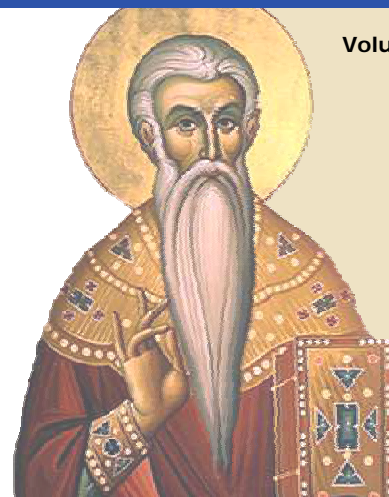


# in Touch

Volume 17, Issue 7

July 2009



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

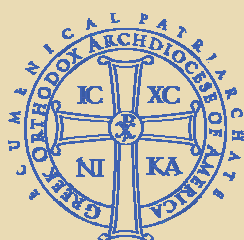
**Fund Raising  
Calendar • 2**

**God's  
Creations • 3**

**Parishioner  
Profile • 4**

**Parish Council  
Corner • 5**

**Friendship • 6**



## Creation of the Animal Kingdom



O LORD, how manifold are Your works!  
In wisdom You have made them all.  
The earth is full of Your possessions;  
This great and wide sea,  
In which are innumerable teeming things,  
Living things both small and great.

*Psalm 104:24-25*

*Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos*

St. Haralambos has built an *'Attitude of Gratitude'* for 21 years

## CALENDAR of FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES through JANUARY 2010

- ♦ **\$10,000 Cash Raffle:** Currently we have over 165 tickets Raffle – Winners announced weekend of September 19th
- ♦ **Ground Breaking Ceremony:** September 19th & 20th
- ♦ **Letters for Gifts:** Letters requesting donation assistance for our 'building fund' will be mailed to each Eastern Orthodox Parish in the United States – Mailing will be the last week in August
- ♦ **Letters for Donations:** Letters requesting donations from the wealthiest Greek Orthodox businessmen in the United States will be sent in August & September
- ♦ **Wine & Cheese Tasting:** September 5th
- ♦ **Orthodox Observer:** ½ page advertisement seeking donations – November
- ♦ **Walk-A-Thon:** November
- ♦ **\$10,000 Holiday Cash Raffle:** Begin selling tickets September – Winners announced December 20th
- ♦ **Piggy Bank Building Fund Program:** Begins January 2010



## CHANGE FOR YOUR CHURCH Piggy Bank Building Program

When Elizabeth Gorman talked about a fund raising activity that *ALL*, as in each and every adult, child, steward, friend of the Church, could participate in, we listened. Elizabeth presented a plan based on a very successful program developed by her Church in Valparaiso, Indiana. The concept is simple. Coin banks ('Piggy Banks') will be available and handed out to each of our Church stewards, families and friends.

**How Does It Work?** Simply keep your 'piggy bank' somewhere where the whole family sees each day, like the kitchen table or on the home Altar. At the end of each day, empty your spare change into the 'bank'. When all of our stewards participate, we foresee an average of \$100 in change for each bank returned to the Church fund raisers. This activity, with just one bank fill-up per steward household, would yield an estimated \$15,000. Just imagine how these spare change 'piggy banks', over time, will help us occupy our new Church building.

**What happens when you fill your 'Change for Your Church' bank?** Any time your bank is full, return it to the Church office. All the money you collect will be credited to your stewardship account as a donation to our Building Fund.

**How long does the 'Piggy Bank Program' last?** This is a continuous effort and will carry on until we witness our dream and occupy our new Church home. It is

our hope that our stewards will continue to fill up their banks and reuse them throughout the construction and furnishing period of our new building.

**Periodic 'Piggy Bank Program' Status** Reports will be publicized in this column to show our entire community how well the program is doing.

John and Penny Obren are donating the blue 'Piggy Banks'. The 'Piggy Bank' Program is not intended to replace our capital campaign pledge promotion, but rather to supplement our fundraising for the new building and its furnishings.

**A penny for your thoughts:** Dimitrios climbs to the top of Mount Sinai to talk to God. Looking up, he asks the Lord. "God, what does a million years mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A minute." Dimitrios asks, "And what does a million dollars mean to you?" The Lord replies, "A penny." Dimitrios asks, "Can I have a penny?" The Lord replies, "In a minute." Don't waist a minute getting your Piggy Bank; maybe, through the Grace of God, it will turn into a million!

If you have any fund raising ideas, activities or questions please contact John Obren at: [jpobren2@cox.net](mailto:jpobren2@cox.net) or Mike Danielek at: [mdanielek1@cox.net](mailto:mdanielek1@cox.net) or during our Coffee Hour.





## The Beauty of God's Creation

Last month I was able to spend a few days at the All-Saints Pan-Orthodox Summer Camp program, held at El Nathan Christian Camp in Flagstaff. From the various Orthodox Churches throughout the state (and even a few from Las Vegas) there were 120 campers registered, by far the largest group in many years, perhaps of any previous Arizona Orthodox summer camp program.

The cool temperatures were a welcome break from the valley heat, and as summer camps go, it was a wonderful time for the young people to make new friends, enjoy time living in the midst of nature, and to help build their faith in God with daily prayer services and discussion groups. It was a great blessing to be surrounded by the exuberance and vitality of our young people.

Unfortunately, experiences from camps and retreats, as memorable as they are, can't fully be reproduced back home. That's the beauty of getting away from regular routines and surroundings; the possibilities of opening up our

minds to see, listen and learn increase dramatically. The discussion topics could be identical to what was taught in Sunday School, but when set inside a rustic cabin in the midst of a forest, while listening to a cool wind rushing through stories-tall pine trees during a blazing sunset, gives the subject of "the beauty of God's creation," for example, infinitely greater meaning.

King David, in what the Orthodox Church refers to as "the Evening Psalm" (Psalm 104, read during the Vesper Service), writes, "O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all." Centuries afterwards with advent of iconography, the icon of the Creation of the Animal Kingdom (on the cover of this month's *In Touch*) is a reminder of the saying, "A picture is worth 1,000 words," in depicting the beauty of nature.

For city residents, it takes time and energy to find undeveloped places in nature, but it certainly is worth the effort. It also affords the opportunity to imagine the pristine beauty our planet had

at the beginning of creation, and the incredible variety, richness and beauty that no human being could ever duplicate. God's creative abilities are truly beyond comprehension.

Every opportunity we have to behold the beauty of nature, can be a time to grow closer to God. Can we imagine the beauty of the Garden of Eden, perhaps even of the Kingdom of Heaven? Fortunately, living in Arizona we really don't have to travel very far to see some really beautiful scenery. There are plenty of books describing the many preserved and protected areas, rarely traveled roads, secluded hiking trails and favorite camping spots.

And, of course, Arizona is just one state, in one country, in one hemisphere, of our planet. God's creation goes on infinitely, beyond even what the powerful Hubble telescope has been able to show us. (If you'd like to see the incredible photos of the universe taken by the Hubble telescope, visit

*(Continued on page 5)*

*God's creative abilities are truly beyond comprehension.*



**St. Haralambos  
Greek Orthodox  
Church**

**Rev. Michael Pallad**

[www.stharalambos.org](http://www.stharalambos.org)

### Sunday Worship

*September - May*  
Matins: 8:45 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

*June - August*  
Matins: 8:30 a.m.  
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

### Office

623-486-8665  
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345  
[Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com)  
[FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com)

### Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Parish Council

Ray Wysmierski, President  
Mike Danielek, Vice-President  
Mary Wysmierski, Secretary  
Stella Pagos, Treasurer  
Angie Cholas  
Dave Fredericksen

Mary Manos  
George Retsinas  
Peter Retsinas  
Roberta Szklarski  
Katherine Tally  
Peter Tremoulis

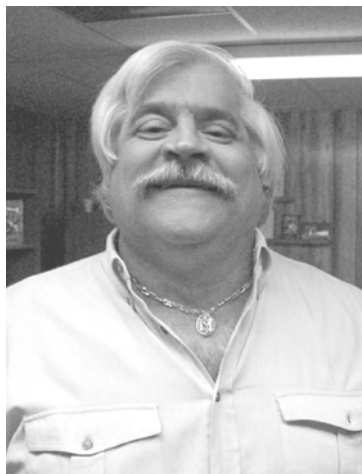


## Join the Fun

There will be a FUN fundraiser at Denny's Restaurant, located at 8737 NW Grand Avenue on Wednesday July 15, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Everyone presenting a fundraising flyer will have 10% of their bill donated to our Building Fund. Flyers will be handed out by greeters on Sunday and also copied in the Sunday Bulletin. Join us for fun and food!



## Parishioner Profile



George Miller was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he attended school and was a member of St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church in Broomall serving as a reader.

George moved to Arizona to be closer to his parents and has attended St. Haralambos Church since 1987. He and his brothers have donated several of the icons hanging in our church. George also donated the Epitafio (wooden burial tomb of Christ) that we use on Holy Friday evening.

He opened and operated the nationwide "Tile for Less" retail flooring stores, but was forced to retire in 1990 because of disabilities resulting from a car accident.

George was also known as one of the top 10 disco DJ's and likes to play the guitar and loves to sing.

He enjoys serving at St. Haralambos Church as a chanter, choir member, and reader, helping at the Greek festival, and doing minor maintenance around the church.

We can count George as a vital part of our church family, and we are certainly glad he is a member of St. Haralambos Church.

## Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

A little summer humor for all of our mothers who must referee our little ones:

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

And don't forget the 51<sup>st</sup> commandment and that is "Volunteers for our Sunday School programs shalt be blessed".

In August we will begin registering students for the Fall. Registration information will be in the August 'In-Touch.'

Please contact the Church office or you can email Mike Danielek at [mdanielek1@cox.net](mailto:mdanielek1@cox.net)



## Summer Schedule

For the hot summer months of June, July and August, we will be moving the Sunday service schedule ahead by half an hour. Please note that Matins will begin at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Regular schedule will resume in September.

## Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, Parish Council President

The summer is upon us, our seasonal parishioners are headed back home, and the council is continuing to work diligently as we prepare for the groundbreaking on Sep. 19 and 20. Please mark you calendars for this very special milestone weekend. There will be further information in the next several months.

As you read this issue of In Touch we will have completed the sale of our church facilities to St. Mary Coptic Church, and that begins the clock for the 18 months in which to complete our goals to moving onto 75th and Greenway.

It is imperative for every member to participate in at least one, if not all, of the activities that will be taking place in months to come (fundraisers, groundbreaking dinner, festival, etc.) We need each and every member of our community to make this year - and years to come - successful.

Also please be responsive to Penny Obren's call for service as she heads up the Election Committee for the upcoming parish council openings. We need all of you who have the time and talents to help forge our parish through this new beginning.

Remember, Stewardship is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as "the conducting, or managing of something; especially: God blessed/entrusted to one's care." God blesses/entrusts us with everything we have, including time and possessions.

We are to manage our blessings with care. In doing so, we must carefully consider our priorities. We have many responsibilities; first and foremost, the care of our families. Your stewardship also extends to service to your church in any capacity. So please take to heart your decision for service.

I look forward to being a part of the next chapter in the life of St Haralambos moving forward in this next year.

## Pastor's Column

(Continued from page 3)

their website at: [hubblesite.org](http://hubblesite.org). (If you don't have internet access, find someone who does, offer to bring some fruit, cheese and crackers and a nice bottle of wine, and enjoy an evening with some friends.)

God's amazing creation does not only go outward into infinity, but also inward into the invisible world of molecules and atoms. Again, mankind has the technology today to be able to see into this microscopic world, but still stands in awe of its unimaginably complex design.

I hope everyone has the opportunity to get out and experience the breathtaking beauty found throughout God's creation.

And may our thoughts turn to God and respond as King David wrote at the conclusion of Psalm 104, "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being!"



## Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| June 7  | New Stewards Reception  |
| June 14 | Philoptochos  |
| June 21 | Available   |
| June 28 | Available   |
| July 5  | Available   |
| July 12 | Argyro Vasquez and George & Ethel Nicholas - Building Fund Benefit Luncheon, \$5 Suggested Donation |
| July 19 | Available   |
| July 26 | Available   |

*Note: Due to publication printing deadlines, any modifications or changes to coffee hour listing will be noted in next month's newsletter.*

# ORGANIZATIONS



## Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"I can do all things through Christ" (Phillipians 4:13)

I am very proud of our small group of women who with the help of our parish, are able to promote Orthodoxy (spiritually and financially). A lot more can be done for our community if we had a few more members who would be willing to work. Would you consider joining us?

Twenty-four families left their medical problems behind to attend Kids "n" Cancer Camp in Prescott, June 4-7. Thank you Voula Dodd and Judy Jolly for your many hours of volunteering!

Profits from special meals and bake sales allowed us to send:

1. Kids "n" Cancer \$ 500
2. Philoptochos Lodge at St. Nicholas Ranch \$100
3. Women's Health and Wellness Center \$50
4. Pennies and Prayers \$110
5. Hellenic College Holy Cross \$200
6. St. Haralambos Church Building Fund \$1,000

We will be holding a Quilt Raffle this Fall. The beautiful quilt is 79" X 85" and hand-made by one of our Philoptochos members. Tickets are six for \$5, and will be sold during Social Hour on Sundays. Drawing will be Sep. 1.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Sep. 1 at 6 p.m. Potluck supper. Have a great summer!

## Friendship

(Author unknown)

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd." I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward Kyle. They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms, and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him.

He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed

him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks! They really should get a life." He looked at me and said, "Hey, thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.

I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before.

We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

(Continued on page 7)

## Name Days

Many years/*Chronia Polla* to those named after the following saints:

St. Kyriaki (7th)  
SS. Cyril and Methodios (7th)  
St. Euphemia (11th)  
St. Mary Magdalene (22nd)  
St. Paraskevi (26th)  
St. Panteleimon (27th)  
St. Irene (28th)  
St. Julietta (30th)  
St. Joseph of Arimathea (31st)

## Friendship

*(Continued from page 6)*

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscle with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was Valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

On Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous! Today was one of those days.

I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be

great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks," he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began, "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years: your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach, but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them."

"I am going to tell you a story." I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully," he continued, "I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize its depth.

Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small act of kindness, you can change a person's life.

## Birthdays



Jan Morin (5th)  
 Stavros Theoharatos (7th)  
 Catherine Pallad (9th)  
 Nicholas Genes (9th)  
 Pamela Marshall (10th)  
 Lisa Theoharatos (11th)  
 Lee Retsinas (12th)  
 Bill Winn (17th)  
 Alexandra M. Barbes (19th)  
 Mike Hansford (21st)  
 Mikhala Krochta (25th)  
 David Fredericksen (25th)  
 Desiree Milonas (27th)

If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

## Sacraments

May our Lord bless the newly baptized Makda Tesfa, daughter of Michael and Asmayt, who was baptized on Saturday, June 6, and whose godmother is Hermela Desta. We welcome this new family into our parish, and wish them many years of good health and happiness.

## Assisted Living/Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Orin Davis, John and Mary Karavaras, Gus Macrides, and Helen Sigel.

# JULY 2009

| Sunday                                       | Monday | Tuesday                     | Wednesday                       | Thursday                       | Friday | Saturday              |
|--|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
|  |        |                             | 1                               | 2<br>7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal  | 3      | 4<br>Independence Day |
| 5<br>8:30am Matins<br>9:30am Divine Liturgy  | 6      | 7<br>6:00pm Quilting Class  | 8                               | 9<br>7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal  | 10     | 11                    |
| 12<br>8:30am Matins<br>9:30am Divine Liturgy | 13     | 14<br>7:00pm Parish Council | 15<br>4:00pm Denny's Fundraiser | 16<br>7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal | 17     | 18                    |
| 19<br>8:30am Matins<br>9:30am Divine Liturgy | 20     | 21<br>6:00pm Quilting Class | 22                              | 23<br>7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal | 24     | 25                    |
| 26<br>8:30am Matins<br>9:30am Divine Liturgy | 27     | 28<br>6:00pm Quilting Class | 29                              | 30<br>7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal | 31     |                       |