

# THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Sep/Oct 2011 • Vol. 16, No. 1 St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV



## Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott

(reprinted from Vol. 4, No. 1, Sept./Oct. 1999)

Ah, the approach of the fall season! The sight and sounds of FOOTBALL are in the air! Do I like football? Is the Pope Catholic? Does an elevator go up and down? It goes without saying that I enjoy college football and especially enjoy following a team that will remain unnamed..., but it resides in "Happy Valley."

My love affair with football began when I was a kid. I enjoyed playing in pick-up touch football games. My mother hated it because I usually came home several times a year with broken glasses.

By the time I reached teenage years, I stopped playing organized football because I would have gotten killed. I couldn't see without glasses and only weighed 125 pounds soaking wet.

Since my love for the game didn't go away, I became the equipment manager for our high school team. In this way I could hang out with the players and coaches and learn more about the game that I loved.

Only a few of our players went on to college on a football scholarship, and only two of them got tryouts with the pros. One got cut and never played, while the other played Canadian pro football for a few years.

So, what's the point? In the game of football, only a few players make it to the top! Only those who are gifted with the physical and mental strength, ability and endurance can hope to succeed. And even with those qualities, there's no guarantee. All it takes is one serious injury and the goal of being the best football player is over.

Maybe that's football, but it's not that way in the "Game of Life," especially for the Christian. Hey, you don't even have to have any great physical or mental prowess! In fact it doesn't matter with what attributes we were born because they're not a factor.

All one needs to succeed in the "Game of Life" is to be united to Jesus Christ in and through His Holy Orthodox Church. There's no need to be "strong" in the sense of this world, because we Christians have been given a power greater than ourselves, the Holy Spirit. St. Paul, in writing of his own physical inadequacies reports that the Lord told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9)

Finally, if we remain faithful and united to our Lord, we are all guaranteed to be "professionals." There are no "minor league" Christians. And upon retirement, we are "pros" with an eternal "pension" in the Kingdom of God.

Let us begin anew this fall season, working diligently to be "professional" players on God's team! ✝



## Grandparents Day!

### Sept. 11, 2011

Remember your grandparents on 9/11/11. God Bless them All!

And, remember in your prayers those who lost their lives on 9/11/01.

Say A Prayer! Light a Candle! ✝

### RADIO PROGRAM

## "Come Receive the Light"

Our parish continues to be a supporting partner of the popular Orthodox radio program, "Come Receive the Light," which airs on WCHS, 580 AM, Sundays at 8:00 A.M. There is no better way to grow in the knowledge of the Orthodox Faith, to be inspired and to prepare for the Divine Services than to tune in every Sunday morning. It costs you nothing and you gain something. ✝



## Happy 15th Birthday, Grapevine!

Thank you to all who have supported the Grapevine and contributed articles for our newsletter these past 15 years!



## If I Have Wounded a Soul Today....

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

*If I have caused one's foot to go astray;*

*If I have walked in my own willful way,*

*Dear Lord, Forgive!*

*Forgive the sins I have confessed to thee;*

*Forgive my secret sins I do not see;*

*O guide me, love me, and my keeper be;*

*Dear Lord, Amen.*

This beautiful and prayerful song tells us how to love our neighbor as well as God Himself and that we need to ask forgiveness for our sins. As Christians we are to love one another and often we learn what we must do to love yet there are things we must not do to also show our love. In Matthew 9:2 a man with palsy was brought to Jesus, and Jesus seeing the faith of those who brought him, healed the sick man. This is an example of what we do to love our neighbor. The faith of this sick man's companions brought compassion from Jesus to heal.

However, St. Paul explains we must not cause our neighbor to sin due to our behavior. In I Corinthians 8, it is written: "Now concerning food offered to idols; we know all of us possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if one loves God, one is known by Him." True blessedness consists not in

knowing, but being known by God, and it is in love that one is known. St. Paul continues that he who "knows" may eat food offered to idols because that person knows idols have no real existence and there is no God but One. Therefore the eating of sacrificed food means nothing. However, Paul continues that not everyone possesses such knowledge and they may eat food believing it is offered to real idols, therefore defiling themselves. Therefore, you who have knowledge eats food sacrificed to idols and your weak neighbor sees you and also partakes but for the wrong understanding, then we are responsible for our neighbors defilement. "Thus sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall: (I Corinthians 8:12-13).

Therefore, if I do something that leads my brother astray or to sin then, I sin against God. If I do not attend Church regularly and my children or neighbor learns to not attend regularly because of my example, then I sin twice. If I attend meetings in places that profess a different god and I am seen by others who misunderstand and it tempts them to believe in

false gods, then I sin. If my behavior in Church is distracting to others such as extremely loud continuous coughing or my children are distracting, then I must remove these distractions until it calms. Some may say why is it proper to leave (temporarily) church for these reasons? If my actions that I control cause a person of weaker faith to be distracted from worshipping God, am I any different than a person who leads a fellow Christian to idol worship? Either way I have caused someone to be led astray. Those who have a strong faith know to remove themselves and others so the weak may worship, until all is calm.

If my dress is too revealing or distracting that I lead a neighbor to lust or be distracted, do I not also sin against Christ. If I teach and my neighbor misunderstands and it leads him astray and I do not correct the misunderstanding, then I am guilty of a greater sin. Evil comes at us from any direction, especially when we least expect it. Fight evil with love. Do not wound, Do not lead others astray, Do not follow your willful ways, Confess your sins and yet we pray that God Forgives.

*NOTE: Adult Class begins Sunday after Labor Day September 11.* ✠

### Prayer Corner Shelf

*A Prayer Corner - an ancient Orthodox Tradition as the family's place of worship in the home.*

Orders are being taken for Prayer Corner Shelves (with engraved Orthodox Cross)! Available as a corner shelf, or as a straight shelf. Available in light wood stain, or dark wood stain. Please come to the St George Bookstore to see the samples, and place orders. Other items available include: Hanging Vigil Lamps and Brackets, Table Vigil Lamps, Incense Burners, Incense & Charcoal, Icons, Candles, Daily Devotional Calendars and Prayer Ropes.

### Football Theology for Church Members

**Quarterback sneak:** Sunday school teachers entering the building five minutes late, trying to slip past the director without being seen.

**Two-minute warning:** A deacon on the front pew, taking long peeks at his watch so the preacher will be sure to notice.

**Bench warmers:** Inactive church members who are content to stay home and worship by watching one of the "electronic preachers" on television.

**Huddle:** A gathering of men outside the building for small talk and a quick smoke before the worship service begins.

**"In the pocket":** Where too many church members keep their tithe.

**Extra point:** What each member receives when he tells the preacher that the sermon was just too short!



#### THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

St. George Orthodox Cathedral  
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Charleston, WV 25327  
304-346-0106

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Produced by The Fellowship of St. John the Divine, to promote activities and events about and for parishoners of St. George Orthodox Cathedral. We only list events as they are reported to us by organization reporters. We reserve the right to edit copy for space. Contact your church organization reporter for news or send your comments to The Grapevine, c/o St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Attn. Editor or email ritakee@aol.com.

<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>

The St. George Grapevine is published every two months and is mailed during the first week of the month.



## Did You Know.....?

That there are guidelines to be followed by Orthodox Christians for the Sacraments (Mysteries) of Baptism and Chrismation. The priest should be notified immediately upon the birth of a child so that he may visit the mother and child and say the prayers for the birth and naming of a child. The father of the child should also be present.

Baptisms/Chrismations are allowed at any time during the Church Year, even during fasting periods. However, if a baptism should be held during a fasting period, consideration must be given to the types of food served at the meal following the service, especially if it falls during the Great Lent (Fast).

Before setting the date for the baptism or choosing the Godparent (s) for the child, the couple must meet with the priest and discuss any problems that might arise. People converting to the Orthodox Faith from another Christian faith are received into the Church through the Sacrament

of Holy Chrismation if they have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, following a proper instruction period in the Faith. Otherwise they are baptized and chrismated. They also need an Orthodox sponsor when converting.

In addition to the baptismal cross, a white garment, a large white towel and a small bottle of extra virgin olive oil must be provided by the family or Godparent (s). The family must inform the pastor of the church if they would like any additional Orthodox clergy to participate (especially if it is the assistant pastor). The pastor will then extend the invitation to him/them to assist with the sacrament.

With the Sacraments of Baptism/Chrismation, the child or adult is given the Holy Eucharist (Communion), unless it is arranged with the pastor to be given at the next Divine Liturgy. May God grant those who become Orthodox Christians **MANY YEARS!** ✝

## Grandparents' Rap

Everyone has heard who's best by far,  
The real truth is that they ALL are stars.  
For where would we, the grandchildren be,  
If God did not create, Jiddi Adam and Sitti Eve.  
From our parents true love, we did evolve,  
But thanks to grandparents our world revolves.  
Who gives us extra-special treats!  
Candy, money, and praise that can't be beat.  
Whose food tastes better than our mother's,  
Whose friendship means more than our father's.  
Who babysits for our working parents,  
Whose patience and love is always present.  
Who attends our recitals, lessons, and games,  
Then praises each of us, for our fame.  
Who tells us to go to Church and Sunday School,  
And reminds all children, to follow the Golden Rule.  
Today we honor those very special parents,  
Those awesome, "sweet" dudes that are in our presence.  
To all Sittis and Jiddis everywhere, we thank you and love you  
And may God keep you in his care. ✝



### St. George Orthodox Cathedral Annual Dinner October 16, 2011

12 noon - 6 p.m.

St. George Conference Center  
Corner Court & Lee Streets  
346-0106

#### Menu:

*Kibbee - Ground Meat & Wheat*  
• *Yabrah - Cabbage Rolls*

- *Loobia Bunadoora - Green Beans in Tomato Sauce*
  - *Rooz 'B Sharyeea - Buttered Rice with Orzo*
  - *Salata - Salad with Oil & Lemon Dressing*
- *Baklawas Dessert - Multi-layered Fillo & Nuts*
  - *Pita Bread*
  - *Coffee / Ice Tea*

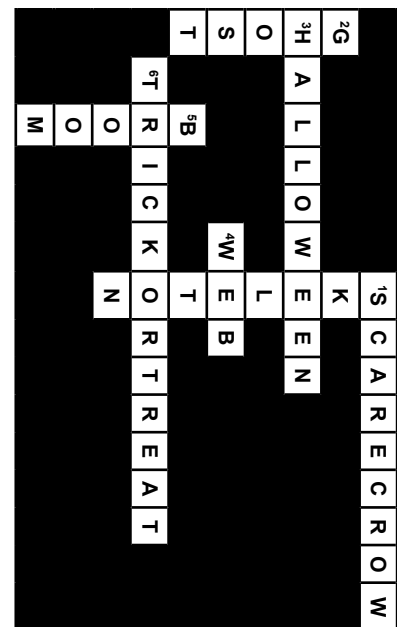
Donation \$14.00

**Carry-out Orders**

**Ethnic Groceries (Lower Level)**

**Diners are invited to tour the sanctuary.**

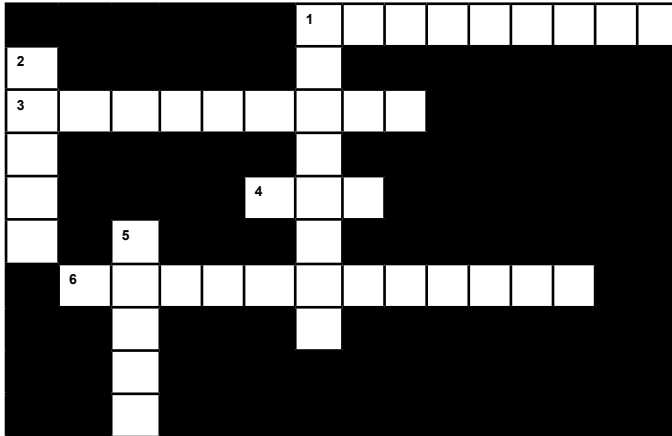
#### Kids Crossword Puzzle Answers





## Kid's Corner

### Kids Halloween Crossword Puzzle



#### ACROSS

1. A Straw Figure
3. October's Holiday
4. A spider's home
6. A Halloween saying

#### DOWN

1. A skinless person
2. I'm small, white and says "Boo"
5. A witch's ride

### October is Youth Month

Please support the teens in their annual drive for the Special Olympics Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village for the mentally handicapped. Teen SOYO members from all over North America volunteer their time, to reach out to others and fulfill the Gospel command to love our neighbors. "In as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren you did it to Me." (Matt. 25:40)

Special Olympics Awareness Day is your opportunity to support this cause.

Our Teen SOYO thanks you for participating in this project as well as all their projects for St. George, the community and the Archdiocese. ✝



### Kids Q & A

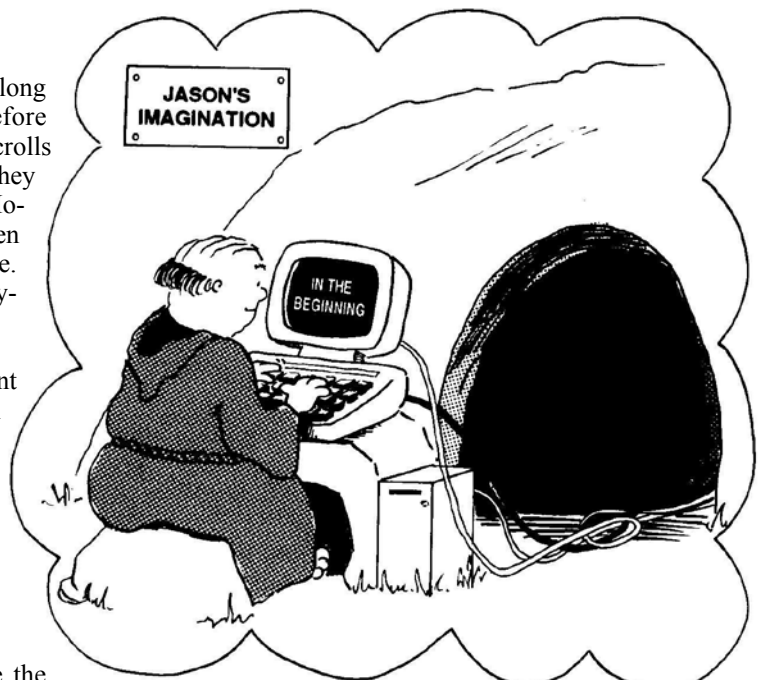
#### Q. What is a Bible?

**A.** God wrote the Bible over many, many years, a long time ago—long before computers, cars, and even before books. The people who wrote down God's words used scrolls of paper made from papyrus leaves and animal skin. They wrote it over a period of 1,500 years, from the time of Moses to the apostle John. Even though the Bible was written hundreds of years before we were born, it is still up-to-date. When we read the stories and understand what God is saying, we learn how we should live today.

**KEYVERSES:** Long ago God spoke in many different ways to our fathers. He spoke through the prophets in visions, dreams, and even face to face. Little by little he told them about his plans. But now in these days he has spoken to us through his Son. He has given his Son everything. Through his Son he made the world and everything there is. (Hebrews 1:1-2)

**RELATED VERSES:** 2 Peter 1:16-21

**RELATED QUESTIONS:** Why didn't Jesus write the Bible for us? Why did God get Moses to write part of the Bible? Why did Moses only write five Bible books?



From 102 Questions Children Ask about the Bible. ✝




# Church School News

By Layla Michael



and see how our Church School is run and also be sure to take a minute to see our beautiful new windows and computers. Our annual Halloween Party is scheduled for October 23, 2011 more details will follow.

I would like to welcome everyone to a new Church School year! We look forward to seeing all of our children this year and hope to have a wonderful year. I would like to encourage everyone that has school aged children to please come and have them participate. I would also like to invite any children that have not been in our Church School before to come and join us every Sunday morning to learn more about our Orthodox faith. There are some important dates coming up in September and October that need to be remembered.

I would now like to welcome a couple of new teachers to our Church School. Manal Choueiri will be our new Pre-School teacher and Subdeacon Michael Jarrouj will be our new third grade teacher. We want to welcome them and thank them both for volunteering their time to teach our young children. I would also like to welcome back all of the teachers and volunteers from last year. Thank you ALL for your help in making our Church School a great place to learn and bring our children together to get to know each other and to get to learn about our Faith. God Bless You All. 

The first day of Church School is-September 11, 2011 at 9:45 am. Please do your best to be on time so that the teachers can make the most of the time they have with our children. Our Church School Open House is Sunday September 25, 2011. EVERYONE is welcome to come

# Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

You know the summer is coming to an end when the ladies of St. George begin their fall meetings. Thank you to President Anne Marie Haddy and her mom, Dorothy, for a "beat the heat" treat of ice cream sundaes at our August meeting. We also want to thank Sub-deacon George who gives a religious "pep" talk before every meeting. His talks are very informative and usually touches on the women's role in the church

Preparations have begun for our annual dinner on Sunday, Oct. 16 from Noon-6 p.m. Tickets are being printed and will be distributed for sale soon! Volunteers are needed for the days before and day of the dinner. This is a Cathedral project for our community chaired by the women of St. George, so everyone from teens to seniors is welcome to assist in the preparation of food, selling of tickets, set-up and working the day of the dinner.

Please contact Mary Dooley or President Anne Marie Haddy.

Our next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m.


See you in September! 

## Annual Dinner Word Search

A	H	C	H	U	R	C	H	T	O	U	R	S
B	R	E	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	O
A	A	M	M	M	G	O	O	D	O	S	R	R
K	S	K	I	B	T	U	O	Y	R	R	A	C
S	H	G	L	R	E	N	N	I	D	E	D	O
L	T	R	O	A	B	A	C	O	M	N	M	M
L	O	O	X	I	W	E	A	K	E	O	M	M
O	N	C	I	L	K	A	B	E	A	I	H	T
R	W	E	D	U	S	K	B	A	S	H	T	B
F	A	R	A	E	R	B	A	C	S	S	H	E
A	D	Y	E	V	I	K	G	E	T	I	E	T
E	L	S	R	K	I	S	E	S	E	R	N	I
L	I	T	B	R	E	U	R	O	K	A	A	C
E	U	O	A	A	R	D	O	M	C	P	S	L
P	G	R	T	P	K	O	L	O	I	H	N	E
A	S	E	I	I	O	T	L	H	T	O	A	A
R	E	Y	P	C	R	N	S	S	O	S	E	R
G	I	V	I	S	A	W	I	S	N	I	B	P
A	D	R	Z	A	O	A	N	E	H	E	N	I
L	A	V	O	L	U	D	E	C	A	T	E	R
A	L	O	L	A	T	T	N	E	T	N	E	T
S	R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	E	R	I
A	F	E	T	A	L	E	A	P	A	R	G	P

1. Kibbee
2. Green Beans
3. Rice
4. Cabbage Rolls
5. Salata
6. Baklawa
7. Pita bread
8. Teens
9. Ladies Guild
10. Parishioners
11. Tickets
12. Grape Leaf Rolls
13. Grocery Store
14. MMM Good
15. Carry Out
16. Community
17. Volunteers
18. Church Tours
19. Dawn to Dusk
20. Fellowship
21. Homos
22. Lunch
23. Dinner

## Senior Fellowship

Hopefully, you seniors were able to stay cool during our "hot, hot, hot" summer! We will definitely have a get-together in November, but due to preparations for our annual dinner on Oct. 16, we may not be able to meet until November. Watch the bulletin for details. 



"We Are Marshall"

"Let's Go Mountaineers"





CALENDAR

SEP 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCT 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

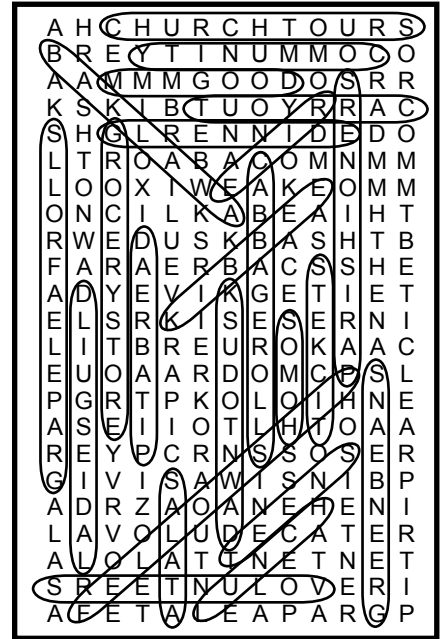
23-25: St. Thekla Pilgrimage—Ant. Village  
 25: Church School Open House, 10:00 AM  
 26: Begin Kibbee preparation  
 27-29: CCT Steering Comm. Mtg., Memphis,

Deadline for next issue:

Oct. 15, 2011.

Place articles in box outside Church office or email ritakee@aol.com

Word Search Answers

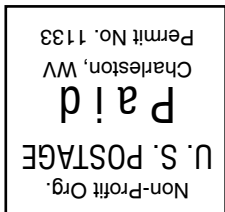


2-4: Labor Day Celebration Activities  
 7: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM;  
 Parish Council, 7:30 PM  
 10: Fr. Olof—Vacation  
 11: Start regular hours: Jr. Choir, 9:00 AM;  
 Church School & Matins, 10:00 AM;  
 Liturgy, 11:00 AM  
 12: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM  
 13: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM  
 15: Communion for Shut-ins  
 16: Wedding Rehearsal, 5:30 PM  
 17: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM;  
 Wedding, 3:30 PM  
 18: Core Cabbage—Cabbage Roll Week  
 19: CICSC (hosting), 6:30 PM  
 20-23: Diocesan Clergy Retreat—Ant. Village, Frs. Olof & Stephen attending



Fr. Olof attending  
 3: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM  
 5: Parish Council, 7:30 PM  
 8: Fr. Olof—Vacation  
 15: Baptism, 12:30 PM  
 16: Annual Dinner  
 17: WVCC Annual Assembly—Fr. Olof attending  
 18: James Dent Dinner  
 20: Communion for Shut-ins  
 23: Church School October Party, afternoon;  
 25: Evening Liturgy, 6:30 PM  
 29: Manna Meal Prep., 9:30 AM; Hellenic Night (hosting)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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**Grapevine**  
 THE ST. GEORGE

