



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

11 Wilkins Station Road - Box 805 - Medford, NJ 08055
web version

Rectory Phone: 856-665-2491 Fr. John's Cell Phone: 609-315-2894

Email: frjs@aol.com / Website: www.holycrossmedford.org

November, 2008

Where are the Teachers?

by Fr. John

“There is finally the pride of thinking oneself without teachers.

The teachers are everywhere. What is wanted is a learner.” - Wendell Berry

I mentioned recently at the end of the liturgy that there are, among many things, two hopes and prayers that I keep for our community: 1) that there would be some among us, men and women, perhaps just young boys or girls now, who will discover within themselves the vocation of serving God; 2) that, particularly our adults, would take education and learning more seriously.

Right now, I'll just deal with the second of these two things (we'll let Christina Semon help us discuss the first hope during her visit at the end of November). I imagine in regards to our adults and education that, once one gets past excuses such as a lack of time or maybe even interest, the real concerns are a satisfaction with what one already knows or the inability of comprehending where to begin, how to start. Maybe there is also, as Wendell Berry suggests, “the pride of thinking oneself without teachers,” or that one cannot learn from those who seem to be providing information and instruction.

I would suggest that all of us start with the acknowledgement that we are always – beginners. The second is that what we've come to know about God and ourselves should not lead us to satisfaction, but rather would bring us to the realization of our basic ignorance, and to the conclusion that there is so much more we would want to know. And that our teachers – are everywhere. They can be our children, our spouse, those we work with, those we are confronted with each day. Mother Teresa has said that, “In the poor we meet Jesus in the most distressing disguises.”

Our teachers can also be the things that happen to us. If you would want to measure your spiritual success, some of our Orthodox spiritual guides recommend, there see how you react when you are criticized, when you don't get the response or the praise you feel would be appropriate or that you deserve, when someone pulls in front of you, or embarrasses you.

When we are ready to learn, the teachers will be all around us.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON – Saturday November 1 at 9AM ST.**
- **ST. HELENA’S GUILD MEETING – Sunday November 2, at 9:15.**
- **MINI BAZAAR – Saturday November 8 & Sunday November 9**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday November 19**
- **AREA THANKSGIVING SERVICE – Sunday November 23 – 7 PM – at St. Mary of the Lakes Roman Catholic Church, Medford**
- **VISIT OF CHRISTINA SEMON – Sunday November 30**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – to be announced**
- **CAREGIVERS’ MEETING – to be announced**

FR. JOHN WILL BE ON VACATION – SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky will serve that day. He will be away from Saturday November 1 – Sunday November 2.

SUNDAY ICE CREAM SUNDAE – CHURCH SCHOOL FUNDRAISING EVENT – will take place following the Divine Liturgy on **SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2.**

WEDDING BANNES: CASSANA WALLACE AND CHRISTOPHER WOOD, SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8.

OUR ADULT EDUCATION CURRICULUM, Upon completion of the Bible Study currently taking place, the class will be reading *Christ in the Psalms* by Fr. Patrick Reardon. Copies are available from Bob Flanagan.

ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL: Fr. John and Mark Skuby (our lay delegate) will represent our parish at the All American Council in Pittsburgh from November 10-November 13). Genie Skuby will also be attending as a member of the PreConciliar Commission. One of the significant events at the Council will be the election of a new Metropolitan, who will also serve as our Diocesan bishop.

VISIT OF CHRISTINA SEMON- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30: Last year our donations to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) will directed toward the missionary effort of Christina Semon, a young Orthodox woman preparing to do work in Romania. Christina grew up in Eastern Pennsylvania. While attending Binghamton University in New York, she played Division 1 softball. The aggressive training schedule removed her from the rich liturgical life of the Church, and she knew that changes needed to be made. As that door closed another opened, and Christina spent her junior year studying in St. Petersburg, Russia. She also began to read articles by students who had participated on short-term mission trips, which compelled her to contribute her labors to missions.

She is dedicating her experience and passion to assisting the efforts of the *St. Dimitrie Program and Protection of the Theotokos Family Center*. According to the UNICEF, over 9,000 children are abandoned in Romania each year. Alcoholism and substance abuse are increasingly pervasive; reported cases have doubled in the past 4 years.

On the weekend of **November 29-30**, she will be visiting our parish and make a presentation following the Divine Liturgy on that Sunday. To learn more about OCMC go to: **ocmc.org**

ST. HELENA’S GUILD: COFFEE HOUR - COFFEE HOUR - Back to the Basics – We are asking

everyone to please keep it simple when you are hosting. We greatly appreciate all that you do- but please stick to the basics. Bagels/bread/cookies/veggies/fruit – it’s just to help us refuel our bodies after the fast- it’s not meant to be a full meal. We don’t want anyone to feel put out and or feel they have to compete. Contact **Marie Clifton (856-482-1059)** if you want to host one of those week or if there has been a change in your coffee hour. ****Special note:** we have a few parishioners that are highly allergic to nuts, please label items if possible or keep all ingredient labels if purchased. Please don’t be offended if we ask you to remove certain items from the table.** As always your generous donations are greatly appreciated as they help defer the cost of the supplies for coffee hour. Please take home items after the coffee hour if not used other than the juice and coffee.

ST. HELENA’S GUILD MEETING – Meetings: November 2, and December 7, 9:15 a.m. .

ST.HELENA’S MINI BAZAAR: November 8 & 9; Plan for the Holidays (pierogies, babka, nut, poppy seed, apricot and raspberry rolls)

Holiday Mini Festival

Import Boutique and Homemade Baked Goods
brought to you by St Helena's Guild
Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, NJ

<p>Babka in 10 delicious varieties! CHOOSE FROM: Cinnamon, Cheese, Chocolate, Raspberry, Prune, Apricot, Chocolate Chip, Raspberry Cheese, and Chocolate Cheese \$9.50 single, \$10.00 double flavor ALSO: Nut Rolls, Poppyseed Rolls, Apricot Rolls, Seedless Raspberry Rolls and Baklava, each \$13.00 You MUST preorder ALL babkas and rolls.</p>	<p>To place an order, for more information, or directions, please call: Daytime (8-4) Ann Plescia (856) 983-4441 Evenings (4 - 10) Kathy Pierman (856) 845-7656 OR e-mail: kats@snip.net Diane Vozdovic (609) 288-6833 Diana Pasca (609) 953-4705</p>	<p><i>Discover beautiful, unique and intriguing gifts for everyone you know! This remarkable Boutique specializes in rare social, cultural, and artistic items from Eastern Europe and Asia, including Jewelry, Nesting Dolls, Icons, Baltic Amber, Ornaments and much more!</i></p>
---	--	--

Visit Us: Saturday, November 8, 10:00 am – 2:00pm
Sunday, November 9, 12 noon – 2:00 pm
Location: Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross
Wilkins Station Road, Medford, NJ
From Route 70, turn north onto Medford-Mt. Holly Rd, Route 541.
Turn at the first right, Wilkins Station Rd and then make the first left into the Church parking lot.
Look for us on the web at : www.holycrossmedford.org

Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season!

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES: *Summary of the 10-15-08 Parish Council Meeting*

The Parish Council Meeting and was held in the Church social hall. The meeting convened with the singing of “Oh Heavenly King.” The monthly Financial Report was presented by our Treasurer Richard Wagar, and indicated that income for mortgage and OCA assessment is under budget. The Fall Festival was very successful this year as profit so far is estimated to be \$7,000. Gary Mosser expressed thanks and appreciation for all the hard work everyone did. Val Olesnovich did a great job organizing this event and the Parish Council is thankful for her hard work. After some questions were answered about the Financial Report, it was approved.

Father John reported that Christina Semon, an OCMC missionary, will visit Holy Cross on October 30th and will speak to our congregation. Christina Semon was invited to Holy Cross by the Inreach/Outreach committee after it was understood that our donation to OCMC last year would be directed to her

missionary efforts.

Now that the street repair to Wilkins Station road is complete, the requirements for the performance bond have been satisfied. However, Medford is requiring our Church to pay a retainer for a maintenance bond. Our Parish Warden Gary Mosser, will ask Medford to waive this requirement on the premise that we have occupied our facility for more than four years, have maintained it well and have made many improvements.

We are looking for a snow removal contractor and Gary Mosser will investigate cost. If anyone knows a good snow removal contractor, please contact Gary Mosser or anyone on the Parish Council.

Our Church will obtain five new exterior benches made from recycled plastic. Originally brown was chosen for the color of these benches. Father John, had talked with a person from Lockheed Martin in Moorestown who had purchased tables from the same company and recommended getting a lighter color as from his experience the brown color seemed to attract heat and feel uncomfortable during the summer. It was decided to change the color from brown to tan. The order will now be placed and we expect then within a month or so.

Don D'Ercole will replace Paul Giovanni as a Trustee on the Parish Council. As reported in the Crossroads last month, Paul will take a temporary assignment in Canada for six months and will not be able to attend Parish Council meetings. The Parish Council welcomed Don D'Ercole to the parish council and look forward to working with him.

+++++

Going Green- The Eco-Friendly Thing to Do
By Julia Mosser

Here at Holy Cross, we've decided to "Go Green." By next year, we hope to decrease our Styrofoam products usage and to switch to eco-friendly cleaning products, as well as other various things to make the church a more eco-friendly environment. But, before we improve the church, I believe that simple changes at home can make a difference, inspiring us to change other important things in our lives. Here are a few ideas on how to "Go Green" in your household:

- Turn the thermostat in your house down two degrees- I know it can get rather chilly out there, but that's what sweaters and sweat shirts are for!
- Wash your clothes in cold water rather than hot
- Caulk and weather-strip your house- this way heat won't have any way to escape, making your house nice and warm
- Replace your old light bulbs with new LED light bulbs
- Clean your refrigerator's coils and defrost it regularly- you'd be surprised how much energy is wasted powering refrigerators with frozen coils

By doing these things, you can make your house a better, more eco-friendly place!

RESPONSIBILITIES for November, 2008

COFFEE HOUR:

November 2: Diane Vozdovic
9: Genie Skuby
16: Barbara Shimchick
23: Pritchard Family
November 30: Joe & Helen Gulka
December 7: Linda Wagar

READERS

November 2: Gene Dubiago
9: Natalka Weismantel
16: Mark Skuby
23: Genie Skuby
November 30: Gary Mosser

ALTAR SERVERS

November 2: Paul Clifton & Anatoly Lane
November 9: Eli Nugent & Paul Abdallah
16: Leo Weismantel & Stephen Shimchick
23: Matthew Brook & Ethan Detwiler
November 30: Andrew Abdallah & Robert Graham
December 7: David Hamaty & Brendan Detwiler

COMMUNION USHERS

November 2: Julia Mosser & Lauren Mosser
9: Kristina Zanghi & Faye Nugent
16: Sierra & Miranda McCleery
23: Natalia Rommen & Elisabeth Graham
November 30: Alexandra & Magdalena Plachuta
December 7: Julia & Lauren Mosser