

Trans-a-Gram

Rev. Demetrios T. Costarakis, Pastor

Nicholas G. Pappas, Editor



Vacation Church Camp

Penny Kourniotes, the granddaughter of Eleni Spandagos, shows one of the icons made by her grandmother to children attending the parish's 15th-annual Vacation Church Camp, which took place the week of July 28. The session on painting religious icons was just one of the ways that camp organizers introduced nearly 100 children to the Orthodox faith.

Story, more photos on Pages 4-5. (Photo by Arthur Sparages)

Inside this issue

Fr. Demetri's message 2

The start of a new school year in September also signals the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year for the church and its members. It's also a good time to ask ourselves whether we learned anything last year.

Winter hours begin Sept. 21

The parish will resume a more traditional schedule of services on Sept. 21. As in the past, the Orthros will begin at 9 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. That Sunday also will mark the start of Sunday School and the return of the choir to the loft.

Greek Fair '08 8

Organizers are putting the final touches on Greek Fair '08, this year's fall fundraiser. The two-day event, which in recent years has taken place in June, is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 13-14. If you haven't signed up to help yet, please do so as soon as possible.

FATHER DEMETRI'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year awaits us this month

By **FATHER DEMETRI COSTARAKIS**
Pastor



It is back to school time! It is time to rush to the stores and buy the necessary items that are needed for the year. Maybe we need new backpacks, calculators, notebooks and computers – all the things that we need to make this upcoming year a successful year.

Isn't it ironic that at the same time we are ready to begin another school year, we are prepared to go back to work after a nice vacation, or are ready to start a new position at work, we forget we are also starting something new this month: a new ecclesiastical year!

Happy New Year! Yes, we are celebrating a new year; let me explain. On Sept. 1 of every year, our Orthodox Faith celebrates and begins its new ecclesiastical year. And as we begin a new Church year, we need to be very realistic of so many things concerning our lives. Our commitments need and should be to God, our Church and our families.

As we prepared and are now preparing for this new school year, we need to prepare even more so for our new Church year. If one has worked hard the year before, completed all assignments, and were *always present* in school, one advances or graduates to the next grade or to a higher level.

We, too, need to emphasize this with our Church. Did all us really learn something more about our Faith this past year? Were we *always present* on our Lord's Day?

In order for us to grow and mature in the Faith, we must have love. All work is empty when there is no love invested in it.

To work with love means to weave the cloth with threads drawn from your heart, as if your most beloved person were to wear that cloth. To work with love is to build a house with affection, as if your family were to dwell in that house.

To work with love is to turn your studies into a celebration with the breath of your own spirit, the spirit of life breathed into you by God at the time of your creation. To work with love is to transform your uncaring attitude toward God and His Church into care; your lack of concern into concern; your lack of commitment into commitment; your reaction into action; your negativity into positive and creative thinking. To work with love is to let go of the man-made crutches you may hold on to and replace them with a tight grip on God, who is love!

We all know by now that the Holy Relic of St. Andrew the First Called Apostle has been taken from our chapel. No matter what our initial reaction was, no matter what we are still feeling either toward the situation or toward the individual(s), we know that we must have one thing: LOVE.

The Holy Relic was given to our Church family because of love. The Relic was venerated by us the faithful out of love. Therefore as Scripture states, let us greet each other with a holy kiss, and by doing this we are still a community founded, structured and teaching the Love of God!

HOW TO REACH US

Pastor: The Rev. Demetri Costarakis
Secretary: Jeanne Brady
Address: Father John Sarantos Way, Lowell, MA 01854
Telephone: 978-458-4321 **Fax:** 978-458-8726
Church e-mail: transfig@hotmail.com
Father Demetri e-mail: demetric@imail.goarch.org
Web page: www.transchurch.org
Office hours: Secretary: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.;
 Priest: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Editor: Nick Pappas
Telephone: 603-886-4717
E-mail: npappas05@comcast.net

Feast of the Holy Cross



The Feast of the Holy Cross is placed within such a liturgical setting: 40 days after the Transfiguration of our Lord. This great and holy day of the church is one of strict fast, equal to Great and Holy Friday of Holy Week. This year the Feast Day of the Holy Cross falls on a Sunday, and we will all be able to take part with the procession of the Holy Cross elevated high in the air, covered with basil. The Cross is the symbol of VICTORY! Please attend church on Sept. 14 as a family so we may rededicate ourselves to our Lord, who has given us victory over death!

Church Services

Schedule of Services (As of Sept. 21)

Orthros 9 to 10 a.m. / Divine Liturgy 10 to 11:30

Special Services

Sept. 1 (Monday) Beginning of the Indiction
Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.

Sept. 8 (Monday) Nativity of the Theotokos
Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.

Sept. 16 (Tuesday) St. Sophia
Great Vespers: 6 p.m.

Sept. 17 (Wednesday) St. Sophia
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

Sept. 26 (Friday) St. John the Evangelist
Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.

Sacraments

Baptisms:

Amaya, daughter of Garid and Jennie Flood. Godmother:
Christy Gorman. (July 26)

Weddings:

David Meade and Marina Kalergis, Koumbaro/
Koumbara: Douglas and Gail Philipon. (June 22)

Lloyd Purville and Catherine Karagozie. Koumbara: Re-
becca Karagozie. (Aug. 16)

Monthly Trisagia

Names of the deceased are read the first Sunday of each month. Please send the names to be read in advance, listing the month you would like them read. If you would like the name to be read in Greek, please include the Greek spelling along with the English. If you have any questions, call Dyanne Mitropoulis at 978-256-2056.

JULY/AUGUST TRISAGIA (Additional Names)

Elias Diamantopoulos	Jack Loeschin
Sophia Diamantopoulos	Martin P. Martakos
Georgia Matsopoulos	

SEPTEMBER TRISAGIA

Catherine Abodeely	Scott John Laganas
George Abodeely	Despina Linardos
George Anastos	Koula Linardos
Leo Anastos	Nicholas Linardos
Peter Apostolakos	Yianni Manelas
Faye Barakis	Paraskevi Manolis
John Barakis	Martin P. Martakos
Georgios I. Bouras	Fevronia Mavrelis
Athanasia Chakalis	Thalia Milionis
Christy Chiklis	Demetrios Molivas
Nicholas C. Chiklis	Katherine Monoxelos
Sophie Chiklis	Helen Pappas
Peter Contos	Frances Proyous
George A. Danas	Peter Proyous
Patricia Danas	Grace Sawyer
Stephen A. Danas	Esther Stamas
Nicholas Dimakis	George L. Stamas
Oreanthe Dimakis	Ifghenia Stamas
Aphrodite Dukakis	Louis P. Stamas
George Dukakis	Peter L. Stamas
Helen Finocchiaro	Shirley Stamas
Elvira Kaknes	Dr. Theodore Stamas
Ernest Kaknes	Dr. Theodore Stamas Jr.
Emmanouil Kaknes	Arthur Tsatsios
Dr. George Kaknes	Chris Tsatsios
Richard Kaknes	Steve Xifaris
Dr. Theodore Kaknes	Fr. Stephen Yankopoulos
William Kaknes	Lambrini Yankopoulos
Soultana Kapsouris	Paskale Yankopoulos
Pauline Koniditsiotes	Gregory Zaralides
Stergios Koravos	Helen Zaralides
Arthur N. Koulios	Evangelos Ziogas
Charles N. Koulios	Stavros Ziogas
Stella Kouloheras	

VACATION CHURCH CAMP



More than 100 campers, counselors and staff members join Father Demetri at the front of the church for a group portrait at this year's Vacation Church Camp, which took place the week of July 28. T-shirts this year were green in honor of the Boston Celtics' championship season. (Photos by Arthur Sparages)

The Five Senses

That was the theme of this year's 15th-annual VCC

By **OLIVIA SINTROS**
VCC Coordinator

Time, talent and treasury were the secret ingredients to "Five Senses ... One Message," our theme for this year's 15th-annual Vacation Church Camp, which was held July 28 through Aug. 1.

The commitment of the time, talent and treasury of our parishioners and camp families is what has sustained our VCC program over the past 15 years.



Father Demetri, with the help of a Penny Kourniotes, explains the painting of religious icons.

About 100 young people in Grades Pre-K through 12, representing our parish as well as other parishes in the area, enthusiastically participated in the annual camp program.

The camp staff is proud of the 15-year program, which has provided young people in the Merrimack Valley the opportunity to enjoy summer fun while learning about their faith. We thank Father Demetri for his guidance and patience as he guided

(Continued on page 5)

VACATION CHURCH CAMP

Five senses ...

(Continued from page 4)

the staff in planning an exciting week for the campers.

We also thank Father Demetri, who during Orthodox Life educated us all in how our five senses are continually utilized in church.

We thank Toula Sparages for her 15 years of teaching campers the hymns of the Divine Liturgy, which for the first time were recorded and can be heard on our VCC Web site.

We thank Jill Laganas, assisted by Patty Corbin, for her 15 years of creating arts and crafts with the campers. This year, each camper hand-painted an icon on wood.

Thank you to Christina Tavoularis, assisted by Katerina Kalabokis, who coordinated a fun and well-organized athletics session each day.

What would camp be without the food service team under the direction of Angela Hastings? Each day plenty of snacks and lunch were available for everyone, thanks to the generous stewardship of the Parish Council, Philoptochos, Men's Guild and GOYA.

Thank you to Ann Tavoularis, who once again performed her T-shirt magic by providing camp T-shirts in 24 hours.

Thank you to Arthur Sparages, who as resident photographer has been capturing the campers for the past 15 years.

Thank you to the organization of group counselors Lynne Karagianes, Joanne Kalabokis, Cassandra Garibaldi and Vavara Stanchev, who were assisted by a myriad of junior counselors – many of whom began as campers eight years ago.



Top: Children have some fun playing with a rainbow-colored tarp during the athletics portion of the camp curriculum in a grassy area behind the church. **Bottom:** Campers try their hands at the coloring of religious icons during arts and crafts class. (Photos by Arthur Sparages)

A very special thank you to our own iconographer Eleni Spandagos and her granddaughter, Penny Kourniotes, who educated all of us in the process of painting an icon. Mrs. Spandagos' magnificent icons can be seen in our St. Sophia Chapel.

As always, we give thanks to the staff of the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center for hosting a record

number of 76 campers and their parents on our Friday field trip.

Father Demetri has been quoted as saying that our youth are not the future of our parish but the present.

VCC is testimony that our youth are indeed the present at the Transfiguration Church.

CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS



Our parish was well-represented at the 39th-biennial Clergy-Laity Congress Washington, D.C. Among the parishioners who attended either as delegates or family members were Andy and Yiota Simoglou, Patricia and Jack Mahoney, Ioannis and Daphne Zaralidis, Father Demetri and Presbytera Gloria Costarakis, Anthony Ziagos Sr. and Olivia and Spiros Sintros Jr.

‘Gather my people to my home’

By **IOANNIS ZARALIDIS**
Clergy-Laity Congress Delegate

The theme of the 39th biennial Clergy-Laity Congress was “Gather My People to My Home.”

At the opening ceremony, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios informed us that there are more than 3 million Greek Orthodox in the United States. In order to apply the theme of the Congress, we must become aware of people outside the parish. We must reach out to these people to gather them to our church.

Archbishop Demetrios also stressed that we need to reach out to young children, the interfaith marriage families and to the unchurched. The largest disconnection appears between the ages 16 and 35 years old.

What can we do to prevent this disconnection from happening? His Eminence suggested the need for committees to reach out to Orthodox

families, to introduce Orthodoxy and to gather our youth with meaningful activities such as athletic activities, dances and summer camps.

I attended the hierarchal session that Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh conducted. It was an open forum where many different issues were discussed. One such issue was reaching out to interfaith marriage couples, and many participants questioned why the Orthodox Church does not give Holy Communion to non-Orthodox Christians. The metropolitan said that is church policy.

At the Greek education meeting, we were informed that the country of Greece is considering sending Greek teachers to the Greek parochial schools. New Greek curriculum books are being published in Greece to replace the outdated editions. The archdiocese still supports the afternoon Greek schools and will send books free of charge to the afternoon schools. The possibility of offering

Internet Greek classes was also discussed.

At the plenary session, it was brought to the floor once again to change the biennial congress to every three years. The Archdiocesan Council will revisit the question. Delegates approved increasing the archdiocesan budget by 4 percent in 2009.

While at the Clergy-Laity Congress, I was honored to have the opportunity to meet and speak with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain.

I invited Archbishop Demetrios to visit us at the Transfiguration, and he said that he had visited once before when the Rev. John Sarantos was our parish priest and that he had blessed our mosaic icons. Archbishop Demetrios had wonderful things to say about our blessed Father John.

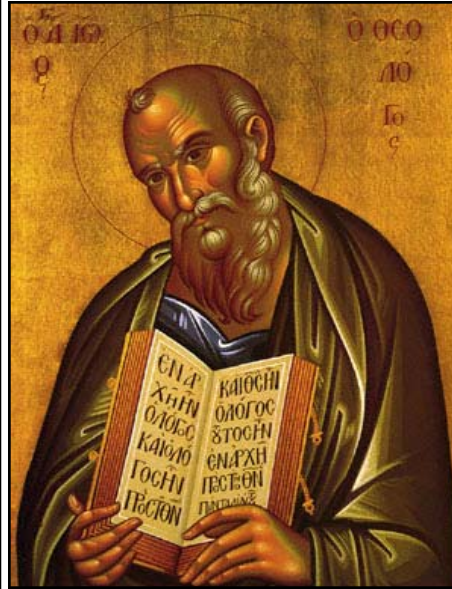
FEAST DAY OF THE MONTH

Sept. 26: St. John the evangelist

This Apostle was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and the brother of James the elder.

First a fisherman by trade, he became an Apostle and the beloved Disciple of Christ. Only he of all the Disciples followed Him even to the Cross, and was entrusted with the care of our Saviour's Mother, as it were another son to her, and a brother of Christ the Teacher. After this, he preached throughout Asia Minor, especially in Ephesus.

When the second persecution against the Christians began in the year 96 during the reign of Domitian, he was taken in bonds to Rome, and there was cast into a vat filled to the brim with boiling oil. Coming forth therefrom unharmed, he was exiled to the



island of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Returning again to Ephesus after the death of the

tyrant, he wrote his Gospel (after the other Evangelists had already written theirs) and his three Catholic Epistles. In all, he lived ninety-five years and fell asleep in the Lord during the reign of Trajan in the year 100.

He was called Theologian because he loftily expounded in his Gospel the theology of the inexpressible and eternal birth of the Son and Word of God the Father. It is for this cause that an eagle – a symbol of the Holy Spirit, as Saint Irenaeus says – is depicted in his icon, for this was one of the four symbolic living creatures that the Prophet Ezekiel saw (Ezek. 1:10).

Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Web site.

Relic of St. Andrew still missing from chapel



This photo of the relic of St. Andrew was taken prior to its disappearance. (Photo by Arthur Sparages)

By **NICK PAPPAS**
Trans-a-gram Editor

There are times when making international news can be a good thing for a Greek Orthodox parish.

Last month wasn't one of those times.

The theft from our chapel of a silver box containing a 2,000-year-old relic of St. Andrew attracted widespread media attention after "Holy relic rip-off" became the lead front-page story in *The Sun* on Aug. 8.

Father Demetri and other parishioners also were interviewed by *The Boston Globe* and several Boston TV sta-

tions. The story was then picked up by *The Associated Press* and spread to news agencies around the world.

"It's truly heartbreaking," Father Demetri told *The Sun*. "To anyone of pure faith, this item is priceless."

The relic of St. Andrew – one of the apostles and the brother of Simon Peter – was acquired by the church about six years ago and rested in a silver box on a mantel beneath the icon of St. Andrew in the chapel.

Locks have since been placed on the chapel doors, and the theft remains under investigation by the Lowell Police Department.

Greek Fair to break new ground

By **NICK PAPPAS**
Trans-a-gram Editor



For years, event organizers have wondered what would happen if we moved one of our traditional June festivals and food fairs to the fall.

Well, it looks like we're finally going to find out.

Greek Fair 2008, under the direction of Chairman Ioannis Zaralidis and the planning committee, will take place on the weekend of Sept. 13-14

The fair will open on Saturday at 11 a.m. and run through midnight, then reopen Sunday after church at noon until its closing at 7 p.m.

Here is a sampling of what visitors can expect:

- ◆ A wide assortment of Greek cuisine to enjoy on the grounds or as a dinner to go. Among the food items for sale will be lamb and chicken shish kebab, sausage, gyros, dolmathes, hamburgers and hot dogs.
- ◆ A pastry booth operated by our Ladies Philoptochos Society, including baklava and kou-lourakia.
- ◆ A *taverna*, or small Greek café, set up on the stage.
- ◆ Greek music for dancing provided by DJ Penny.
- ◆ A marketplace consisting of a half-dozen outside vendors, who will be supplemented by some of our own from inside the parish. Among the items for sale will be Greek imports, jewelry, photographs and notepads, religious items, icons and books.

TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH GREEK FAIR 2008

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
11:00 A.M. - MIDNIGHT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
NOON - 7:00 P.M.

GREEK FOOD ~ MUSIC ~ DANCING
RAFFLE ~ MARKETPLACE
KIDS TOWN ~ OLDIES 103.3 FM

FREE ADMISSION

TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
FR. JOHN SARANTOS WAY (CLARK STREET)
LOWELL, MA 01854
978-458-4321 ~ WWW.TRANSCHURCH.ORG

- ◆ Kid's Town, an area children can go play on an inflatable slide, have their face painted and other fun activities.
- ◆ Tours of our mosaic-adorned church led by our pastor, Father Demetri Costarakis, on both days of the fair. The tours are tentatively scheduled for Saturday at 2, 4, 6 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2, 4 and 6 p.m. The tours are expected to last about

30 minutes.

- ◆ A Sunday afternoon visit by representatives of radio station Oldies 103.3 FM in Boston from 1-3 p.m.

Regardless of all the good-intentioned plans, the fair will not be a success without your support – as both volunteers and as patrons. If you have not signed up yet to help, please do so at the church office as soon as possible.

Church News

Parish Council

By **CHRISTOPHER SELVAGGIO**
Parish Council Secretary

The Parish Council addressed the following issues when it met on Aug. 13:

Operating budget: Treasurer James Murphy reported the balance in the general account as of July 31 was \$10,143.74, down substantially from the same time last year. Much of the decrease was attributed to stewardship and candle offerings. As a result, the council is holding back some of its total commitment to the archdiocese during the summer months to help meet operating costs. Currently, the parish owes the archdiocese \$6,466.

Winter hours: The parish will switch to winter hours – Orthros at 9 a.m.; Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m. – on Sept. 21. The choir will return that Sunday, and Sunday School classes will begin. Registration for Sunday School will take place the previous Sunday of Sept. 14.

Prosforo classes: Presbytera Gloria plans to set up classes to teach parishioners how to make *prosforo*. A *prosforo* pan was purchased in July at the 39th-biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Washington, D.C.

Accident repairs : President Nikolaos Manolis reported that repairs to the church stemming from last winter's accident are complete. (See President's Report)

Next meeting: The council will next meet on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. in the boardroom.

Treasurer's Report

Here is a brief summary of income and expenses as of July 31 and how they compare to the same period last year:

Category	2008	2007	Change
Stewardship	111,163.24	115,878.00	-4.24%
Other income	104,896.53	109,627.28	-4.51%
Total Income	216,059.77	225,505.28	-4.37%
Expenses	205,916.03	181,668.91	+11.78%
Balance	10,143.74	43,836.37	-332.15%

Stewardship 2008

By **NICK PAPPAS**
Trans-a-Gram Editor

As might have been expected, the summer months were not kind to this year's stewardship program, which continued to fall further behind last year's figures at this time for both the number of returned stewardship cards and income. Seven months into the year, the number of stewards was down 26 or 6.1 percent (398 vs. 424), while income had fallen \$7,859.08 or 5.4 percent (\$138,176.12 vs. \$146,035.20).

Stewards (2007)	472
Cards Returned	398
Cards Outstanding	74
Return Rate	84 percent
Average Pledge	\$347.18 (+\$2.76)

As of mid-August, 303 stewards had fulfilled their annual pledge (\$92,224.88), while another 95 stewards had submitted \$19,017.84 of the \$45,951.24 pledged to the program over the course of the year.

Based on those figures, the only good news was the average pledge was up – though only slightly – from \$344.42 last year to \$347.18 this year, an increase of \$2.76 or less than 1 percent.

If you have not yet submitted your stewardship card, please do so by returning it either by mail or in person to the church office. If you have any questions or have misplaced your card, please contact church secretary Jeanne Brady during normal business hours at 978-458-4321.

Stewardship Summary

FAMILIES	AMOUNT
233	\$25 to \$300
125	\$301 to \$600
17	\$601 to \$900
17	\$901 to \$1,200
2	\$1,201 to \$1,500
3	\$2,000 and up

CHURCH NEWS

Philoptochos Society

By **SUSAN PAPPAS**

Philoptochos President



As we prepare for the new ecclesiastical year, Philoptochos will continue to support our parish as well as the many charities at the local, metropolis and national levels. We need each of you to help us with your time, talents and/or resources as we support all

these programs.

The work of Philoptochos is not seasonal. During the summer months, some of our ladies have been very busy. From Scholarship/Graduate Sunday to Vacation Church Camp to our Transfiguration Name Day, our Philoptochos ladies were very active. Thank you to all who were able to help with these events, including registration, program, crafts, T-shirts, kitchen snacks and lunch for the camp. Even though the camp is not a Philoptochos endeavor, the ladies can be found working in almost every aspect.

Name Day observance: On Tuesday, Aug. 5, the third and fourth generation of the Dristiliaris family – under the coordination of Georgia Dristiliaris and Daphne Easton – continued with the tradition started by their grandparents. They hosted a lovely reception after the vesper service, which was attended by about 165 people. Thanks to Christine Faneros, Patricia Mahoney, Yiota Simoglou and Olivia Sintros for helping the family with the preparations.

A special thank you to Mary Nicholaides for ordering the *artos* and to Demi Botas, Stella Couris, Corrine Dubay, Helen Georges, Sofia Karamanolis, Mary Kyriakos, Patricia Mahoney, Dyanne Mitropoulis, Joan Pappas, Angie Rigs, Susan Pappas, Presbyteria Niki Sarantos,



Name Day Luncheon

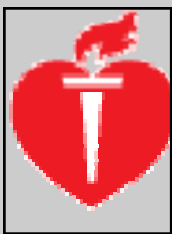
The Ladies Philoptochos Society once again sponsored the parish's name-day luncheon on Aug. 6. Among the members who assisted were, from left, Patricia Mahoney, Angela Hastings, Yiota Simoglou, Maria Tournas, Cathy Economou, Corrine Dubay and Susan Pappas. (Photo by Dee Dee Coravos)

Yiota Simoglou, Martha Sintros, Olivia Sintros, Toula Sparages, Christine Stamas, Maria Tournas, Mary Tsoumas and Agnes Yankopoulos for their donations.

On Wednesday morning after the Divine Liturgy, our ladies served a light lunch. Approximately 85 attended. Thanks to Dee Dee Coravos, Presbyteria Gloria Costarakis, Corinne Dubay, Eva Dukakis, Cathy Economou, Angela Hastings, Nancy Lane, Patricia Mahoney, Yiota Simoglou, Spike and Olivia Sintros, Maria, Sophia and Spero Tournas for all your help and support.

Board meeting: On Aug. 25, the board met and began planning a busy and exciting year. Discussion included the calendar, fundraising ideas, outreach and new ideas for the coming year. The board voted not to send post-card meeting reminders this year in an effort to save on postage. Two general meeting letters will go out listing the meeting dates and many events to all the membership in September and January, as well as the charities we will be supporting at each meeting. If you would like e-mail meeting reminders, please send your e-mail address to Jill Laganas at jilllaganas@yahoo.com. We have also changed some of the days of the meetings to try to accommodate everyone's schedules. It is only with everyone's participation that we can continue to be successful.

Heart Walk



Join the Transfiguration Church Family team as it participates in the Start! Merrimack Valley Heart Walk on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Samps Pavilion in Lowell. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the walk gets under way at 10 a.m. Parishioners can register during the coffee hour by seeing either

Patricia Mahoney, Susan Pappas and Daphne Zaralidis. Or they can register online by going to the Web site www.merrimackvalleyhearwalk.org. Proceeds from the event will benefit the American Heart Association.

(Continued on page 14)

CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 10)

No Bake Cake Sale: The chairladies for the annual No Bake Cake Sale are Alice Danas and Dyanne Mitropoulis. You should be receiving a donation envelope. The funds collected are sent to the Holy Cross School of Theology for seminarian scholarships. We have been very blessed over the years to have many young men from Transfiguration attend the school and receive these scholarships. The ladies will be holding a basket on Sunday, Sept. 14, for your donation or you can mail it to the church office. Please remember that we also need basil and some fall flowers for the Elevation of the Cross. Anyone who has cut basil should bring it to church on Sept. 14.

St. Basil's Academy trip: We are very excited to announce our day trip to St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, N.Y., on Saturday, Sept. 30, is a sellout. The bus will leave the church at 7 a.m. and will return between 10 and 10:30 p.m. Contact Martha Sintros with any questions at 978-453-4054.

Greek Fair: Once again, the Philoptochos will be running the pastry booth at Greek Fair '08 the weekend of Sept. 13-14. Anyone available to help bake or give some hours at the fair should let Susan know.

Tea date set: Mark your calendars for the 2008 annual Benefit Tea. Once again, we will hold this event on the first Sunday of December, Dec. 7. More information will be coming.

First meeting: The first general meeting of the ecclesiastical year will be Thursday, Sept. 25. Connie, Freda and Clara Gkolias will host a potluck dinner. All are invited to come to enjoy fellowship and to hear about plans and projects for the upcoming year. We will also hear about the adventures of Patricia Mahoney and Olivia Sintros at the Clergy-Laity Congress in Washington, D.C. If you would like a ride to the meeting, please call Susan 978-852-7737. See you on the 25th.

Men's Guild

By **FRANK STEVENS**
Men's Guild President



Guild at VCC: On Monday, July 28, the Men's Guild played host to Vacation Church Camp attendees. Chefs Michael and Frank prepared more than 120 burgers and dogs and assorted goodies for the children and adults at VCC. Our thanks to Angela Hastings and Olivia Sintros for



Name Day Vespers

The Rev. Nicholas Kastanas of St. Athanasius Church in Arlington senses the breads during the Great Vesper service of the Transfiguration on Aug. 5. Father Kastanas was one of a dozen priests from around the region who joined the parish in the celebration of its name day. (Photo by Nick Pappas)

inviting us to take part and to the entire VCC staff who prepared a wonderful week of religious and social activities for all our great children.

Greek Fair: All members are encouraged to offer whatever time they have to assist in this year's Greek Fair '08. Last year, Guild members played a big role in the success of our food fair and are expected to contribute their time and energy again this year. Let John Z. or Nick M. know what you can do to help to make this year's fair a great success. Also, the Guild will be sponsoring the appearance of Chris Papoutsy, who will be discussing his book, "Ships of Mercy."

Guild at golf tournament: This year's golf tournament will be held on Monday, Sept. 29, at the Andover Country Club. Many Guild members have participated in the past and are expected to "tee off" for another great day this year. Come join us for a great day, including breakfast, golf with cart, dinner, prizes and plenty of fun. See Margo D. or John Z. to let them know you will be with us on Sept. 29. The Guild will sponsor a hole (as always) and plans are going forward to encourage many members to take part.

Next meeting: The Guild will next meet on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. Be there with us for the kickoff of another active year for the Guild and our great Transfiguration Church. Plans for many 2008-09 activities will be discussed. Come join us for another great Guild meal and Guild fellowship.

(Continued on page 12)

CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

President's Message

By **NIKOLAOS MANOLIS**

Parish Council President



Building repair: Hello, everyone. I hope everyone had a great summer. We have been very busy all summer. The No. 1 project that was completed was the repair of the building damage. Everything was completed in two weeks, and the whole downstairs, classrooms and bathrooms were painted. The kitchen window over the "dishwasher" was removed and the inside was bricked and finished.

Kitchen plans: We have updated the plans for the kitchen and are in the process of getting estimates. We are also accepting pledges for the remodeling of the kitchen. Please be generous and help our parish with this long overdue project.

Maintenance update: Also in the works are additional cameras for the inside and outside of the church. In addition to all these repairs, the chandeliers are in need of emergency repairs. A company was brought in and quotes were given for the refurbishing. More information to follow.

Teamwork needed: Please again keep in mind we all need to work together to accomplish all of these projects. Not donating or supporting them does not hurt anyone individually, but it hurts God's house, and all these projects are needed for the future of our parish. Nevertheless, I also ask that everyone pray for the safe return of the relic of St. Andrew that was recently stolen from the church. God bless!

Budget Update

By **JAMES MURPHY**

Parish Council Treasurer



I have made mention of what it costs to run the parish in numerous articles in the Trans-a-Gram. This month is no different. Our stewardship is down a little more than \$15,000 from the same time last year and donations are also down by \$2,000. However, our expenses are up in excess of \$16,000 with no decrease in sight. Our remaining obligation to the dioceses is \$19,400, and our salary commitment is approximately \$40,000.

We need your support to help meet our obligations. We have two fundraising events coming up in September: our Greek Fair on Sept. 13-14 and our Golf Tournament on Sept. 29. Please plan to attend these events; if you cannot, please try to support them by sponsoring an advertisement in the ad book, donating a food item or sponsoring a golf hole at the tournament. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Sunday School

By **CONNIE GKOLIAS**

Sunday School Director



Welcome back: Well hello, everyone, and we hope you enjoyed your summer vacation. Believe it or not, Sunday School is just around the corner.

Registration info: Registration forms were scheduled to be sent out at the end of last month. Please fill one out for each child and return it to the church office or on Sunday, Sept. 14, which is Sunday School registration day and the second day of Greek Fair '08. On that day, children will attend the Divine Liturgy with their family, receive Holy Communion and will stay in church with their parents. After church, please come downstairs and join us for lunch, as our Greek Fair will be in progress.

Opening day: We will start our classes on Sunday, Sept. 21.

Volunteers needed: We are always looking for volunteers. Please see Connie or Hariklia on Sundays or call Connie at 978-851-7867. We all need to work together for our children.

Choir

By **LOUIS STAMAS**

Choir Director



The choir is happy to be back in the loft this month, rested and refreshed, and working on learning some new hymns. One of our bigger goals is to learn one or two different tones (modes) of the Doxology, at least one in English. Now, of course, is the ideal time for any parishioner to join us in the choir. We need more voices! Any parishioner should feel free to inquire by emailing me at loustamas@yahoo.com or phoning at 978-433-7917.

(Continued on page 13)

CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 12)

GOYA



Teen dance: The new GOYA year is getting ready to kick off. We will host a GOYA Teen Dance on Saturday, Sept. 27, and have invited area GOYAs to join us for an evening of fellowship and dancing.

Cancer walk: We will be walking in the third-annual Fall Festival for Life Cancer Walk on Sept. 20, which is hosted by Saints Medical Center. We plan to walk as part of the Dracut House of Pizza team and are anticipating a large number of GOYAns to participate.

Invitation for new members: The GOYA would like to extend and open invitation to all GOYA-aged youth. If you are in Grades 7 through 12 and are interested in becoming part of GOYA, please contact the church office and leave your phone number. If anyone has any questions regarding GOYA, please feel free to contact Pam Murphy, Kathy Doulamas or Joanne Kalabokis.

HOPE / JOY

By **SANDRA GULEZIAN**
HOPE/JOY Coordinator

Note to parents: During the month of September, we will be recruiting new members to HOPE and JOY, our youth organizations for children in pre-school through Grades 6 or 7. We will be available each week during coffee hour with sign-up sheets so please stop by.

Parent meeting: On Sunday, Sept. 28, we will have a parent meeting during coffee hour to discuss the coming year's activities. Please make every effort to come and join us as we make plans for the coming year. Your input is valuable to us. HOPE and JOY advisers include Andrea Garibaldi, Lynne Karagianes, Katrina McCann and myself. Anyone who might be interested in an advisory role, please let us know; we're more than happy to have you join us. Questions or suggestions may be addressed to: msgulezian@comcast.net.

Mortgage Elimination

By **JAMES MURPHY**
Mortgage Elimination Chairman

The responses have slowed down considerably since the initial push on mortgage elimination pledges. We need *everyone* to help eliminate this debt. If we have 239 families contributing \$300 per year, we could eliminate this



Congregational Singing

Melanie Pappas and Cassandra Garibaldi lead the congregation in singing during the Divine Liturgy of Aug. 17. Since the choir does not sing during the summer, Toula Sparages (who was away that week), Melanie, Cassandra and a few others have led the parish from the chanter's stand. (Photo by Nick

debt in 10 years. If you haven't contributed, please do so. If you can afford to give more than \$300, please do so. The key here is an *average contribution* of \$300. No contribution amount is too small. I ask everyone to remember a \$300 annual contribution is less than a 83 cents per day. Commitments can be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annually. If you haven't made a pledge, please do so.

Golf Tournament



The Transfiguration parish is one again partnering with the Annunciation Church of Woburn to sponsor a fundraising golf tournament on Monday, Sept. 29, at the Andover Country Club. "The Golf Classic," which is being held in memory of Greg Thomas this year, will begin at 9:30 a.m. with breakfast, followed by an 11 a.m. shotgun start and conclude with cocktail, dinner and a raffle at 5 p.m. The \$175 registration fee includes valet bag service, green fee, driving range, share of golf cart, continental breakfast and the dinner banquet. Golfers and hole sponsors are still needed. In order to register or to advertise your business, please contact Chairperson Margo DiBenedetto at 978-692-0616 or margodiben@prospeed.net or Ioannis Zaralidis at 978-441-0404.

(Continued on page 14)

CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

Coffee Hour

By SUSAN PAPPAS

Coffee Hour Coordinator

July 6: Sponsored by the Betses family in honor of the 90th birthday of Helen Betses.

Aug. 17: Sponsored by Mary Moskovitis, Mary Nicholaides and Mary Tsoumas in honor of their name day.

Aug. 24: Sponsored by the family of Andrew Spanos in his memory.

Anyone who would like to sponsor a coffee hour or volunteer to serve one should contact Susan Pappas at 603-886-4717, e-mail her at smpappas16@yahoo.com or see her on Sunday during the coffee hour.

Greek School

Registration open: Greek School is accepting registra-

tions and plans to begin in the middle of September. We have received numerous inquiries and valuable feedback from last year's survey and are looking forward to another exciting year. Depending on how many students register, we may need to have two separate days of classes. As of now, the plan is to have classes on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The school is under the direction of Nikki Ladakos. Please keep your eye on the Trans-a-Gram and weekly bulletins for updates on Greek School events and programs.

Newsletter Deadline



Transfiguration organizations are asked to submit entries for this newsletter as early in the month as possible and no later than the 15th. If at all possible, please submit your material by e-mail to Editor Nick Pappas at npappas05@comcast.net. Entries also can be faxed to the church office at 978-458-8726 or dropped off

in the office during normal business hours. It is important that all church organizations be represented in the Trans-a Gram, so please make an effort to participate.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

James F. O'Donnell & Sons

FUNERAL DIRECTORS since 1884

Serving members of the Lowell and Greek community for over 120 years...

276 Pawtucket Street
Lowell, Massachusetts
(978) 458-8768

John W. Crane

James F. O'Donnell, Jr.



New Owner Christos Maraganis welcomes Transfiguration Greek Orthodox church members...

The Best PRIME RIB this side of Boston...

Fresh Seafood daily...

Only the finest hand-cut steaks & chops cut on premises..

Private function halls to 120 people...

The Village Inn Restaurant & function hall
544 Broadway Rd
Dracut, Ma.
(978)459-4114

Special Offer: Receive 10% off food bill up to \$10 w/this ad. Not valid holidays. Expires 12/31/08.

Morse – Bayliss Funeral Home

122 Princeton Boulevard Lowell, Ma.

LARGE Enough to Serve All, but Small Enough to Care

Privately Owned

Pre-Need Inquiries Welcomed


978-458-6841

Walter F. Bayliss, Jr.

SPONSORSHIP PAGE

Thank you for your support

JAMES MONOXELOS




NORTHEAST
REFRIGERATED DISTRIBUTING CO. INC.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE @ "WWW.NEREF.COM"
E-MAIL: jmonoxelos@neref.com
PHONE: 978-851-4747 x15 • FAX: 978-851-0383
1650 SHAWNSHEEN ST., TEWKSBURY MA 01876

George A. Malliaros
Attorney at Law

1794 Bridge Street
Suite #22B
Dracut, MA 01826
Tel: 978 452-6641
800 856-4449
Fax: 978 970-2461
Email: gmalliaros@aol.com
Web: www.attymalliaros.com



Trial Practice
General Practice

BLUE ANGUS CAFE 

34 Broadway Road (Route 113)
Dracut, MA 01826
978-937-1699

Black Angus Beef, Burgers, Fresh Seafood,
Steaks, Daily Specials, Catering
blueanguscafe.com

Olympia Restaurant

Open 11AM-10PM
Sunday-Saturday

- Dine-In
- Take-Out
- Catering




453 Market Street
Lowell, MA 01854
(978) 452-8092 • (978) 459-7652
www.newolympia.com

AD SPACE AVAILABLE

Contact Editor Nick Pappas
603-886-4717
npappas05@comcast.net

Mama's Italian Restaurant

1140 Lakeview Ave.
Dracut, MA 01826
978-957-7117



M. R. Laurin & Son Funeral Home
Funeral Directors
Louis M. Fazio, III
M. Richard Laurin ~ Scott Laurin
Pre-Need Counseling
Handicap Accessible - Ample Parking
295 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, Massachusetts
978-452-0121

Established in 1930

SPONSORSHIP PAGE

Thank you for your support

ASE
CERTIFIED
 PORSCHE BMW MERCEDES
 AUDI VOLVO HONDA ACURA
 TOYOTA NISSAN SUBARU VW
J&R Foreign Car Specialists Inc.
 ALL FOREIGN CARS WELCOME
 General Repairs Brakes
 Air Conditioning
 Tune Ups Exhausts
 Ongoing Factory Training
441-0404
 Mon-Fri 8AM-7PM Sat 8AM-1PM
 Lowell / Draught Line 429 Riverside St. (2 Blks From U Lowell)

PRINTING Solutions, Inc.
"For All Your Printing & Copying Needs"
 6 Carlisle Road • Westford, MA 01886
 Tel: (978) 392-9903 • Fax: (978) 392-9910
 Now offering!
 Large Format Document Scanning and Oversized Engineering Copies!
 Wide Format Color Output • Document Scanning • Multi-Color Printing
 Color/B&W Copying • Blueprint Reproductions • Desktop Publishing
 Business Cards • Letterheads • Envelopes • Flyers/Brochures • Forms • Labels
 Tickets • Invitations • Resumes • Numbering • Complete Bindery Service
Blueprints • Drawings We've Got It Covered!
 Email: pswest@comcast.net • www.printingsolutionsinc.com
 THE INFLATION BUSTERS
 Come to where you'll **get the best and save the most!**

EVANCORAVOS
 Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry
 Evan Coravos
 General and Aesthetic Dentistry
 75 Arcand Drive Lowell, MA 01852
 978.458.4921
www.coravos.com
 Office Hours:
 Days, Evenings, and Saturdays
 Smile with confidence!

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER by ANGELA
 Angela Hastings
 Wedding Consultant
www.anaffairtorememberbyangela.com (978)902-9602
weddings@anaffairtorememberbyangela.com
 Weddings and Special Events
 - Member of the Association of Bridal Consultants -

AD SPACE AVAILABLE
 Contact Editor Nick Pappas
603-886-4717
npappas05@comcast.net

TOP DONUT
 700 Aiken St.
 Lowell, MA 01851
 Tel.(978) 459-6113
 Store Hours
 Open
 7 days a week
 5 am. - 9 pm.
 Robin Ley

The Enterprise Bank team helps create successful businesses, jobs, opportunities, wealth, and vibrant, prosperous communities.
 Call 978-459-9000
EnterpriseBanking.com

 Member FDIC