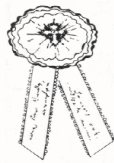


# IN THE COMMUNITY



## BAPTISMS



Angelina, daughter of Gregg and Maria Pidgeon, January 31  
George and Paula Koutsakis, Godparents

Ethan Alexandru, son of Ovidiu and Claudia Pop, February 06  
Benetatos Julian, Godfather

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Let us cordially welcome the following new members to the St. Sophia community. Please do not hesitate to greet our new members and offer any assistance and/or information regarding the community and its organizations and programs:

Alex, Diana, Daniel and Robert Albu  
Richard, Maria, Andrea, Kyle, Ryan Blinkhorn  
Ovidiu, Christina and Ethan Alexandru Nituica  
Sophie Gouvakis

## WISH LIST FOR ST. SOPHIA

Parishioners are beginning to donate towards our "Wish List". The generosity throughout the year of our parishioners has been exemplary and rewarding. The opportunity to donate beyond your stewardship obligation is always welcome and essential. Items donated:

Defibrillator  
Podium

John and Theo Karatzou  
Peter and Maria Pappas

## STEWARDSHIP

### STEWARDSHIP



Please note that under the Stewardship program **you must submit each and EVERY year a commitment card**. For your convenience we have included a card in this issue for your use. Nevertheless, St. Sophia cannot operate without the personal financial commitment that we must all make. It is our responsibility, as parishioners, to ensure the present and future of our Church. If St. Sophia didn't exist tomorrow, where would we go for our spiritual needs, our cultural needs, or a place to see many of our friends. Please take the time to submit your 2010 Stewardship Commitment Card so that St. Sophia can meet its yearly budget. St. Sophia relies on our Stewardship, as it should, to meet expenses.

## WHITEHALL MANAGEMENT

As a result of only one name being submitted to fill two vacancies on the St. Sophia and Holy Wisdom Housing Board of Directors, contested elections are not required. As a result, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to announce and welcome Karen Takes Pappis as our newest member.

...*John C. Gologas, President*

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

When we began the renovations to our complex, including the breezeway, Narthex, Exo-Narthex, Air-Conditioning, etc., we embarked on a capital campaign soliciting monetary donations towards this endeavor. A total of \$217,401.00 was promised. To date, a total of \$196,933.00 has been received with a balance due of \$20,468.00. We gave donees three years to pay off their promise (2007-2010). As a reminder that this is the last year for receipt of these monies, letters will be sent to those few who still have a balance in the hopes that they will fulfill their promise. We take this opportunity to again thank those parishioners who participated.

## EASTER DONATIONS

The following items are still needed for Great Lent and Holy Week 2010. Individuals wishing to donate any of these items should call the Church Office:

† 3 floral wreaths, one for each Salutation service

KNITTING/CROCHETING

† Monetary donations for *Epitaphio* flowers

The Kinitting/Crocheting for Charity (will decide on a name later) meet every Wednesday, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM in the Ahepa Room. We welcome Women and Men Alike; beginner and experienced alike. It is not necessary to come every week – flexible schedule. The group has started with squares for Afghan donations to: “Warm Up America.” Other charities will include: Caps for preemies; baby sets for local hospitals; chemo caps; caps for military (ships project); community hospice; and Albany County Social Services. Looking for donations of yarn or money to purchase supplies. For information call Jan Gallas at 869-3968 or just join us on Wednesday.

CHURCH ARCHIVES & LIBRARY



Book of the Month. *Psalms of Praise: Words of Life*, published in Great Britain by Collins Fount Paperbacks, London. The author of this book, who is Frances Hogan, is a British Scriptures scholar. On page 63, the title of Chapter 10 is **Psalm 23: The Loving Shepherd**. She gives the entire psalm and then make her comments and observations, helping the readers to apply them to their own lives. This is how she begins:

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my dropping spirit.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your  
staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

Surely goodness and kindness shall  
follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall dwell  
for ever and ever.

To express his relationship with God, David chose the very popular image of the shepherd-king. He had spent his youth as a shepherd himself, and so understood all the love, concern, compassion and selfless giving required of a shepherd. He now utilizes this knowledge to proclaim God's goodness to us. Since I have spent time in dialogue with David in this psalm, and hopefully with the Holy Spirit too, I hope that the dialogue which follows with you, the reader, will enable you to appreciate from a New Testament angle what the poet expressed in the idiom of his own day. The whole message of the psalm is contained in the first verse: "The Lord is MY shepherd."

The author's translation in a few of the verses is not the same as others. Also, it does not follow exactly the Greek text. Her presentation of this psalm is intended to be inspirational for the reader.

If you want to borrow this book of psalms, please see us in the Church Archives and Library Center. In the next issue of *The Testament* the analysis by the author Frances Hogan will be continued.

...Submitted by Christopher Kendris and Iakovos Personnius

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Two additional parishioners returned a 2009 Christmas Donation Envelope and we want to take this opportunity to thank them:

George Mokhiber  
Angeline Thomas

GREEK SCHOOL

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our reverent, Father Patric Legato, the AHEPA and the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox community for

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

supporting the Afternoon Greek School Three Hierarch Program and breakfast fund raiser on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Tax Assistance. Need Help? NNORC Free Tax Assistance. Have your taxes prepared by AARP at St. Sophia March 2, 9 and 13. Appointment Only - Call NNORC at 514-2023

CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate Christopher Pappis on fulfilling the degree requirements for his Masters in Educational Technology. Christopher achieved a perfect 4.0 in his courses for this degree. We are so proud of you!  
... Your Family



Lori Hadjoannou has won the 1010 Women of Distinction Inspired by You Award for the category of Distinguished Leader of Tomorrow under age 21. This award is presented to a young woman who has demonstrated outstanding leadership ability and has contributed to her school and community. She was honored by the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York in February. Lori also has earned the gold award which is the highest award for a girl scout for her work with the Capital City Rescue..Anne Hadioannou

Best wishes to Elias Mukasa and Miriam Nalweyiso on their recent marriage at the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Tacoma, Washington on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Katherine and Salvatore Papa recently announced the engagement of their daughter, Keather Marie Papa, to Brad Michael Gallagher. A November 2010 wedding is planned. Best Wishes!

CONDOLENCES

Former parishioner, Theodore Teddy Paralís, passed away in Salonica, Greece on February 4<sup>th</sup> as a result of a tragic car accident. May his memory be eternal!

Three Hierarchs Letters Day Program  
by Greek School and Sunday School Students  
Sunday, February 7, 2010

Breakfast Sponsored by Ahepa

