"You are anxious and worried about many things. ONE THING IS NEEDFUL." (Luke 10:41)

September is a month of beginnings. It marks the start of the Ecclesiastical Year with many of our Church ministries. Students return to school and begin their classes as we conclude our summer schedules of rest and vacation, and return full-force to our work. What a blessing new starts can be IF we make proper use of them!

New beginnings are always opportunities to re-evaluate the path that we are presently walking, as well as to reflect on future goals and vision. Do we find meaning in what we do? How can we discover the abundant and joyous life Christ has promised us? Can the Church help me in this journey of life?

The answer to this last question is a resounding YES! This positive YES, however, depends on how much time and effort we are willing to exert in a search for God and His peace. Jesus said to a friend who’s life was quite busy and full, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. ONE THING IS NEEDFUL!” (Luke 10:41)

As we begin a new month and a new start, let us each encourage one another to make a new commitment in seeking out “the one thing needful.”

For example, make a decision to regularly attend one of our Bible Studies. We will begin in October a more informal time of fellowship and discussion on topics of faith. Put it in your calendar and commit to coming to this.
The mission of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are under the jurisdiction of
His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

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If you have children, make a commitment to bring them on time to our Sunday School every week, beginning on Sept. 15. We also have four Holy Cross Seminarians who will be working with our GOYA this year, and developing some fun and great activities.

The Church Fathers emphasize that the greatest way to discover the “one thing needful,” is to enter into an intimate relationship with our Lord through WORSHIP. Make it a point this year to learn more about what worship is, how to worship, and of course, find the time to worship God as frequently as possible!

For example, in September, we celebrate several significant holy days. First, we remember the Birth of the Virgin Mary (Sept 8). The Panayia and Virgin Mary offers the greatest example for us to imitate. Let us celebrate her birthday. A few days following that, we celebrate the Exaltation of the Life-Giving Cross (Sept 14). The Cross is not simply a symbol of our faith, but it reminds us about the way of life we should live - a life of love, of sacrifice, of offering ourselves for others, and of obeying the will of God. Towards the end of the month, we will also have an evening Divine Liturgy on Sept 25 to honor St. John the Theologian.

Try to become more engaged in our Church Family and the opportunities we have to grow in your faith. Discover in the depths of your heart what millions of faithful believers from all generations have discovered - “pearl of great price,” our faith which is greater than life itself!

On another note, September offers us the opportunity to come together as a Church Family and show our Christ-centered hospitality and love to the greater Central Mass Community through our GREEK FESTIVAL on Sept 7-8. Please come out and support our festival by volunteering your time, as well as by encouraging your friends and neighbors to attend.

I pray that all of us have a blessed new beginning this September.

With love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+Luke
CO-WORKERS WITH GOD
The Heroism of Antoinette Tuff

“I have no one who loves me… I have nothing to live for!”

Think about those two statements. “I have no one who loves me… I have nothing to live for.” Recently, I’m sure many of us watched in awe and amazement the heroic stand of Antoinette Tuff, the school clerk who disarmed Michael Brandon Hill, the would-be murderer at a Georgia Elementary School.

Michael Hill entered the school with an AK 47, 500 rounds of ammo, and a world of darkness – coming from a place where he felt no love and no purpose in living. Yet, he unexpectedly encountered a woman from the opposite spectrum. Where Hill felt no love and no purpose, and only hatred from the world around him, Tuff showed him kindness and respect. She not only listened to him and his struggles, but related to him at his place of pain. She knew the darkness of despair, and met him there. She revealed her own struggles in life, where earlier in the year she faced a divorce after 26 years of marriage. She shared her own attempted suicide because of her darkness and despair, and yet she prevailed. She rediscovered purpose and meaning in life, coming out of the darkness and prodding Michael in the same direction.

“I saw a young man ready to kill anybody that he could,” Antoinette relayed, “And take any lives he wanted to… He told me he was sorry for what he was doing, but he was willing to die… I just started telling him stories, saying ‘You don't have to die today… We all have situations in our lives. It's going to be all right, sweetie. I just want you to know I love you, though, OK? And I'm proud of you. We all go through something in life. No, you don't want to do this. You’re going to be OK… I tried to commit suicide last year after my husband left me. But look at me now. I'm still working and everything is OK.”

Love overpowering evil; a bright light shining in the darkest hell. Antoinette Tuff became an instrument in God’s hands, overcoming the fear she surely had, conquering the evil intent of Michael Brandon Hill, not only saving the children and workers at that Georgia School, but even giving the confused and lost Hill a glimpse of divine love.

And when the media began to praise Tuff as a hero, she simply responded by giving all glory to God!

What a beautiful story and one we can relate to St. Paul Epistle Reading of today. We heard how the Apostle reminds us, “We are God’s fellow workers… Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:9,16) Here, the Apostle Paul highlights two crucial elements in his letter. First, he reminds us that we are all co-workers with God. And second, he emphasizes that we are all temples of God which house His Spirit. Let’s look at both of these points closely.

First, we are co-workers with God. Imagine if you actually worked in the same place as Jesus, working next to Him, working on the same project that He was doing, working together with the same end goal in mind! Can we even imagine what incredible meaning and purpose we would find in such work? Working with Christ would transform menial work into something that has eternal significance! Our lives would take on new and deep meaning. We would look at everything we do, and in fact look at even our own lives, in a radically exciting, significant and consequential way! We would never be able to say...
that life is meaningless, or that I have “nothing to live for.”

Here is a fundamental principle we should strive to live by. Whatever we do in our daily lives, and whatever we face in our lives, remember that we are co-workers with Christ! We should be working together with Him towards a common goal! This transforms each day into a significant day full of purpose because we have Jesus as the partner and co-worker in our lives.

Contrast what someone like Michael Brandon Hill said, and unfortunately what many other people actually feel - “No one loves me” and “I have nothing to live for.” This is the deception of the Evil One, and an unfortunate reality created by many people’s lonely lives. St. Paul reminds each one of us, however, that if we look at life from God’s perspective, we have much to live for! God loves and respects each one of us and actually wants us to become His co-workers! He wants to be our partner in life, helping and guiding us, while also expecting something from us. God cherishes our lives and values who we are and whatever gifts we have to offer. Anyone who truly understands our Orthodox Christian faith and tries to live in an authentic, vibrant relationship with God will learn to see life as an incredible blessing, a vast and exciting opportunity to serve God and serve one another for the glory of God!

Too many people in our world today are desperately trying to figure out how their lives can take on significance and meaning. St. Paul reveals to us how – by understanding life as a partnership and cooperation with God!

The second lesson from St. Paul epistle today is for us to remember that we are all temples of God which house His Spirit. A temple is a sacred space where God dwells; a space dedicated for worship and a place of encounter with the Holy One. St Paul challenges us to look at our own lives as a place where God wants to live, a space where God desires to meet us. If we look at ourselves as a place where God lives, it changes how we value ourselves and how we value others. We will treat ourselves with dignity, and offer respect to everyone we meet. These are two lessons which could change the lives of people like Michael Brandon Hill. For those who have “nothing to live for” and who feel that “no one loves me,” St. Paul reminds us that there is someone who loves us so much that He wants to make His abode in our own lives. And when God comes to live with us, He gives us every reason to look at life as a blessing, a wonderful opportunity to work with Him in bringing His love to the world around us.

Antoinette Tuff understood this. She overcame the unbelievable fear of facing a young man with a loaded automatic and a crazy desire to kill people, and looked beyond the evil exterior of her potential murderer, to see instead a confused young man, struggling in a life without love and without meaning or purpose. She understood, whether consciously or unconsciously, in that crucial moment that she was a co-worker with God, and acted as His ambassador, bringing love and hope to Michael Brandon Hill.
I would like to share with you an imaginary letter from the pen of the Apostle Paul. The postmark reveals that it comes from the city of Ephesus. After opening the letter I discovered that it was written in Greek rather than English. At the top of the first page was this request:

“Please read to your congregation as soon as possible, and then pass on to the other churches.”

For several weeks I have worked assiduously with the translation. At times it has been difficult, but now I think I have deciphered its true meaning. May I hasten to say that if in presenting this letter the contents sound strangely Kingian instead of Paulinian, attribute it to my lack of complete objectivity rather than Paul’s lack of clarity.

It is miraculous, indeed, that the Apostle Paul should be writing a letter to you and to me nearly 1900 years after his last letter appeared in the New Testament. How this is possible is something of an enigma wrapped in mystery. The important thing, however, is that I can imagine the Apostle Paul writing a letter to American Christians in AD 1956.

And here is the letter as it stands before me.

I, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to you who are in America, Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

For many years I have longed to be able to come to see you. I have heard so much of you and of what you are doing. I have heard of the fascinating and astounding advances that you have made in the scientific realm. I have heard of your dashing subways and flashing airplanes. Through your scientific genius you have been able to dwarf distance and place time in chains. You have been able to carve highways through the stratosphere. So in your world you have made it possible to eat breakfast in New York City and dinner in Paris, France. I have also heard of your skyscraping buildings with their prodigious towers steeping heavenward. I have heard of your great medical advances, which have resulted in the curing of many dread plagues and diseases, and thereby prolonged your lives and made for greater security and physical well-being. All of that is marvelous. You can do so many things in your day that I could not do in the Greco-Roman world of my day. In your age you can travel distances in one day that took me three months to travel. That is wonderful. You have made tremendous strides in the area of scientific and technological development.

But America, as I look at you from afar, I wonder whether your moral and spiritual progress has been commensurate with your scientific progress. It seems to me that your moral progress lags behind your scientific progress. Your poet Thoreau used to talk about

“improved means to an unimproved end.”

How often this is true. You have allowed the material means by which you live to outdistance the spiri-
tual ends for which you live. You have allowed your mentality to outrun your morality. You have allowed your civilization to outdistance your culture. Through your scientific genius you have made of the world a neighborhood, but through your moral and spiritual genius you have failed to make of it a brotherhood. So America, I would urge you to keep your moral advances abreast with your scientific advances.

I am impelled to write you concerning the responsibilities laid upon you to live as Christians in the midst of an un-Christian world. That is what I had to do. That is what every Christian has to do. But I understand that there are many Christians in America who give their ultimate allegiance to man-made systems and customs. They are afraid to be different. Their great concern is to be accepted socially. They live by some such principle as this:

“everybody is doing it, so it must be alright.”

For so many of you Morality is merely group consensus. In your modern sociological lingo, the mores are accepted as the right ways. You have unconsciously come to believe that right is discovered by taking a sort of Gallup poll of the majority opinion. How many are giving their ultimate allegiance to this way.

But American Christians, I must say to you as I said to the Roman Christians years ago,

“Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2)

Or, as I said to the Philippian Christians,

“Ye are a colony of heaven.” (Philippians 3:20)

This means that although you live in the colony of time, your ultimate allegiance is to the empire of eternity. You have a dual citizenry. You live both in time and eternity; both in heaven and earth. Therefore, your ultimate allegiance is not to the government, not to the state, not to nation, not to any man-made institution. The Christian owes his ultimate allegiance to God, and if any earthly institution conflicts with God’s will it is your Christian duty to take a stand against it. You must never allow the transitory evanescent demands of man-made institutions to take precedence over the eternal demands of the Almighty God.

I understand that you have an economic system in America known as Capitalism. Through this economic system you have been able to do wonders. You have become the richest nation in the world, and you have built up the greatest system of production that history has ever known. All of this is marvelous. But Americans, there is the danger that you will misuse your Capitalism. I still contend that money can be the root of all evil. It can cause one to live a life of gross materialism. I am afraid that many among you are more concerned about making a living than making a life. You are prone to judge the success of your profession by the index of your salary and the size of the wheel base on your automobile, rather than the quality of your service to humanity.

The misuse of Capitalism can also lead to tragic exploitation. This has so often happened in your nation. They tell me that one tenth of one percent of the population controls more than forty percent of the wealth. Oh America, how often have you taken necessities from the masses to give luxuries to the classes. If you are to be a truly Christian nation you must solve this problem. You cannot solve the problem by turning to communism, for communism is based on an ethical relativism and a metaphysical materialism that no Christian can accept. You can work within the framework of democracy to bring about a better distribution of wealth. You can use your powerful economic resources to wipe poverty from the face of the earth. God never intended for one group of people to live in superfluous inordinate wealth, while others live in abject deadening poverty. God intends for all of his children to have the basic necessities of life, and he has left in this universe “enough and to spare” for that purpose. So I
call upon you to bridge the gulf between abject poverty and superfluous wealth.

I would that I could be with you in person, so that I could say to you face to face what I am forced to say to you in writing. Oh, how I long to share your fellowship.

Let me rush on to say something about the church. Americans, I must remind you, as I have said to so many others, that the church is the Body of Christ. So when the church is true to its nature it knows neither division nor disunity. But I am disturbed about what you are doing to the Body of Christ. They tell me that in America you have within Protestantism more than two hundred and fifty six denominations. The tragedy is not so much that you have such a multiplicity of denominations, but that most of them are warring against each other with a claim to absolute truth. This narrow sectarianism is destroying the unity of the Body of Christ. You must come to see that God is not a Baptist nor a Methodist; He is neither a Presbyterian nor a Episcopalian. God is bigger than all of our denominations. If you are to be true witnesses for Christ, you must come to see that America.

But I must not stop with a criticism of Protestantism. I am disturbed about Roman Catholicism. This church stands before the world with its pomp and power, insisting that it possesses the only truth. It incorporates an arrogance that becomes a dangerous spiritual arrogance. It stands with its noble Pope who somehow rises to the miraculous heights of infallibility when he speaks ex cathedra. But I am disturbed about a person or an institution that claims infallibility in this world. I am disturbed about any church that refuses to cooperate with other churches under the pretense that it is the only true church. I must emphasize the fact that God is not a Roman Catholic, and that the boundless sweep of his revelation cannot be limited to the Vatican. Roman Catholicism must do a great deal to mend its ways.

There is another thing that disturbs me to no end about the American church. You have a white church and you have a Negro church. You have allowed segregation to creep into the doors of the church. How can such a division exist in the true Body of Christ? You must face the tragic fact that when you stand at 11:00 on Sunday morning to sing “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” and “Dear Lord and Father of all Mankind,”

you stand in the most segregated hour of Christian America. They tell me that there is more integration in the entertaining world and other secular agencies than there is in the Christian church. How appalling that is.

I understand that there are Christians among you who try to justify segregation on the basis of the Bible. They argue that the Negro is inferior by nature because of Noah’s curse upon the children of Ham. Oh my friends, this is blasphemy. This is against everything that the Christian religion stands for. I must say to you as I have said to so many Christians before, that in Christ

“there is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Moreover, I must reiterate the words that I uttered on Mars Hill:

“God that made the world and all things therein . . . hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth.” (Acts 17:24, 26)
So Americans I must urge you to get rid of every aspect of discrimination. The broad universalism standing at the center of the gospel makes both the theory and practice of discrimination morally unjustifiable. Discrimination is a blatant denial of the unity which we all have in Christ. It substitutes an “I-it” relationship for the “I-thou” relationship. The segregator relegates the segregated to the status of a thing rather than elevate him to the status of a person. The underlying philosophy of Christianity is diametrically opposed to the underlying philosophy of segregation, and all the dialectics of the logicians cannot make them lie down together.....

May I say just a word to those of you who are struggling against this evil. Always be sure that you struggle with Christian methods and Christian weapons. Never succumb to the temptation of becoming bitter. As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love. Let no man pull you so low as to hate him. Always avoid violence. If you succumb to the temptation of using violence in your struggle, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness, and your chief legacy to the future will be an endless reign of meaningless chaos.

In your struggle for justice, let your oppressor know that you are not attempting to defeat or humiliate him, or even to pay him back for injustices that he has heaped upon you. Let him know that you are merely seeking justice for him as well as yourself. Let him know that the festering sore of segregation debilitates the white man as well as the Negro. With this attitude you will be able to keep your struggle on high Christian standards.

Many persons will realize the urgency of seeking to eradicate the evil of segregation. There will be many Negroes who will devote their lives to the cause of freedom. There will be many white persons of goodwill and strong moral sensitivity who will dare to take a stand for justice. Honesty impels me to admit that such a stand will require willingness to suffer and sacrifice. So don’t despair if you are condemned and persecuted for righteousness’ sake. Whenever you take a stand for truth and justice, you are liable to scorn. Often you will be called an impractical idealist or a dangerous radical. Sometimes it might mean going to jail. If such is the case you must honorably grace the jail with your presence. It might even mean physical death. But if physical death is the price that some must pay to free their children from a permanent life of psychological death, then nothing could be more Christian. Don’t worry about persecution America; you are going to have that if you stand up for a great principle. I can say this with some authority, because my life was a continual round of persecutions. After my conversion I was rejected by the disciples at Jerusalem. Later I was tried for heresy at Jerusalem. I was jailed at Philippi, beaten at Thessalonica, mobbed at Ephesus, and depressed at Athens. And yet I am still going. I came away from each of these experiences more persuaded than ever before that

“For so many of you, morality is merely group consensus. In your modern sociological lingo, the mores are accepted as the right ways. You have unconsciously come to believe that right is discovered by taking a sort of Gallup poll of the majority opinion.”

I still believe that standing up for the truth of God is the greatest thing in the world. This is the end of life. The end of life is not to be happy. The end of life is not to achieve pleasure and avoid pain. The end of life is to do the will of God, come what may.

“neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come... shall separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)
I must bring my writing to a close now. Timothy is waiting to deliver this letter, and I must take leave for another church. But just before leaving, I must say to you, as I said to the church at Corinth, that I still believe that love is the most durable power in the world. Over the centuries men have sought to discover the highest good. This has been the chief quest of ethical philosophy. This was one of the big questions of Greek philosophy. The Epicurean and the Stoics sought to answer it; Plato and Aristotle sought to answer it. What is the sum bonum of life? I think I have an answer America. I think I have discovered the highest good. It is love. This principle stands at the center of the cosmos. As John says,

“God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

He who loves is a participant in the being of God. He who hates does not know God.

So American Christians, you may master the intricacies of the English language. You may possess all of the eloquence of articulate speech. But even if you

“speak with the tongues of man and angels, and have not love, you are become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.” (1 Corinthians 13:1)

You may have the gift of prophecy and understanding all mysteries. You may be able to break into the storehouse of nature and bring out many insights that men never dreamed were there. You may ascend to the heights of academic achievement, so that you will have all knowledge. You may boast of your great institutions of learning and the boundless extent of your degrees. But all of this amounts to absolutely nothing devoid of love.

But even more Americans, you may give your goods to feed the poor. You may give great gifts to charity. You may tower high in philanthropy. But if you have not love it means nothing. You may even give your body to be burned, and die the death of a martyr. Your spilt blood may be a symbol of honor for generations yet unborn, and thousands may praise you as history’s supreme hero. But even so, if you have not love your blood was spilt in vain. You must come to see that it is possible for a man to be self-centered in his self-denial and self-righteous in his self-sacrifice. He may be generous in order to feed his ego and pious in order to feed his pride. Man has the tragic capacity to relegate a heightening virtue to a tragic vice. Without love benevolence becomes egotism, and martyrdom becomes spiritual pride.

So the greatest of all virtues is love. It is here that we find the true meaning of the Christian faith. This is at bottom the meaning of the cross. The great event on Calvary signifies more than a meaningless drama that took place on the stage of history. It is a telescope through which we look out into the long vista of eternity and see the love of God breaking forth into time. It is an eternal reminder to a power drunk generation that love is most durable power in the world, and that it is at bottom the heartbeat of the moral cosmos. Only through achieving this love can you expect to matriculate into the university of eternal life.

I must say goodbye now. I hope this letter will find you strong in the faith. It is probable that I will not get to see you in America, but I will meet you in God’s eternity. And now unto him who is able to keep us from falling, and lift us from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope, from the midnight of desperation to the daybreak of joy, to him be power and authority, forever and ever. Amen

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King delivered this sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, on 4 November 1956.
29 MORE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

1. Start a conversation up with a co-worker or a neighbor that you don't know
2. If you know someone who is having a hard time financially, pop a $20 or $50 note in an envelope, disguise your writing or type the envelope, and post it to them.
3. Write a note to the boss of someone who has helped you, praising the employee.
4. Leave your neighbors a note that tells them how much joy you find in admiring their garden.
5. Send a thank-you note to the brave officers at your local police and fire station.
6. Drop off a plant, flowers or apple pie at a public service organization or your neighbors house.
7. Try to reach out to someone you don’t really know, and introduce yourself – whether a co-workers, a neighbor, the gas attendant, or someone in your daily life. Build a bridge of love to a new person.
8. Write a note, send a e-greeting "just to say hello" to someone who might need a pick me up.
9. Treat an elderly neighbor, with a gift certificate to a $30 pedicure. Bonus points if you can do so anonymously.
10. Rekindle your Girl Scout spirit: Pick up trash at a park, playground, or on the street.
11. Call someone up or email them and encourage them, build them up, praise them, bring out the good in them.
12. Take flowers to a hospital ward and give them to someone who hasn't had any visitors.
13. Donate your old professional clothes to an organization, like Dress for Success (dressforsuccess.org), that helps people jump-start their careers — and up their confidence.
14. Bake bread or cookies and deliver the food to a nearby fire station or group home.

Some ideas for Daily Random Acts of Kindness. See if you can do one each day for the next month!

15. Donate old cell phones to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ncadv.org), which will use the proceeds for programs that protect families from abuse.
16. Offer to baby sit or dog sit for a friend.
17. Buy a copy of your favorite book and donate it to your local library or hospital.
18. Donate clothes to goodwill.
19. Resolve to refrain from negative self-talk (you deserve your kindness, too!).
20. Maybe you can’t send every disadvantaged child to college, but you can buy one of them a life-changing book: Try booksforkids.org.
21. Drop off combs, toothbrushes, and toothpaste at a shelter or a soup kitchen.
22. If you are in a long line, invite the person behind you to go first.
23. Shower the pediatric wing of a hospital with $1 coloring books and $2 boxes of new crayon.
24. Ask the grocery clerk to apply your unused coupons to another customer's items.
25. Slip a $20 gas card or public-transportation pass into someone's shopping bag.
26. Check "yes" when asked if you wish to become an organ donor — and tell your family.
27. On trash day, wheel your neighbor's can out to the curb.
28. Lay your neighbors' newspaper at their front door along with a plate of blueberry muffins.
29. Sing an employee's praises to a manager or on a comment card — a little recognition.
Vacation Church Camp 2013
The Light - September 2013
Opa!!!
Greek Festival 2013!
11am-9pm Sat, Sept 7 & 11am-6pm Sun, 8th

BUY A FESTIVAL BANNER
Buy a $100 Banner that will be hung up inside the Festival Tent.
You can buy a banner to greet the community from your family, or put it in memory of a loved one.

SEND IN YOUR GIFT RAFFLE TICKETS
($5 each or Book of 5 for $20)

PRIZES:
1st - 46‘ Flat Screen TV
2nd - Bose Radio and CD
3rd - Kindle Fire HD
4th—$400 Gift Certificate

THEMATIC BASKETS
Contact Evelyn Pappas (508-259-5453) or Sandi Kunkel (508-943-7227) about making a thematic basket or donating towards a basket.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Please volunteer for as many hours as you can on the weekend of the Festival! We also need people to help in the preparations and the clean up afterwards. Don’t wait to be asked, but contact Mary Papageorge (508-272-8763)

PAstry DROP-OFF
Friday, Sept 6 BEFORE 2pm

CENTER TABLE
Please bring in items for the Center Table. A basket is in the Narthex and Church Hall for food items and non-perishable goods. Contact Dhimitra Adamopoulos or Celia Milios with any questions.
Festival Times:
11am - 9pm
Saturday, Sept 7
11am - 6pm
Sunday, Sept 8

Bring Your Families and Help at the Festival

Bring your Neighbors and Friends

OUR GREEK DANCERS
Our youth Greek Dance Troupe will perform traditional dances on Saturday, 1:30 and 6:00 and Sunday at 12:30 and 4:00

LIVE GREEK MUSIC
with “ARION”
Saturday 3:00 - 9:00pm

DJ GEORGE REGAN
Sunday 12:00-6:00pm

GREEK “KAFENEIO” COFFEE SHOP
Try our “Baklava Sundays”, Greek Coffee, Frappes, and other specialties!

CHILDREN’S BOOTH & BOUNCING HOUSE
All Day Sat & Sun

GIFT SHOP & BOOK STORE
Traditional Greek Items, Jewelry, Religious Books, and more!!!

TENT SET-UP
Come Tue, Wed, Thur, or Fri Throughout the day!

CLEAN UP
Help Out on Monday after Festival!
Our Church Family
Camping at Cape Cod

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Begins
Sunday, Sept. 15th
9:30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL
ACTIVITY
Let’s Begin our Fall Year with a
CANOBIE LAKE
AMUSEMENT PARK

Sunday Sept 15 after
Divine Liturgy
12:00 - 7:00pm

PHILOPTOCHOS
MEETING

1st Fall Meeting
6:30 pm,
Tuesday, Sept 17

All Women are Welcome
to Come!!!
OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

Check out our new Church Website at www.schwebster.org, which contains the news of our local Church Family and a description of our ministries, a calendar of events that can let you know the latest happenings, as well as a beautiful photo gallery. The website also offers a wealth of information about our Greek Orthodox Christian Faith - with articles from various authors on “Our Faith,” along with a library of sermons and monthly issues of The Light.

ORTHODOXY 101
CLASSES
Saturday 6:00pm on September 20 and 27
Come and Learn the basic teachings of our Orthodox Christian Faith

EARLY RISERS
BIBLE STUDY
6:30 am - 7:30 am
Saturday Sept 14, 21, 28
What message do the Sunday Gospels have for us in our lives?

WEEKDAY CHURCH SERVICES
GREAT VESPERS:
Saturday 5:30 pm
Sept 14, 21, 28

WEEKDAY DIVINE LITURGIES
Sept 14 - 9:30 am Elevation of the Holy Cross
Sept 25 Evening Liturgy 6:00pm for St. John the Theologian

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
10:30-11:45
Wednesday, Sept 11, 18, 25
What message do the Sunday Gospels have for us in our lives?
**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

Sept 1 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Betty Vriga

Sept 8 – Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Leah DiDonato, Bill Anthopoulos

Sept 15 - Kathy Bilis, Charlotte Neslusan, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond

Sept 22 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Jaime Ross, Betty Tonna, Eleni Xanthopoulos, Kiku Andersen

Sept 29 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Betty Vriga

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**YOUTH EPISTLE READERS**

September 1 - Paris McWilliam  
(1 Timothy 2:1-7)

Sept 8 - Katerina McWilliam  
(Galatians 6:11-18 - page 147)

Sept 15 - Smaranda Cojocaru  
(Galatians 2:16-20 - page 151)

Sept 22 - Maia Beaudry  
(2 Corinthians 16:13-24 - page 84)

Sept 29 - Hanna Kunkel  
(2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 - page 86)

Oct 6 - Panayiota Veronis  
(2 Corinthians 4:6-15 - page 88)

Oct 13 - Theodora Veronis  
(Titus 3:8-15)

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**USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE**

September 1  
Neal Neslusan, Anton Cojocaru, Gus Koulax, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato

September 8  
Bill Condos, Chris Constantine, Barbara Giannaris, Dan Healy, Dan Rivelli

September 15  
Arthur Bilis & Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatzogianis, Trish Laurea,

September 22  
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy

September 29  
Neal Neslusan, Anton Cojocaru, Gus Koulax, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato

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**USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE**

September 1  
Neal Neslusan, Anton Cojocaru, Gus Koulax, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato

September 8  
Bill Condos, Chris Constantine, Barbara Giannaris, Dan Healy, Dan Rivelli

September 15  
Arthur Bilis & Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatzogianis, Trish Laurea,

September 22  
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Zach Gianaris, Lisa Healy

September 29  
Neal Neslusan, Anton Cojocaru, Gus Koulax, Betty Vriga, Leah Didonato

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**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC**

Last Sunday of Every Month  
After Divine Liturgy

With our Church Nurse  
Nicoletta Cojocaru
## Remembering Our Church Family

### Important Dates in SEPTEMBER:

*Make a visit, give a call, & express congratulations to members of our Church family who celebrate special days during this month.*

#### BIRTHDAYS:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>Kiku Andersen</td>
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<td>Sept 6</td>
<td>Jim Naum</td>
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<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>Maria Zhuk</td>
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<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>Scott McWilliams</td>
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<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Irene Mountzouris</td>
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<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>Helen Pappas</td>
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<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>Nick Popiak</td>
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<td>Sept 10</td>
<td>Kristina Mironidis</td>
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<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Zachery Beaudry</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Evelyn Pappas</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Barbara Pappas</td>
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<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>John Neslusan</td>
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<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Madison McWilliams</td>
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<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Chuck Pappas</td>
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<td>Sept 18</td>
<td>Bob Mirandola</td>
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<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>Kathy Kunkel</td>
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<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Marie McNally</td>
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<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Olga Pappas</td>
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<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Christos Atsales</td>
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<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>Diane Atsales</td>
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<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>Titi Chito</td>
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<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>James George</td>
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<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Paul Veronis</td>
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#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 3</td>
<td>Lorna and Scott McWilliams</td>
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<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Del and Marie Monroe</td>
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<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>Norman &amp; Barbara Desrosiers</td>
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<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>Lisa and Dan Healy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Neal &amp; Charlotte Neslusan</td>
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#### NAMEDAYS:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>St. Antigone</td>
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<td>Ann Chito</td>
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<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Prophet Zacharias</td>
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<td>Zachery Bethune</td>
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<td>Zach Giannaris</td>
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<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>St Kassiane</td>
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<td>Lorna Kassiane McWilliams</td>
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<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>Feast of the Cross</td>
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<td>Laurie Stavroula Manthos</td>
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<td>Stavros Pappas</td>
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<td>Stephen Stavros Pappas</td>
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<td>Sept 17</td>
<td>St Sophia</td>
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<td>Sophie Apostal</td>
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<td>Eva Sophia Pappas</td>
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<td>Sophie Talbot</td>
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## May Their Memories Be Eternal

**CECELIA GEORGE**  
August 17

**ARTHUR VOGEL**  
August 23

*“I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.”*  
*John 11:25*
The rich man is not one who has much but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever.

*St. John Chrysostom*

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

How do we express our love and dedication to our Lord and His Church? Well, there are a variety of concrete ways. One is to spend time with Him in prayer, both private prayer and public worship. To spend time with someone shows that we want to be with them, we enjoy their company, we love them.

Another way to express our love is to support someone. When we give of our resources, we show that this person or endeavor means something important to us. Jesus Himself said that “Where your treasure is, your heart will be.”

Are we giving of our time and treasure in a proportionate way to the love we have for Christ and His Church?

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We have received $61,782 in stewardship donations through the end of July. That is $6000 LESS THAN LAST YEAR AT THE SAME TIME. Please help us catch up and surpass last year’s stewardship giving!

Thus far we have 16 stewards who are PACESETTERS (offering between $1200-$2300/year), 4 stewards who are TORCHBEARERS (offering between $2,400 – $4,400) and 3 GOOD SHEPHERDS (offering $4,500 – $10,000/year).

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### PROJECTS COMPLETED:

1. Hallway Roof
2. New Icon in Church Sanctuary
3. Backyard Basketball Court

### In September:

1. Fix Cracks in Masonry;
2. Waterproof Outside Masonry
3. Clean Exterior Bell Tower
4. Stain Church Entrance/Doors/Archway
5. Rewire Chandeliers

### To Be Addressed:

2) Renovating our Kitchen
3) Fixing/Sealing Parking Lot

*Please keep up to date in your stewardship offering!*

Look for our convenient ONLINE GIVING in the bottom left corner of our Church webpage [www.schwebster.org](http://www.schwebster.org).
Learning the Word of God

VERSES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

**Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart.**
*Psalm 27:14*

The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.
*Psalm 28:7*

**The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?**
*Psalm 27:1*

It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on high places.
*Psalm 18:32-33*

**I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I trust.**
*Psalm 18:1*

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**DAILY BIBLE READINGS SEPTEMBER**

| Sept 1 | 1 Timothy 2:1-7 | Luke 4:16-22 |
| Sept 2 | 2 Corinthians 2:3-15 | Matthew 23:13-22 |
| Sept 6 | Hebrews 2:2-10 | Luke 10:16-21 |
| Sept 7 | 1 Corinthians 2:6-9 | Matthew 10:37-42 |
| Sept 8 | Galatians 6:11-18 | John 3:13-17 |
| Sept 10 | 2 Corinthians 5:15-21 | John 3:16-21 |
| Sept 11 | 2 Corinthians 6:11-16 | John 12:19-36 |
| Sept 12 | 2 Corinthians 7:1-10 | John 11:47-54 |
| Sept 14 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 | John 19:6-30 |
| Sept 15 | Galatians 2:16-20 | Mark 8:34-9:1 |
| Sept 16 | 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 | Luke 7:36-50 |
| Sept 21 | 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5 | John 8:21-30 |
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!

If you would like to place an ad and support our monthly bulletin, please contact Fr. Luke or the Church Office.

$200/year or $20/month.

Dudley - Auburn - Blackstone
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<td>Festival Set up</td>
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<td>11:00–9:00PM CHURCH FESTIVAL</td>
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<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>10:30 Bible Study</td>
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<td>HOLY CROSS</td>
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<td>11:00—6:00 CHURCH FESTIVAL</td>
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<td>6:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>6:30 Parish Council</td>
<td>10:30 Bible Study</td>
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<td>6:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS</td>
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<td>6:30 Philoptochos Meeting</td>
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<td>5:30 Vespers</td>
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<td>Choir Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>10:30 Bible Study</td>
<td>St John Liturgy, Wed night</td>
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<td>6:30am Bible Study</td>
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<td>6:00 Vesperal Divine Liturgy for St. John</td>
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<td>5:30 Vespers</td>
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<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>10:30 Bible Study</td>
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<td>6:30 Bible Study</td>
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<td>5:30 Vespers</td>
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THOUGHTS FROM THE ELDERLY

What is it like to be old? I can tell you, but unless you are old, you cannot understand. I cannot explain how long the day is, waiting here in this nursing home, confined to this wheel chair or bed. Waiting for someone to come to visit me, and no one comes.

And when upon rare occasion my sons or daughters call, they always explain how busy they are, then scurry away.

I know what it is to be busy. I raised them, all five of them. Yes, I can understand what it is to be young and busy, but you cannot understand what it is to be old with only memories to fill the empty hours.

I cannot expect you to understand my kind of loneliness. To realize that you are no longer useful. To sense that people resent your clinging to life taking up their time.

I cannot tell you how depressed I feel, how I long to see my grandchildren, the home where I was born, the Church that I attended.

You would not understand my fears, my longings, my anxieties. But when you are old, then you will understand.

I do hope that you will come and visit me, though. It is a special joy that I long for each day!