

**Carolinas Deanery of the Diocese of the South
2009 Diocesan Assembly Report --- Atlanta, GA
Deanery Overview**

Since its inception at the DOS Assembly in Atlanta in 2004 the **Carolinas Deanery** clergy have had as a goal to establish mission churches in at least all of the major metropolitan areas in North and South Carolina. In the intervening years we have established and placed priests in missions in the Greensboro/High Point, NC (Holy Cross Orthodox Church) and Aiken, SC/Augusta, GA (Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church) metropolitan areas. In summer of 2006 work was begun establishing a mission in the Wilmington, NC area. In 2008 the Wilmington Mission effort was formally named St Basil the Great Orthodox Church. We hope to have a priest permanently assigned there no later than June of 2010. Beginning in late May of this year, the mission welcomed its first resident priest, Fr Peter Robichau, and his family. Fr Peter is serving a 'summer internship' at St Basil's before returning to St Vladimir's Seminary in August for his final year of seminary. Deanery clergy will continue to service this mission at least twice a month after Fr Peter leaves. Our intention is to begin efforts toward establishing a mission in the Asheville/Hendersonville, NC area in the fall of 2009. In June of 2009 there was a preliminary meeting with several interested families. We have several seminarians from the deanery for whom we would like to prepare these mission opportunities for their expected graduations in 2010 and 2011.

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 second or even third churches), 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 hoping to take the first steps toward a 2nd church in the Charlotte, NC/Rock Hill, SC area beginning no later than early in 2010. Fr Paul Coats, a May 2008 graduate of St Vladimir's Seminary, who is attached to Nativity of the Holy Virgin in Charlotte, NC, as a 2nd priest, will spearhead this new mission start in the southern part of the Charlotte metropolitan area. We are hopeful in the near future of pursuing 2nd churches in the Raleigh/Durham ('the Triangle') and Greenboro/Winston-Salem ('the Triad') areas of North Carolina. In January of 2009 an informational meeting was held in the Statesville, NC area concerning the possibility of a mission on the north side of the Charlotte metro area and/or in the Hickory/Lenoir/Statesville, NC area. At this meeting it was decided to take steps toward serving the Orthodox in Hickory/Lenoir area. While we are hopeful of the eventual possibility for a mission on the north Charlotte metro area, we decided not to pursue this until the Greek Orthodox mission in this area is better established.

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 (which this year is sending a second family off to seminary, and the newly named St George Orthodox Church (formerly the Edenton Mission Station) in Edenton, NC. The demographics of the Carolinas --- especially the coastal and mountain regions --- may prove fertile areas for developing and establishing this type of mission effort. In June contacts were made with several families concerning the establishment of a mission in the Burnsville/Spruce Pine area of the North Carolina mountains. This is a growing and vibrant area that is attracting retirees (and the business and services to support them), as well as a developing arts and tourism community.

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 demographic information pertaining to future mission efforts.

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

1. Charlotte, NC; 1,170,000

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

2. Raleigh/Cary, NC; 950,000

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

3. Columbia, SC; 741,000

- III. Holy Apostles Orthodox Church --- Fr Thomas Moore, Dn Joseph Kreta**
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, Antiochian, ROCOR, OCA Monastery

4. Greensboro/High Point, NC; 675,000

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

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5. Charleston/Mt Pleasant, SC; 603,000

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

6. Greenville, SC; 591,000

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

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

VII. Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church --- Fr Robert Royer
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, Antiochian, OCA Monastery

8. *Durham/Chapel Hill, NC;* 456,000

Mission to be planted out of existing local church.

9. *Winston-Salem, NC;* 449,000

Mission to be planted out of existing local church.

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

No mission yet planted. Vespers beginning Fall of 2009
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, ROCOR, Carpatho-Russian, OCA Monastery

11. *Fort Mill/Rock Hill, SC;* 353,000

No mission yet planted. We hope to begin work in this area in Fall of 2009 or Winter 2010
Other Orthodox Presence --- OCA, Greek, Serbian, ROCOR

12. Fayetteville, NC; 346,000

VIII. St Nicholas Orthodox Church --- Fr Paul Schellbach
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek (no English language church), Coptic

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

IX. St Basil the Great Orthodox Church--- Frs Paul Coats and Peter Robichau [Dn John Crook]
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, [Russian Patriarchal (MP)] (no English language church)

14. *'The Grand Strand' --- Myrtle Beach/Conway/Georgetown , SC* 299,000

Since 2000 the population has increased nearly 20%. In the next several years changing demographics should make the 'Grand Strand' region of SC a very desirable location for a new mission start. More than likely a mission effort would be focused in the southern part of this region toward Litchfield Beach, Pawleys Island, or Georgetown.

II. Carolinas Deanery Missions and Parishes, Other Locales: Existing and *Proposed*

15. *Hickory/Lenoir/Morganton, NC* 360,471

A meeting in January 2009 showed quite a bit of interest in starting a mission effort in the growing area.

16. *Spartanburg, SC [Greenville/Anderson]* 271,000

A mission could be planted out of existing local church.

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17. *Reidville, NC/Danville, VA* 223,000

Several families and inquirers who have ties to the our Greensboro/High Point, NC mission have expressed interest. Fr Christopher Foley is developing these relationships.

18. *Florence, SC* 199,000

'Stand-alone' medium sized city in the Pee Dee of SC.

19. *Greenville, NC* 165,000

Fr Marcus Burch has done follow-up and some initial work with a couple of families that have inquired about establishing a mission. Various Old Calendar Greek, GOA mission efforts.

20. *Beaufort, SC* 163,000

Several families who already attend either Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Mt Pleasant, SC, or St Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church in Savannah, GA. GOA mission effort on Hilton Head Is.

21. *Jacksonville, NC* 154,000

Several families already attend the Wilmington Mission effort. A longstanding Orthodox military chaplaincy seems to be coming to an end.

22. **Edenton, NC** 50,000

X. St George Orthodox Church --- Served by Fr Andrew Davis

Other Orthodox Presence --- NONE

23. **Toccoa, GA** 26,000

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

Other Orthodox Presence --- NONE

24. *Rural Western North Carolina (Eg, Bryson City, Burnsville, or Spruce Pine)*

Several inquiries from people who have moved to some of these popular retirement/vacation areas in the western NC mountains. OCA monastery, limited Orthodox presence.

One of the challenges faced in any missionary endeavor is finding the right 'mission' priest. In addition to the 'recruitment' efforts of the clergy of the deanery and preparing new mission start-ups for recently graduated seminarians (especially those who went to seminary from the Carolinas Deanery, 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

We continue to support and encourage mission development through the **Carolinas Deanery Mission Fund**. Holy Cross Mission in High Point, NC, was the first beneficiary of this effort. This fund continues to be used to help finance and support new missions within the deanery. This year's recipient is Holy Resurrection Mission in Aiken, SC. Each parish and mission within the deanery is being asked to support this fund which is used to implement our plan to have missions and parishes in all of the major cities of the Carolinas by 2010 by helping pay to support the priest's salary. The **Carolinas Deanery Compensation Guideline** for clergy (based on the OCA guidelines) was updated for 2008/2009.

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Carolinas Deanery Mission Fund Account

Beginning Balance (1/1/09):	\$14,266.44
Withdrawals:	
Holy Resurrection	\$ 3,000.00
Deposits:	
Nativity of the Virgin	\$ 1,800.00
Holy Cross	\$ 650.00
Holy Ascension	\$ 600.00
St John of the Ladder	\$ 1,500.00
Holy Resurrection	\$ 200.00
	\$ 4,750.00
Interest:	\$ 406.72
Ending Balance (7/1/09):	\$16,423.16

Our **Carolinas 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 --- was this year reenergized by Rowan and Talia Sheehan, members at Holy Ascension in Mt Pleasant. They led efforts to broaden choir's repertoire and reenergized its members. This was met with great success and culminated in a beautiful concert at the Piccolo Spoleto event in Charleston, SC. In the coming year, the choir will look forward to engagements in Wilmington, NC and at the St Nicholas Festival at Holy Apostles in Columbia, SC.

The deanery continues to engage in cooperative efforts to bring notable speakers, theologians, and missionaries into the deanery for lecture series and presentations. Matthew Gallatin visited several of our churches in Fall of 2008 and Fr Michael Oleksa during Great Lent of 2009. Fr Thomas Hopko led an afternoon 'retreat' for deanery clergy during Great Lent as well. Many of the parishes and missions within the deanery hosted missionaries to Romania Floyd and Ancutsa Frantz in Fall of 2008.

In early summer of 2009, St John of the Ladder began what it hopes will be an ongoing effort to provide a summer internship for rising senior seminarians. The goal if this internship was to provide practical parish experience. Other parishes and missions are also interested in establishing such a program and/or perhaps 'sharing' such an intern over the course of a summer. In another 'pilot' program we also have placed a rising senior seminarian at our mission in Wilmington, NC to serve a summer 'internship' working closely with the dean, local clergy, as well as diocesan leadership. We are hopeful that this may prove to be a fruitful arrangement which could be repeated elsewhere in the deanery or diocese.

V. Parish and Mission Reports

Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Mt Pleasant [Charleston], SC Submitted by Rev Fr John Parker, priest-in-charge

Average attendance: 70+	Weddings since last summer: 2
Average G.Vesp attend: 15	Pascha attendance: 100+
Chrismations since last summer: 2	Current Catechumens: 5
Baptisms: 3	Funerals: 0

Highlights of Summer 2008-Summer 2009

- ✘ Bookstore growing, with Inquirer as manager
- ✘ Iconostasis nearly complete
- ✘ Considerable growth in 'spirit and numbers'. Average attendance on the rise, finances stable.
- ✘ Significant increase in children and young families
- ✘ Substantial coverage in local newspaper. (I have written numerous columns on the Orthodox Faith.)
- ✘ Continued cooperative effort with Greek Church for children's VBS and a weekly Soccer club for children—Our parish, Greek Parish, and neighborhood where church is located.
- ✘ Support Missionaries from OCMC in Romania and Tanzania as well as Deanery Mission fund
- ✘ First OCA Missions Trip (Guatemala, July 2008), including one parish teenager.
- ✘ Adult education stabilized. Implemented (finally!) successful children's education
- ✘ Fr Thomas Hopko for a Lenten retreat plus open-to-public outreach talk

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- ✘ Very successful outreach efforts: Russian choral quartet; Deanery Choir singing in our new temple at significant Music and Arts festival (Piccolo Spoleto), Church in tour of homes in our New-urbanist community.

Areas in need of attention:

- ✘ Organization. Parish is now at a level which is beyond small/family size and is in need of more structure, but don't necessarily have the resources (money or folks) to have that all in place.
- ✘ Lay leadership—how to raise up folks to help the parish thrive, not just grow.
- ✘ Having completed the building, how do we foster the growth of our hearts. How do we interact with the neighborhood? What is our vision of outreach and evangelism with our building as an integral tool?
- ✘ Some lessons learned from building—now paying for it: mold under the church floor, for example.
- ✘ Youth ministry needed

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, [West] Columbia, SC --- January-July 2009 Submitted by Rev Fr Thomas Moore, Rector

Statistical Data:

1. Members: 83
2. Avg Sun attendance: 100 (adults) 20 (children)
3. Baptism: 1
4. Chrismation: 1
5. Enrolled catechumens: 4
6. Marriages: 1 (2 Blessings)
7. Deaths: 2
8. These statistics do not reflect the number of members who have moved or changed churches.

Holy Apostles has grown steadily from 35 members in 2000 to 83 at the beginning of 2009. Our income grew steadily to about \$100,000 in 2006 and then has averaged \$140,000 for the last two years. During this time we have planted a mission in Aiken with 20 of our members, and fostered the vocations of nine clergy as they and their families have moved through Holy Apostles to serve other Churches. We have been temporary home to several Orthodox Chaplains and their families as they finish their training at Fr. Jackson and move on to new assignments. Several of our parishioners have also been University students who move on to other locations as they graduate. We are about to help plant a new mission in Rock Hill which will move at least one of our original families who grew with us over the years and will be greatly missed for many reasons. I report this not to blow our horn about growth, or whine about how the mobile nature of modern culture pressures families and has hurt us, but to share another concern also.

I am quizzical about what seems like a lingering sense of homeostasis at Holy Apostles. After quick early growth, for the past few years we have hovered around the same numbers. If we catechize any size group, a similar number of parishioners seem to move or die. Our income numbers also remain fairly static making our budgetary goals unreachable. We purchased and renovated our new church and bought more necessary parking, but we have been unable to raise enough capital to buy the adjacent building for a large hall and service center. We try to incorporate all the church growth/Natural Church planning info doing all the normal things: better signage, greeters, a variety of ongoing classes, public appearances, outreach through our St. Nicholas festival, and charity (we have given over \$30,000 this past year to seminarian support, food bank, local charities, and an earmark donation to the Alzheimer foundation). Although the recent scandal in our national church set us back emotionally briefly, and while the perceived dangers in the world economy have had documented impact on other nonprofit groups, I really cannot blame this on my perception that we are adrift.

Be assured our Adult and Youth Church Education programs are well done. Our outreach and charity work have not faltered. Our liturgical life is fuller and richer than ever. We have a great "Safe Sanctuary" program in place, and our parish council meetings are honest and fondly cooperative. The local monastery provides us with a welcome retreat, camps for our youth, and a cemetery at which we gather to bury and remember our departed. We are incredibly blessed. I simply feel I would be dishonest not to also share a feeling I have that less people are inquiring, and those who are seem very wounded, are less stable in the long run, and demand much more attention. My sense is that the last two years of our own national identity have had a subtle effect on our local identity, and except for those pushed by emotional necessity, there are people waiting to see who the OCA will be before embracing it as the local church. Losing Archbishop DMITRI's loving hand to guide us, we are all waiting and praying for the direction our Metropolitan is setting to gain momentum and renew a vision for all of us. We pray this assembly will provide some of this needed direction.

Your servant in Christ,
Fr. Thomas

**ST. GEORGE'S MISSION STATION, Edenton, North Carolina
Served by Fr. Andrew Davis**

STATISTICS:

usual Sunday attendance (without priest), 9 (6 adults & 3 children)
high Sunday attendance (March 1), 16
low Sunday attendance (June 22, Dec. 28, June 28), 2
usual monthly Vespers attendance (with priest & wife), 10
Paschal attendance, 20; Baptismal (Jan. 11) attendance, 17
local (supporting) communicants, 3 adults & 3 children
beach (60 miles away) communicants, 4 collegians & 1 infant
current catechumens, 2
baptisms in past 12 months, 1 (infant)

PROGRAM:

continuing restoration of (1902 railway depot) church building
\$1,200 monthly budget with pledges from members & benefactors
visit by priest monthly for Saturday Vespers & Sunday Liturgy
all other Sundays the Typika, with a priest's or bishop's homily
Sunday-school class for children
lunch served every Sunday after services
bimonthly congregational dinners at members' homes
weekly evening inquirers' & catechumens' class in alternate semesters
evening choir practice most weeks
four choir programs this year for the public
quarterly congregational work days to enhance church grounds
early-morning Typika on all Great Feasts
Lenten Great Canon 4 nights, Akathist Hymn, & Holy Friday vespers
participants steadily growing in Christ
weekly newsletter & articles, with 100 local households subscribing
sponsorship of 4 foreign student members for in-State college tuition

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR JUNE 2008 THROUGH JUNE 2009:

June, live program of hymns & testimony for local ecumenical group
June, arrival of first resident family with children
June, inauguration of services now for all Great Feasts
Aug., installation of professionally built wooden outdoor sign
Sept., construction of entrance courtyard, as Eagle Scout project
Sept., first services in new temple room, yet under construction
Oct., construction & installation of initial icon-screen
Oct., completion of restoration of 1902 room for temple
Oct., evening open-house at church for neighbors & benefactors
Nov., pledge campaign for 2nd year in 1902 church building
Dec., 25-minute program by choir for Edenton Rotary Club
Jan., first baptism for the mission station
Feb., interviews by Liberty University student for master's thesis
March, first services of Great Canon and of Akathist Hymn
April, donation & blessing of first dedicated altar
April, first annual service for Feast Day of Patronal Saint
June, interviews by Regent University student for master's paper
June, 35-minute choir concert opening town's Music & Water Festival
June, painting (by landlord) of exterior trim in now handsome colors

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SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES:

reconstruction of website
posters for local community-college campus
completion of temple's 1902 woodwork restoration
icons for icon-screen, and a preparation table for sanctuary
working toward competence in singing variable sections of vespers
additional public appearances for choir, and related practice work
encouragement of theosis in congregation for better evangelism

CONCERNS:

attracting of more attendance to services
capacity to fund future budgets without initial community help
discernment of & fostering of suitable charitable work
near-term need for a resident priest
long-term aspiration for ownership of a building & grounds

[Exaltation of the] Holy Cross Orthodox Church, High Point, NC- 2009 Submitted by Rev Fr Christopher Foley, Priest-in-Charge

Average Sunday Attendance: 61	Pascha Attendance: 95.
High Sunday Attendance: 90	Low Sunday Attendance: 23
Average G. Vespers Attendance: 18	Average Feast Day Vespers Attendance: 23
Average Festal Liturgy Attendance: 18	Average Presanctified Liturgy Attendance: 21
Baptisms: 6	Chrismations: 7
Catechumens: 10	Inquirers: 16
	Weddings: 1

Highlights

- We continue to be on the OCA planting grant which has allowed Fr. Christopher to be full time. This year's budget reflects that we are relying 33% less on outside support, so that by the time we are off the national and diocesan support we will be at a place where we can be self-supporting.
- We have had a number of Orthodox families relocate to the area and join the church, one of which is a tonsured reader.
- We currently have 2 tonsured readers and one subdeacon. Our subdeacon is beginning the work of being received into the diaconal vocations program.
- We have launched a newly designed web site this year that has become a good outreach tool for us. We have added more for inquirer's.
- We continue to grow and our average attendance has increased.
- We have instituted an envelope system of stewardship which has resulted in an increase in stewardship (up 25% from last year) giving as well as special collections.
- All area area clergy were in attendance for our Holy Cross Vigil (1 Serbian, 3 Greek priests) as well as parishioners from other local churches. We have participated with the four other Orthodox parishes in the area for their patronal feast days.
- Support Deanery Mission fund, an OCMC missionary and a seminarian family.
- Our women's group continues to be a great source of fellowship and study.
- We had a successful catechism class which led to 5 chrismations and 2 baptisms on Great and Holy Saturday as well as one on Nativity.
- We have begun to work on establishing a building fund (which has doubled in size this year) and have sent the money to the Diocesan Custodial Fund. We have done a demographic study to understand where everyone in the parish is coming from.
- We have continued our once a month Sunday morning church school.
- We hosted Floyd and Ancuta Frantz, OCMC missionaries from Romania.
- We hosted Fr. Michael Oleksa who gave a public lecture on the Alaskan legacy of Orthodoxy in America.
- We continue to serve a meal at a local shelter, Open Door Ministry.
- This year we had our first internal audit and we implemented the suggestions made from the report.
- This year we moved to a voted-in parish council rather than an appointed one.
- We had our first fund-raiser dinner which raised \$900 for new altar server robes.
- The choir continues to meet weekly and has worked very hard during Great Lent and Pascha as we added a more

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full cycle this year with the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete.

-We are currently having weekly Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy and having Great Vespers and Liturgy for the 12 major feasts. We also had a weekly Presanctified Liturgy during Lent.

-This year we have begun serving the Akathist to the Mother of God: Healer of Cancer once a month and have had a very good turnout as we have many friends and family of parishioners who are struggling with serious illness.

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. The struggle of how to build community when everyone is so scattered. We have thrown around the idea of small group meetings in geographic areas where people live.

-We need more education for the kids and adults, but are limited in space to do so.

-As our attendance grows we are beginning to outgrow our current location, so this year we will be focusing on our building fund and have established a planning and building committee to begin searching for available property. This will also involve discussion on location.

The Future

-We have started a new series of inquirer's classes this summer with about 10 in attendance.

-We will be working on writing and printing a welcome packet in order to connect better with our visitors as well as provide better resources for them.

-We are working on expanding our website to include more for seekers and inquirer's to the Orthodox faith.

-We have discussed the possibility of forming a men's fellowship group and expanding our church school to a weekly program.

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church, Greenville, SC

Submitted by Rev Fr Marcus C Burch, Rector; Fr Nikolay Miletkov, Assistant

Members: 76 (approximate)

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy attend: 83 adults and 24 children (High: 163)

Average G.Vesp attendance: 22 adults and 6 children

Average D.Vesp attendance: 15 adults and 2 children

Pascha attendance: 160 communicants (200+ total)

Baptisms since last summer: 7

Chrismations: 6

Current Catechumens: 5

Seekers/Inquirers: 5 (approximate)

Marriages: 0

Deaths: 2

Highlights of Summer 2008 - Summer 2009

- By the grace of God our current mortgage was paid off in September 2008
- The need for building a larger and proper Orthodox Church continues to be apparent, as we continue to grow as a parish.
- The building committee continues to search and evaluate properties in the Greenville area for potential land acquisition.
- New windows were placed in the Church building, which would increase the resale value of the property.
- Parish retreats with Matthew Gallatin and Fr Michael Oleksa.
- We continue our educational programs: Sunday School, Catechumen Classes, "Ask the Priest" sessions in English and Russian.
- Together with the local Antiochian Church we continue to lead the Clemson University OCF chapter.
- We have sole responsibility for the Furman University OCF. This past year through the OCF, Furman University hosted two Orthodox speakers (Matthew Gallatin and Fr Michael Oleksa.) Both of these presentations were campus-wide and were officially recognized for CLP credits. A small Orthodox Library was also established at Furman University's chapel.
- Outreach to OCMC Missions and Support: Floyd Frantz. Local Charities: Greenville United Ministries, Safe Harbor. This year the parish has begun to regularly send volunteers to a local homeless day shelter. Providing financial support for seminarians. Participation in the Deanery Mission Fund.
- Monthly Molioben in Slavonic.
- Continued involvement in local Pan-Orthodox Concelebrations for Theophany and Sunday of Orthodoxy.
- For three weeks this summer we hosted Dn Andrew Cuneo, a 2nd year seminarian at SVS, and C.S. Lewis scholar with a PhD from Oxford University, for a summer internship.
- St. John of the Ladder is now listed in the Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

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- Some coverage in local newspapers.

Areas in need of attention:

- Eventual sale of the current property, land acquisition, and building of a proper Orthodox Church.

Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC Submitted by Rev Fr William C Mills, Rector Diocesan Report January-June 2009

1. Members: 75
2. Average Sunday attendance: 70 (adults) 30 (children)
3. Baptisms: 0 (we are planning on 3 baptisms in the next few months)
4. Chrismations: 0
5. Enrolled catechumens: 4
6. Marriages: 0
7. Deaths: 2

Nativity of the Holy Virgin continues to be a living witness to the Orthodox Christian faith to the Charlotte metropolitan area. At the present time our parish sponsors nine outreach ministries, 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, collecting baby products for the Florence Crittenton home for unwed mothers, and sponsoring our annual Christmas Angel Tree project and the annual "Back to School" backpack collection for children in the Charlotte school system. We also financially support a parishioner and who is studying St. Vladimir's Seminary.

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. This year we are also planning to start several regional "small group gatherings" which will meet periodically, either weekly, monthly or quarterly. These small group gatherings will hopefully strengthen our parish community, provide a forum for educational and social events, and be a place where people can gather together on a local level. These small groups will begin meeting in the Summer months.

Even though the national economy is diversely effecting many sectors of our country, thankfully our parishioners have continued to support our parish programs. Our 2009 annual parish budget is "lean and mean." We can always strive to improve our overall financial stewardship, but so far we are meeting our expenses while also increasing our savings. This year we hope to start using credit and debit cards on our parish website as a vehicle for receiving financial donations. Members of the parish council will serve as a "testing ground" for a few weeks and then if the project works well, we will open it up to the rest of the parish community and friends of the parish. We are also planning to redesign our parish website and will include a portal for Amazon.com, an online shopping website. A percentage of proceeds that are ordered through Amazon.com will become a source for our parish income.

In Christ Jesus,
Fr. William C. Mills
Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church
Charlotte, NC

St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Fayetteville, NC submitted by Rev. Fr Paul Schellbach

1. Members: 12
2. Average Sunday Attendance: 25
3. Chrismations: 1

St Nicholas Mission has website up. Recently received a \$9000 donation to building fund. Currently doing 2 Divine Liturgies monthly. In September will begin 3x. Mission council meets once a month. Vespers currently once a month. In September will be 3x. Working on property purchase and separate church building. New growth in Fayetteville potential for Church growth.

Priest Paul Schellbach
Serving St Nicholas Orthodox Mission

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Aiken, SC
Annual DOS Assembly Mission Report Summer 2008 – Summer 2009
Submitted by Priest Robert Royer, Priest-in-Charge

1. Members: 25
2. Average Sunday Attendance: 34 (9 children)
3. Baptisms: 1 (and another in August)
4. Chrismations: 1
5. Enrolled catechumens: 1
6. Marriages: 2
7. Deaths: 0

Synopsis:

The 2008-2009 ecclesiastical year was a period of transition and normalization for Holy Resurrection Mission. Due to the HROM being the beneficiary of both the DOS mission planting grant, as well as the Carolina Deanery fund, Fr. Robert Royer began as priest-in-charge in September 2008, the mission's first full-time priest in their six-year history. The goals for this first year were threefold:

1. A sense of stability.
2. A basic but solid liturgical schedule.
3. Parish education.

Each of these goals were accomplished. A normal liturgical schedule of Saturday evening Great Vespers, Sunday morning Hours and Divine Liturgy, as well as a Wednesday evening Daily Vespers, as well as festal celebrations, provides the necessary liturgical basis for other parish ministry and growth. Along with the liturgical schedule, stability was reinforced by parish education, this year carried out before the Hours on Sunday mornings. All of these were announced through the newly established and functioning parish website www.holyresurrectionmission.org. Through the routine of prayer and education HROM has taken its first steps as a fully functioning mission.

The goals for the upcoming 2009-2010 ecclesiastical year:

1. Acquire new space to accommodate worship and growth.
2. Add new services to the liturgical schedule.
3. Continue to train and develop servers for the Divine Services (choir, readers, altar services).

HROM has been blessed to receive one person into communion with the Orthodox Church via the sacrament of Holy Chrismation already (Holy Saturday 2009), and will be joining two more before the summer months have run their course. Several new attendees have appeared just in the past two months. Because of this growth, and as wise stewards of the possibilities that have been entrusted to the HROM, we are actively seeking new space to accommodate our growth, as well as provide a more noticeable and fitting place for worship. We are also looking to expand our liturgical *repertoire* beyond the services listed above, and train servers to perform them well.

In Christ,

Fr. Robert Royer
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Mission
Aiken, SC

St. Timothy Orthodox Church, Toccoa, GA
Submitted by VRev Fr Jacob Lee Kulp, Priest-in-Charge

Average Divine Liturgy attendance: 30 (28 in 2008)
High Sunday Attendance: 40 (44 in 2008)
Low Sunday Attendance: 15
Average Great Vespers attendance: 10
Baptisms: 3
Chrismations: 2
Pascha attendance: 50 (42 in 2008)

Highlights of Summer 2008-Summer 2009

- * Sending a second family to St. Vladimir's Seminary, end of July
- * Enrolled parish member in Girl Scouts Orthodox award program (nearing completion)
- * Provided major assistance to local family in crisis
- * Reinitiated & maintained food pantry, distributed to those in need
- * Provided periodic assistance by alms to several local visitors
- * Priest & 6 members attended Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Greenville, SC
- * Hosted dialogue on Orthodoxy from Toccoa Falls College studying Orthodox Christianity,
- * Hosted Fr. Michael Oleksa for an address on Alaskan Orthodox saints, paid ad in local paper
- * Placed ads in Stephens & Habersham County telephone books w/webpage address
- * Posted full year of sermons on parish webpage
- * Posted Wednesday evening discussion audio series on parish webpage
- * Began project for large canvas icon prints with 2'x4' Sinai icon of Christ

Coming Soon:

- * Continue large canvas icon prints with iconostasis icons, then walls
- * Begin replacing iconostasis icon prints with written icons
- * Further evangelistic advertising drive to make ourselves fully known in the area

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Raleigh, NC

Rev Fr Edward Rommen, Priest-in-Charge

2008 was a good year for Holy Transfiguration. We can use several different categories of information to measure our growth and performance. These include membership, patterns of giving, attendance, and baptisms/chrisinations.

Membership: This year our overall membership grew from 61 to 87 active members.

Giving: Giving stabilized and that we did a good job with last year's budget as far as predicting and meeting our needs. For this year we have more pledges and more pledged.

Attendance: has retained the same basic pattern with modest growth to an average of about 20 Saturday evenings and about 75 Sunday mornings. There were some Sundays the attendance reached 100 (145 on Pascha).

Baptism & Chrisinations: This year saw an increase over previous years with 7 baptisms and 5 Chrisinations up from 5 and 4 respectfully. We also had one wedding.

Building: After several rounds of negotiations we have made an offer to buy the building we are now renting. We have also secured a mortgage, so we are now looking at a closing date within a few weeks.

[Dean's Note: In late spring/early summer, Fr Edward was diagnosed with colon cancer and has begun chemotherapy and radiation treatment which will continue until early August. Surgery will be scheduled for approximately 6 weeks after his medical treatments end --- the date of the surgical procedure will be sometime in September. The deanery clergy are making preparation to gather for a healing service for Fr Edward in mid-August, tentatively scheduled for August 17th or 18th.]

St Basil Orthodox Church, Wilmington, NC

Serviced by Deanery Clergy/ Report Submitted by Priest Peter Robichau

1. Members: 11
2. Average Sunday attendance: 17 (adults) 10 (children)
3. Baptisms: 0
4. Chrisinations: 0
5. Enrolled Catechumens: 0
6. Marriages: 0
7. Deaths: 0

Carolinas Deanery of the Diocese of the South, July 2009 Diocesan Assembly Report --- Atlanta, GA

St. Basil the Great Mission is the youngest mission in the Carolinas Deanery. Formed several years ago by several families who expressed an interest in developing an English Language OCA mission to the Greater Wilmington area, St. Basil the Great Mission is now composed of nine families with diverse backgrounds who are anxious to see the community thrive. Until May 23, 2009 the mission was faithfully served twice monthly by clergy from the Diocese including Father Paul Coats and Father Nikolay Miletkov, both from the Carolinas Deanery, and Father John Hayes from Jacksonville, FL. On May 30, 2009 the mission welcomed Father Peter Robichau as their first resident priest. Father Peter, former deacon at Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Columbia, SC, just finished his second year at St. Vladimir's Seminary, and he will serve St. Basil's Mission until August 23 when he will return with his family to New York in order to finish his last year at SVS. This novel arrangement has provided the mission with a temporary but consistent pastoral presence and liturgical life as they prepare to welcome a full-time priest in the future.

The mission is currently worshiping in a chapel leased from a local Episcopal community, but they have reached capacity in this very small space. After the arrival of Fr. Peter, the community established a Real Estate Committee to explore options for a larger meeting space and possibilities for the acquisition of land. The community hopes to relocate to another, larger facility before the departure of Fr. Peter in August. High real estate prices are limiting available options, but the community is hopeful that something viable will arise in the near future as growth is currently being hindered by the lack of space in its current facility. St. Basil's has seen high attendance (31 people) in recent weeks, but this cannot practically be sustained in the current space.

A series of long-term planning sessions has been scheduled, including a one day mission-wide retreat on July 18, and the community hopes to formulate a vision in these meetings as they move from a small core to an established Orthodox presence in Wilmington. At present, the only Orthodox presence in this geographical region with a population of approximately 350,000 residents (in the metro area) is St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church which is located in the City of Wilmington. With the Wilmington metro area being comprised of parts of New Hanover and Brunswick counties, St. Basil's Mission is focusing, long-term, on establishing itself in Northern Brunswick county, a county in which no Orthodox community has ever existed. An inactive Patriarchal community, founded by immigrants in the early 20th Century, and a failed Ukrainian mission are the only other signs of Orthodox Christianity in this historic coastal area. Father Peter has already developed a relationship with the priest at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Father Matthew Carter, and the two have met regularly and agreed to present a unified witness to the Orthodox faith.

The presence of a full-time priest has allowed the community to add not only two Divine Liturgies to its schedule each month, but also Great Vespers on Saturday evenings. With a limited membership (and an even more limited knowledge of the services), the community is struggling with how to best structure and learn the cycle of services so that they are served beautifully and competently. In addition to the expansion of the community's liturgical life, members have expressed an interest in exploring possibilities of service to its neighbors - partnerships with existing charitable organizations are being explored to this end.

Finally, the community's regular cycle of services has proven inviting to non-Orthodox citizens of Wilmington who were aware of the mission's presence but not interested in exploring a mission without a resident priest.

Subsequently, the number of visitors has increased, and an Inquirers Class has been meeting on Wednesday evenings. It is quite likely that St. Basil's will enroll its first catechumen before the end of the summer.

Fort Mill/Rock Hill, SC Mission Station [Future] Submitted by Fr Paul Coats

"The seeds of Orthodoxy are laying beneath the soil in Rock Hill, SC, and by God's grace will sprout up later this year.

Since last summer (2008), the Coats family has been blessed to be attached to Nativity of the Holy Virgin parish in Charlotte, where we have received encouragement, support, and opportunities for service from Fr. Bill and Taisia Mills and the faithful at Nativity. Fr. Paul regularly served St. Basil's Mission in Wilmington, NC, until Fr. Peter Robichau's arrival this summer, and will continue the work of Fr. Peter with the community there when Fr. Peter returns to seminary to complete his studies. Fr. Paul has also served as a supply priest for other parishes in the Carolinas deanery from time to time.

It is our hope to begin an OCA presence in the Fort Mill/Rock Hill, SC (south Charlotte metro area) perhaps as early as this fall, with a weekly gathering to serve Vespers, followed by some teaching on Orthodoxy and a communal

Carolinas Deanery of the Diocese of the South, July 2009 Diocesan Assembly Report --- Atlanta, GA

meal. The Coats family are fully active in local home school associations and events, and Fr. Paul is also serving as a chaplain for Ascension Hospice, which has established services recently in the Rock Hill and surrounding areas. We are slowly coming to know our neighbors and the community, as our home.

Like so many communities in this area, Rock Hill is brimming with good people, who are on the path to the Kingdom of God and are seeking His will. We are praying that God will provide a door into the apostolic faith for many who are looking for Orthodoxy but have never really seen it, perhaps with the Vespers/fellowship night. In addition, we pray that Orthodox Christians living here will find each other and eventually establish their own parish for the city, along with all that God may be calling into the Faith.

Report Submitted by

Priest Marcus

VRev Fr Marcus C Burch
Dean, Carolinas Deanery