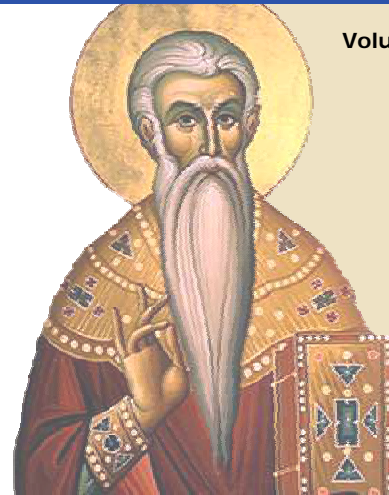


in Touch

Volume 17, Issue 6

June 2009



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

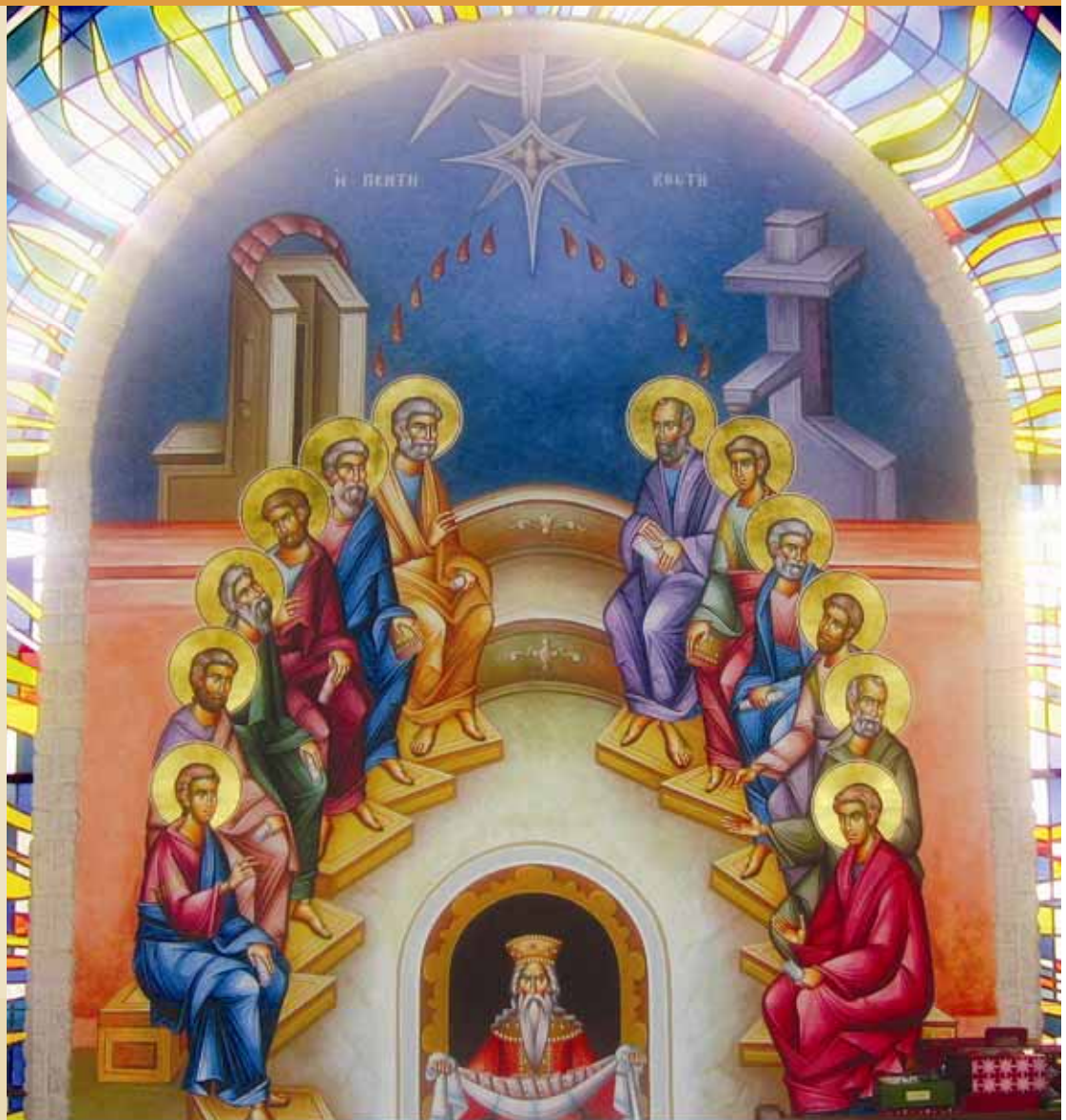
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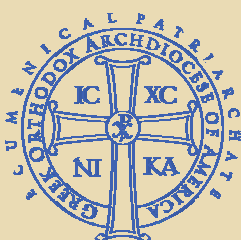
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"When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place." (Acts 2:1)

Pentecost Sunday: June 7, 2009



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

Christ is Risen!

Easter services were a joy to celebrate with our church family. We thank the members of our choir who sang so beautifully, our Philoptochos for preparing another magnificent Easter feast, the volunteers who decorated the church with flowers, the chanters and readers during the Holy Week services. Your continual service and joyful giving is an important part of what makes St. Haralambos parish the warm and loving family it is.





Another Milestone General Assembly

The result of our Spring General Assembly, held last month, was a unanimous agreement to move forward with the revised Phase 1 of the Master Plan, the construction of the permanent fellowship hall. The presentation by Mike Danielek helped everyone understand the reasons that our Building Committee recommended this change from the original Phase 1, which was the construction of the permanent church building.

Architect Kevin Callahan was also present at the meeting, and provided further details on the design of the fellowship hall, which will include a beautifully designed church, classrooms, a social hall more than twice the size of our current hall, and administrative offices. The

unanimous decision to proceed means that construction documents and construction bids will be prepared over the next few months.

The sale of our current church facilities to St. Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church is progressing also. Once all the documents have been gathered, the down payment is received, signatures have been made, and we receive the permission from the Metropolis of San Francisco, escrow will close and the sale will be complete.

The Capital Campaign continues, with the goal of an additional \$800,000 prior to the start of construction. Several exciting fund-raising events and ideas were presented by John Obren to help us reach this goal. (See additional details on page 4.)

Finally, we have scheduled ground-breaking ceremonies on Saturday and Sunday, September 19 – 20, 2009. We look forward to welcoming His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos to join us for the festivities which will include a wonderful banquet Saturday evening on our current church grounds (under the covered backyard pavilion), Divine Liturgy Sunday morning, followed by the ground-breaking service at the new site (75th and Greenway). We want everyone to save these dates and join in this historical celebration and milestone in the life of our parish.

We look forward to welcoming His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos to join us for the festivities...

Parishioner Profile

This month we would like to profile Kim and Dorothy Ayan, who do so much for our parish in many different ways.

Kim was born in Istanbul, Turkey to Greek Orthodox parents and attended Greek school there before coming to the United States in 1950. Dorothy was born and raised in Pennsylvania where she met Kim on a bus; it

was love at first sight, says Kim. They were married in 1956 in Scranton, Pa, in an Episcopalian church and then again in the Greek Orthodox Church. Kim added that with all the marriages they were destined to be married forever. They have 2 children, a daughter Katherine in Virginia and a son Jordon in Illinois and 2 grandchildren.

(Continued on page #4)



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

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
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

Parishioner Profile

(Continued from page #3)



Kim and Dorothy Ayan

Kim earned two degrees in college, one in Chemistry and the other in Textile Engineering. His employment had them traveling all over the world and in many states here in America. Kim retired in 1993 but continued to consult for another 7 years. Kim and Dorothy were snowbirds from 1993 to 1995 when they moved to Arizona and have attended St Haralambos since 1994. They both do an enormous amount of volunteer work, but still find time for hobbies. Dorothy is a painter, displaying her work at many shows where she has won numerous awards for her work. You will always see Kim at Festival time, where he is an integral part of the behind the scenes team. He purchases most of the paper goods and is always available, at the last minute, to make a run for something desperately needed. Dorothy and Kim help our parish in many quiet ways and we want to take this opportunity to "Thank" them for all they do.

Building Fund Report

Fund Raising Activities

- Ground Breaking Ceremony – Coming this fall
- \$10,000 Cash Raffle – Winners announced weekend of Sep. 19
- Piggy Banks – Change for Change – Each parishioner will be given a piggy bank to put loose change for the Building Fund. When the bank is full, bring it to the Church and another will be given to keep the change coming.
- Letters for Gifts: A letter 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
- Letter for Contributions: Letters requesting donations from our wealthiest Greek Orthodox businessmen in the United States will be sent in August
- Orthodox Observer – ½ page advertisement seeking donations – November 2009
- Wine & Cheese Tasting
- Lasagna Dinner
- Walk-A-Thon

To keep our parishioners informed on a month-to-month basis, the committee will be available to answer questions. Please contact John Obren at: jpobren2@cox.net or Mike Danielek at: mdanielek1@cox.net or during our Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy each Sunday.

St. Haralambos has built an 'Attitude of Gratitude' for 21 years. Let all of us...

As we ALL come together to build our new Church remember this quote:
"Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world!"

Building Fund Raffle Tickets

Raffle ticket sales are moving briskly along. In just three weeks, we have about 100 tickets in the process of being sold. If every Church Steward Family would sell or buy just 3 tickets, we would have all 500 tickets sold in the next 30 to 45 days. The drawing for the winning tickets -First Prize: \$10,000, Second Prize: \$3,000, Third Prize: \$2,000 - has been changed from Sep. 13 to Sep. 19. The change in the drawing date has been made to coincide with the scheduled Groundbreaking Event Ceremony.

Together we can build our future. Please help with the sale/purchase of our

Building Fund Raffle Tickets. Think about buying Raffle Tickets for birthday gifts, anniversary gifts, etc. The faster we can sell the Raffle Tickets, the faster we can properly plan the construction of our New Church Facilities!



Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, President

The Lord has risen!

As we start a renewed life after Pascha we need to light the Spirit within ourselves and be prepared to make the decisions we will be making as a parish family in 2009. The General Assembly is over and as always we have had some robust discussion on the new plan to get us to the new location in the next 18 months. We also have completed the sale to St. Mary Coptic Church to purchase our current location with a very well-packaged agreement to benefit our community and help a new community begin to grow as we did 20 years ago.

A big THANK YOU to Michael Danielek and Larry Karandreas for all the hours spent in negotiating with St. Mary's community and the continued review to insure our documents are all in order for the sale of the church.

Please look to helping us accelerate our giving to the Capital Campaign. Remember, you can make those donations through Parish Pay directly to the building fund. (You can also have your stewardship paid through this service too, www.parishpay.com)

We also need your help to refer merchants who can advertise in the In Touch Newsletter. Please call the office to provide those merchant's names that may be interested in supporting our monthly publication.

Fr Michael, Stella Pagos, Charlotte Servetas and Ray Wysmierski attended the Clergy-Laity Assembly, which took place on May 4 and 5 at St Nicholas Ranch. We had the opportunity to meet other church members throughout the diocese and gain an understanding of the operation of the metropolis council.

There were a few workshops, one that focused on stress during hard economic times and finances that fell short of the

attendee's expectations. (In fact we were able to help out some other members of the conference that are in the process of building new churches.) There was also a lake dedication that took place during our time at the ranch, which was very inspiring. The couple that donated resources for the renovation were recognized during the ceremony. The lake can be utilized for many purposes for the children who attend the camp.

I encourage current and future council members to attend next year to get a better understanding of the operations within the metropolis council.

The vespers, divine liturgy, and four-year memorial for Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, that were held at the Life Spring Monastery that are on the St. Nicholas Ranch grounds, also provided a very strong spiritual inspirational environment.

I am very excited about the energy surrounding the fundraising for the Capital Campaign and preparing for the groundbreaking activities the weekend of Sep. 19 and 20.

Also for all members in good standing please consider the opportunity to become a parish council member as the future of our church continues to grow with a solid foundation which can only be accomplished with providing your time and talents.

Again, thanks to all of you who do provide the time and talents to our church.

Philoptochos



By Charlotte Servetas, President

"In all things show yourself an example of good works" (Titus 2: 7)

The Kids "n" Cancer camp in Prescott will be held June 4-7. Volunteers are welcome.

Congratulations to our High School Grads: Alicia Krochta, Katie Parker and Nicoletta Theoharatos!

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 1 at 7 p.m.



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.

Father's Day

Sunday, June 21

We wish all the fathers of our church family a Happy Father's Day. Here are some quotes on fatherhood by some famous people throughout history. See if you can guess who said what before looking at the answers below.

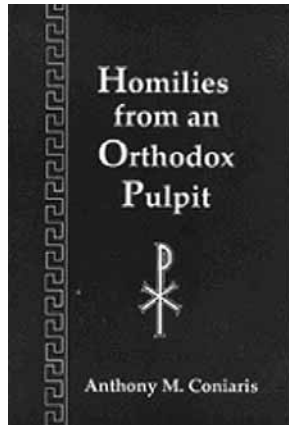
1. "Fatherhood is pretending the present you love most is soap-on-a-rope."
2. "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years!"
3. "I don't care how poor a man is; if he has family, he's rich."
4. "Spread the diaper in the position of the diamond with you at bat. Then fold second base down to home and set the baby on the pitcher's mound. Put first base and third together, bring up home plate and pin the three together. Of course, in case of rain, you gotta call the game and start all over again."
5. "It is a wise father that knows his own child."
6. "Train up a child in the way which he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Answers

1. Bill Cosby
2. Mark Twain
3. M*A*S*H start Colonel Potter
4. Jimmy Piersall
5. William Shakespeare
6. The Bible, Proverbs 22:6

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Coniaris, Anthony M. **Homilies from an Orthodox Pulpit** 1992, 147 pp.



Each of these beautiful and insightful homilies make scripture meaningful and relevant to our lives. Here are quotes that give the flavor of the collection:

- God doesn't say 'I love you because,' or 'when' or 'if'...God simply says, 'I love you period.'
- Through forgiveness love is repairable—not disposable like a piece of Kleenex.
- Christ will appear in our confusion to show the way, in our despair to be our hope, in our sin to be our forgiveness, in our death to be our life.
- Now is the time to do God's will...to repent...to be compassionate, to forgive—now before our time runs out!
- The background music of this world is the theme song, 'Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you die.' But the background music of the heartbeat of God sings 'Christ is risen!' Tomorrow you do not die [but] live eternally.
- Choose words of comfort, hope, harmony...and love. 'Is it true?' 'Is it needful?' 'Is it kind?'
- Pray 'Lord, make all our words gracious and tender today for tomorrow we may have to eat them.'
- Never give up on prayer. It's always too soon to quit. Be like a postage stamp, stick to one thing until you get there.
- Four kinds of people: the 'cop-outs', the 'hold-outs', the 'drop-outs', and the 'all-outs' who are faithful until the end.
- Someone said, 'I never make the same mistake twice. Everyday I make new ones.' Also, 'I never make a mistake. I thought I did once, but I was wrong.'
- Christ did not die for us because we're perfect but because we aren't. All the while He expects us to aim at perfection.
- Looking in the rear view mirror too long can be self-destructive.
- A child becomes an adult when he stops taking and starts giving. Give from a heart overflowing with God's love.
- Remember God more often than you breath.
- You say you believe in God? Then how much time do you spend with God each day in prayer?
- Stewardship Sunday comes to see if God really has a priority in our life.
- 'Opened by mistake' applies more to mouths than to mail.
- By distorting truth and definitions, we end up calling evil good and good evil.
- Are things breaking down in your life? Perhaps God is trying to break down your resistance to Him? Your pride? Your ego?
- For the Christian steward, there is no such thing as 'free time', since every second of our existence belongs to God.
- God loves you so intimately that He has assigned an angel to be with you through this life. When the end comes this angel will carry you to God's presence. Why not act like an angel to others as you go through life?

ORGANIZATIONS

2009 Taste of Greece Festival

For those of you who have already completed the Sponsor Form as a booster or advertiser, thank you. If you haven't already signed up as a festival booster, it's not too late... just fill out the form on page 8 and return it to the Church office.

Remember, if everyone obtains just one advertiser (at any level) for the Festival ad book it will be a huge help to offset Festival expenses and, in turn, make for a larger profit to our building fund.

Thank for your help. OPA!

Spring, 2009

Dear Friend,

The 22nd Annual Taste of Greece Food and Dance Festival will be held October 23, 24 & 25, 2009 in Peoria. The "Taste of Greece" Festival attracts thousands of local and valley-wide residents each year and is the only Greek Festival in the West Valley. Proceeds from this annual event benefit parish ministries and our new Church building project located at 75th Avenue and Greenway Road in Peoria, Arizona.

We write to you today to ask for your support of the 2009 Taste of Greece Festival in the form of either advertising in the Festival program, donation of raffle prize or other monetary donation. A Sponsorship Form indicating levels of participation is attached for your review and consideration. We would, of course, appreciate any contribution that you can provide and all contributors will be acknowledged in the Festival program. All donations are tax deductible. For your records, the Federal tax ID Number for St. Haralambos Church is: 86-0594146.

We do hope that you will join us as a contributor and also for a fabulous weekend of authentic Greek food, dancing and entertainment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church office at 623-486-8665.

Thank you, again. OPA!

Sincerely,

Pam and Stella

Pam Lemons & Stella Pagos
Co-Chairmen, Annual Greek Festival



ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2009 "TASTE OF GREECE" FOOD AND DANCE FESTIVAL

October 23, 24 & 25, 2009

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____ **E-Mail** _____

FESTIVAL PROGRAM ADVERTISING

AD DEADLINE: September 4, 2009

Check One	Type	Cost	Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full Page Ad	\$500	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 7 ½" h
<input type="checkbox"/>	Half Page Ad	\$300	Ad size: 4 ½" w x 3 ½" h
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Card Ad	\$100	2" x 3 ½" Standard size
<input type="checkbox"/>	Festival Booster	\$25	Name recognized in Festival Program

Please provide logo, ad or business card in .jpeg format or camera ready artwork.

Email artwork to: pamruss30@msn.com

	Other	Value	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raffle prizes-gift card, donation, etc.	\$	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP!

Please return completed form to:

Pam Lemons/Stella Pagos, Greek Festival Chairmen
St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345

For tax purposes, St. Haralambos Federal Tax ID Number is: 86-0594146

Stewardship

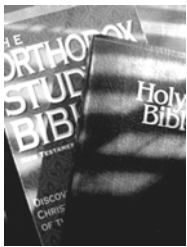
By Roberta Szklarski

This month, on Sunday June 7, we will be having our annual New Steward Welcome during the Coffee Hour. All new steward families will be personally

introduced and welcomed, coinciding with the Feastday of Pentecost, the day commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of 3,000 new Christians.

Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director



We, the teachers and volunteers, look forward to seeing all of our students the first Sunday after Labor Day weekend for the start of the 2009-10 Sunday school year.

In August we will begin registering students for next year, information will be in the August In Touch.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist our Sunday School program. Please contact the Church office or you can email Mike Danielek at mdanielek1@cox.net

Choir

By Dennis Georgen, Choir Director

Choose to Make a Difference!

In his book, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Steven R. Covey writes about seven principles that, if followed, will enable an individual to be more effective in life and in what they choose to do. Habit One, Be Proactive - the habit of choice, has these simple core principles:

1. Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space we can re-act, or we can choose to act based on principles.
2. We can use language that victimizes us, where we have no choice and we "have to" do something, or we can "choose to" use positive pro-active language, where we are in control.
3. We can focus on things in our "circle of concern" where what happens is beyond our control, or we can choose to focus on things within our "circle of influence," where we can make a difference.

By choosing to act based on principles, using positive pro-active language, and focusing on things within our circle of influence, we can become a "transition person" and make a positive impact, even in the face of a challenging, uncertain, or negative situations.

Our Church has made a decision, a choice, to move forward with building a new church home. That decision was made proactively, with faith and a vision toward the future. Yes, economic times may be uncertain and the task at hand is large. Yet, in less than two years, Phase One will become a reality. The success in ultimately completing the building project will be made as a result of the choices we make.

One of the choices you can make is to get involved... TODAY. You can choose to become a transition person here at St Haralambos! There are many ways you can become involved. The Festival needs workers, the Sunday School needs teachers, the choir needs voices. The list

(Continued on page 10)

High School Graduates

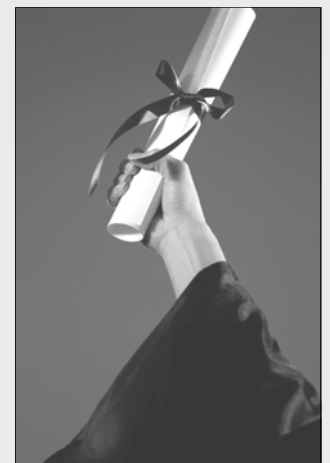
Our parish is blessed to have three young ladies who will be graduating high school this month.

Alicia Krochta has been accepted into the Barrett Honors School at ASU and will be taking pre-med classes.

Katie Parker, will be attending Estrella Community College in the fall and will pursue a degree in nursing.

Nikki Theoharatos will be pursuing a degree in communications. She is still looking into schools that best suit her needs.

Each of these graduates was given a copy of The Orthodox Study Bible as a graduation gift from the church. We congratulate each of these young ladies on their accomplishments, and wish them God's blessings in the years ahead.



Birthdays



George Theoharatos (6th)
 Patrick Marshall (7th)
 Aaron Johnson (11th)
 Despina Medina (14th)
 Christopher Lee King, II (15th)
 Pam Lemons (17th)
 Alicia Krochta (18th)
 Masha Logkaya (20th)
 Johnny Fredericksen (22nd)
 Gale Farr (24th)

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.

Name Days

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

St. Dorotheos (5th)
 St. Methodios, Patriarch of Constantinople (14th)
 St. Jude, Apostle of Christ (19th)
 St. Julian of Egypt (21st)
 St. Sampson the Glorious (27th)
 Sts. Peter and Paul (29th)

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, Magda Gryparis, Fannie Huzinec, John and Mary Karavaras and Helen Sigel.

The family of Maria Wardzinski sends their sincere thanks and appreciation to all who called and sent cards during her recent hospitalization. She is recovering well, and sends her love to all.

Coffee Hour

May 3	Philoptochos - General Assembly	June 7	New Stewards Reception
May 10	Peter & Lee Retsinas, Chris & Lourdes Kotsobies	June 14	Available
May 17	Jim & Elizabeth Gorman	June 21	Available
May 24	Chris Birtsas	June 28	Available
May 31	Aphrodite Devolites		

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

Choir

(Continued from page 9)

of possibilities is endless, but you can make a difference. Even your presence, here, on Sunday morning, greeting others, including those at coffee, who you do not know, makes a difference as we build the Church. The Church is not simply a building, it is us, the Body of Christ who come together to raise our voices together in prayer for the Glory of God.

If you were at Resurrection this year, you experienced the difference an inspired, committed, and practiced Choir can make. For me, personally, it may have been the most uplifting Resurrection Liturgy I can recall. There was energy as we together sang, Christ is Risen; the Spirit was truly among us!

I appreciate all of your kind words of encouragement on the progress your Choir is making. However, it doesn't happen without everyone involved choosing to make a difference. It takes each and every member of the choir who chooses to commit their time and come to practice. It takes our anonymous donors who choose to fund an organist, and

Lahni, who for these past two years chose to drive from East Gilbert to accompany us. I want to thank everyone involved for choosing to do what they CAN DO, and for making a difference.

Beginning Sunday, June 14, and continuing through Sunday, September 6, Choir members will be joining YOU to sing from the pews. During this time, a small group will be chanting the responses from the chanter's stand. Come September, I hope a number of you will CHOOSE to join US in the back of the Church. Yes, your voices are needed and Yes, YOU can make a difference!

(Editor's Note: The choir will continue singing throughout the summer, but will not hold regular weekly rehearsals. Instead, Thursday evening rehearsals will be for anyone interested in learning to chant for the morning Matins service, as well as the Office of Supplication (celebrated the first two weeks of August). All are welcome to come to Chanter Rehearsal, Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Choir rehearsals will resume in September.)

JUNE 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7:00pm Philoptochos	6:00pm Quilting Class		7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal		
7 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Pentecost New Steward Welcome	8 No Fasting Week.	9	10	11	12	13
		7:00pm Parish Council		7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal		
14 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy All Saints Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
		6:00pm Quilting Class		7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal		
21 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
		6:00pm Quilting Class		7:00pm Chanter Rehearsal		
28 8:30am Matins 9:30am Divine Liturgy	29	30				
		6:00pm Quilting Class				