

**Deanery Report – Southeastern Deanery
Diocesan Assembly – July 17 – July 20, 2007 – Miami, Florida**

ALABAMA

St. Simeon the New Theologian – Birmingham – Fr. Alex continues to pastor the growing parish of St. Symeon with Deacon Ephrem Rivers along with Fr. Benedict Crawford. Recently Fr. Benedict was helping the Serbian mission in Huntsville. The parish continues to grow and serve the Orthodox community well in the Birmingham area.

St. Gregory the Great – Tuscaloosa – Fr. Demetrius is working on a plan to acquire land and build a parish home into which the mission will steadily grow. Recently, they had to begin a serious search for a new home as they were asked to leave their previous home of many years. Pray for their successful transition.

Mission Inquiry in the Anniston/Jackson area – Recently there was an advert in the local paper for interested Christians to be aware that activity will begin soon for a mission in this North Alabama area. Well, the advert bore fruit and the St. Luke Mission is being served by the clergy from St. Mary of Egypt.

GEORGIA

St. John the Wonderworker - Atlanta - Continues to grow and have new people visit every week. One of the reasons they are seeing so many new people is their web site; which is updated every week with new pictures of the parish functions, weekly sermons in Video and Audio and also any of the classes are put on the Web site as well.

The Loaves and Fishes Program continues to be supplied by the entire Orthodox community of Metro Atlanta with food and volunteers. Two meals a day are served to the homeless and low income men and women of Atlanta. Relations with their Grant Park neighbors have improved this year and they faced little opposition to the program locally. The well-received Christmas Program gave food baskets to 130 families and 650 children received toys. This year the local Bishop, Metropolitan Alexios, came to the Christmas Dinner for the poor on Christmas Day as well as about 100 Orthodox volunteers from all over the city. His Eminence and the others served meals to about 150 people.

St. Mary of Egypt – Norcross – “Pastors” more than 150 souls with the several clergy and many experienced and faithful parishioners. Recently Subdeacon Basil Henry and his wife Cana joined the community. What a delightful addition they are...he is awaiting ordination to the Diaconate and (hopefully soon) the Holy Priesthood – having graduated this year from St. Tikhon’s.

The activities are numerous at SMEOCA [St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church in America] including an active women’s group (The Myrrhbearing Women); a revitalized youth group coordinated by a well educated Theology student from Romania; charitable activities for local

ministry groups; an Orthodox Counseling Center - a new part of ICON (an Inter-Orthodox Counseling Network – soon to be a national ministry based at SMEOCA); and a growing and vibrant training facility for clergy. With Fr. Cyprian and Deacon Lazarus, the dean has the resources and fundamentals to focus attention on local mission work as well as training and encouraging recent seminary graduates in the Vineyard planted in the Diocese of the South.

With an extremely diverse community of Russian, Serbian, Romanian and “upgraded” (aka ‘convert’) faithful in our midst, St. Mary’s is looking very longingly at a building program ready to take shape in the very near future. With an exceptional mix of ‘elders,’ seasoned faithful, young families, children and newcomers; St. Mary of Egypt is on the threshold of wonderful things.

Dahlonge Mission – These faithful families are resuming regular visits by Deacon Daniel Velez from St. John’s. They regularly attend services in Toccoa, Norcross or Atlanta.

St. John Chrysostom Mission – Columbus – These faithful folks continue to meet weekly with Reader Services and once a month, when available, Fr. Cyprian serves the mission. They have several inquirers and catechumens adding life and energy to this mission. The Reader Joseph was recently tonsured at St. Mary of Egypt.

St. Mary Magdalene - Rincon – It is with great joy that Fr. James Bohlman, the faithful of St. Mary and Fr. Peter invite any and all to visit this newly constructed and consecrated church and the thriving parish in Rincon. They are truly a jewel in the crown of the Diocese of the South.

Photos of the construction work and new Temple may be viewed at:

www.community.webshots.com/user/rincon113
in the albums entitled “Building Construction”.

Sts. Constantine and Helen Mission – This small group of faithful is guided by Fr. James and Deacon Vassily from Savannah. They meet once a month on a Saturday. They recently had their first wedding service celebrated there by Fr. James

St. Timothy – Toccoa – Seems on the verge of great things. Fr. Marcus, much closer than Fr. Peter, has the newly graduated and ordained Fr. Nikolai Miletkov and his family at St. John of the Ladder. He is poised, after some seasoning, to begin serving St. Timothy. For now, Fr. Jacob Kulp continues to pastor this group. It may very well be that St. Timothy Mission, because of proximity and access, can be the newest ‘member’ of the Carolina Deanery; yet another example of the love and cooperation in our wonderful Diocese.