

THE TRISAGION

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

What a Month: After Cross Planting, Chapel Loan Vote Passes Unanimously



JUNE WAS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER: a rapid-paced month just concluded at Holy Trinity and the Chapel this year. From the liturgical trifecta of Pentecost weekend, including the Archbishop's visitation, to the Cross-planting at the Chapel, hierarchical liturgy and parish picnic, and rounded out with a peaceful Holy Spirit Day, it was comparable to Pascha in observance, duration and exhilaration. Pentecost now rivals Palm Sunday as the most heavily attended Sunday of the Church year, after Pascha!

But it didn't end there: Vacation Bible School was another rousing success under the direction of Deacon Mark and his team of teachers and helpers (see page 3). It was Holy Trinity's third edition based on C.S. Lewis's classic *Chronicles of Narnia*. Kiddoes had to walk through a wardrobe every day to enter Narnia. Ask them what the wardrobe, or the lamppost, or Aslan, or the White Witch represents.

(continued, see WHAT A JUNE!, last page)

Chapel's Prayers for Conestoga Answered

by Alfred Kentigern Siewers

ON A QUIET SUMMER DAY in rural central Pennsylvania it is hard to imagine that the small factory across from the lot where we are building our temple would have its fate decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC today.

Conestoga Wood Specialties, owned by a Mennonite family, along with better-known Hobby Lobby, was the focus of today's final Supreme Court decision for this season.

The case centered on whether companies because of their owners' religious beliefs could opt out of govern-

(continued, see OUR PRAYERS..., next page)

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Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
July 6	E. George and M. Stevens	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team A
July 13	L. Georgiou and H. Torbic	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	H. Torbic and R. Patel	Team B
July 20	L. Radomsky and J. Miranda	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	M. Fedkin and S. Stevens	Team A
July 27	P. Doty and M. Thompson	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team B
August 3	E. Files and M. & G. Anthony	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	M. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team A
August 10	D. Patel and K. Oleynik	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	S. Stevens and H. Torbic	Team B

* Denotes Fast ** Team A: A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Oleynik, D. Stickle, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher. Captains: D. Torbic, Jo. Stickle, Team B: J. Cadman, N. McFarland, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, and L. Torbic. and K. Kucheyaryy

■ CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our Prayers for Religious Freedom (from page 1)

ment-required abortifacient contraceptive insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or face crippling fines that would have forced Conestoga out of business.

Every week for months during Liturgy, around the corner from the plant, at the temporary house church where we meet, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit has prayed for those defending the sanctity of life through civil disobedience, keeping Conestoga in particular in prayer. The company has a reputation as a good neighbor and of treating its employees well, but because of the religious beliefs of its owners faced closure as a result of penalties for not adhering to the ACA provisions under dispute.

But the Court decision today not only helped keep Conestoga open, but provides a bit of legal breathing space in “post-Christian” American politics for traditionalists concerned with an emerging array of issues also of concern to Orthodox Christians, from abortion to marriage *(for more on this, see page 6)*.

It did so in finding that family-owned, for-profit corporations could claim exemption from certain ACA requirements on religious grounds...

Today's decision offers some partial relief for concerns about government action toward traditional faith communities in the U.S., but no salvation from an Orthodox perspective... Orthodox Christians aware of their own history would do well to do some summer reading in Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago* and the recently published English translation of Ivan Sokolov's *The Church of Constantinople in the Nineteenth Century*, which both illustrate graphically the past sufferings of the Church in antagonistic cultures, and the salvific power of the witness of martyrs.

Thankfully we haven't reached anywhere near that point in the U.S. yet, but despite today's decision, the trajectory of our culture doesn't offer grounds for optimism. The decision itself is a reflection of that trajectory, and the severe persecutions faced by many Orthodox Christians in the Middle East and Africa in particular require our prayers...

We should pray and work in support of the freedom of people like the Hahn family, owners of Conestoga, and for our own freedoms as Orthodox Americans to pass a living tradition across generations to our biological or spiritual children and grandchildren. But finally, we pray to the Lord to preserve His commonwealth...

[One] can be grateful of the liberties one enjoys, and use one's franchise to advance the work of trustworthier politicians (and perhaps there are more of those than I have granted to this point), and pursue the discrete moral causes in which one believes. But it is good [not] to mistake the process for the proper end of political life, or to become frantically consumed by what should be only a small part of life, or to fail to see the limits and defects of our systems of government.

After all, one of the most crucial freedoms, upon which all other freedoms ultimately depend, is freedom from illusion. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Kentigern's full article and future reflections can be found on Orthodox Christian Network's website (myocn.net).*

Annual Chapel Picnic!

The fifth annual Independence Day Chapel Picnic will be held on July 13 at Tall Timbers Natural Area near Troxelville from 1-4 p.m.. Great food, wading, hiking, and fellowship will be the day's highlights. All are invited! Call (570) 541-8895 for directions.

Women to Start Ministry at Picnic

Mka. Linda and Laura Rush, coordinators of the new Women's Ministry at Holy Trinity, have planned a full year of exciting fellowship and study options for all the women of the parish, beginning with a summer picnic at the Rectory (562 Lancashire Lane) on Thursday, July 17 from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Meat and drinks will be provided; bring a side or dessert to share. Contact women@holytrinity-oca.org to learn more.

High Schoolers Plan Rafting Trip

Students in or entering high school will depart for Ohiopyle, PA at 4 p.m. on August 6 (returning the evening of the 7th) to brave the rapids of the Yough River. The overnight trip will be sponsored by the Church School; a modest \$25 fee includes all food, lodging, and in-boat raft guides. Pre-registration and completed release forms are required by July 31. See Deacon Alexander or text (814) 321-4473 for details.

Volunteer with Us at the Shelter

Holy Trinity's Homeless Ministry is looking for new people to join a rotation that serves dinner to residents of Centre House the second Tuesday of every month. The goal is to pair new people with more experienced volunteers and have enough so that each team serves once every six months. To help, see Samar Al Maalouf.

Make a Difference: Teach!

Teachers are needed for Sunday School, which returns September 7. See Deacon Mark if you are interested.

For the Record

BIRTHS

- **Jeremiah Thomas Swisher**, son of Corene and Brandon Swisher, born June 28, measuring 7 lbs. 13 oz. and 21½ inches. Many years!
- **Michael Aidan Troyan**, son of Brian and Nina Troyan, born June 6, measuring 8 lbs. 9½ oz. and 22 ½ inches. Many years!



Weekend Roadtrips to Help Grow Neighboring Parishes

If you wondered where Fr. John was the last three Saturdays in June, Bishop Michael asked him to lead one-day church revitalization seminars in each deanery of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. In all, approximately 150 clergy and laity attended. This month, Fr. John will be a keynote speaker at the first Small Parishes Forum in Byesville, Ohio. ■

■ FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

What a June! (from page 1)

Replete with “Turkish delight” and a Narnia cake, supper was served every night. Even the fish sticks were yummy!

On June 22, the parish unanimously authorized the Parish Council to negotiate the best loan terms possible with the Archdiocese for construction of the Chapel. Voting was held conterminously at both Holy Trinity and the Chapel. Talk about unity of spirit and purpose!

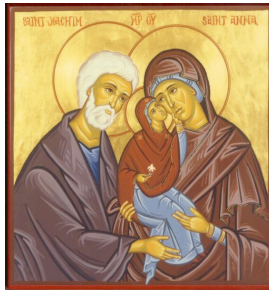
As we go to press, the much quieter month, (liturgically), of July begins. There is plenty going on in Happy Valley, nevertheless, including the inauguration of a new ministry for women, beginning with a picnic at the rectory on July 17 at 6 p.m. Ladies, make your plans to attend now. May you all have a safe, blessed summer.

— Fr. John ■

■ NEWS AND NOTES

Holy Trinity Represented at D.C. March for Marriage

The second annual March for Marriage was held June 19 in Washington, D.C., with a few thousand marchers, and a small Orthodox contingent including representation from Holy Trinity, bearing the icon of the Righteous Ancestors of God (Ss. Joachim and Anna with the young Mary, the Mother of God).



The icon attracted interest from Protestant and Catholic clergy and laity in the march, some of whom expressed appreciation for Orthodox Christianity. Marchers went from a rally point by the steps of the U.S. Capitol to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, where they peacefully demonstrated even though confronted by a group of opposing protestors.

Penn State to Offer Free Nutritional Classes for Qualifying Area Families at Holy Trinity this Month

Holy Trinity member and Penn State University nutritionist Leoni Georgiou will present a series of lessons to teach families how to prepare a healthy diet on a limited budget. The classes will take place July 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Among the topics covered will be food safety, cooking, portion control, and food label reading. To qualify for the free classes income guidelines must be met. For information, contact (814) 355-4897 ext. 22.

Teachers and Parents Invited to Attend Education Conference

Author and missionary Sylvia Leontaritis and musician David Lucs will be lecturers at an annual Orthodox Christian Education Conference being held in various locations in New York and New Jersey the first three Saturdays of August. The conference is open to all free of charge and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is highly recommended. To register contact Mka. Andrea Diamantis at (609) 393-1234.

Why Do We Need to Go to Church?

The Church is a place to go to live and study. If you are experiencing certain difficulties or if one of your neighbors has fallen ill, do not limit yourself to going and putting up a candle.

Come to church for the divine service, immerse yourself in the elements of prayer, and lift up your prayer for your need along with the priest and the community.

It is important that attendance at church be regular. It is good to attend church every Sunday. The Sunday Divine Liturgy, as well as the Liturgy on great feasts, is the time when we can, by giving up two hours of our earthly affairs, plunge ourselves into the elements of prayer. It is good to come to

church with one's entire family, in order to receive Confession and Communion.

If one learns to live from Sunday to Sunday, in the rhythm of the church services, in the rhythm of the Divine Liturgy, then one's whole life will change dramatically. Above all, it will become disciplined. The believer knows that next Sunday he will have to give an answer to God, and he lives differently: he does not allow himself many sins that he would otherwise allow himself if he did not go to church.

Moreover, the Divine Liturgy itself is an opportunity to receive Holy Communion, that is, to unite with

God not only spiritually, but also physically. [It is] a comprehensive service at which the entire church community and each of its members can pray for everyone that troubles or worries him or her. The faithful during the Liturgy can pray for themselves, and for their neighbors, and for their future, bringing repentance for their sins and asking God's blessing for their further ministry. It is very important to learn to participate fully in the Liturgy... [It is the] center of church prayer, and it should become the center of the spiritual life of every Christian and every Christian family.

— Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev)

SOURCE: www.pravmir.com (June 2014).

Kids Go Through the Wardrobe to Find Christ in *Narnia*

Two dozen children aged 4-14 enjoyed an exciting week of Vacation Bible School (VBS) last month, learning about, understanding, and applying in their lives the rich Biblical symbolism of C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Through daily discussions and activities, the students realized that the plot and chronology of the story actually portrays Christ's salvific Death and Resurrection, helping them to see how He works in the real world.



View more pictures from Vacation Bible School at holytrinity-oca.org!

Holy Trinity Calendar

All events take place at 119 South Sparks Street in State College unless where noted.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 Holy Apostles Ss. Peter and Paul Festal Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	30	July 1 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Archdiocesan Pirates Baseball Outing, 7:05pm @ PNC Park, Pittsburgh	2 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	3 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ Spring Creek Park, Houserville	4	5 Choir Rehearsal, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
6 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Choir Rehearsal, 12:15pm	7	8 Homeless Ministry, 4pm @ Centre House, 217 E. Nittany Ave.	9 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions Parish Council Meeting, 7pm	10 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ Holmes-Foster Park, State College	11	12 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
13 Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	14	15 St. Vladimir, Enlightener of Russia	16 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	17 ROCK "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ Sunset Park, State College Women's Ministry: Ladies' Summer Picnic (for all ages), 6pm @ Rectory, 562 Lancashire Ln.	18	19 Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9am Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
20 Holy and Glorious Prophet Elijah Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am Choir Rehearsal, 12:15pm	21	22 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am	23 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	24 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ Spring Creek Park, Houserville	25	26 St. Jacob, Enlightener of Alaska Baptism of Michael Troyan, 4pm Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
27 Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Combined Orthodox Youth Association (OYA) / Jr. OYA Swimming Outing, 6pm-8pm	28	29	30 Vespers, 5:30pm Confessions	31 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ Holmes-Foster Park, State College	August 1 Procession of the Lifegiving Cross	2 Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions
3 Matins, 9am Divine Liturgy, 10am	4	5 Clergy Staff Meeting, 11:45am Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Fruit (for Transfiguration), 7pm	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Hours, 7:40am Divine Liturgy, 8am OYA Rafting Trip to Ohiopyle Departs, 4pm Vespers/Conf. 5:30pm	7 Raising Orthodox Christian Kids (ROCK): "Thursdays in the Park," 10am @ Sunset Park, State College OYA Trip Returns, ~7pm	8	9 St. Herman of Alaska Great Vespers, 6pm Confessions

Chapel Calendar

All events take place at 350 Old Orchard Drive in Beavertown unless where noted.

Tuesday 1 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)	Sunday 20 Holy Prophet Elijah Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Saturday 5 Vespers, 6pm	Tuesday 22 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)
Sunday 6 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am	Sunday 27 Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Tuesday 8 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)	Tuesday 29 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)
Sunday 13 Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am Chapel Picnic, 12:30pm @ Synder Middleswarth Natural Area (Tall Timbers), Troxelville	Saturday August 2 Vespers, 6pm
Tuesday 15 St. Vladimir, Enlightener of Russia Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm @ 845 Center Ave. (Lyter Residence)	Sunday 3 Hours, 9:40am Divine Liturgy, 10am
Saturday 19 Vespers, 6pm	Tuesday 5 Great Vespers/Litiya/ Blessing of Fruit, 7pm @ Holy Trinity

July 2014