

# THE NEWS FROM ST. NEKTARIOS

## THE BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR

**Volume 25, Issue 4  
Aug - Sep 2021**

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On the eleventh Sunday in the period during which the Church proclaims the Holy Gospel from the voice of the Evangelist Matthew, we encounter an image of the Kingdom of Heaven given to us by Jesus Christ himself. The image is that of a master and his household, run by servants. Jesus describes a servant wracked with debt to his master, who has been called to account. Because of his servant's insurmountable debt, the master's only logical recourse is to sell this servant and his wife and children at market to recover the loss. Facing this reality, the servant falls to his knees and begs for mercy. The master is moved deeply, and shows the servant exceeding mercy by entirely forgiving the debt. Thus relieved, the servant departs. On his way, he sees a fellow servant who happened to owe him a paltry sum. He immediately grabs him by the throat and demands payment. When the fellow servant begs for mercy—as his strangler had just done before their mutual master—he is ignored and thrown into confinement until he should pay the debt. Word of this encounter reaches the master. The first servant is summoned back and condemned by the master to torture until he should repay his original debt. Jesus finishes the parable with this line: "So also my heavenly Father will do to you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

If we spend any time surfing the Internet, or watching the news, or simply talking to other people (if we really talk to one another anymore), one might reasonably suspect that the world is falling apart at the seams. We're agitated and tired—especially with regard to the ongoing pandemic. We increasingly surround ourselves with voices that reinforce what seems right to us, grinding down our range of what is acceptable to a coarse edge. Being on edge, we are then further agitated when we are forced to encounter something out of our control.

For example, given the current state of things, when we are gathered in

church for worship, we might see someone wearing a mask. We might think, "Gosh! Doesn't this person have any faith in God? Doesn't he believe that God will protect him from the virus? How can she deface herself, or come into God's presence like this?" In this inner monologue, we begin to solidify an opinion. And then we find support for that opinion, so every time we encounter the same thing, we are even more upset, more agitated, more offended, more outraged.

Do you know what we are doing? We

***"We have to retract our hands. Who are we, to reclaim a supposed debt? We are nobody. What we feel another person owes us is nothing in comparison to what God has forgiven us, with respect to our own sins."***

are saying to the other, "You owe me my comfort! You owe me to do what I think is right!" and we are putting our hands around the other's neck—hopefully, only metaphorically.

Perhaps we see someone not wearing a mask, and we think, "Ah! This irresponsible person! Doesn't he care about his fellow citizens? Does she even care about her own health, the body that God gave her? Are they ignorant to what is going on?" In this inner monologue, we begin to solidify an opinion. And then we find support for that opinion, so every time we encounter the same thing, we are even more upset, more agitated, more offended, more outraged.

And so we snap, and say, "You owe me my comfort! You owe me to do what I think is right!" And we are putting our hands around the other's neck.

We do this with everything: politics, economics, religion—everything. And

here we are, thinking that we are being suffocated by a pandemic, or politicians, or other world events, when in truth the reason we feel this way is because we all have our hands at each other's throats. How can this not, then, manifest itself in the world? We all contribute to the sin and suffering experienced in the world. None of us can claim to be above it. Until we can learn to forgive our brother and sister from our heart, God will allow us to be tormented by such things.

We have to retract our hands. Who are we, to reclaim a supposed debt? We are nobody. What we feel another person owes us is nothing in comparison to what God has forgiven us, with respect to our own sins. We need to watch where we put our physical hands, our spiritual "hands", our mental "hands". There is much talk in our days of "mindfulness" and meditation practices; certainly, among them may be found good tools. But a clear mind is not enough. The saints of the Church tell us—indeed our Lord himself tells us—that it is the *heart* that must be purified. And this can only happen in a state of repentance. This is why we must cultivate both in word and action the prayer, "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me the sinner".

A heart that is purified is eternally grateful for the debts God has forgiven it. A heart that is purified does not remember debts, real or imagined. A heart that is purified does not reach out to "strangle" the other and demand recompense. If we wish to be partakers of the Kingdom of Heaven, this is how we must think and act. The wicked servant in Jesus' parable was a servant to his passions, not to the master, and he was ultimately consigned to suffering. Rightly, Jesus warns us that, unless we learn to forgive from our hearts, we will suffer the same fate.

*Adapted from Fr. Andreas' sermon on Sunday, September 5 — 11th Sunday of Matthew (Matthew 18:23-35).*

## Spotlight on our visitors

We have been blessed to welcome some special guests to our parish in recent months: His Eminence, Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa, of the Carpatho-Russian Diocese, who is an original founder of St. Nektarios Church; Fr. Aristidis Garinis, former colleague of Fr. Andreas and fellow Chicago native with Fr. Nektarios; Niko Savas, former seminary schoolmate of Frs. Andreas and Nektarios; Seminarians Eleftherios Chasaridis, Theodore Mantzikos and Michael Sellas.



His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa of the Carpatho Russian Diocese with Fr. Andreas



Rev. Presbyter Aristidis Garinis of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Chicago with Fr. Nektarios

Fr. Nektarios with Nick Salvat



Fr. Andreas with seminarian Michael Sellas

Seminarian Theodore Mantzikos



## FOCUS ON OUR COMMUNITY

*Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort & Support*

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Aphroula John Pat KS Joe Johanna Edward Tina Theona Helen & Richard DG  
 Chuck Handsel Mason Robin & Benny John & Elaine Jennifer & family Eleftheria Mary  
 Catherine Grant Jack Phyllis Melton family Tish Joanne Christina Stephen Phil & Ronnie  
 John & Michelle & family MP MSR Glen Cheryl & Brian Paul John T. John D. Terry Dorothy

Our First Responders, those on the front lines during this Pandemic and those suffering from Covid-19 and other illnesses throughout the entire world

### FOR THOSE IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

Helene Buddy Jordan Krassimire Nicholas Michael Constantine Zack Matthew  
 Amanda Danielle Anton

### CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

To Merrigrace and Silas Helms on the birth of Salem's sister,  
 Lively Paraskeva Lee Clewell-Helms

To Sara Maude and James Tshakis on the 40 day blessing of Leonidas' brother, Philip

To Elena and Sam Burrus on the 40 day blessing of their daughter, Vaia

To Maite and John Manos on the birth and 40 day blessing of Alexander John & mom

To Jenna & Gabriel Vaporis on the baptism of their twins,  
 Addison Palmer (Dionisia) and Theodore Aleydis (Theodore)

To Oleg & Alina Havrun on the baptism of Matthew's brother, Gabriell

To Vivian and Gregory Poole on the baptism of Yates' and Hugh's sister, Vivian Sophia

To Kim and Nick Tzefos on the baptism of Rose's sister, Leah Nicoletta

To Norelle and Dean Thevaos on the baptism of their daughter, Anna Grace

To Oleysa and Dustan Holland on the baptism of Nadia's sister, Sasha

To Justine Munday and C. J. Dellinger on their marriage

To Dennis Kokenes on becoming an Archon Elect of the Order of St. Andrew of the Great Church

### WITH SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

To the Shelton family on the repose of Tim's mother, Louise

To the Pakuris family on the repose of Katherine's husband, Chris

To the Morgan family on the repose of Kay's husband, Bob

To the Nixon family on the repose of Sam Paul Nixon

To the Demakis family on the repose of George's father, Dr. John George Demakis

To the Tekin family on the repose of Nevin's mother, Sayde Kaplan

To the Koukoutsis family on the repose of John's father, Panagiotis

To the Edwards family on the repose of Nina's mother, Madeline Varitimos, in Methuen, MA

To the Keramidas, Demetriou, Smaragdus, and Chinboukas families on the repose of their beloved father,  
 Eleftherios Keramidas

### IN APPRECIATION

Thanks to Diane Gilbert and Copycat for printing the Church Bulletin and Newsletter.

Please contact Kim Braswell at [kclewell@stnektarios.org](mailto:kclewell@stnektarios.org) with information we may share with the community or to add someone to the prayer list.  
 Please contact the office to request a clergy visit.

# A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR 2021-22

O God, our God, in your infinite wisdom and love you created all that is, and have led us to these sacred days of the new ecclesiastical year.

You, as the Lord of all creation, cause the sun to rise upon the evil and the good, and send rain upon the righteous and the unrighteous.

You allowed Satan to touch the flesh of your friend, Job, and in these recent times have allowed Satan also to touch our flesh by means of pandemic disease. And though we scarcely bear the faith and righteousness and patience of Job, we ask you to look on us in our weakness and bear with our intemperance.

Heavenly Father, do not turn your face away from us, but hear the voice of your earthbound children as we beg you for mercy:

If we have shown excessive fear of suffering and illness, forgive us and restore our courage in you, the source of life and the repose of our souls.

If we have despised and insulted your holiness and the dignity of your saints, and the sanctity of your house, do not destroy us for our impiety, but correct our thoughts and nail down our flesh with the fear of you.

If we have shown anger and malice toward our fathers and siblings in the Faith, forgive our Pharisaical ravings, and restore to us the voice of the Publican.

If we have partnered with Satan, taunting others to cast themselves into harm's way, while daring to invoke your protection, let us remember your rebuke to that despicable tempter: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test".

If we have disdained the well-being of our neighbor, do not count us as murderers.

If we have long been absent from your holy house and, having long abstained from the sweet nourishment of your precious Body and Blood, have deprived ourselves of life in you, thus withering on the true Vine into which we were grafted by the great gift of Holy Baptism,

lead us to return and once again bear fruits worthy of repentance.

If we have questioned your Holy Mysteries, or have exposed them to grotesque scrutiny, do not leave us to the self-destruction of Judas the betrayer, who betrayed you but once, but receive us with the repentance of Peter, who denied you even three times.

O Lord, forgive us! Receive us back! Yes, Lord, you know that we love you!

If we have doubted you, Lord, forgive us and do not let us perish at a distance, but rather draw us to yourself as you did Thomas. Do not revoke your blessing on those who have not seen and yet believe. Open the eyes of our soul! Forgive our weakness, our Lord and our God! We believe, Lord, help our unbelief!

Lord, bless the faithful; grant recovery to those harmed by the pandemic; grant rest to those who have succumbed to it, or those who have perished in its isolation, and comfort those who mourn them; strengthen and enlighten those who treat the sick and research cures; guide the hand of civil authorities; grant peace to your Church, to our nation, and the whole world. Let us approach the coming year with fear of you, with faith, and with love in our hearts.

Having granted us to see our weakness, Lord, now strengthen us to uphold the faith of our fathers so that the Son of Man may indeed find faith on earth upon his return. Help us to live in concord and oneness of mind, so that we may confess and glorify your most honorable and majestic name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. ❖

## Parish Council Update — Change in Executive Officers



Charles Hubbard

Charles Hubbard, who has been President of the Parish Council since January 2018, offered his resignation from this position in late July due to work constraints. He will remain on Parish Council for the remainder of his term which ends 12-31-22. Christina Bonder, Vice President, has agreed to complete his term as President for the remainder of this year. Despina Gallis is now our Vice President.

We thank Charlie for his commitment and years of service. We express our congratulations and best wishes to Christina and Despina in their new roles. ❖



Christina Bonderer



Despina Gallis

# FINANCIAL MATTERS

## Stewardship Statistics

as of August 31, 2021



A Beacon of Christian

Love



## Quick Notes

### Stewardship

- Monthly stewardship offerings help keep the church cash flow even.
- Every summer, we have a drop in cash flow creating an offering gap.
- **Offering Gap** *This year's offering gap is ~ \$46,600.* August is 3/4 of the way through 2021. \$546,350 is 3/4 of the way to our pledged balance. Our stewardship offerings are at \$499,766 creating a gap.
- Are your offerings at least 3/4 of the way to completing your pledge?
- Make September *Catch-up Month*.
- Stewardship supports the operations of our Parish that provides the resources to continue our Lord's ministry through St. Nektarios.

### Mortgage

- Mortgage Balance: \$365,679
- Interest payments are made monthly: 3.350 APR
- Balance due in full January 15, 2022

## So You Know . . .

January to August 31, 2021

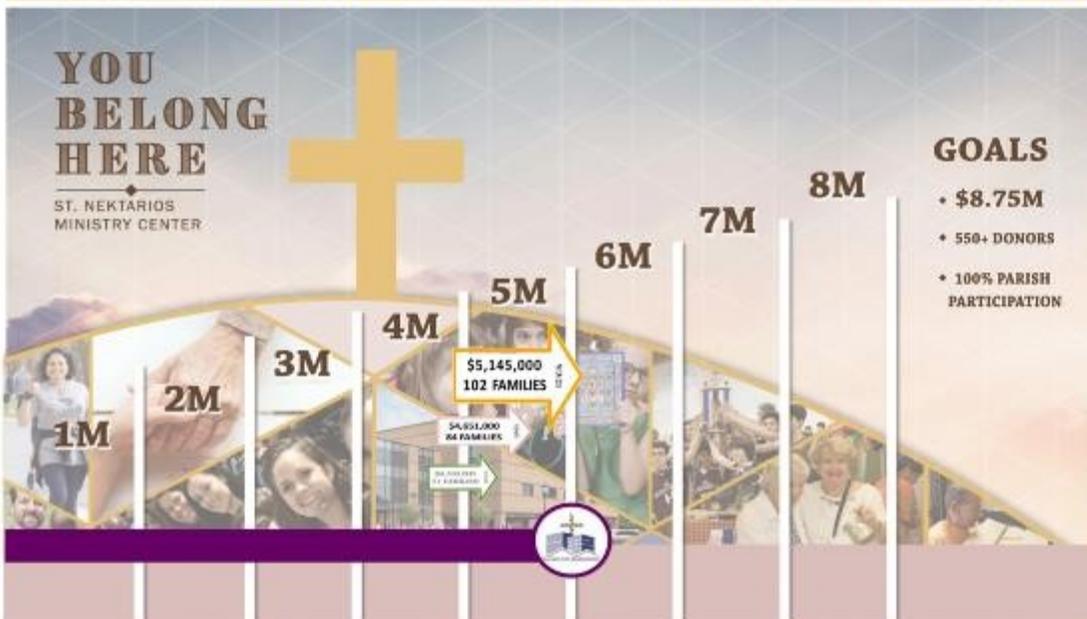
### Operating Income and Expense Report

Stewardship Received	\$ 499,766
Other Income Received	\$ 138,322
Total Income	638,088
Total Expenses (paid and accrued)	\$ - 748,062
Net Income	\$ - 109,974

**\$91,619**

**Average Monthly Expenses**

## "All In" to Build For Generations



Thank you to our 102 families who have taken the campaign to over \$5million in pledges.

Glory to God!

Each Family Commitment matters.

Each Contribution is a blessing that helps build for generations.

Now is the time is the time to take the next steps.

Let us reach 550 Donors



# BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS CELEBRATION

The Church Plaza was abuzz with people celebrating the great start of our Building for Generations Campaign. Three food trucks provided the great lunch options, Frappes, home brewed beer, cotton candy, a dunk tank and music added to the celebration.

Thank you to our committee chair persons Susan Triantafyllides and Kara O'Brien and their hard working team.

Visit the B4G page on the church website [www.stnektarios.org](http://www.stnektarios.org) with video messages from our clergy, information on the campaign and forms to make your commitment. Watch for email posts as we build our new Ministry Center . . . Ensuring our Orthodox Legacy for the Future.

Evelyn Klund

*\*Photos by Kim Sheree' Braswell*



## AGES INITIATIVES

August 31, 2021

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has acquired certain assets of the respected AGES Initiatives organization, which has provided digital music for Byzantine Chant utilizing both Byzantine and Western notations and translations of liturgical texts for Orthodox churches around the world since 2012. In that time, AGES Initiatives has developed a full suite of digital texts designed to facilitate the study of Byzantine chant in a variety of languages for those at church, at home, or in the classroom.

The acquisition of the Digital Chant Stand, the most popular resource of the AGES Initiatives, will allow the Archdiocese to continue its mission to enhance the worship experience of the Orthodox faithful by supporting the liturgical arts and making them widely available with meaningful translations and modern technology. The Rev. Hieromonk Seraphim Dedes will join the Archdiocesan Staff as Digital Liturgical Content Manager, Liturgical Translator and Typikaris; Mr. Richard Barrett will join the Archdiocese in the Office of Liturgical Texts and Translations.

“It is with great joy that we are able to announce the inclusion of this wonderful resource within the music ministry and sacred worship of our Archdiocese,” commented His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. “Our aim

has always been to supplement the ongoing needs of our Church musicians by providing them with the necessary resources and bilingual materials to properly fulfill their duties within the divine services. Therefore, with this new acquisition, we remain committed to supporting the efforts currently taking place across the Archdiocese to meet the contemporary musical and liturgical needs of our parishes.”

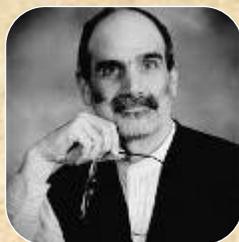
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, through the continued work of Fr. Seraphim, will maintain the Digital Chant Stand as an official Archdiocesan resource, compiling service texts and musical scores for the entire liturgical year in both Greek and English, and distributing them electronically via the Digital Chant Stand website and the new GOA Digital Chant Stand mobile app.

The acquisition of the Digital Chant Stand is the first step towards a broader vision of liturgical revitalization in the Holy Archdiocese. In June of 2020, the Holy Eparchial Synod approved the formation

of the Liturgical Arts Commission, which is led by His Grace Bishop Joachim of Amisos. The Commission serves as both a resource and an arbiter of texts and translations of worship and Scripture, musical adaptations, iconography, and architecture.

Throughout the course of the coming year in which the Archdiocese will celebrate its Centennial, the Liturgical Arts Commission will oversee the gathering of all relevant resources, in the aforementioned categories, into a single digital portal, enhancing these resources for the parishes and the faithful. The Digital Chant Stand has been made possible by the generous support of Leadership 100.

*To visit the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's Digital Chant Stand, please visit <https://digitalchantstand.goarch.org>.*



Fr. Seraphim Dedes started AGES Initiatives at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church. He was with us for almost 12 years, first as Choir Director before founding Ages Initiatives. While under his direction many hymns were translated into English and our parish has been greatly blessed because of his dedication. He also produced many beautiful programs at Christmas and during Vacation Church Camp. His Christmas production and telling of Jesus' birth was inspiring to all of us who were blessed to be able to experience it. We felt transported back in time as we watched the full story unfold before us. He was a blessing to our community and we are thankful for the time he was with us. ❖



## FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

The pictures featured here are from the feast of our Lord's Transfiguration (August 6). On the day we recapitulate the revelation of the uncreated Light of God by Jesus Christ, while the disciples Peter, James, and John were overshadowed by a bright cloud and heard the voice of the Father proclaiming, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him", shafts of sunlight through incense smoke formed a "bright cloud" in our temple. May we all be filled with the divine, uncreated light of God! ❖



## THANK YOU LETTER FROM ST. HERMIONE HOME



**ST. HERMIONE HOME, INC.**  
P. O. Box 79177, Charlotte, North Carolina 28271

**ST. HERMIONE HOME MISSION: TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE HOME FOR HOMELESS WOMEN TO GIVE BIRTH AND SPIRITUALLY DEVELOP AND NURTURE THE MOTHER AND CHILD BOND, ACCESS TO FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND TRAINING TO LEARN PARENTING, PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS ENABLING ACHIEVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY, LEAVING HOMELESSNESS AND LIVING A QUALITY LIFE AS A FAMILY.**



2020 St. Nektarios 5K Race Team  
3108 Kuykendall Rd,  
Charlotte, NC 28270

June 22, 2021

Dear 2020 St. Nektarios 5K Race Team,

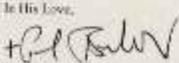
The Board of Directors of the St. Hermione Home (SHH) would like to thank you for your recent donation. Your generous gift will help the SHH fulfill its mission of providing a loving and nurturing environment for pregnant women affected by homelessness. SHH will offer spiritual support, vocational training, parenting classes, as well as adoption services.

Additionally, SHH weekly offers free medical care, clothing, food, and in person prayer support to the homeless in the greater Charlotte area.

The inspiration for the SHH comes from the actual life of St. Hermione, a first century Saint of the Eastern Orthodox Church. She was a trained physician who purchased a home and there offered both medical care as well as lodging for the poor and homeless. Additionally, St. Hermione also provided strong spiritual support to all she helped which led to healing of the whole person. As she never accepted any payment in return for her services, she is remembered as one of the first of the Holy Unmercenary Saints of our Church. Additionally, her home is credited as perhaps the first hospital-hostel in the early Christian Church.

We pledge to prayerfully use your donation for the further development and operation of the mission of SHH. We will continue to ask for the intercessions of St. Hermione to our Lord Jesus Christ to bless and guide these efforts.

**Your Offering Information**  
Amount: \$14,500.00  
Check Number: 2062  
Date: 3/25/2021

In His Love,  
  
Fr. Paul Tsahakis  
President

St. Hermione Home, Inc. is an IRS 501(c)(3) approved tax-exempt entity.  
In accordance with IRS rules, St. Hermione Home, Inc. acknowledges that no home nor provided any goods or services in exchange for this offering.

The letter on the left is from St. Hermione Home, Inc. transcribed by Kim Sheree' Braswell.

Dear 2020 St. Nektarios 5K team, The Board of Directors of the St. Hermione Home (SHH) would like to thank you for your recent donation. Your generous gift will help the SHH fulfill its mission of providing a loving and nurturing environment for pregnant women affected by homelessness. SHH will offer spiritual support, vocational training, parenting classes, as well as adoption services.

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Amount: \$14,500.00

In His love,

Fr. Paul Tsahakis +  
President

## WORKING IN HIS VINEYARD: MISSIONS AND PHILANTHROPY MINISTRY

*“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26*

*“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”.*  
James 2:26

### Harvest Food Donation Program



**T**hank you to all the volunteer drivers who participated in this program to deliver donated food products to the needy and hungry in Charlotte!!

St Nektarios Missions & Philanthropy Ministry has been a participant in a food donation program beginning on Sept 2, 2011, with the Starbucks Second Harvest donation of unsold pastries rotating out of their inventory. That program began with one Starbucks store location (Indian Trail) assigned to St. Nektarios for pick up by the volunteer drivers. One assigned store grew to four with the addition of Blakeney,

Waxhaw, and Stonecrest locations. A cadre of volunteer drivers, working on a schedule, picked up donated pastries twice a week and delivered them to the Matthews Help Center (MHC). We stopped picking up from Starbuck on April 23, 2018,. Total pieces donated, picked up, and delivered tallied to 68,446 over the after six and a half years of our participation. Reasons for the cessation of the Starbucks pick-ups included, recruiting more drivers, unhealthy caloric content, and decreased donation quantities, so as to make it an inefficient use of volunteer time.

The pick-up duty then became the Food Donation Connection Program called Harvest. It included a much more comprehensive list of restaurant and food store entities participating in donating food products to feed the hungry. Assigned to St. Nektarios were, a Carrabas Restaurant on May 5, 2018, a Whole Foods store on July 3, 2018, an Outback Restaurant on July 23, 2019, and a Longhorn Steakhouse on December 1, 2020. Donated food was picked up every week and grew from a trunk full to a completely packed sedan filled with donated food stuffs for the hungry. That situation overwhelmed the capacity at MHC, so it was then donated to

St Paul's Soup Kitchen (now with Roof Above) and also the Men's Shelter (Roof Above), with an intermediary stop at Samaritan's House for a small portion that they might put to use for the several people they house in their recovery from hospital illnesses. I have not calculated the poundage of goods donated, but surely it is in the several thousands of pounds.

St. Nektarios has now stopped its participation in the Harvest food donation program because the recipient beneficiaries have been well supplied by the larger community, and their limited capacity was unable to accommodate more; or they did not have the manpower to unload the insulated bags of refrigerated foods. I guess this should be seen as a success story, that the need has been sufficiently met at these locations by the Charlotte community as a whole. Our contribution is no longer needed and volunteer efforts can now be directed to help others that we were not able to help before in other places. Thank you again to everyone who put time, energy and love into these life-changing efforts over the many years. You are a blessing.

Tim Klund

## CARPETING AND PAINTING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER OFFICES

**T**he dreaded day finally arrived when we had to say goodbye to our beloved wall graced with the names of parishioners past and present, each measuring their height, with Big Foot, of course (added by Fr. Steve) being the tallest and Jessie, (Mike & Ritsa's beloved doggie) being the shortest.

On this page you will see a photo to commemorate the occasion.

On a happy note, we were able to carpet and paint Fr. Nektarios' office, the Admin. office the downstairs kitchen/breakroom and the back office. We have previously carpeted and painted Fr. Andreas' and Evelyn's offices. It was quite an endeavor. Thank you to Tim Shelton and Charlie Hubbard for helping facilitate this major project. ❖



## FEAST DAY OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS COMMUNITY PANAGIRI

After a year of separation, we were able to gather together again for the feast day of the Dormition of the Theotokos. We celebrated the Divine Liturgy together followed by a Community Panegyri in her honor. Many thanks to all who helped put this event together, some of whom are pictured here on this beautiful day. ❖



## ST. PHANOURIOS FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



Photo above: Fr. Nektarios blessing the phanouropita made by members of our community

The feast day of St. Phanourios is dear to my heart as you may know. Many pray asking for his intercessions for lost objects during the year. When the object is found, we bake a "phanouropita" (little cake for him) in thanksgiving. I have made a few myself. He asks that we say a prayer for the souls of his mother and sister as a thanksgiving sacrifice. Our greatest prayer is the return of lost souls back to our community, to Christianity and to our Lord. His feast day is celebrated each year on August 27th.

Kim Sheree' Braswell



## TONSURING OF ACOLYTES AND ACOLYTE ORIENTATION

Four of our acolytes were tonsured by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios on Sunday, July 11th.

Acolytes pictured at right from left to right:

Michael Azar, Joshua Cockinos, Gabe Tristano & Vlad Prybeha

Pictured in the box below are photos from our acolyte orientation.

*\*\* If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an acolyte please contact the office.\*\**



### ACOLYTE ORIENTATION



In August the new and returning acolytes met for their orientation following Divine Liturgy. The young men learned about what it means to serve in the altar and why their role is so important in the life of the church. Acolytes, like the clergy, mimic and reflect how the angels minister to God in the heavenly liturgy. We pray that the acolytes continue to learn and grow in their faith through this important role they hold in the liturgical life of the church. May God Bless our Acolytes!

+Fr. Nektarios



## YOUTH MINISTRY

The new academic year began with a blessing of our college students **(below)** and a blessing of our elementary, middle, and high school students and their backpacks. **(right)**

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and successful new school year!



**Above:** Our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts hosted their annual "Join the Fun" open house on August 29. If your child is interested in Scouting, please contact youth ministries.



On August 7, our St. Phoebe Ministry attended a prosfora baking workshop led by Christie Asimos. From kneading the dough to pressing the seal while saying the Lord's Prayer to the finished loaves, the girls learned about every aspect of this important tradition. The prosfora baked by the girls was used during the Liturgy the following Sunday.

**Photo on right:** There are not enough ways to say thank you to Mike and Ritsa Neary for all that they do for our kids at St. Stephen's Camp each summer. From preparing and serving meals, to transportation, to alleviating homesickness with their love and kindness, we thank you both from the bottom of our hearts!



## St. Luke the Evangelist October 10th



This Apostle was an Antiochian, a physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated both works to Theophilus, who, according to some, was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolical beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, as Saint Irenaeus says.

### Apolytikion of Luke the Evangelist

#### Third Tone

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede to our merciful God, that He may grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

### Kontakion of Luke the Evangelist

#### Fourth Tone

As a disciple of the Word of God, with Paul you illuminated all the earth and dispelled the gloom in writing Christ's divine Gospel.

<http://www.goarch.org>

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## OUR MISSION:

*St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to the continuation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's ministry of salvation through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel; through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and through loving service to God and to mankind.*

## OUR VISION:

*The community will provide a loving, caring and welcoming environment where all belong and grow in the faith through worship, service, witness, and fellowship.*

## DIRECTORY

**Church Office:** 704-708-4669

**Church Fax:** 704-846-6094

**Email:** [office@stnektarios.org](mailto:office@stnektarios.org)

**Website:** [www.stnektarios.org](http://www.stnektarios.org)

5108 Kuykendall Rd. Charlotte, NC 28270

**Father Andreas Houpos**, Proistamenos

Cell Phone: 980-333-9567

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**Father Nektarios Karantonis**, Ephemerios

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Email: [frkarantonis@stnektarios.org](mailto:frkarantonis@stnektarios.org)

**Father Steve Dalber**, Pastor Emeritus

Cell Phone: 704-451-6524

Email: [frdalber@stnektarios.org](mailto:frdalber@stnektarios.org)

**Father Paul Tshakis**, Presbyterian

### 2021 Parish Council

**President:** Christina Bonderer

**Vice President:** Despina Gallis

**Treasurer:** Vacant

**Assist. Treasurer:** Aka Vashakidze

**Secretary:** Nadine Rosekrans

**Assist. Secretary:** Mike Burgan

**Members:** George Bacogee, George,

Elissa Bahanovich, Nadia Francis,

Doug Sistare and Dimitri Triantafyllides

**Parish Administrator**

Evelyn Klund

**Administration Staff**

Silva Awaimrin, Kim Braswell, Samara Clewell

Niki Kleto, and Sofia Nicolopoulos

**Director of Youth Ministries**

Helen Giles

**Property Manager**

Tim Shelton

**Music Directors**

Jeff Clewell, Dina Marinakos-Oara

### Philoptochos Board

**President:** Charlotte Nickolopoulos

**1st Vice President:** Madalina Lowen

**2nd Vice President:** Deidre Lepkowski

**Recording Secretary:** Sharon Koutroumpis

**Corr. Secretary:** Michaelina Antahades

**Treasurer:** Evelyn Klund

**Ass't. Treasurer:** Dee Hatjioannou

**Advisor:** Niki Kleto

**Members:** Helen Bakos, Katherine Cestrone,

Phyllis Gianakopoulos, Renee Keretses and

Christine Malatras

(Email: [philoptochos@stnektarios.org](mailto:philoptochos@stnektarios.org))

## SUNDAYS AT SAINT NEKTARIOS

### Worship

**Matins 8:00 a.m. and**

**Divine Liturgy 9:15 a.m.**

**Fellowship Coffee:**

Following Divine Liturgy

### Prosfora

Please contact the church office or Christie Asimos at 704-756-1512 if you would like to provide or sponsor Prosfora.

### Coffee Hour

Please contact the church office if you would like to host or co-host a Coffee Hour on Sunday. Your Stewardship pays for the coffee hour refreshments provided by the Hospitality Ministry Team.

### Flowers

You may donate flowers in honor of a family member's feast day, in memory of a loved one or friend, on the occasion of a holiday, or simply as a gift to the community of St. Nektarios. To donate flower arrangements to be placed at the Iconostasis, St. Nektarios Shrine or in the Narthex for Sunday Services, please contact the church office to reserve a Sunday.

### Sacramental Wine & Pure Olive Oil

You may make a financial gift to help defray the cost of the sacramental wine that is used for Holy Communion. Please note on the memo line of your check or on the envelope "Communion Wine". You may also donate a bottle or can of pure olive oil which is then blessed at the Shrine of St. Nektarios and is offered in the anointing kits. Please feel free to bring this with you to any of our services and give to an usher on duty. For additional information contact the church office.

### UPCOMING DEADLINE

#### Newsletter & Bulletin Due Dates:

Information Due: November 9, 2021

Published: November 16, 2021