

Carolinas Deanery of the Diocese of the South
June 2008 Diocesan Assembly Report --- Dallas, TX
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. By the time of this summer's Diocesan Assembly the Wilmington Mission effort should be formally named St Basil the Great Orthodox Church. We hope to have a priest permanently assigned there by June of 2009. John Hays, a 2007 St Vladimir's Seminary graduate, who attends Holy Cross Mission in High Point, NC, was recently ordained a deacon. We hope in the coming year he will be ordained a priest and be assigned to Wilmington next summer. In the meantime, deanery clergy will continue to service this mission twice a month. Our intention is to begin efforts toward establishing a mission in the Asheville/Hendersonville, NC area, in the fall of 2009, followed by a mission planting effort in the south end of the Myrtle Beach/Grandstrand/Georgetown, SC area, perhaps as early as 2010. 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. St Nicholas Mission in Fayetteville, NC, is the only other existing mission among those in the largest metro areas that is failing to thrive. After beginning regular twice-a-month services there in August of 2007, and with the persistence and fidelity of its core members, we are beginning to see some encouraging signs of growth, stability and permanence. We are hopeful of building on this momentum.

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 strongly considering the possibility of a second church in the Charlotte, NC/Rock Hill, SC area, beginning sometime early in 2010 and have identified a priest willing to pursue the possibility. Fr Paul Coats, a May 2008 graduate of St Vladimir's Seminary, will be assigned to Nativity of the Holy Virgin in Charlotte, NC, as a 2nd priest, with the responsibility for assisting in deanery missionary activities as well as planning a new mission start in the southern part of the Charlotte metropolitan area. 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 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.

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; 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 [Fr Paul Schellbach]**
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, Antiochian, 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 ---
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, Antiochian (limited presence), OCA Monastery

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

A mission could be planted out of existing local church.

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

A mission could be planted out of existing local church.

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

No mission yet planted. We hope to begin work in this area by Fall of 2009
Other Orthodox Presence --- Greek, ROCOR, Carpatho-Russian, [Antiochian], OCA Monastery

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

No mission yet planted. We hope to begin work in this area by early 2010
Other Orthodox Presence --- OCA, Greek, Serbian, ROCOR,

12. **Fayetteville, NC**; 346,000

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

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

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

14. **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.

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

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

A mission could be planted out of existing local church.

16. **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.

17. **Florence, SC** 199,000

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

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18. *Greenville, NC* 165,000

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

19. *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.

20. *Jacksonville, NC* 154,000

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

21. *Edenton, NC* 50,000

X. St George Orthodox Church --- Served by Fr Andrew Davis
Other Orthodox Presence --- NONE

22. *Toccoa, GA* 26,000

XI. St Timothy Orthodox Church --- Fr Jacob Kulp
Other Orthodox Presence --- NONE

23. *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 gather as a deanery whenever His Eminence makes an Archpastoral visit to one of the deanery churches or missions (we are blessed with geographical boundaries that make this possible). In March of this year all the deanery clergy were hosted by Fr Christopher Foley and the Holy Cross Mission in High Point, NC, where we saw the fruit of the establishment of 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 new missions within the deanery. Each parish and mission within the deanery is being asked to support this fund which is being 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. Holy Cross subsequently was awarded the OCA's Planting Grant starting at the beginning of the present calendar year. Deanery clergy also gathered in October of 2007 in Raleigh, NC at Holy Transfiguration Mission and for the consecration of Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in May of this year in Mt Pleasant, SC. The deanery compensation guideline for clergy (based on the OCA guidelines) was updated for 2008. 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. There may be some opportunities to formalize this choir in the coming year We continue to engage in cooperative efforts to bring notable speakers and theologians into the deanery for lecture series (eg, Matthew Gallatin will visit several of our churches in October of this year and lead a clergy retreat). Fr Paul Tarazi regularly visits as well.

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+ (48 in 2007)	Weddings since last summer: 1
Average Great Vespers attendance: 15	Pascha attendance: 100+ (up from 82)
Chrismations since last summer: 4	Current Catechumens: 1
Baptisms: 1 (one child)	Funerals: 2

Highlights of Summer 2007-Summer 2008

- ✘ Moved into new temple—Sunday of Orthodoxy 2008
- ✘ Consecration of new temple—May 24
- ✘ Tonsure of new Reader, Scott David West
- ✘ Bookstore growing, with Inquirer as manager
- ✘ Three beautiful Icons donated to the parish (Burning Bush, Christ the Teacher, Theotokos of Kazan)
- ✘ 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.)
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Considerable growth in almsgiving
- ✘ Support Missionaries from OCMC in Romania as well as Deanery Mission fund
- ✘ Planning first parish OCMC Missions trip (Priest and one parishioner) to Guatemala in July 2008.

Areas in need of attention:

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

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

Statistics:

Average Divine Liturgy attendance: 100	High Sunday Attendance: approx. 120
Low Sunday Attendance: approx. 70	Average G.Vesp attendance: 30, Daily Vespers 20.
Pascha attendance: about 150, but well over half stayed for Liturgy!	
Baptisms: 5 adults, four infants	Chrismations: 2 adults
Current Catechumens: 1	Weddings: 3
	Funerals: 3

Highlights of 2007- 2008

Missionary activity:

- We have had good coverage in our State newspaper, including articles on our new Iconostas and St. Nicholas festival. Our St. Nicholas Festival continues to draw more people each year to learn about the Church, Orthodox music, and St. Nicholas. We continue to attract new visitors and recent immigrants regularly.
- Two of our members were ordained to clergy: Fr. Paul Rivers to the Holy Priesthood and Dn. Peter who subsequently moved with his family to attend SVS. Fr. Paul is becoming a military chaplain, and Dn. Peter is making a missionary trip to Africa this summer.
- Deacon Joseph Kreta was received from the Diocese of E. Pa., and has been a great help in Missionary activity.
- Six of our members made a missionary trip with IOCC to New Orleans for a week working with Habitat for Humanity.
- We have trained and are blessed with three good choir directors.
- We have upgraded our signage.

Charity:

- support two seminarians from our parish.

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- work with the local charity “God’s Helping Hands”.
- support the Deanery Missions fund, and distribute alms as generously as we are able.
- support OCMC regularly with gifts, coin box collections, and specific missionary activities (like Dn. Peter going to Africa)
- collected individual donations for the IOCC Chariman’s challenge
- take collections for St. Mary and Martha Monastery

Financially:

- After a financial setback early in the year due to our planting the Aiken mission, with the help of the Diocese and some local friends, we are again breaking even in our income/expenses.
- Our Bookstore continues to donate \$400 per month to the Church, and reinvests all other profits in stock.
- Icons have been donated to complete our new Iconostas.
- Plans are being made to expand our hall/classroom space while adapting the front of our Church to look more “architecturally Orthodox”.
- We purchased the parking lot next door, and added equipment to our children’s play area.
- Our Parish council president and council members are functioning smoothly and professionally, and our Lay leadership has really begun to take responsibility for the day to day operation of the church.
- Our bookkeeper/office/store manager is an indispensable, self sacrificing gift to our parish.

Education:

- I have taught classes on Orthodoxy at all three local Universities and a weekly bible study and an inquirers/catechumen class at Holy Apostles.
- Dn. Joseph has been instrumental in developing our youth program and Church school. He has significantly refined and expanded our Safe Sanctuary program to insure the safety of our Children while at Church. He also teaches bi-weekly class on the Orthodox Church.
- We have a monthly Women’s group for fellowship and study

Coming Soon:

- Anticipated expansion/construction on our hall and Church front.
- Pantocrator Icon finished in our dome.
- Acquire our fourth and largest bell.
- We are considering becoming an Angel Food Distributor site.
- We are looking to a collaborative effort with the Charlotte parish to start a mission in Rock Hill, SC

ST. GEORGE'S MISSION STATION, Edenton, North Carolina

Serviced by Fr. Andrew Davis

May 30, 2008, report for Diocesan Assembly

PROGRAM:

visit by priest monthly for Sat. Vespers & Sun. Liturgy
all other Sundays the Typica, with a priest's homily
lunch served every Sunday after services
inquirers' & catechumens' class Wednesday evenings
1902 railway passenger depot rented for church
building interior restoration in progress
participants steadily growing in Christ
80 local households subscribing to weekly newsletter

STATISTICS:

usual Sunday attendance, 6
high Sunday attendance (Nov. 18), 12
low Sunday attendance, (Dec. 23), 1
usual Wednesday class attendance, 6
usual monthly Vespers attendance, 6
Paschal attendance, 10
current catechumens, 1
marriages in past 12 months, 1

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR JUNE 2007 THROUGH MAY 2008:

June, preparation & response to miraculous offer of building
July, permit for conversion to church in residential zone
Aug., raising of \$16,000 in pledges for initial year in building
Sept., cleaning & furnishing & landscaping of building
Oct., archbishop's visit & conferring of name St. George's
Oct., public reception for archbishop's blessing of building
Nov., reconstruction of entrance porch to building
Dec., move of services from Catholic Hall into St. George's
Dec., commencement of monthly Saturday vespers
Dec., first Christmas Day service
Dec., commencement of restoration of building interior
Jan., bequest of theological library to St. George's
Feb., first wedding for the mission station
Feb., gift of first relic (St. John of Kronstadt) to St. George's
Mar., inauguration of website
Apr., first Great Friday service

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES:

completion & erection of outdoor sign
completion of landscaped entrance courtyard
completion of west-quarter restoration for nave & sanctuary
public open-house when nave & sanctuary are opened
improvement of choir for public-appearance opportunities

CONCERNS:

attracting of more attendance to services
funding of second fiscal year in building
resources to remove aluminum siding and repaint exterior
discernment of & fostering of suitable charitable work
need for a resident priest

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

Average Sunday Attendance: 60 (50 in 2007). Pascha Attendance: 111 (90 in 2007).
Average G. Vespers Attendance: 21 (12 in 2007)
High Sunday Attendance: 82 Low Sunday Attendance: 42
Baptisms: 3 Weddings: 1 Catechumens: 6 Chrismations: 4 Inquirers: 8

Highlights

- Archpastoral visit of His Eminence in March.
- January 2008 we began receiving support on the OCA planting grant allowing Fr. Christopher to be full time.
- Tonsuring of one reader, Daniel Kowalcheck and one subdeacon, John Hays.
- Ordination to the Holy Diaconate of our subdeacon, John Hays.
- We have launched our new web site this year that has become a good outreach tool for us.
- Donation of Greek-style tomb from the local Greek parish in High Point.
- Donation of \$500 from the Greek Church in Winston-Saelm for Tabernacle.
- Donation of "bells" from the ROCOR parish in Asheville.
- 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).
- Support Deanery Mission fund and special IOCC appeals for cyclone and earthquake victims.
- Begun a Women's group for fellowship and study.
- We had a successful catechism class which led to 5 chrismations on Great and Holy Saturday.
- We have begun to work on establishing a building fund and have opened a separate high interest yielding bank account and are currently doing a demographic study to understand where everyone in the parish is coming from.

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- We have continued our once a month Saturday afternoon church school.
- Fr. Deacon John taught an adult church school during Lent called "Our Hidden Life in Christ" which was well attended and well received.
- The choir continues to meet weekly and has worked very hard during Great Lent and Pascha as we added a more full cycle this year.
- 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.

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.
- We need to do more outreach into the community - food bank, homeless shelter, and other local charities that are involved in High Point.
- As in any parish we struggle with a core group doing most of the work, so there is the challenge of how to plug more people in and encourage them to get involved.
- Since we are a diverse group from various Orthodox backgrounds, we are still learning how to come together and be a truly pan-Orthodox parish.

The Future

- We are considering having a summer vacation church school for the kids this year.
- We will be starting a new series of inquirer's classes this summer.
- 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.

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

Members: 75 (approximate)

Average Sunday Divine Liturgy attend: 80 adults / 28 children

Average G.Vesp attend: 20 adults – 5 children Average D.Vesp attend: 15 adults – 2 children

Pascha attendance: 150 communicants (200+ total)

Baptisms since last summer: 3 Chrismations: 2 Current Catechumens: 4 Seekers/Inquirers: 8 (approximate)

Marriages: 3 Deaths: 0

Highlights of Summer 2007 - Summer 2008

- We have outgrown our current worship space (a former United Methodist church building).
- At the annual parish meeting on January 27th 2008 in response to the need for building a larger and proper Orthodox Church, a building committee was established.
- The building committee meets twice a month and is currently considering several options for land acquisition.
- A major donation from a parishioner has allowed us to (almost) pay off our current mortgage.
- Completion of the construction of a beautiful wooden bell tower.
- Retreats with Fr. Paul Lazor and Fr. Paul Tarazi.
- To our usual educational programs (Sunday School and Catechumen Classes) we have added a program called "Ask the Priest" which meets twice a month in a question and answer format during Sunday coffee hour (one in English and one in Russian).
- Together with the local Antiochian Church we continue to lead the Clemson University OCF chapter. For two years now we have also taken sole responsibility for the Furman University OCF.
- Outreach to OCMC Missions and Support: Floyd Frantz. Local Charities: Greenville United Ministries, Safe Harbor. Providing financial support for seminarians. Participation in the Deanery Mission Fund.
- Fr. Gregory Heers, a retired Antiochian priest and his wife Presbyteria Catherine moved to our area last year. They have been a great asset to our parish.
- Initiated local Pan-Orthodox Concelebrations for Theophany (joint outdoor blessing of water with local and Sunday of Orthodoxy).
- Improved Website quality.
- Some coverage in local newspapers.

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- John Brantley Cox and his family begin St Vladimir's Seminary in the Fall with the blessing of the Archbishop and under the sponsorship of St John of the Ladder.

Areas in need of attention:

- Eventual sale of the current property, land acquisition, and building of a proper Orthodox Church.
- Continue to encourage Pan-Orthodox activities in the Greenville area.
- Greater outreach to the Russian speaking population.

Coming Soon:

- Retreat with Matthew Gallatin in October 2008 (Author, *Thirsting For God in a Land of Shallow Wells*).
- Molieben in Russian twice a month following the Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC

Submitted by Rev Fr William C Mills, Rector

Diocesan Report January-June 2008

Members	72	Baptisms:	3	Weddings:	1
Funerals:	1	Catechumens	5		

In addition to our regular weekly liturgical worship our parish continues to be involved in numerous monthly and seasonal outreach and philanthropic projects such as:

- Cooking a hot lunch at the local men's rescue mission
- Donating baby products to the local Florence Crittendon Center
- Donating canned goods to Loaves and Fishes
- Supporting a seminarian family at St. Vladimir's Seminary
- Making baby blankets for the national Project Linus organization
- Supporting the annual Christmas Angel Project sponsored by the Salvation Army
- OCMC Lenten coin collection box
- Supporting our Carolina's Deanery Mission Fund
- Donating children's back packs for the local school system

We are pleased to have had two seminarians from our parish pursue Orthodox theological education at our OCA seminaries. Jason Franchak who was Chrismated at our parish graduated from St. Tikhon's Seminary this year. John Frazier and his wife Mandy, who were both Chrismated and married in our parish will be moving to New York in August where John will pursue a Master of Divinity degree at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

In June we will also welcome Fr. Paul and Gerriane Coats and their daughter Helen to our parish. Fr. Paul will be attached to Nativity of the Holy Virgin and will assist in missionary activities in the Carolinas Deanery.

St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Fayetteville, NC

submitted by Rev. Fr Paul Schellbach

average Divine Liturgy attendance: 12
High Sunday attendance: 40
Low Sunday attendance: 5
Pascha attendance: 50
Current Catechumens: 1 Funerals: 3

Highlights July 2007-May 2008

Regular twice-a-month liturgies
Iconostasis reconfigured with new icons
Local newspaper highlighted St Nicholas in April 2008
Introduction of a building fund
Education wall with icons and education materials package
Deacon John Crook serving during Paschal services
Plans for new sign and website

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Aiken, SC
Serviced by Deanery Clergy, Report Submitted by M.V. Gregory
2007 Annual Summary

Average Divine Liturgy attendance: 20 adults, 8 children
Catechumens: 2 Chrismation: 1 Baptisms (children): 2

Highlights:

Provided regular financial support for one seminarian at St. Vladimir's
Constituted formal Mission Board with elected officers and support committees
Optioned parcel of land for potential future church construction
Received significant donations of hand-written 6-ft high Cross and Corpus Icon for altar, hand-written Icon of the Crucifixion, and Paschal liturgical items

Looking towards 2008

committed to a 49% increase in personal tithes for 2008 to support transition to a full-time priest

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

Average Divine Liturgy attendance: 28 (25 in 2007)
High Sunday Attendance: 44 Low Sunday Attendance: 15
Average Great Vespers attendance: 10 Chrismations: 1
Pascha attendance: 42

Highlights of Spring 2008-Spring 2008

- * First full-cycle of Festal Liturgies in Toccoa
- * Donation to the parish of a Tabernacle
- * Donation of lampadas for walls of the nave
- * Construction of Table of Oblation, floor candlestands, censer stand, flower risers for Tomb, Plaschanitsa frame,
- * Spring Yard Sale raised \$250
- * Provided major assistance to two local families in crisis
- * 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
- * Orthodox Web Solutions webpage

Areas in need of attention:

- * Find an iconographer for principal iconostasis icons.

Coming Soon:

- * Yellow Page ads in Stephens & Habersham County telephone books with webpage address
- * Evangelistic advertising drive to make ourselves fully known in the area.
- * Cash purchase of double corner lot next to our present property that more than triples our frontage on Collins Rd. This gives us parking lot space, room for a church building in addition to what will then become our hall. The property has an existing building currently being rented as a thrift shop.

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Raleigh, NC
Rev Fr Edward Rommen, Priest-in-Charge

Average Divine Liturgy attendance: 75 Average Great Vespers attendance: 15
High Sunday Attendance: 93
Low Sunday Attendance: 40
Pascha attendance: ca. 135
Baptisms: 1 (Adult) Chrismations: 5 Current Catechumens: 2
Weddings since last summer: 1

Highlights of Last Year

Well attended Lecture Series (3) on Dostoevsky (Presented by UNC Prof.)
Growing Church School Program with 3 classes (two for children)
Spiritual Formation Retreat with students from Duke
Icon Retreat at Duke
Began negotiations to buy the building we are now renting.

Wilmington Mission Station (St Basil Orthodox Church), Wilmington, NC
Serviced by Deanery Clergy/ Report Submitted by Kelsey Bigelow
Mission Report --- covering mission news and notes from 08/2006 through 05/2008

Began meeting on a regular basis in August of 2006.

Meeting in small basement (street level) chapel of St Paul's Episcopal Church
in the downtown, historic area of Wilmington, NC.

Grateful for their generous offering of the beautiful chapel and a private room for our coffee fellowship,
meeting space and storage of our things.

Started our web site(www.wilmingtonoca.org) and opened our bank account in January of 2007.

Visiting priest every first and third Sunday of the month. Fr Marcus Burch, Fr Nikolay Miletkov
and Fr Paul Schellbach have driven many miles to serve us over the past few years., often in bad weather
and late at night leaving their families behind. We are forever grateful.

Reader's Services on Sundays when a Priest is not available.

Attendance for all services is very good. We average about 14 people per service.

Current membership total = 16 (ten adults, two teens, two "tweens" and two children)

During the month of May 2008 we held our first "pledge drive" which was quite successful.

We have healthy finances and budget plan for June - December of 2008. We plan to again ask for pledges
in Nov and Dec of 2008 so that we can plan our 2009 budget year.

We recently purchased two beautiful, new Stikharia for our altar servers.

We designed and purchased signs for our outside entrance to help folks find us.

Signs out each Sunday and take them back inside after coffee hour.

We are always on the lookout for a suitable building to call our own.

Our choir is led by 16 year old Christina Bergeron. Christina also acts as our assistant treasurer and makes sure
our rent check is delivered each month and holds an occasional choir practice for us.

Lay leader, Janice Bergeron makes sure we have the proper readings and music prepared each week.

Elizabeth Bigelow, age 5, is responsible for our weekly 'head-count' and sings in the choir.

Coming Soon:

We have received the blessing from Archbishop Dmitri soon of official "Mission" status and the name:
St. Basil the Great Orthodox Church.

Beginning in September, we will add regular choir rehearsal followed by Great Vespers
on those weekends a priest serves the mission.

Hope to hold our first Nativity Services as well as Forgiveness Vespers, Presanctified Liturgies,
Holy Week and Pascha Services

Hopeful that the Hay's family (Deacon John, Ginny and Noah) will move here to serve in the spring of 2009.

Report Submitted by

Priest Marcus

Rev Fr Marcus C Burch

Dean, Carolinas Deanery

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church

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