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July August 2019 Newsletter

A Word from our Council President, George Yurchak

I hope all of you have had a great summer as the kids have started school, you have gone on great vacations with family to visit family in Greece, Russia, Ukraine, Romania and more beautiful places. In this issue, Holy Trinity's Parishioner in the Spotlight is Abiy Eyakem. Each year in July, Holy Trinity supports "Scoops of Hope" during National Ice Cream Month. We provide ice cream at our Fellowship Hour with donations going to the "Kids Make-A-Wish" Charity for kids that have terminal illnesses and want to make a wish come true. We also supported Focus North America's School Backpack Program by giving 24 backpacks to needy kids in the Biloxi School System. Gulfport's Galleria of Fine Art hosted Holy Trinity's Art Exhibit entitled "Gifts from Gods". Holy Trinity continued to support Orange Grove Library with its Youth Summer Reading Program for kindergarteners with Natalia Petrovskaya-Kirkby reading in Russian and Betelhem Seifu in Ethiopian. Inessa-Kalinovskaya-Ramsey received her Physician Assistant's Degree from University of South Alabama. We also celebrated the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15. Michael Young was confirmed into the Orthodox faith. Eva Magiros and George Yurchak's parents were honored by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios for celebrating their 72nd wedding anniversary.

Parishioner in the Spotlight – Abiy Eyakem

I am Abiy Eyakem, I am from Ethiopia, born and raised in the capital city of Ethiopia called Addis Ababa. As the majority of people from Ethiopia, I was born in an orthodox Christian family where my grandfather was a church priest, my father served as a Deacon and all my uncles, and aunts were servants of the church one way or another. I grew up as eldest with my three siblings, two brothers and a sister. We all got baptized and christened according to the requirements of Orthodox Church rituals.

Currently, I work as an Assistant Professor in Pharmacy at William Carey University. Prior to this, I was doing research and teachings at School of Pharmacy, Union University, Jackson (TN) and at School of Medicine, Addis Ababa University (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). God blessed me to visit and live in some parts of the world mainly due to academic pursuit. I lived long enough to understand the culture and language of India in New Delhi, Sweden in Stockholm and Germany in Heidelberg for my higher education and doctoral studies. In addition, I briefly (3 months) lived in Basel (Switzerland) as a research fellow in Pharma Company. Moreover, I visited a number of other countries in Europe and Africa for academic conferences.



It was in mid-November 2017 we as a family moved to Biloxi with our infant daughter of a month old. It was new life, new environment new of everything. Took us a few weeks to adjust before we visit The Holy Trinity Church. We came to the Church for the first time in December during the Christmas International Food Festival; finally, we attended our first Divine Liturgy at the Holy Trinity in Biloxi a couple of weeks later than the festival. Since then, the church congregation and community embrace us and we are very grateful for the love and affection we receive each day from every member of the church.

Since my childhood, I had dreamt of coming to the United States because this country offers ample of opportunities for those who want to succeed in life doing what excites them to do. Therefore, it has been the will of God to fulfill my childhood dream to become reality, thus here I am. the opportunity that I longed and prepared for all through, knocked at my door to come to US in Jackson, Tennessee, in July of 2014, I and am my wife (Ms.Betelhem) arrived together. Being in US, God also blessed us with our daughter (Yohanna). I am thankful of God for all these and it is my family's prayer for God to bless America.

“Scoops of Hope” Program Supports Kids “Make-A-Wish” Charity

Holy Trinity continued with its “Scoops of Hope” Program in conjunction with the National Ice Cream Month in July. We served ice cream during our Fellowship Hour after each Divine Liturgy during the



month of July and asked Holy Trinity parishioners to donate to this program. All donations go to a charity that supports terminally ill children. That charity is Kids-Make-A-Wish Foundation. The foundation spokeswoman said that through Holy Trinity’s generosity that “Make-A-Wish” works to make sure children experience the hope, strength and joy of a wish. They appreciate all that we do through our “Scoops of Hope” Ice Cream Program to help them grant wishes that leave a lasting and positive impact on our Mississippi children. Pictured are Korina and Lily holding ice cream.



Focus North America School Backpack Program

Holy Trinity continued with supporting Focus North America’s School Backpack Program which provides school backpacks filled with school items. The filled backpacks are given to students that can’t afford buying these items.

One of our parishioners donated the cost of the backpacks and other parishioners donated toward the school supplies that went into the backpacks. Nancy Malek and Virginia Freeman helped fill the backpacks with school supplies. Fr. Dean blessed all of the backpacks before Nancy Malek took them to Colleen Bosarge (pictured). The school backpacks were provided to the Biloxi School System to pass out to the disadvantaged school children from middle schools. A great program which Holy Trinity will continue each year. We received a letter of thanks from Focus North America.





Gulfport Galleria of Fine Arts Supports Art Exhibit by Holy Trinity

Helena Docherty arranged for the Gulfport Galleria of Fine Art to feature an Art Exhibit by Holy Trinity entitled "Gifts from God." Sheila Yurchak, Helena Docherty and Maria Loukatos went on local television interviews at WXXV and WLOX to help promote the art exhibit. Kudos to Helena Docherty and Sheila Yurchak for the beautiful set up of artwork from over 24 of our multi-cultural artists. The inspirational artwork included a diverse mix of paintings, prints, drawings, needlework, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, wood carvings, and crafts. Holy Trinity is blessed to have numerous gifted parishioners who were willing to contribute their own artwork to the exhibit. For the grand opening on August 1, Fr Dean came over from Mobile, and entertainment was provided by Eyler Coates (on the harp) and Laura Dobson (on the violin) who played beautiful music. The event was well attended. Greek pastries, drinks, and snacks were provided for all attendees. The exhibit will continue through the end of September.



Holy Trinity Helps Orange Grove Library

We supported the Orange Grove Library's Summer Reading Program for kindergarteners. Natalia Petrovska read to the kids in Russian, then showed them the Russian matryoshka dolls (which they enjoyed taking apart), and finally the kids enjoyed seeing their names written in Russian. Betelhem Seifu read a children's story in Ethiopian and then wrote their names in Ethiopian. Natalia and Betelhem engaged the kids and their parents. It was great having Holy Trinity bring our cultures into the Coast Library System. Last year we did Romania and Greece. Virginia Freeman and George Yurchak came to the Russian reading and George & Sheila Yurchak came to the Ethiopian reading.



Dormition of the Theotokos

Fr Dean celebrated Divine Liturgy of the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15 at Holy Trinity. In preparation for the Divine Liturgy, Soula Kesseling, Nancy Malek, Maria Loukatos, Akaterina Vamvakas, Eleni Vganges, Virginia Freeman, Melissa Schwartz, Melissa Dubovik, and Meri Ionescu decorated the Kovolukion on Monday August 14. They used white baby's breath, white carnations and red roses to decorate the Kovolukion for the Theotokos services.



Inessa Kalinovskaya-Ramsey Received Physician Assistant Degree

Sheila & George Yurchak and Tetianna Lassalle attended the graduation of Inessa Kalinovskaya-Ramsey from the University of Alabama where she received a Physician Assistant Degree. Shown also are her two daughters Margarita and Violetta. She was one of 11 chosen out of over 1,000 applicants to get into the program. Inessa and her daughters have performed folk

dances at Holy Trinity's International Festivals and at our 50th Anniversary for His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios.



Confirmation of Michael into Orthodox Faith

Michael Young was confirmed by Fr Dean Gigicos into the Orthodox faith. Hugh Donohoe stood up for Michael as his sponsor. His mother Petina was also in attendance to see her son become Orthodox.

His Eminence Metropolitan Alexis Honors Two Couples on 72nd Anniversary

His Eminence Metropolitan Alexis honored the Magiros and Yurchaks with a congratulatory letter. Both couples were grateful to receive it. Who says you can't find a "Pot of Gold" at the end of a rainbow?

Two sets of couples found that "Pot of Gold" and each other in 1947 when they were married. George Yurchak's parents, George & Helen Yurchak, and Evie Magiros's parents, John and Minnie Magiros have just celebrated their *72nd Wedding Anniversary*.

The Yurchaks and Magiros's said it was love at first sight and that they had finally found their soul mate. Their love for each other has endured for Seventy years, through the good times and some not so good – but their love has never faded and only grew stronger.

George and Helen (Harahuess) Yurchak are Russian Orthodox whose relatives immigrated to the United States and settled in the coal mining towns of



Coaldale and Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania. They met because George's brothers were dating Helen's sisters. George decided to go on a date and it was love at first sight for both of them. They soon married and moved to Rhode Island because George was in the Navy. Today they live in Arlington Virginia in a home they've owned since the 1960s.



John and Minnie Magiros are Greek Orthodox whose relatives immigrated from Greece and settled in Maryland, where they remain today.



Both our moms and dads are wonderful parents and great teachers who loved their children. They taught us important work ethics, responsibility, loyalty and especially how to love. They have always been there for their children.

It is a most wonderful thing to have parents who are a great team, who complement each other, and are devoted to each other, their family and their Orthodox faith.



The Yurchaks and Magiros's have similarities throughout their lives. They married in 1947, August and June respectively. Both dads served in the US Navy during World War II. Both moms were housewives, Helen working in a florist shop and Minnie in the family-run pharmacy. George Yurchak went to work for the US Marshall's Service when he retired from the US Navy and John Magiros became a pharmacist and ran his family's pharmacy.

The Yurchaks have 2 children - George and Marlene, 3 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. The Magiros' have 3 children - Anne, Evie, and George, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Our parents have fantastic personalities and are a joy to be with. It is an extraordinary experience to have outstanding parents and I and Evie look forward to visiting them as often as we can, as they grow older through their "Golden Years." Through their faith, their marriages have endured for *Seventy-two* years and "May God Grant Them Many More Years.

