

O.N.E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

Inside this issue:

Holy Transfiguration, New Haven, prepares for 100th anniversary	5
Three Saints, Ansonia Reflections on the Liturgical Year from St. Alexis, Clinton	6
ONE Stewards and the Diocesan Grants	8
	11

Right: Participants in Youth Rally enjoy the waterfront at Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage Center.



Word from Youth Rally 2014

Rev. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Director

This year was our 28th anniversary year of Youth Rally in the Diocese of New England. Rally took place from Monday, August 11, until Saturday, August 16, 2014. The staff arrived on Sunday evening, August 10, and experienced an evening and morning of pre-Rally orientation, training, and team-building, before the youth participants arrived on Monday afternoon.

Youth Rally 2014 was held at the Saint Methodios Faith and Heritage

Center located on the shores of Clement Pond in Contoocook, New Hampshire. We have been holding Youth Rally at the Center since the summer of 1999—this was our 16th summer there! The Center is a camp and retreat center owned and operated by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston.

Of the staff members, three were serving for the first time. We were grateful for the participation of Greg-



Above: The adults and kids of Youth Rally 2014.

ory Buzi, Shelby Duchow, and Jacob Mandell.

Greg is a member of Saint George Orthodox Church, Trumbull, Conn. Greg, who makes his living running his own house painting business, has previously participated in an Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) service-oriented construction mission to the emerging Orthodox Christian Church in Guatemala.

Shelby is a former member of Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church, Terryville, Conn., now attending Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Ballston Lake, NY. Shelby, a recent graduate of Roanoke College, Roanoke, VA, is a second grade teacher in the Albany, NY, area. She works at a privately run Christian school.

Jacob Mandell is a member of Saint Michael's Orthodox Church, Irvona, Penn., and a second year music education student at Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, Penn., where during the school year he attends Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission. Jacob is the second son of my sister, Catherine Mandell, and her husband, Raymond Mandell, of Clearfield, Penn.

We are very grateful for the willingness of these fine people to participate in Youth Rally as counselors. Greg gave up a week of work, and Shelby and Jacob both traveled from a significant distance to help us at Youth Rally.

As in the past, we also had use of the waterfront. While using the water-

front, we enjoyed the supervision of two lifeguards provided by the Faith and Heritage Center at no extra cost. The children and staff enjoyed swimming in and boating on Clement Pond. (The Rally Director even went fishing for an hour and a half one afternoon, with notable success!)

Rally Theme and Activities

The theme for Rally 2014 was "The Prodigal Son", meditating on our Lord's parable that is traditionally given that title. (Though, Fr. Sergius Halvorsen pointed out immediately in his keynote presentation on the first full day of Rally, that the Parable might well be known by other titles, since the "Prodigal Son" is only but one of the three main characters in the parable, and, arguably, perhaps, not even the most important one!) Presentations on the theme were given by all three of the participating clergy.

The daily schedule for Rally followed the rhythms that have been established during the past Rallies that have been held in Contoocook. Liturgical services are held mornings, afternoons and evenings in the chapel. This year we enjoyed for the fifth year the use of the improved Rally Service Books first prepared by Fr. Dennis Rhodes a few years ago for the 2010 Youth Rally. Choir Rehearsals and Educational Sessions are held in the earlier part of each day and other activities, such as time at the waterfront, arts and crafts, drama club, training in Church reading (chanting), sports and games, and trail walking, are held in the latter part of the day.

On Thursday of Rally, during the day, we went on our traditional annual field trip to the Canobie Lake Amusement Park, Salem, New Hampshire. We had been scheduled to go to Canobie Lake on Wednesday evening, but torrential rains that day forced us to adjust

our schedule and make the trip on Thursday during the day. For most of the Rallyers, this trip to Canobie Lake Park is a true high point of Rally.

We celebrated the Feast of Dormition this year at Rally with lovely festal services on Thursday evening and Friday morning. During the festal services we blessed plants and flowers later to be planted on the grounds of the camp. A highlight of Rally and certainly its appropriate culmination was the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on the last morning of Rally.

We were also very grateful that our much-loved Diocesan hierarch, His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON of Boston, was able to visit with us once again this year. His Eminence spent much of Tuesday with us at Rally and was once again interviewed by the Rally participants.

Rally Staff

In my capacity as Diocesan Youth Director, I served for the eleventh consecutive year as Rally Rector and Director. Fr. Dennis Rhodes again served as a member of the Rally Clergy and as Rally Choir Director. Fr. Dennis has been participating in Youth Rally for more than a decade now. For the fifth summer, Fr. Sergius Halvorsen served as a member of the Rally Clergy and assisted Fr. Dennis with choir directing. All three priests had an opportunity to preside and preach at the various liturgical services. Both Fr. Dennis and Fr. Sergius are accomplished preachers and fine liturgical celebrants, and add much to the quality of Youth Rally. The clergy also led our educational sessions.

Macrina Hopko, my wife, again served as Rally Nurse. Macrina holds mas-

ter's degrees in both Theology and Public Health. She is a duly licensed Registered Nurse (RN) in the state of New Hampshire, as well as in her home state of Connecticut, where she works as an Intensive Care Unit Staff Nurse at Bristol Hospital, Bristol, CT. Macrina is also a Part-Time Faculty Member of the School of Nursing at Quinnipiac University.

Lucy Hopko, our daughter, assisted her mother with the health care duties at Rally for the second year. Lucy is a certified emergency medical technician. Lucy is also a third-year student in the six-year Physician Assistant Program at Quinnipiac University. In addition, she works as a patient care associate at Bristol Hospital and has been a volunteer with the Wolcott (CT) Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Ten other adults volunteered as Youth Rally Staff in various capacities, primarily cabin and activity counselors: Julia Brockett, Gregory Buzi, Laura Chadwick, Shelby Duchow, Sarah Gaulin, Brian Kennedy, Stephanie Kennedy, Jacob Mandell, Melanie Osuch, and Timothy Tassmer.

Stephanie and Brian Kennedy, with the permission of the Rally Director, blessed Rally by bringing with them to Rally their 22-month old daughter, Brigid. Two years ago, at

Below: Many were involved in the choir for chapel services at Youth Rally.



Rally 2012, Stephanie was seven months pregnant with Brigid, while participating very actively. Last year, at Rally 2013, Brigid was with us as a 10-month old. This year it was once again a tremendous blessing to have this whole family with us at Rally. The Kennedys—Brian, Stephanie and Brigid—do a wonderful job of showing us all what it means to be an Orthodox Christian family. Their presence, as a family, adds tremendous value to Rally.



Above: Archbishop Nikon joined **Fr. Sergius Halvorsen** and the rest of Youth Rally for one day.

Below: Kids also had plenty of time for fun together.



It is vitally important to have an adequate staff. We are grateful that this year we were again blessed with a wonderful group of adult volunteers willing to give freely of their time, talents and even treasure, to serve as staff members at Youth Rally.

Rally Staff Preparation

Just before Rally, at the campgrounds in Contoocook, all fifteen members of Rally Staff gathered on Sunday evening and Monday morning, August 10-11, for Rally Staff Orientation. While covering many subjects pertinent to our week at the St. Methodius Center in Contoocook, the most important part of this Orientation was to remind the staff members of the principles of child protection.

This year, a tremendously valuable part of our pre-Rally staff training was mandatory participation by all 15 adult staff members in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Youth Protection Training Program.

On Monday morning at Rally we were greatly blessed to have with us Reader Stephen Bradford of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Willimantic, Conn., who is a certified Youth Protection Trainer affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America. In full Scout uniform, Reader Stephen led the entire Rally Staff through a training video and stopping occasionally during the viewing to answer questions and engage in discussion. All 15 adult members of Youth Rally 2014 staff are now certified in Youth Protection by the BSA and will receive documentation asserting such status. We thank Fr. John Bacon for arranging for Reader Stephen Bradford to join us at Rally.

Costs

This year our actual Rally fee receipts for Rally 2014 will be \$5125.00 in Rally fees, an average of only about \$150 per Rallyer. The actual cost of Rally is truly something more like \$685 per Rallyer, or about \$137 a day (or, if you prefer, about \$5.70 an hour!). We should understand that the Diocese of New England is *heavily* subsidizing Youth Rally.

Once again this year, numerous donations were made in support of Youth Rally directly to the ONE Stewards Program of the Diocese of New England. Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, New Haven, Conn., in particular, gave generous support to Youth Rally this year, and we are always grateful for the generous support of the Men's Club of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, New Britain, Conn. Therefore, actual receipts in support of Rally were much more than the figure quoted above, since a certain percentage of donations received via ONE Stewards are specifically earmarked for Rally.

ONE +

Holy Transfiguration preparing for hundredth anniversary

John Kruchok

Planning is well underway for the centennial celebration of the establishment of Holy Transfiguration parish, the first Orthodox church in New Haven, Conn. The parish council and anniversary committee invites all of the faithful and friends in the diocese to join us for this historic occasion which will be highlighted by the hierarchical Divine Liturgy and grand banquet on Sunday, September 27, 2015.

We will be especially blessed to have His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon present. 2015 is also a very special year in our parish as it marks the 35th anniversary of Fr. Michael and Matushka Lydia's service in New Haven and it is also the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the holy priesthood.

The grand banquet will be held at La Mirage restaurant in North Haven, Connecticut at 1:00PM, with hot and cold hors' d'oeuvres and refreshments beginning at noon. Further details will be forthcoming in ONE regarding tickets and reservations. We hope you mark your calendar to join us!



Preliminary plans include a memorial service remembering the departed of the parish on the evening of Saturday, August 8th, prior to Great Vespers; a community "open house", a commemorative banner and logo to be placed on church property in late spring, updating the parish archives and history and other plans to be announced.

We are especially seeking digital or hard copies of photographs which would be useful to detailing the history of the parish. An email address has been set up to receive these at HTOC100pix@aol.com

Leading up to the celebration in late September, we will review our parish history in successive issues of ONE and will also provide further details on our celebration.

ONE +

Three Saints Church, Ansonia, Conn.

Nina Kosowsky

The past few months have been very busy at Three Saints. In July our annual Vacation Church School was held at Three Saints Park in Bethany. The theme for this year was "The Parables." Each day, the 33 Orthodox and non-Orthodox participants were engaged in prayer, Bible study, discussion of a parable, related crafts, church music, and of course, time for fun/games and fellowship. The week culminated with a family cook-out and the awarding of certificates of participation. Many of the children have attended every year that VCS has been offered and are already looking forward to returning next July. This program was again awarded a Diocesan Grant, and we are

Above: Fr. Patrick Burns leads prayer at Vacation Church School at Three Saints Park.

Below: The participants in **Vacation Church School**.



grateful for the support from our diocese.

Repairs to the church roof were extensive and took several weeks for completion. Following liturgy on the Sunday after the project was completed, Fr. Patrick Burns, assisted by an employee of the construction company, was able to go up in the lift to bless the roof with holy water. We pray that this round of repairs is the final fix, and we can now concentrate on interior restoration.

In August, a joint picnic was held between Three Saints and our neighbor, Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church. This was our 13th annual event. Grill masters from both churches served up delicious food to accompany the salads and baked goods. Ethnic back-





Above: Fr. Patrick Burns **blesses the roof** of Three Saints Church.

Below: Visitors browse the tables at Three Saints Church's "**Giant Outdoor Tag Sale.**"

ground music could be heard throughout the afternoon.

It has become an annual Fall custom for our parish to sponsor a "Homecoming Breakfast" on a Sunday in September. While all parishioners are welcome to attend the breakfast, invitations are also sent to parishioners who may not have been to church for a while or are new to the parish. An enhanced "coffee hour" is offered along with fellowship.

Fr. Patrick Burns accepted the "ice bucket" challenge extended by Fr. Steven Voytovich, Dean at St. Tikhon's Seminary, to raise funds for the married students' housing at the seminary. A collection was taken after the chilling experience. Fr. Patrick also extended the challenge to other clergy.

Our September Giant Outdoor Tag Sale brought many members of the community to the church grounds. The weather was

spectacular and encouraged browsers and buyers. Many terrific bargains were had. The majority of the unsold items were donated to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization located down the street from the church. A collection container is located on the church parking lot for ongoing donations for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Being visible in the community is important to bringing new members

to the church. The city of Ansonia sponsors a Harvest Festival in October. Three Saints will have a table display and hand out pens with brochures about the church and Three Saints Park.

It is now time to prepare for the annual Ethnic Food, Craft, and Tag Sale to be held Nov. 7-8. Pierogi work sessions are underway with a date set for preparing stuffed cabbage. Watch for the official event flyer with all the details. either on our Facebook page or email to parishes.

ONE +



St. Alexis, Clinton, Conn.

Reflections on the 2013-14 Liturgical Year

Joan Skrobat

The parish of St. Alexis has had a Christ inspired 2013-14 year. As in any family we experienced growth: Fr. Steven included more services in our weekly calendar of worship. Father has introduced the parish to the worship of the Akathist service as we learn more about our Saints. We have had growth in the ministry of the choir. We have been blessed to have Susan Lukianov share with us her musical talents in the continuing development of liturgical singing.

In November several of our family attended a retreat in Lenox, Mass., sponsored by our brothers and sisters of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Danbury. On November 20 2013 we prayed "give rest to the soul of Your departed servant J. Robert Martin" our beloved brother in Christ. Memory Eternal!

Together we journeyed through Advent to a glorious Christmas Feast. As we entered into 2014 there was the blessing of the waters of Long Island Sound and several attended a pre-lenten retreat with Dr. Albert Rossi at our sister parish Holy Ghost Church in Bridgeport.

We began our journey to Pascha with words of reconciliation at the Forgiveness Sunday Vespers. At this

time we also kept in prayers our sister Sarah Luft, a UConn student who traveled to Cape Town through the study abroad program. She had the experience to work with the Electoral Operations team in the Western Cape Provincial Office of IEC. A quote from her blog: "On a day to day-to-day basis here, I am confronted by the

contrast of the most beautiful and the most unbeautiful. There is the simple and pure beauty of the landscape of Ubuntu, of the peoples' warmth and resilience, and yet the extreme pain of poverty and destructive traces of apartheid still littering the country. I never guessed I'd be learning about issues of equality, of human dignity of socioeco-

conomic status, and of conflict resolution alongside electoral processes."

In April, Michael and Dori Kuziak hosted our church family in the farewell thanksgiving celebration for our dear brother and sister in Christ: Christine and Raymond Boyd. They were founding members of the parish, they contributed to every aspect of church life at St. Alexis. We congratulate them on Raymond's new employment and the recent marriage of their son Lieutenant Samuel and Angela Boyd. Samuel was "a son" of St.



Right: High School Graduate **Katie Jankura** receiving scholarship from St. Alexis parish.

Alexis parish and at the wedding his brother Andrew who is the chairperson of the Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry of the OCA, stated that Sam “lives through the people he loves.” Please pray for Samuel for he will again be deployed in a few weeks. We also sing Many Years to Dr. Alexis Boyd who is to be married in October.



Right: The wider Clinton community assembles for the **blessing of the “Food for All” Garden.**

We thank God for this blessed family and will miss them so very much!

We congratulate our college graduates: Anastasia Elliott who graduated from Connecticut College and Thomas Brubaker who graduated from Roger Williams. “Many Years” to these wonderful young adults!

In June we honored our high school graduate and recipient of the St. Alexis scholarship, Katie Jankura who is attending Eastern Connecticut State University. She is the daughter of Greg and Christine Jankura.

As with all families there are times of changes. Our beloved sister in Christ, Susan Egan, who devoted many hours and years to the success of the church school program, has retired from that service to the church. She is thanked in so many countless ways for her devotion and caring to the children of the parish.

In June we not only experienced the joy of Christ in our lives through the Feast of Pentecost but also sharing this joy with those around us as Fr. Steven blessed the “Food for All” Garden. This is a continued outreach program of the parish. We have been blessed that we also share this experience with the New England Diocese

as we have been generously honored by a grant through the “Parish Grant Initiative Program” sponsored by the Diocese.

The garden has grown extensively and this year over 3700 pounds of produce have been harvested. The fresh produce is distributed to the guests at the food pantry held at Holy Advent Episcopal Church on Wednesday evenings. Margaret Larom of the Holy Advent Episcopal Church in Clinton is the coordinator and does an extraordinary ministry.

The blessing of the garden and sharing this experience with our Episcopal neighbors helps to fulfill a mission of St. Alexis parish: to educate people about the truth and presence of Orthodoxy. “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor. 15:20). When a tomato plant produces the first tiny green tomato, we experience joy. The first tomato is a promise of more to come (the first fruit)! So it is with the resurrection of Jesus. He is the “first fruit”—He is the promise that those who live with Him will also rise.

We also at this time had an opportunity to complete a parish survey.

This provided insights into the future needs and directions of the parish.

In July we again had to wish Many Years with our tears as we blessed the departure to Jacksonville, Florida of Frank, Stephanie, Annie, Frankie and Charlie Ruperto, Stephanie's father Sal Faro also accompanied them. We will miss them and miss watching these beautiful children grow to become amazing Orthodox Christian adults.

In July, one of our youth Matthew Kuziak was a participant in the Appalachian Service Project (ASP). His team was in Matewan, West Virginia. This was his first year and he worked hard at fixing homes with new ceilings, painting, and installing siding. He commented, "to see the finished house and the smile on the homeowner's faces made it all worth it!"

Fr. Steven and John and Joan Skrobat attended the Small Parish Forum in Byesville Ohio. It was an event sponsored by the Archdiocese of the Western Pennsylvania OCA and Diocese of the Midwest. The forum focused on the needs and continued development of small parishes. St. Alexis parish survey results were a good outline for our attendance. The forum focused on the awareness of the community's strengths and weaknesses, future direction in light of local circumstances and re-commitment to an active spiritual life. Topics discussed: Parish Revitalization Profile, (case studies), Foundations and Fundamentals of Worship and Litur-

gical Singing, Charitable Outreach, Evangelism in the 21st Century, Communicating your parish: Web sites etc.

In August, we concluded the Liturgical year with the knowledge that we offered the love of Christ to those in need both in word and action we celebrated with fellowship and love at the annual parish picnic.

On September 14, the Church celebrates the the Feast of the Elevation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross. On this day at St. Alexis parish, Dori Kuziak, a long time seeker, had

the tracing of the cross upon her forehead, heart, hands and feet with the Holy Chrism as she was received into the Orthodox faith. So important a day, a penitential feast near the beginning of the Liturgical New Year is an ideal

time for spiritual direction and the preparation of spiritual goals and discipline. The cross is so vital in the world of TODAY. Many Years Sister in Christ Katherine!

On a beautiful day, September 20, the Parish of St. Alexis ventured a Tag and Bake Sale. It was an event that took incredible virtues to make it a success. The virtues of patience, understanding, caring and love were what Stacia Penkoff-Lidbeck displayed as she lead us through the tasks of sorting through all the treasures donated by parishioners, organizing items into categories, and pricing items, setting up items for sale and selling. Irene Kaiser coordinated the bake sale. Baked goods and home-

Right: Fr. Steven Hosking prays at the Clinton community garden.



made canned items were graciously donated. It was days of good work for the parish. Fr. Steven gave tours of the church and information about Orthodoxy and the parish of St. Alexis as visitors requested. Visitors to the sale were aware that profits were going to be donated to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry and Our Community Cares Food for All Garden.

The council also allocated the remainder of the proceeds toward church school and future local out-

reach needs. Many visitors to the sale asked questions about the church, about the Orthodox faith, talked about how organized they found the sale, how helpful the parishioners were and the good prices on items. It was a day of fellowship for the parish and an opportunity to see our mission statement at work. We truly experienced the joy of Christ in our lives and shared this joy with those around us.

ONE +

ONE Stewards & Diocesan Grants

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

ONE Stewards

The summer donations to ONE Stewards resulted in an additional \$5000. This makes the 2014 total for ONE Stewards a record \$ 25,000. This was possible due to the generous donations of everyone throughout the Diocese. Special thanks to His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon, for his support; to the Bishop Circle donors (\$500 or more); and to the several anonymous donors (\$500 or more). Their generosity reflects the ONE Stewards theme of "Giving Above and Beyond."

Diocesan Grant Program

There have been three Diocesan Grants this year:

1. Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, Conn.—Renewal of grant for the Connecticut Bible Lecture Series that the parish supports and sponsors annually.
2. St Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Church, Clinton, Conn.—Renewal of grant to expand the Clinton "Food for All" Garden, which began last year to grow produce in support of the food pantries in that community.
3. Three Saints Church, Ansonia, Conn.—Renewal of grant to support the weeklong Vacation Church School held annually each summer at the Three Saints Park.

Each of these parishes will make a short presentation about their programs at the Diocesan Assembly in October.

ONE +

O.N.E.

Diocese of New England
Orthodox Church in America
Published bi-monthly

His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon
Rev. Joshua Mosher, Editor
Phone: 203-237-4539

frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org

Advertising: This publication will

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
<http://www.dneoca.org>

accept advertisements. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertisement we find unacceptable for a publication of this kind.

Rate: \$50.00 per quarter page,
\$100.00 per half page, \$175.00 per full page.

The opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors. Dogmas of the Church, or Official Statements, will be so labeled. Materials in *ONE* may be reproduced with acknowledgement of the source.

Subscriptions:

The ONE Newsletter is distributed free of charge to members of the diocese. If you live in New England and would like to receive this newsletter at your home address, please contact Fr. Joshua Mosher at the address below.

Paid Subscriptions:

For people living outside of New England, \$10.00 per year or any part thereof. Subscription outside of the US: US\$15.00.

Electronic Distribution:

If you would like to receive *ONE* in electronic format **only**, please contact Fr. Joshua Mosher at the email address below.

For subscription requests:

frjmosher@sspeterpaul.org

203-237-4539

50 Shady Crest Road
Meriden Conn. 06450

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church
PO Box 2876
305 Washington Avenue
New Britain Conn. 06050-2876
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
Permit #559
New Haven
Conn.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Nov 30 | Deadline for the next issue of the ONE |
| Oct 24-25 | Diocesan Assembly in Cumberland, R.I. |
| Nov 8 | St. Nectarios celebration at Christ the Savior, Southbury, Conn. Archbishop Nikon will preside at Vespers with outdoor procession. All are invited. |