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LISA GOUDEY

While in church one Sunday, I read in the weekly bulletin that the New England Diocesan Youth Rally was looking for counselors. I thought about it for a little while, but thought, "what would my volunteering really do?" I figured that they would find other people, and so I decided that I would forget about it. A few weeks later, there was another plea in the bulletin for counselors, and on top of that, our priest made an announcement after church that they were very much in need of counselors. I realized that I did not have a job this summer, and that passing up this opportunity again would mean a week of boredom for me, and possibly no camp for the campers. Not wanting any

children to be disappointed this summer because of something that I could prevent, and interested in a new experience, I decided to email the Diocesan Youth Director, Father John Hopko. After hearing back from Father John, he informed me that they were indeed still in need of counselors, and that they could use as much help as possible. It was then that I decided to be a counselor at Rally.

Rally uses the facilities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston in Contokook, NH. I was familiar with this facility because I had been to the camp that the Greek Orthodox Church sponsored, but that was a few years ago, and I had only gone for a couple of

years. When I arrived at the St Methodios Faith And Heritage Center, Father John Hopko took the Rally staff to dinner at a local pizza place. We had dinner and got to know each other a little better and became comfortable with each other very quickly. Everyone was very welcoming to me as I was the only counselor that did not know anyone else on the staff. When we got back to the campsite, we had orientation, and Compline and went to bed. The next morning all of the counselors went to Matins, had breakfast and a training session to be certified as youth counselors by the Boy Scout Association. We then prepared for the camp-

Rally to 4

FORCC Banquet

BARBARA ANN DIXON

The Annual Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut (FORCC) Benefit was held on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, in Bridgeport.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah, Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada was the guest speaker. He spoke about the role that FORCC plays in actualizing Orthodox unity on a concrete local level here in CT. His Beatitude noted how important it is to support Orthodox youth, and foster in them a vision for Orthodox unity, and he praised FORCC for support-

ing Orthodox youth in CT with scholarships. His Beatitude said that regardless what else was happening in the world, FORCC was an example of how Orthodox Christians can come together and make a real difference in the lives of the people.



His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH was the guest speaker at the FORCC banquet.

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Three Saints Church, Ansonia CT

BARBARA ANN DIXON



Three Saints parishioner Lew Nescott atop the summit of Mount McKinley, Alaska

On June 15th Lew Nescott traveled to Alaska for his three-week adventure of climbing Mount McKinley to raise funds for Breast Cancer. On July 2nd Lew attained his greatest personal achievement when he and his teammates reached the summit of Mount McKinley, 20,320 feet above sea level and the highest point in North America. Lew recently spoke to regarding his climb. Parishioners were enthralled with his description of the hazardous climb to the summit; the freezing temperatures the heavy survival gear they must carry and the trust one must put into the hands of strangers to ensure a safe climb and decent. All said they would be "too chicken" to attempt this type of activity.

Another hundred lap robes and prayer shawls, hand crocheted and knitted by the ladies of our parish, were blessed and delivered to the Griffin Hospital and Griffin Cancer Center. Another delivery of comfort robes and prayer shawls is scheduled for the fall.

Our talented resident artist, Tatiana Prys, had an exhibition of new paintings and drawings

to celebrate the Feasts of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The exhibit was on display for several weeks. Vocalist Liliya Bikbova, from Kazan, Russia, with a Masters Degree in music from the University of Kazan, sang numerous selections. We thank Tatiana for bringing and introducing us to Liliya.

June 28th was the Baccalaureate Service and Prayers for Completion of Sunday School. Congratulations to our graduate, Nicholas Timpko III. Also, congratulations to Kimberly Kruge, recent graduate of Dartmouth College. We wish them much success in their future endeavors.

Monday, July 6th, a benefit bike show was held at the Valley Diner in Derby for a young child who suffers from a rare gastric disorder. Logan Kline is being treated by a team of specialists at Children's Hospital in Boston. The event kicked off at 6:00 pm with Father Michael Roshak singing God Bless America. Thanks to the Vizzo family (Paul, Christine and Amanda) for coordinating this event.

Amanda Vizzo represented Three Saints at the Diocesan

Youth Rally camping and retreat center in Contoocook, New Hampshire and gave us an overview of her great experiences at this rally.

September 14th Father Michael served a Molieben for the return of students to Sunday school. Richard and Maryann Kendall will be in charge of the church school. Following liturgy, everyone enjoyed a potluck agape meal and warmly welcomed Peter Roshak, son of Father Michael, recently released from his 4-year incarceration.

Wednesday, September 16th, Paul Chaplick began the afternoon Bible Study. This year the group will study the Gospel of St. Matthew.

Please join us at our Food & Craft Fair – Friday, November 13th 4:00 – 8:00 pm Saturday, November 14th 9:00am – 4:00pm. Kitchen Opens 10:00am – 4:00pm Baked Goods, Homemade Ethnic Foods, Handmade Crafts, Tag Sale Treasures, Religious Articles, Raffle Baskets, Chinese Auction

Christ the Savior Church, Southbury CT

REV. J. SERGIUS HALVORSEN



Annual homecoming picnic at Christ the Savior Church

In the past several months, the Christ the Savior community has been blessed to welcome five people into the Church. Steve Sipperly was received on Holy Saturday by chrismation. Hannah Cole, the infant daughter of Sarah (Aleandro) and Don Cole was baptized and chrismated. We were also pleased to receive the entire Re family: Yanna and her daughter Sophia Re were baptized and chrismated, along with Brian Re, Yanna's husband, and Sophia's father, who was received into the Orthodox Church by chrismation.

We had a wonderful turnout

for the annual homecoming picnic on August 16. It was a joyful celebration, and we were extremely pleased to welcome home so many of our dear brothers and sisters.

On November 8 a number of parishioners celebrated the ordination of Fr. Theophan Whitfield at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Fr. Theophan is a son of the parish, and we give thanks to God as our brother enters into his priestly ministry.

This year Dn. Andrew Cuneo will be serving at Christ the Savior as part of his field education at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Dn. Andrew holds a PhD



The newly baptized and chrismated Hannah Cole (left) with her family and godparents

Christ the Savior to 3

St. Alexis Church, Clinton CT

VINCENT MELESKO

The 100th anniversary of St. Alexis' repose was celebrated on May 6th & 7th. Great Vespers with Litya were celebrated on May 6th with His Grace Bishop NIKON. The faithful and clergy of our deanery joining in the celebration included Fr. Steven Voytovich of St. Alexis; our Dean Fr. Vladimir Aleandro and Deacon John Zarras of Christ the Savior Church; Fr. David Koles of Holy Trinity Church; Fr. John Hopko and Protodeacon Paul Nimchek of SS. Cyrill and Methodius Church; Fr. Joshua Mosher of SS. Peter & Paul; Fr. Vadim Pismenny of Holy Ghost Church; Fr. Michael Westberg of Holy Transfiguration Church; Fr. Michael Roshak and Fr. Nicholas Timpko, Pastor Emeritus, of Three Saints Church and Fr. Vladimir Horoszczak, Holy Assumption Church. There was a light supper and brief talk about the

life of St. Alexis after Vespers led by Fr. Steven. On Thursday morning, May 7th, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated with great joy!

St. Alexis was sent to Minneapolis Minnesota in 1889 (Fr. Steven's home parish) from the Austro-Hungary Diocese of Presov where he served and taught at the seminary. He was among the first Uniate priests in America, however, due to conflicts with the Roman Catholic bishops in the U.S., Fr. Toth and a number of other Uniate clergy were received into the Orthodox Church. Subsequently, St. Alexis led many faithful to be reunited with the Orthodox Church both here and back in Europe. Among his travels he blessed the first Holy Ghost Church established in 1894 in Bridgeport, CT. Fr. Alexis died on May 7, 1909 and was buried at St. Tikhon's Orthodox

Monastery. It is interesting to note that St. Alexis Orthodox Church in Clinton began in 1994, one hundred years after St. Alexis visited Bridgeport and the same year St. Alexis was canonized



The clergy and choir, in procession, sing petitions on each side of the church during the Litya.

Holy Trinity Church, New Britain CT

EVERLYN CHERPAK

The Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos sponsored a brunch on June 15, Pentecost and Father's Day, to honor both grads and Dads and to celebrate our church's name day. Our graduates include Megan Bartos, who received a B.S. in Occupational Therapy from the University of New

England, Biddeford, ME, Christopher Dresko, our former choir director, who received a Master's Degree in Music from Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, and Christian Burrill who received an MBA from the University of Connecticut. Congratulations to all for their achievements.

On July 6th, the parish bid

farewell to Very Reverend John Dresko who served Holy Trinity for sixteen years, from 1989-2005. For the last two years he held positions in development and funding raising with the OCA and at Mary Wade Home, New Haven, CT. His new assignment is as rector of St. Paul's Church, Las Vegas, Nevada. We wish him success and many years in the vineyard of the Lord.

Christ the Savior from 2

from Oxford University, and is an expert on CS Lewis. We are also blessed with the presence of Dn. Andrew's wife, Erica, and his three daughters, Lucy, Brigid, Emma.

We continue to make progress with our work in Natural

Church Development. The first step in the process was to conduct a survey which allowed us to take an objective look at the quality of parish life. Based on the results of the survey, we conducted focus groups over the summer. This fall we will be formulating an action plan to

improve the overall quality of parish life.

The ordination of Fr. Theophan Whitfield at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Metropolitan Jonah presiding.



Rally from 1

ers to arrive.

When the campers finally showed up, we moved our campers into our cabins and went to dinner and later to Vespers. The days included a daily elective, which included options such as arts and crafts, sports, church reading, and hiking. There is something for everyone at Rally. I led the hiking elective with another counselor. We also had cabin cleanup, church singing, Christian education, quiet time and swimming at the waterfront. Each night we had a different evening activity, which included a scavenger hunt, water games, and on Thursday we took a trip to Canobie Lake Park. On the last night of Rally, the eve of

the Dormition Feast, we all had an opportunity to go to confession, and there was also a campfire. Each day we would have Matins in the morning, Vespers before dinner, and Compline at night after snack.

This camp experience was the best I have had, and even though I didn't know anybody when I first came to Rally, I still felt that I was part of a family. I personally plan on going back for many years and would recommend Youth Rally, whether you participate as a camper or as a counselor. Rally always needs counselors, so if you have ever had even the slightest interest in being a counselor at Rally, I urge you to participate in Rally. This year we had just enough counselors there to run the camp, but if one person had not volunteered, the camp might not have happened this year. The

number of campers that come to the camp increases each year and so the need for counselors becomes greater every year. Please volunteer if you are interested and help Rally keep going for these children. I will be very surprised if you don't have as much fun as I did. The friends that I made at youth rally; both counselors and campers are friends that I feel I will know for a very long time.



Singing the services in the chapel.



Rally Staff: (left to right) David Carmichael, Lisa Goudey, Nona Richards, Melanie Russell, Melanie Osuch, Fr. John Hopko, Matushka Cindy Voytovich, Donnie Carmichael, Tim Tassmer, Sharon Marshall. Fr. Dennis Rhodes was also a member of the Rally staff, but was not pictured here.



Fun in the sun at the waterfront.



The Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Economics of the Kingdom

REV. PAUL COATS

On our hearts and minds today, and on the hearts and minds of people throughout the world, is the state of the economy. The economy is said to be unstable right now. And here's one of the big question of the day: should we invest our money or keep it? I remember in economics class back in college, something impressed me as a fundamental truth, and our economics professor made a big point of it. The science of economics is based on the principle of scarcity . . . that is, there are only so many resources at any particular time and the motivation for investment, production, and trade is scarcity. St. Paul, in his second epistle to the Corinthians, speaks of investment, and in this case, it is probably the investment of money. In this epistle he is asking the Corinthian community to prepare an offering for helping some other Christian communities in need. St. Paul also talks about sowing. He says "he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2Cor 9:6) Paul is strongly advocating investing . . . and his meaning here is not simply that the people should invest money to get money back, but they should invest money to receive abundance from God in many forms, but primarily the blessings of the kingdom of God that accompany righteous acts. Why does he do this?

On what does he base

this?

While the investment principles of the world's economy, are based on the fundamentals of scarcity and demand, the economy of the kingdom of God is not based on scarcity and demand at all. There are some crucial differences between the world's economy, and God's economy in the Kingdom. In the world, the fundamental driving force of the economy is scarcity, but the economy of the Kingdom of God is based on abundance and availability. People came to Christ driven by their scarcity, uncertainty, lack of food, lack of health, lack of knowledge, insecurity, and lack of faith. Christ never turned them away. For Christ possesses an abundance of power for healing, abundance of teaching and wisdom, even abundance of physical food. This is still true today. Can you imagine Christ speaking about scarcity? Hardly! In our faith there is an abundant source of everything we truly need in life. And all of it is ours for the asking. Christ says "Ask, and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock, and the door will be opened. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, it will be opened to them. Or what man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how

much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:9-13) So, whereas we are conditioned to think about scarcity in this world, there is no scarcity, no competition for goods in the kingdom of God. Again, in St. Paul's words: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. . . . He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources, and increase the harvest of your righteousness." (2Cor 9:8-10) But, investment in the Kingdom involves a great deal of loss. Consider the Sower in the parable. (Luk 8:5-8) Christ implied that much of His own investment, the sowing of Himself as the Word of God, would be lost. In fact, perhaps most of that investment would be lost. How much seed was taken by birds? How much died before the harvest, either for lack of good root or being choked by the cares of the world? How many people believed in Christ then, and how many today? How many simply refuse His complete investment in them, and never bear fruit for themselves, for God, or anyone else? Most of what Christ invested, his teaching, his works of power and healing, his love for the disciples and for everyone with

Should we invest our money or hold on to it?

There are some crucial differences between the world's economy and God's economy in the Kingdom.

FORCC from 1

The following scholarship recipients were honored:

\$1,000.00 Smerznak, Medak & Kidwell Scholarship

– *Christina Pertesis* will be attending Fairfield University studying English leading to a degree in Education. *Adam Scot Centrella* will be attending Northeastern University in Boston doing a double major of Psychology and Music leading to a Bachelor of Arts or

Bachelor of Science Degree.

\$500.00 Memory of George Hallas Award - *Vicky Yiannoulis* will be attending Fordham University, New York. Course of study is undecided at this time.

\$500.00 FORCC Scholarship – *Julie Mesavage* will be attending University of California in Santa Cruz studying Health Sciences leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. *Demetra Mary Perry* will be attending Cornell University, New York studying Chemistry leading to a

Bachelor of Arts degree. *Rachel Wonneberger* will be attending University of Connecticut, Storrs, attending the School of Business leading to a Business Management degree.

A string ensemble composed of students from Warde Fairfield High School provided classical music during the event. The event was very well attended by close to two hundred people from many different Orthodox jurisdictions.

All Saints Church, Hartford CT

RUSSIAN TEA ROOM AND BAZAAR



The 36th Annual Russian Tea Room and Bazaar will open at All Saints Church, 205 Scarborough Street, Hartford, Nov. 6 with a Bazaar preview at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6:30 p.m. concert by the Yale Russian Chorus, after which there will be a reception with refreshments featuring Russian tea and cookies. Frozen ethnic

foods, etc. will be available to purchase. Tickets for the concert and reception are \$15. Admission to preview is free. Information and tickets may be obtained from Cathy Vargas (carv58@aol.com). The Bazaar continues from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7; and from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, with free ad-

mission. There will be a wide variety of hot and cold ethnic foods to eat in or take out; homemade baked goods and desserts; novel crafts; Russian imported gifts; Orthodox religious items; plants and flowers; Church tours; a free-drawing for a door prize, and more. Parking is free on all three days.

Kingdom from 5

whom He came into contact in this world, was ultimately lost. And for all His investment, He was rejected and killed. In the parable of the Sower in the Gospel, Christ foretells this. He foresees that the seeds He is sowing as the Word of God Himself, will not take root or will die before they produce anything. And yet, on the flip side, Christ changed the entire world, didn't He? And the Church continues to experience that change, as the Body of Christ, to live it. For in Christ we are all created anew, we are all changed in Christ. And the Church in turn invests

itself for the life of the world. And so we come to another difference in the economics of the Kingdom of God and that of the world: In the Kingdom of God, you can lose most of your investment, and still get a big return. On this point, we could also reflect on God's investment in the people of Israel, via the prophets. God invested over and over again, only to be confounded by a stubborn and rebellious people, over and over again. But, even after all that seed was apparently lost, some of it fell into good soil, and produced fruit. The best example of this, of course, was Mary, the Theotokos, whose obe-

dience and righteousness produced the fruit of the Incarnation and the whole Church. She was the good soil of the nation of Israel, and God's Word fell into her, and produced fruit. Or, we can think of St. John the Baptist, who produced the fruit of preparation for the Incarnation. God has lost most of His investment in the people of Israel. . . the prophets were killed, the people were destroyed and exiled. Not only did God lose most of what He invested, but He, Himself, would lose everything in making that investment. His investment was abso-

Kingdom from 7

lute and complete, He gave his entire being, body and blood . . . and You could say He lost everything in His death.

But ultimately the return was tremendous. This dynamic of total self-giving begins with Christ and extends to all who follow Him. For, he told His disciples they would have to do the same.

A final economic principle of the Kingdom of God is this: you have to be ready and willing to invest everything in order to have any hope of receiving something back. Not only is this witnessed to in Christ's sacrificial life and death, but also by the lives and deaths of the martyrs and saints in the life of the Church. To be a disciple means to be willing to lose everything for the sake of Christ and others. Christ plainly taught this and those who have done this we recognize as saints, and in fact we are all called to this in some form or another. How do we apply these rules of the Kingdom of God in our own lives? How do we go about allowing our minds and hearts to be transformed to live by these economic rules of the Kingdom that are so different from the economic rules that we are used to in this world?

1) The Seed which produces fruit is the Word of God, and that is Christ, the Word of God, in us. We cannot produce fruit without Him. We are the soil which contributes to the growth of the seed, but the seed is Christ and without that seed there is no possibility of harvest or fruit. We surround this seed of

Christ, with the good soil of our hearts, in prayer and the reading of Scripture, in order that the seed in us is not open to being trampled upon and stolen by the birds, but is protected. Remember: there is no scarcity in Christ, and we will have everything if we have Him; and we will have nothing without Him.



2) Never tire of investing, even when much of what we invest may be lost. Again, as St. Paul says: "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2Cor 9:7) This applies not only to the giving of money, but of other resources as well, such as time, energy, concern, prayer. We may not experience the return on our investment immediately, or in a way we might wish. But, remember, in the kingdom of God, you can lose most of your investment, but you can still get a huge return in the end . . . losing most of your investment will not limit your harvest, or your reward. And finally, if the third principle is that we must learn to invest everything, and be willing to lose it all, in order to have hope

of return, then:

3) Ask yourself: how is God calling me to invest? What is the next step to investing all for the sake of having Christ? Is it, in fact, loosing our grip on our earthly treasure? Is it, perhaps loosing our grip on some dependency that is taking the place of reliance on Christ? Is it, perhaps, admitting some wrong and taking that as an offering to the person we have wronged, or taking it to Christ with the witness of a priest in confession? Is it perhaps, the willingness to fast and release ourselves from an inappropriate dependency on food? Or, are we called to fast from some entertainment to hear Christ's voice? Each of us must seek what the next step is toward total investment. Thank God the economics of the kingdom of God are not as the economics of the world. There is no scarcity in Christ, and ultimately our investments are completely safe with him, and though they may be lost, will be returned to us a hundred fold. Do not tire in giving and investing, do not tire in the scattering of seed, as our heavenly Father has sown the seed of the Word of God, Christ, into our lives. Do not hesitate to take the next step, whatever that is, in a total investment in Christ. May God strengthen us for this, that we may reap the harvest and reward of Christ in His Kingdom.

Fr. Paul Coats is the Associate Pastor at Nativity of the Holy Theotokos Church in Charlotte, NC. He graduated from St. Vladimir's Seminary in 2008.

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O.N.E.

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Upcoming Events

Nov 6-8

Russian Tea Room and Bazaar

All Saints Church, 205 Scarborough Street, Hartford CT

Nov 6: 6:30 p.m. concert by the *Yale Russian Chorus*

Hot and cold ethnic foods; homemade baked goods and desserts; novel crafts; Russian imported gifts; Orthodox religious items; plants and flowers;

Church tours;

For further information please contact Cathy Vargas:

carv58@aol.com

Nov 7

Fall Food Fest

Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church

3125 North Main Street Waterbury CT 06704

10:00AM-4:00PM

Ethnic food, Baked Items, Religious and Ethnic Items for sale,
Tag Sale Table

Three Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers performing from 11AM–2PM

For further information please call: 203-753-4866

Nov 15

Deadline to submit parish news for the next issue of the ONE Newsletter.