

**Carolinas Deanery of the Diocese of the South**  
**July 2007 Diocesan Assembly Report --- Miami, FL**  
**Deanery Overview**

When the **Carolinas Deanery** was formed in the summer of 2004 out of the existing Southeastern Deanery, we soon set as a goal by the year 2010 to have thriving missions and/or parishes in each of the ten largest metropolitan areas within North and South Carolina. In the intervening years we have established and placed priests in missions in the Greensboro/High Point, NC and Aiken, SC/Augusta, GA metropolitan areas. In summer of 2006 work was begun establishing a mission in the Wilmington, NC area. We hope to be able to place a priest there by summer of 2008. The only other major metro area within the Carolinas without an OCA mission or parish would then be the Asheville/Hendersonville, NC area, where we hope to start a mission effort by fall of 2008. St Nicholas Mission in Fayetteville, NC, is the only other existing mission among those in the ten largest metro areas that is failing to thrive. It has been without a priest since late spring of 2005 and has been served by deanery clergy. We hope to begin regular twice-a-month services there in August of this year.

As far as continuing mission efforts, we will face two major challenges: 1. Establishing second churches in the large metropolitan areas (certainly the top 3 or 4 metro areas could ultimately support a second church), and 2. Establishing churches in the 'second tier' cities within the Carolinas, namely those cities with population between 150,000 and 300,000. We are also interested in establishing missions or mission stations in locales where unique circumstances can bring about small, but flourishing communities, as evidenced by St Timothy Orthodox Church in Toccoa, GA, and the Edenton Mission Station in Edenton, NC.

Below you will find a listing of the churches, missions, and mission stations of the Carolinas Deanery and the clergy that serve them, as well as some information pertaining to future mission efforts.

**I. Carolinas Deanery Missions and Parishes by Metropolitan Area: Existing and *Proposed***

1. **Charlotte, NC/Rockhill, SC (2); 2,190,000**

- I. Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church --- Fr Bill Mills [Fr Henry Boisvert, ret]**  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek (3), Serbian, Ethiopian, Coptic

2. **Raleigh/Durham, NC (2); 1,560,000**

- II. Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church (Raleigh, NC) --- Fr Edward Rommen [Fr Andrew Davis]**  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek (3), Antiochian

3. **Winston-Salem/Greensboro/High Point (2); 1,513,000**

- III. [The Exaltation of the] Holy Cross Orthodox Church --- Fr Christopher Foley [Fr Paul Schellbach]**  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek (3), Serbian (no English language church)

4. **Greenville/Spartanburg/Anderson, SC (2); 1,200,000**

- IV. St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church --- Fr Marcus Burch, Fr Nikolay Miletkov**  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek (2), Antiochian, Coptic, Greek Monastery

5. **Columbia, SC; 741,000**

- V. Holy Apostles Orthodox Church --- Fr Thomas Moore, Dn Peter Robichau**  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, Antiochian, ROCOR, OCA Monastery

6. **Charleston/Mt Pleasant, SC; 603,000**

- VI. Holy Ascension Orthodox Church --- Fr John Parker, Dn Mark Barna [Fr John Breck]**  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, Antiochian, ROCOR

7. **Augusta, GA/N Augusta, SC/Aiken, SC 523,000**

- VII. Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church --- Fr Andrew Diehl**  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, Antiochian (limited presence)

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8. **Asheville/Hendersonville, NC**; 427,000

No mission yet planted. We hope to begin work in this area by Fall of 2008  
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, ROCOR, Carpatho-Russian, [Antiochian], OCA Monastery

9. **Fayetteville, NC**; 341,000

**VIII. St Nicholas Orthodox Church --- served by Fr Nikolay Miletkov, Fr Paul Schellbach**

Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek (no English language church)

10. **Wilmington, NC**; 326,000 (20% increase in population since 2000)

**IX. Mission Station --- Served by Fr Marcus Burch, Fr Nikolay Miletkov [Dn John Crook]**

Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, [Russian Patriarchal (MP)] (no English language church)

11. **Edenton, NC** 50,000

**X. Mission Station --- Served by Fr Andrew Davis**

Other Orthodox Presence --- NONE

12. **Toccoa, GA** 26,000

**XI. St Timothy Orthodox Church --- Fr Jacob Kulp**

Other Orthodox Presence --- NONE

## II. 2 – 3 Year Plan for New Missions Plants

1. **Asheville/Hendersonville, NC** 427,000

We hope to start a mission effort in the Asheville/Hendersonville, NC by Fall 2008.

2. **Myrtle Beach/Conway/Georgetown, SC** 299,000

Since 2000 the population has increased nearly 20%. In the next several years, changing demographics will make the 'Grand Strand' region of SC a very desirable location for a new mission start.

## III. Other Possibilities for Missions in the Carolinas: Future Need

1.	<b>Chapel Hill/Durham, NC [Raleigh]</b>	464,000
2.	<b>Winston-Salem, NC [Greensboro/High Point]</b>	456,000
3.	<b>Rockhill, SC [Charlotte, NC]</b>	295,000
4.	<b>Spartanburg, SC [Greenville/Anderson]</b>	271,000
5.	<b>Florence, SC</b>	199,000
6.	<b>Greenville, NC</b>	165,000
7.	<b>Beaufort, SC</b>	163,000
8.	<b>Jacksonville, NC</b>	154,000
9.	<b>Reidville, NC/Danville, VA</b>	223,000

One of the challenges faced in any missionary endeavor is finding the right 'mission' priest. We would especially be interested in trying to attract priests who are approaching retirement (ie, who might have at least some means of financial support), but are interested in the challenge of shepherding small missions or new mission start-ups. There are several locations in the Carolinas that would be ideal for this sort of arrangement.

## IV. Deanery Activities

Good relationships continue to exist among the clergy, parishes/missions, institutions, and people within the Carolinas Deanery. Deanery meetings take place regularly and there is a sense that the mission of the churches that comprise our deanery is to proclaim the Gospel in our communities and throughout North and South Carolina. We have tried to schedule our deanery meetings when the Archbishop is visiting one of the deanery parishes or missions. We either have a 'working' breakfast with His Eminence present or a more 'social' dinner with all the deanery clergy gathered with His Eminence. In January of 2006 we established a **Carolinas Deanery Mission Fund** to help finance new missions within the deanery. Each parish and mission within the deanery is being asked to support this fund which will be used to implement our plan to have missions and parishes in all of the major cities

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of the Carolinas within the next 2 to 3 years. Our new Holy Cross Mission in High Point, NC, is the first beneficiary of this effort. We also hope that this fund might also assist in the establishment of new missions in Wilmington, NC and Aiken, SC/Augusta, GA. The deanery compensation guideline for clergy (based on the OCA guidelines) was updated for 2007 and has been adopted by all the parishes within the deanery and one of the missions. We have established a deanery choir which has had great 'success' singing at missions, festivals, and concert series throughout the Carolinas---most notably it has been a regular participant at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC. We are presently engaging in cooperative efforts to bring notable speakers and theologians into the deanery for lecture series (eg, Fr Paul Lazor will visit several of our churches in November of this year and lead a clergy retreat).

### V. Parish and Mission Reports

#### **Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Mt Pleasant [Charleston], SC**

**Submitted by Rev Fr John Parker, priest-in-charge**

Average attendance: 48 (46 in 2007)

Average G.Vesp attend: 15

Chrismations since last summer: 4

Baptisms: 1 (one child)

Weddings since last summer: 1

Pascha attendance: 82 (up from 77)

Current Catechumens: 3

High Sunday Attendance: 73 (July 1)

Low Sunday Attendance: 35 (May 6)

#### *Highlights of Summer 2006-Summer 2007*

- ✘ Ordination to the Holy Diaconate of our reader, Mark Barna
- ✘ Tonsuring of a new reader Cyprian (Wayne) Nagy
- ✘ Bookstore still produces over \$1000/year profit for parish plus increased inventory
- ✘ Three beautiful Icons donated to the parish (Pascha/Pentecost/Exaltation of the Holy Cross). Tabernacle and Baptismal font also donated
- ✘ Church well under construction. Expected move-in September 2007.
- ✘ Considerable growth in 'spirit and numbers'. Average attendance on the rise, finances very strong.
- ✘ Continued increase in number of children 5-10yrs old.
- ✘ Substantial coverage in local newspaper. (I have written numerous columns on the Orthodox Faith. Coverage of our dome raising. Articles published in Touchstone magazine.)
- ✘ Cooperative effort with Greek Church for children's VBS
- ✘ Developed a cooperative youth soccer program with the Greek Church.
- ✘ Considerable growth in Almsgiving
- ✘ Support Missionaries from OCMC in Romania as well as Deanery Mission fund
- ✘ Begun both Women's and men's groups for fellowship and study

#### *Areas in need of attention:*

- ✘ Education. Good start in 2007 for both adults and children. Struggling to maintain.
- ✘ Lay leadership

#### *Coming Soon:*

- ✘ Anticipated completing construction September 2007.

#### **Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, [West] Columbia, SC**

**Submitted by Rev Fr Thomas Moore, Rector**

1. Members: 71

3. Baptisms: 3

5. Enrolled catechumens: 4

7. Deaths: 2

2. Approximate Sunday attendance: 100 (adults) 40 (children)

4. Chrismations: 2

6. Marriages: 2

After six years of steady growth, Holy Apostles is experiencing a lull in new members. We planted the mission in Aiken/N. Augusta with about 15 of our members in January, and the combination of that loss and the resultant loss of income have proven to be a little more difficult to overcome than we expected. On top of that several members have moved away, or been sent overseas with the military. Thus, we are tightening our belts this summer, and looking for more aggressive ways to make our presence known in Columbia. We also continue to beautify our temple with a new Iconostas and Icons.

We struggle to have as full a liturgical cycle having trained two new choir directors. We place a high priority on addressing the other sacramental and pastoral responsibilities God brings us. However, our new Parish

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Council is finding the transition from mission to church quite challenging, and we could use a good CEO. I continue to serve on the Department of Christian Service and Witness (helping organize the OTSA meeting on Bioethics, and the Parish ministries conference this summer), and teach classes regularly at USC, Columbia International University, and recently at the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Over the years, ten vocations have come from Holy Apostles, and we continue this legacy to provide clergy to the OCA. We currently help support our parishioner, Dn. Paul Rivers at SVS, who hopes to go into the Military Chaplaincy program. Recently, Dn. Joseph Kreta moved to the Columbia area. He was Director of the Ukrainian Church's Education department, and we look forward to adding him to our already active Educational and Church school program. He too would like to move to ordination to the priesthood in the coming years.

We have many outreach services including Dn. Peter's serving on the board of the local ecumenical "God's Helping Hands" charity, ministry to families with new infants, visitation to local "shut-ins", and our outreach at Philokalia Book Store. We have also begun the process to become an Angel Food Ministry outlet for our neighborhood. This summer six of us went to New Orleans for a week to work with Habitat for Humanity through the IOCC Emergency relief program. In the fall, we will host our fifth annual St. Nicholas Festival and parade which brings people to the church from all over the State.

We were sailing under a full wind last year when we began our perhaps overly zealous efforts to start the new mission in the Aiken/N. Augusta area. It seems to have taken the wind out of our sails momentarily, but we have full faith that the answer my friend is.....oh well you know.

### Edenton Mission Station, Edenton, NC

Edenton continues with a weekly schedule with services every Sunday at 11:00 am, in the chapel area of St. Anne's [RC] Parish Hall. Once a month this service is the Divine Liturgy, otherwise the Typika service is celebrated. An exciting possibility has been offered to the faithful group in Edenton, which may allow them to move into a building of its own in winter of 2008. During the next several weeks the local committee will be working to negotiate some arrangements that are pre-requisite, and we hope to announce further details as their work progresses.

### [Exaltation of the] Holy Cross Orthodox Church, High Point, NC Submitted by Rev Fr Christopher Foley, Priest-in-Charge

Average Sunday Attendance: 50 (38 in 2006).	Pascha Attendance: 90
Average G. Vespers Attendance: 12	
Baptisms: 2	Catechumens: 1 (soon to be 5)
Chrismations: 1	Inquirers: 10

#### Highlights

- First Divine Liturgy held July 9, 2006 at a banquet room of a local hotel with 29 in attendance. We continued this "Church in a box" for 5 months.
- On December 24 we moved into a renovated parish hall (2000+ sq. ft.) of a Presbyterian Church.
- We completely renovated the interior of this building in order to have a suitable space for worship and a separate room for fellowship. The building also has a full kitchen and 2 bathrooms.
- This move into a more permanent space has greatly aided in our tremendous growth in our first year.
- We added Saturday Great Vespers in February.
- We began a monthly Saturday afternoon Church School program for the kids in March.
- We have worked very hard in getting the choir together (weekly practices) and setting up all the services for our first year - Presanctified Liturgy, Holy Week, Pascha, and other feasts.
- We began an Inquirer's Class for those interested in learning more about Orthodoxy, but are not quite at the place to become catechumens.
- Other local Orthodox Churches have been very welcoming to the new mission inviting us to celebrate services with them and allowing the use of a baptismal font.

#### Challenges and Areas in Need of Attention

- The fact that the Triad area is so geographically scattered it has been hard to get attendance at other times besides Sunday morning.
- Though our numbers are up from last year, our stewardship has not increased.
- We need more education for the kids and adults, but are limited in space to do so.
- We need to do more outreach into the community - food bank, homeless shelter, and other local charities that are involved in High Point.

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-The Church building is located in High Point which is geographically centered, but no one in the community lives there. It is very much a commuter Church. The average drive time is 25 - 30 minutes. This will become an issue as we begin to discuss the location of the Church in the future.

### **The Future**

- In September on our Church feast, we will begin having weekday liturgies on major feast days.
- Catechism will begin in the fall.
- We have been given the old iconostas from Annunciation Cathedral in Ottawa. We will be installing this in August. This will help to give us a more permanent and suitable space for worship.
- We will be hosting Fr. Paul Tarazi in September and Fr. Paul Lazor in November for lectures open to the public which will help to bring people in the door as well as encourage and teach our faithful.

## **St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church, Greenville, SC** **Submitted by Rev Fr Marcus C Burch, Rector**

Average attendance Sunday Divine Liturgy: 85 adults/25 children (75/20 in 2006)

Average G.Vesp attend: 25 - 30

Pascha attendance: 150 communicants (199+ total)

Baptisms since last summer: 8

Chrismations: 6

Current Catechumens: 3 (6 – 9 Inquirers)

Marriages: 2

Deaths: 1

The last year has been one of significant growth. At Pascha we had approximately 200 for the midnight service (~150 communicants). Sunday Divine Liturgy averages between 80 and 95 adults and 20 and 30 children, Saturday Great Vespers 25 to 30, and Wednesday Vespers 15 to 20. Within the last few months we have had our highest ever 'regular' Sunday attendance --- 105 adults and 37 children. Christmas morning liturgy was attended by approximately 70. Since January we have had several new families join the church. On Holy Saturday 6 adults were received by chrismation and 8 children were baptized. At present we have several adult catechumens and several inquirers.

We have continued our outreach efforts in several directions. One of the most fruitful has been the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Clemson University that St John sponsors along with the local Antiochian mission. Many students have come to Orthodoxy through this outreach and have even become integral, regular participants in the life of St John of the Ladder. This past year we took primary responsibility for the OCF chapter at Furman University. St John continues to support the local men's Greenville Rescue Mission, Safe Harbor Women's Shelter, and Greenville United Ministries. Also, we hope to continue the support for both the OCMC children's center in Cluj and the work being done in recovery from alcoholism in the Diocese of Cluj in Romania. Several women in the church take regular collections for a local consignment shop, the proceeds of which support our charitable outreach. We supported two SVS seminarians this past year, as well as participate in the Deanery Mission Fund.

Since May of last year Fr Nikolay Miletkov has been assigned to St John as the assistant priest. He and his family have been a near perfect match for St John. In addition to his duties at St John, Fr Nikolay has assisted in the establishment of a new mission in Wilmington, NC, he has served once a month in Fayetteville, NC, assisted Fr Jacob Kulp at St Timothy Orthodox Church in Toccoa, GA, and has taken responsibility for the OCF at Furman University.

Although we moved into a former United Methodist church building almost 5 years ago, we are beginning to feel the strains of the growth we have subsequently experienced. In response to this growth, we have begun developing a 'strategic plan' for reorganizing the mission and looking forward to purchasing property and building a proper Orthodox church building in the next 2 to 5 years.

## **Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC** **Submitted by Rev Fr William C Mills, Rector**

1. Members: 68

2. Average Sunday attendance: 70 (adults) 30 (children)

3. Baptisms: 0

4. Chrismations: 6

5. Enrolled catechumens: 3

6. Marriages: 1

7. Deaths: 0

Nativity of the Holy Virgin continues to be a living witness to the Orthodox Christian faith to the Charlotte metropolitan area. Our weekly Divine Liturgy feeds us with the Bread of Life so that we can go out and serve our brothers and sisters in the Charlotte community. At the present time our parish sponsors nine outreach ministries,



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five of which are conducted monthly while the other four programs are seasonal. Some of our ministries include serving a hot lunch at the Men's Charlotte Rescue Mission, collecting canned goods for the Loaves and Fishes program, donating baby products for the Florence Crittendon home for unwed mothers, and sponsoring our annual Christmas Angel Tree project and our Back to School backpack collection for impoverished children in the Charlotte school system. We also financially support a former parishioner studying St. Tikhon's Seminary as well as the new Holy Cross Orthodox Mission in Greensboro, NC. Even though we have many outreach ministries we continue to seek more ways to help serve our neighbor.

Christian education is very important to us and we have a thriving Church school program as well as our St. Innocent Prayer Group that meets once a week for a time of prayer, scripture reading, and fellowship. We also sponsor regular Lenten retreats that help encourage and inspire our community to follow the Lord in our life.

Our parish continues to struggle with the shifting demographics of the New South, especially the transitory nature of urban living. It is common for people to move into the Charlotte area for several years and then move to another location due to jobs changes or new lifestyle opportunities. However, we still continue to minister to everyone who comes and worships with us. Furthermore, the urban nature of Charlotte challenges our educational programming, community life, and stewardship. During the past few years it has been suggested that we create local small group ministries that would combine both educational and social events in local areas around Charlotte. If the Southern population continues to grow and if membership increases significantly then small group ministry will be a vital component of life here at Nativity. However, small group ministry requires commitment from parishioners who will lead these small groups. Small group ministry would allow new parishioners to engage in social interaction with other parishioners in their local areas and help introduce them into the life of our parish.

Finally, in addition to my pastoral responsibilities at Nativity, I continue to minister to the wider Christian faith community. In April I was a guest speaker at Wake Forest University where I lead a classroom discussion on Orthodox liturgy. In May I delivered a talk to a group of spiritual directors in Durham, NC on the theme of "Desert Spirituality: History, Theology, and Praxis." I also have several essays that will appear in AGAIN magazine, one on an Orthodox response to poverty and the other on the person and mission of St. Nicholas of Myra-Lycia. There are several book projects on which I am presently working, *A Light to the Gentiles: Reflections on the Gospel of Luke* which will appear in mid-summer and *The Way of Repentance: Reflections on the Gospel of Mark* which will appear in Winter 2008. Later this year I will also have a regular Podcast program on the ARK online radio program, an outreach program affiliated with Come Receive the Light where I will record selections from my books which will then be available for download on the internet.

### **St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Fayetteville, NC**

Since March of 2005, St Nicholas has been without a permanently assigned priest. A reader's typika is being celebrated on Sundays. Divine Liturgy is celebrated one Saturday per month. Starting in August, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. The mission has dedicated core group that is hopeful of revitalizing and establishing this mission.

### **Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Aiken, SC**

**Rev Fr Andrew T. Diehl, Priest-in-Charge**

Ave. Sunday attendance: 32                      Ave. Saturday Vespers att: 8  
Baptisms: 2    Chrismations: 1

#### ***Highlights from August 2006 - June 2007***

Mission has been assigned a priest  
Divine Liturgies served every Sunday and major Feast Days  
Great Vespers served every other Saturday (Priest has full time employment)  
Great Lent and Holy Week Services  
New Liturgical items donated to parish  
New Choir Director  
Adult Education Classes held every other Wednesday evening  
Coffee and fellowship held following Divine Liturgy  
Parish has outgrown place of worshi[  
Currently have adults interested in the Church

#### ***Areas of Need***

Currently looking for ground to establish larger worship space  
Education: need to get parishioners involved

## St. Timothy Orthodox Church, Toccoa, GA

Submitted by VRev Fr Jacob Lee Kulp, Priest-in-Charge

Average attendance: 25                      Average G.Vesp attendance: 10  
Pascha attendance: 43                      Chrismations since last summer: 5  
Current Catechumens: 3                      Baptisms: 2 (one child and one infant)

### *Highlights of Summer 2006-Summer 2007*

- ✘ Tonsuring of a new reader Jordon Thomae (for a total of three readers)
- ✘ Substantial coverage in local newspaper. (Front-page article during Great Lent and article on occasion of Archbishop Dmitri's Spring visit)
- ✘ New roof & new carpeting (last Fall)
- ✘ Regular visits from Toccoa Falls College students
- ✘ Relocation of Fr. Jacob to Georgia to serve as full-time priest
- ✘ Resumed Saturday Vespers (after a hiatus of more than a year due to relocation of Fr. Jacob from Sunset, SC to Hendersonville, NC)
- ✘ Began weekly (Wednesday) Compline & Adult Study (Liturgy)
- ✘ Began weekly (Sunday) Compline & Adult Study (Scripture)
- ✘ Began weekly (Saturday) Catechetical instruction
- ✘ Major donation to the parish establishes a building fund/self-grant to assure financial stability

### *Areas in need of attention:*

- ✘ Find an iconographer for principal iconostasis icons.
- ✘ Evangelistic advertising drive to make ourselves fully known in the area.

### *Coming Soon:*

- ✘ "Rememberment" outreach to those who have drifted from the mission.

## Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Raleigh, NC

Rev Fr Edward Rommen, Priest-in-Charge

1. Members: 61                                      2. New Members this year 13  
3. Average Sunday attendance: 78 (total)  
4. Baptisms: 5                                      5. Chrismations: 4  
6. Catechumens: 2                                7. Marriages: 1  
8. Deaths: 0

Last year in July Holy Transfiguration moved into new facilities—a rented church building. While the move has stretched us financially, it has brought significant growth in almost all areas of our mission's life. Attendance at Sunday morning Liturgy has increased steadily. Participation in our outreach ministries has also increased. These ministries include: a book study group, occasional film evenings (*The Inconvenient Truth, The Island*), a mini lecture series on Dostoevsky and Orthodoxy, a web-based bible reading group, bring-a-friend picnics, and collecting dry foods for a mission in Durham.

The educational ministries of Holy Transfiguration include a weekly Catechumen/Inquirers' class as well as a Sunday morning Church school program with three classes for children and one for adults. The encouraging thing about this ministry is the increased willingness of our members to teach these groups as well as the growing participation in the adult group.

During the last few years our membership has been negatively affected by the number of people who, having finished their employment and/or education, have moved away from our area. Happily, this past year has not only been more stable, but has also seen a significant influx of new families and individuals.

In addition to my duties at Holy Transfiguration, I am also involved in the wider Christian community. I continue to teach adjunct at the Divinity School of Duke University. This coming year I will offer two courses: "An Introduction to Christian Spirituality" and "An Orthodox Response to Postmodernism." I lead two spiritual formation groups at the Divinity School, precept a course on preaching, and am the spiritual advisor to the local OCF chapter. My academic involvement also includes writing and speaking. My essay *God Spoke: On Divine Thought In Human Language*, appeared in the journal *Pro Ecclesia* (Vol .1 2007). Two more articles are in the works *Being and Belonging in the Orthodox Church* and *Contextualization and Tradition*. My current writing projects also include work on a book, *Evangelism in a Late Modern Context*, scheduled for late 2008. Speaking engagements have included two lectures on Evangelism in the Late Modern Context (Cedar Rapids, Iowa, October),

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a Spiritual formation retreat (Durham, November), a seminar “Praying with Icons” (Durham, February) and two lectures “Orthodox and Evangelical Protestants” and “Proclaiming the Gospel in a Pluralist Society” (Syracuse, NY, June).

### **Wilmington Mission Station, Wilmington, NC**

The Wilmington Mission effort is a newly formed group in the Wilmington/Cape Fear Region of eastern North Carolina. This Mission effort was organized and began to have regular services in August of 2006. The mission meets twice monthly on the first and third Sundays for Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy is served by either Fr Marcus Burch or Fr Nikolay Miletkov, both from St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church in Greenville, South Carolina. The mission presently gathers in the small chapel inside St Paul’s Episcopal Church. The Wilmington area shows much potential for establishing a full mission. We hope to place a priest permanently in Wilmington by summer of 2008.

Submitted by

**Fr Marcus**

#### **Rev Fr Marcus C Burch**

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