.

The Parish Council discussed plans for the Palm Sunday dinner, spring takeout dinner, Holy Week, and the Easter dinner.

There has been little progress in plans for the handicapped access as we have not yet obtained a requested structural engineer report.

A brief Treasurer's report usually included in this Parish Council summary is not included as we have asked Treasurer Justin Griffing to separately provide a more in-depth monthly report of the church's finances.

Following the lead of other parishes, the Parish Council agreed to discontinue charging for candles and instead note that donations are appreciated.

May 4, 2014

Fr. Ephraim reported that Holy Week went smoothly without any flaws. He also reported that Easter greetings were shared between Christ the King and our church, with their priests joining us for our midnight Resurrection service and Fr. Ephraim joining them for their 11:00 am mass.

Following Fr. Ephraim's lead, the Parish Council approved a motion to no longer charge for community lunches but rather only accept donations. The cost for lunches in the future will be covered by the church's general funds.

The Parish Council's planned retreat at the Metropolis camp will be changed since we have been informed that the Retreat Center there is fully scheduled for the next year and will not be available until 2015. A new location for the retreat will be sought.

The Parish Council approved a $500 donation to Hellenic College / Holy Cross as part of an annual commitment.

The Parish Council also approved a contract with P+B Landscaping for spring cleanup ($200) and a weekly mow and trim ($60).

In anticipation of future capital projects under consideration, the Parish Council approved a bit for $4,000 from Summit Engineering for a boundary and topographic survey of our church property. This will provide a site plan for any future developments and improvements.

Coffee Hour Sponsorship

Coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy each week is an important time of fellowship for our community. Celebrate an event in your family's life (like namedays, birthdays, and anniversaries), honor the memory of loved ones with your fellow parishioners, or just help promote community fellowship.

Coffee hour sponsors bring ½ gallon milk (whole or 2%), 2½ gallons of juice for children and non-coffee drinkers (e.g., orange, apple), and refreshments (figure on about 60 people).

Coffee, sugar, and paper products are provided and there is typically someone in the kitchen who will brew the coffee. Plan to arrive in time to start setting up, and to stay afterward to clean up.

To be a sponsor, sign up on the sheet available in the Church hall or contact Fr. Ephraim.
Philoptochochos News & Announcements

The Philoptochochos Society is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

♥ Thank you to all of you who help out at the Spring Bake Sale and who made donations and pastries.

Mark your calendars:

♥ **FRIDAY, JUNE 13:** Annual End of the Year Dinner
All ladies of the parish are welcome to come and join us; just give us a call to make a reservation.
- Place: Pauline’s Café, 1834 Shelburne Road, So. Burlington
- Time: 6 p.m. – To carpool: Meet at the church parking lot at 5:30 sharp.
  (RSVP Presvytera Anthe, 865-4416 to reserve your place – also let her know if you want a ride or can give a ride.)

♥ **SUNDAY, JULY 27:** Annual Festival Bake Sale
- **Tuesday, July 22 – 10 am:** Crescent and other baking
- **Friday, July 25 – 10 am:** Cupping pastry
Please bring your pastry and come and help us sell on Festival Sunday.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Thank you to everyone for your continued support this year.

Top Five Ways to Volunteer Now!

We know you’re busy. Hectic schedules can push even the best-intentioned volunteer projects to the back burner. That’s why Create the Good (a service of AARP) has shortened the steps between to-do list and action. We’ve distilled the five most popular ways people volunteer and given you five practical, creative acts of kindness for each that you can start today! [Of course, remember to volunteer with your Church too!]

1. **Recruit the kids or grandkids** - Teach the value of volunteering to youngsters—or simply make your volunteer project a fun family affair—by enlisting children, grandchildren and other kids in the community.

   No one knows school supplies better than kids! So encourage the ones you know to help children in need with a school supply drive. You can gather them together to lend a hand at a drive nearby, or hold your own at a local school, library or community center.

   Select a child-accessible service project, like organizing canned goods for a local food bank or gathering old toys and clothes to donate to a shelter.

   Get kids and their friends outdoors for a cleanup around their school grounds and encourage them to take the lead in spreading the word around town.

   Take a child to visit a community nursing home. Kids can share stories with residents, and seniors love to see young, energetic faces. Don’t forget to take along crafts and games to keep everyone entertained.

   Inspire kids to help in their own ways. Tell them about your own volunteering experiences—or find a local celebrity, athlete or even family member known for doing good to share their stories.

   Don’t have youngsters around, but still love kids? Become a Foster Grandparent with Senior Corp, tutor or mentor a child through AARP Experience Corps, or help out at other child-oriented volunteer organizations.

(continued...)
2. Help seniors in your community - Not all of us are lucky enough to have a house full of family or the health to get out of the house and socialize. Reach out and show an elderly or lonely neighbor they aren’t alone.

- Show a neighbor you care by offering to shovel the driveway or rake leaves—or surprise them by doing so without asking.
- Share a meal. Create an extra portion at dinner or buy some additional groceries during your next trip to share.
- Consider yourself a handyman or woman? Fix a leaky faucet, move a piece of furniture or even repaint a room.
- Spending quality time is the best gift of all. Bring over a game of checkers to play, a classic movie to watch or old tunes to enjoy.

Invite others to join you in a service project in your shared community. Plant flowers with green-thumbed friends and neighbors, create or join a community garden or organize a trash pick-up.

Learn about more ways to help seniors and neighbors by becoming part of a caring community network.

3. Do good from home - It’s easy to make a difference from the comfort of your own home.

Get crafty in your living room—make visitor kits for senior center residents or holiday-inspired home decor for neighbors.

Turn on the stove and make some goodies for a senior or family in your area—but be sure to check on any dietary restrictions first!

Check in with seniors living alone to see if they need a hand with anything. A friendly phone call can go a long way.

Organize a volunteer group to carry out a project using our guides and other ideas to get started planning—all from your home computer.

Make an online donation to a favorite cause or save bottle caps, labels or coupons for a local charity.

If you feel inclined to venture out, use our volunteer search to find local opportunities!

4. Give to veterans and military families - It’s not easy being left behind while a loved one is off serving our country. You can help military families deal with the hardships they face each day, whether it’s getting settled in a new town or finding extra rides or childcare for young ones.

- For a family that lives close by, cook a meal once a week. Whip up some extra snacks over the weekend. Or gather up the neighbors so you can each take a day of the week to cook.
- Do something extra—an errand, a run to the store for school supplies or a day shuttling kids to and from school and activities.
- Take an afternoon to give a new family a tour of town and the inside scoop on places to dine, shop and play. Or put together a local flavor guide so they can explore the area anytime.

Gather groceries or set up monthly donation for any family in need.

And don’t forget those who are away—send books to troops to help them pass the time until they are reunited with their friends and family.

Visit CTG’s Project Guide for more ideas and resources on helping military families.

5. Spend time with furry friends - Pets without homes need attention and care—especially during the colder months. Donate your time and love to abandoned or abused animals.

- Find your nearest animal shelter and volunteer to walk dogs or play with the cats.
- If you just can’t resist taking one home, why not try fostering an animal in need? Use Homewardtrails to find the perfect pet to take home for the short term.

When it comes time for your foster pet to move to a good permanent home, send them on their way with an adoption kit stocked with food, a collar, a favorite toy and special treats!

Walk an elderly neighbor’s dog. For neighbors going on a trip, offer to check in and feed their pets—or give the animals a temporary home in yours.

Invite kids or grandparents along to walk pets at the shelter—the more the merrier!

Find other animal welfare organizations on petfinder.com.

Still seeking that perfect volunteering match? Use AARP’s interactive Volunteer Wizard to find opportunities that fit your interests and schedule.

Find this article online at www.createthegood.org/Volunteer-Now?campaign=VolunteerNow?cmp=CTG-email-MayNewsletter-201305
### JUNE 2014

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A peek at the July calendar...

Mon. 7/7 – Thu. 7/10  Fr. Ephraim at Clergy–Laity Congress in Philadelphia
Fri. 7/11        9 am  Liturgy for St. Olga
Tue. 7/15        9 am  Liturgy for the Holy Martyrs Cyricus and His Mother Julitta, and St. Vladimir, Equal-to-the-Apostles
Tue. 7/22        9 am  Liturgy for St. Mary Magdalene
                         10 am  Crescent and other baking for bake sale
Fri. 7/25        9 am  Liturgy for Dormition of St. Anna
                         10 am  Cupping pastry for bake sale
Sun. 7/27        Food festival & bake sale