

Carolinas' Deanery of the Diocese of the South
2011 Diocesan Assembly Report --- All-American Council, Bellevue, WA
Deanery Overview

I. Parish and Mission Reports

Holy Ascension Orthodox Church, Mt Pleasant [Charleston], SC
Rev Fr John Parker, Rector

Parish:

- * Some attrition due to career moves and some due to pastoral dilemma.
- * Some growth due to career moves, and a strong group of inquirers.
- * Presently 3 Catechumens, with several very serious inquirers.
- * Fr John led OCMC team to Old Harbor in July/August
- * Hosted 3rd Annual Music and Arts Festival (Outreach through beauty and the arts)
- * Hosted Fr Meletios Webber for a Lenten Retreat on 12 Steps and the Orthodox Life
- * Several articles published in local Post and Courier Newspaper
- * Dn Mark and Elizabeth Barna published their book "A Christian Ending" concerning traditional Orthodox preparation for burial. Dn Mark helped lead the preparation of the Abp Dmitri's body for his funeral.
- * Growing cooperative OCF ministry with Greek Orthodox Church
- * Continue to support 2 OCMC Missionaries (Frantz family in Romania and James Hargraves in Tanzania)
- * Continue to support Deanery Missions fund
- * Raised nearly \$4000 to support local home for teen-age unwed mothers
- * Newly-tonsured parish reader
- * Hosted Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
- * 3 baptisms
- * 4 chrismations
- * 2 weddings
- * 1 funeral

Building:

- * Completed Apse frescoes in May 2012
- * Completed antique brick paving in courtyard
- * Article about our building published in Sacred Architecture Magazine
- * Received 6 antique icons as gifts to the parish

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, [West] Columbia, SC
Rev Fr Thomas Moore, Rector

Worship

Regular Saturday/Sunday cycle, and Vigil/Liturgy for all major feasts --- agape meal after every liturgy
Weekly vespers and often a week day liturgy.
Full Nativity; Lenten and Holy Week schedules
Periodic Pannikhida, Moleben, and house blessing services

Education

Weekly bulletin and website
On line Wisdom list
Weekly book study; Saturday catechumen class; Sunday scripture study before Liturgy,
Regularly invited to teach classes at local colleges/universities
Several visiting speakers each year (i.e. Fr. Meletios Weber, Floyd Franz)
Active youth program
NA Meeting every weekday at noon
3 St. Nicholas outreach speaking engagements

Program: Statistics 2011:

Members: 90

Roughly \$163,000 budget on track

St. Nicholas Festival outreach had a higher turnout than in prior years. All proceeds (almost two thousand dollars) split between HomeWorks, Lexington Food Bank, and the Women's Shelter (other discretionary charity totaled almost \$4000).

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Average Sunday attendance: 90 (several visitors each week)
Paschal attendance, 125
High Sunday attendance 110
Low Sunday attendance 60
Weekly vespers attendance: 25-40
Current catechumens: 1
Baptisms and/or Chrismations: 10
Marriages 5
Funerals 0

Short-Term Objectives:

Continue Temple Icon program
Neighborhood outreach
Develop ministry program for our new building
Continue building program:
-renovate newly purchased warehouse,
-connect two buildings with a colonnade and bell tower
-upgrade parking area.

St. George's Mission Station, Edenton, North Carolina

VRev Fr Andrew Davis (serves one Sunday per month/reader's services on other Sundays and feast days)

PROGRAM:

\$1,200 monthly budget with pledges from members & benefactors
Monthly Sat Vespers & Sunday Liturgy; all other Sundays the Typika, with a priest's or bishop's homily
Sunday-school class for children during homily at Typika
Lunch served every Sunday after services
Early-morning Typika on all Great Feasts
Three lay readers each competent alone to lead services in the absence of a priest
Nativity eve Vigil with Grand Compline; Nativity Divine Liturgy
Lenten Great Canon 4 nights, Akathist Hymn 2 Saturdays
Holy Friday vespers and matins, Holy Saturday vesperal liturgy
Occasional further mid-week services (St. George, SS. Peter & Paul, St. John of Kronstadt)
Participants steadily growing in Christ
Weekly newsletter & articles, with 110 local households subscribing
Sponsorship of 3 foreign student members for in-State college tuition
Periodic visits from priests & seminarians, toward finding a first resident priest

STATISTICS:

Usual Sunday attendance (without priest), 9 (6 adults & 3 children)
High Sunday attendance (Oct. 24, 2010, Div. Lit.), 17
Low Sunday attendance (July 24, 2011), 1
Usual monthly Vespers attendance, with priest & wife, 9
Paschal attendance (2011), 24
Local communicants: 6 adults & 3 children; Beach (60 miles away) communicants: 2 collegians & 1 child
Baptisms in past 12 (or 16) months, 1 (adult); current catechumens, 1

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR (16 MONTHS) AUGUST 2010 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2011:

Aug. 2010, first Procession of the Cross & Blessing of the Waters (on Edenton Bay)
Aug. 2010, first Litiyá, or processional bread-breaking litany
Feb. 2011, initiating of new website for St. George's
Apr. 2011, acquisition (by gift) of first large & first original icon (Paschal, behind altar)
June 2011, first mid-week (except Lenten or Great Festival) vespers (St. John of Kronstadt)
July 2011, increase to now three experienced lay readers each competent to lead services
July 2011, completion of basic restoration of nave & sanctuary in 1902 church building
Aug. 2011, furnishing of the clergyman & prayers for a regional historical commemoration
Sept. 2011, invitation by Historic Edenton to open St. George's for 2011 Christmas Tour

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SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES:

Posters for local community-college campus
Completion of temple's 1902 woodwork restoration
Icons & vigil-lamps for (yet bare) icon-screen
Erection of outdoor icon shrine at entrance courtyard
A preparation table for the sanctuary
Encouragement of theosis in congregation for better evangelism

CONCERNS:

Attracting of more attendance to services
Discernment of & fostering of suitable charitable work
Near-term need for a resident priest
Long-term aspiration for ownership of a building & grounds

[Exaltation of the] Holy Cross Orthodox Church, High Point, NC Rev Fr Christopher Foley, Priest-in-Charge

Highlights

Completed the three year OCA planting grant which means we are no longer being funded by any outside contributions. To date we are on track with our 2011 budget.

A number of Orthodox families relocated to the area and joined the church. Continue to receive converts to Orthodoxy, Orthodox from other local parishes and have welcomed lapsed Orthodox back into the life of the church. To date we have baptized/chrisdated 31 souls into the Church. We currently have 12 catechumens and 8 inquirers.

Continue to grow, average attendance has increased from 80 on Sundays to well over 90, 20 at Great Vespers. 90 adult members and 40 children.

Almost all area clergy in attendance for our Holy Cross Vigil (1 Serbian, 2 GOA priests, 1 GOA Deacon, 2 other OCA) as well as parishioners from other local churches. We had the opportunity of celebrating the consecration of St. Basil of Ostrog Serbian Orthodox Church in Kernersville where our choir participated in the Vigil service and Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Christopher in attendance.

Support our neighbors in need by supporting our Deanery Mission Fund, FOCUS North America, Open Door Ministry, IOCC, Souper Bowl of Caring and a seminarian family totaling \$3870. We have also disbursed \$2125 in alms this year. This money has gone to help members in our community who have had emergency needs for utilities, groceries and housing.

One of our parishioners has begun a feeding the poor ministry where he feeds people three days a week out of the back of his truck in High Point called Feeding Christ's Poor. Many parishioners have donated and volunteered for this new and exciting ministry.

The Sisterhood of the Holy Myrrhbearers continues to be a great source of fellowship and study, meeting monthly. Recently, the sisterhood has begun reaching out to those parishioners who, because of sickness, distance or job are no able to attend often by sending cards of encouragement.

Began a men's group that is currently meeting monthly for fellowship and encouragement. We were also able to help some families out with renovation work and moving.

Continue to raise money for the building fund and have sent the money to the Diocesan Custodial Fund which bears 4.5% interest. We began the year with \$15,300 in the building fund and by the end of the year we had over \$26,000 in the fund.

Search for land/building for sale in order to get an idea of what the market is doing in the area we focused in on. After looking within this area and seeing how expensive the property is we decided to expand the search area.

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Weekly Sunday morning children's church school with a director and volunteer teachers. We are currently renting 2 classrooms at Christ Presbyterian to provide Christian education for children ages 4 through 16 (3 classes) for 45 minutes each week.

Weekly Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy; Great Vespers and Liturgy for the 12 major feasts. Weekly Presanctified Liturgy during Lent; daily services during Holy Week.

Many who help out from organizing reading, to setting up choir books, directing, serving, cleaning, teaching, volunteering for fund-raisers, and all of the many areas needed to continue the life of the parish. This year has seen a lot more participation in all of these areas.

Weekly Adult study group and Small Compline which has proved to be a source of discussion, encouragement and fellowship. We began with a book study and have continued with a study on the Orthodox understanding and interpretation of Scripture.

Hosted Bishop Mark of Baltimore in February for a public lecture and Parish retreat. He ordained one of our parishioners to the Holy Diaconate and made another a Subdeacon.

St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church, Greenville, SC VRev Fr Marcus C Burch, Rector; Fr Thaddaeus Werner, Assistant

Celebrated Great Blessing of waters at Theophany with local GOA parish in downtown Greenville at Falls Park. February 2011, purchased 4.6 acres of land (also includes a livable house, barn and shed) in central Greenville location Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy at local GOA church --- a first for the Upstate of SC.

Hosted Bp Mark for Hierarchical Presanctified Liturgy, tonsuring of a reader (March).

Hosted vespers and a meal, and blessed newly purchased property (March) ; Vespers and Parish Picnic (July)

Initiated a Capital Campaign to retired debt on newly purchased land; on target to pay off by end of 2011

Sponsored SVS Student, Dn James Bozeman for Summer 2011 Internship (completed August 2011).

Put out a Request for Proposal to solicit proposal for our building program --- hope to break ground by July 2012.

Hosted Fr Meletios Webber for lecture at Furman Univ (April); Hosted Scott Cairns for Lecture on Prayer (Sept).

Began an adult Sunday school class to help educate our adults, and increase attendance/participation in children's Sunday school. Continue to sponsor OCF's at Clemson and Furman Universities.

Currently bringing more youth activities online to foster better community for our Jr and Sr High School members.

Nativity of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church, Charlotte, NC Rev Fr William C Mills, Rector

2011 has been bittersweet at Nativity. We have experienced growing pains in the community, making room for new members, saying goodbye to old ones and sending others into the mission field.

1. In January of this year several families left Nativity to be with Father Paul Coats and the new Rock Hill Mission in Rock Hill, SC. On the one hand it was sad to see part of our family leave, but on the other we are happy that Father Paul and his family are doing well. It will take several years for us to regroup.
2. In March Deacon John Frazier was ordained to the Holy Priesthood at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Father John is currently pursuing full time chaplaincy at a hospital in Brooklyn, NY and Mandy is pursuing a Master's Degree in Social Work at New York University.
3. In August Chad Cordero served as a missionary on the OCMC Mission trip to Bethel Alaska. Chad spent ten days helping restore a Church building in Bethel. This was a wonderful opportunity for Chad.
4. With our many volunteers we still continue to serve a hot meal once a month at the local Men's Rescue Mission. We also continue to donate canned goods to the local Loaves and Fishes foodbank as well as support the local Salvation Army Christmas Angel Tree Program, Back to School Back—Pack program, as well as make blankets for Project Linus.
5. Later this Fall we are looking forward to receiving Tessoro and Abel as members of the Orthodox Faith as well as having our annual back to school Church school picnic and looking forward to having a new parish photo directory.

St Nicholas Orthodox Church, Fayetteville, NC Rev Thaddaeus Werner (serves one Sunday/mo; reader's services on the other Sundays)

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In the last year at St Nicholas we have had many significant changes. We have purchased a new candelabra and lampada's to beautify our temple. We have also began to have readers Vespers on Saturday evenings. We have also began Bible study, choir practice, and have done a better job of reaching out to the shut-ins. At the present time we have one new catechumen. Our goal is to be at a place to hire a full time priest next year.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Augusta, GA Rev Fr Robert Royer, Priest-in-Charge

Statistics (+/- from previous year's statistics):

1. Members: 36 (+6)
2. Average Sunday Attendance: 43 [18 children] (+1)
3. Baptisms: 1 (-1)
4. Chrismations: 1 (+1)
5. Enrolled catechumens: 0 (same)
6. Marriages: 1 (+1)
7. Deaths: 0 (-1)

Synopsis:

The 2010-2011 ecclesiastical year continued to be a period of growth for Holy Resurrection Mission. We gained one new member through adult chrismation. HROM is also fortunate enough to have added several new attendees becoming attached to the parish by way of relocation, word-of-mouth, and internet access.

2011 was important financially for HROM because it ceased to be the beneficiary of the DOS Mission Planting Grant. HROM continues to be the beneficiary of the OCA Mission Planting Grant for 2011 and has applied for continuation of this grant for the 2012 calendar year.

A normal liturgical schedule of Saturday evening Great Vespers, Sunday morning Orthros and Divine Liturgy, as well as festal celebrations, continues to provide the necessary liturgical basis for other parish ministry and growth. Along with the liturgical schedule, we continue adult parish education, this year changed to a once per month format. We are currently studying *In the Spirit of Happiness* by The Monks of New Skete.

All events continue to be listed and announced on the parish website, www.holyresurrectionmission.org.

St. Timothy Orthodox Church, Toccoa, GA VRev Fr Jacob Lee Kulp, Priest-in-Charge

Average Divine Liturgy attendance: 38
Membership: 45 souls, 23 adults (up from 22)
Catechumens: 3
High Sunday Attendance: 46
Low Sunday Attendance: 15
Average G.Vesp attendance: 17
Baptisms: 3
Pascha attendance: 50

Highlights of Fall 2010 – Fall 2011

- * Continued our contributions to support our former parishioner, Deacon Jamey Bozeman, now beginning his final year at St. Vladimir's Seminary.
- * Completing a standing kiot of St. Herman of Alaska, with a relic.
- * Continuously presented our iconography DVD in downtown Toccoa, during our annual participation in the Toccoa Fall Festival.
- * Used funds from Fall Festival to commission hand-written icon of our St.

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Timothy, by Joshua Coolman, currently a seminarian at St. Tikhon's, South Cannan. Icon received & blessed.

- * Installed 24-folder display rack, stocked with informational folders
- * Presented a check for approx. \$1000 from all alms collected during Great Lent and Holy Week to Shirley's Shelter, Toccoa, GA.
- * Attended organizational meetings of the Toccoa Ministerial Association to co-ordinate support by all local churches in Toccoa to help those in need.
- * Installed shelving for bookstore and ordered books and supplies for home devotions.
- * Formed a committee which is designing an entrance-way to the church to support a set of bells.

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Raleigh, NC Rev Fr Edward Rommen, Priest-in-Charge

During the last year our community has grown to 98 adults and 37 children. Sunday attendance ranges between 75 and 105. Giving is up and we have a stable financial situation. This year brought some difficulties with the zoning of our property. By asking for permission to expand our parking we found out that we face three obstacles: 1) The airport overlay which forbids places of assembly, leaving us in noncompliance, 2) the possible widening of the main road, which would take most of our current parking, and 3) the possible development by the airport of the property directly to our south. In the mean time we have 1) asked the airport to remove our parcel from the overlay, which would put us back under regular zoning law. 2) We were told that a road expansion is not even on the town's ten year plan and 3) airport development is a long term project. So we face no immediate problems and will probably be able to expand our parking and the building if needed. This "scare" has prompted us to go to work on a long term strategic plan of our own.

St Basil Orthodox Church, Wilmington, NC Rev Fr Peter Robichau, Priest-in-Charge

1. Members: 17
2. Average Sunday attendance: 25
3. Pascha Attendance: 40
4. Baptisms: 0
5. Chrismations: 1
6. Enrolled Catechumens: 1
7. Marriages: 0
8. Deaths: 0

Highlights of 2011:

- Developed parish liturgical music through regular practices
- Continued weekly liturgical cycle
- Collected and distributed care packages for local homeless population
- Hosted a well attended public event (~50 non-members in attendance) with Poet/Author Scott Cairns
- Continued work with/support of new OCF at UNC Wilmington (in cooperation with local GOA parish)
- First year of regular Lenten services
- Hosted Bishop Mark for a weekend of services and a community banquet

2011 has been a year of establishing routines, and growing in mission and ministry. Since the last report to the Diocesan Council, our community has welcomed some new members and said goodbye to others who were integral members of the community. I have continued to work in the local Medical Center in order to support my family, and the mission (with generous assistance from the Deanery/Diocese) provides a part-time salary to me as a priest. I have continued to establish relationships in the community. The group has grown in community, though this is

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primarily a Sunday fellowship. Of particular note is the tremendous growth of the choir under the leadership of Christopher McGarvey, our mission choir director.

Goals for future growth: Continued focus on what is working well as noted above, with a vision toward regular festal celebrations and Christian education as opportunities arise.

**Fort Mill/Rock Hill, SC Mission Station
Rev Fr Paul Coats**

Week Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy, as well as feast dayservices.
Twelve families from Rock Hill and surrounding communities are membered.
Still meeting in a rented Knights of Columbus building, but are exploring other options for the sake of growth.
The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple in November will mark the first year anniversary of the first Divine Liturgy in Rock Hill.
Continue to draw frequent visitors who are curious about the Orthodox Church.
Beginning regular catechism class for seekers and members both in the coming months.

II. Deanery Activities

Carolinas Deanery Meetings

Clergy gathering with Bp Mark in March at Holy Apostles on the occasion of his visit to Greenville and Columbia, March 2011. Deanery Clergy met with Bp Nikon April of 2011.
Annual Holy Apostles/St John of the Ladder Church Campout in Hot Springs, NC, Oct 2011.

Carolinas Deanery Mission Fund

Each parish and mission within the deanery is being asked to support this fund which is used to implement our plan to have missions and parishes in all of the major cities of the Carolinas by helping fund priest's salary.
Present grant recipient: St Basil's Orthodox Church, Wilmington, NC.

Carolinas Deanery Mission Fund Account

Beginning Balance (12/31/10): \$14,803.40

Withdrawals:

St Basil	\$ 4,500.00
	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>

Deposits:

Nativity of the Virgin	\$ 1,900.00
Holy Cross	\$ 600.00
Holy Ascension	\$ 1,000.00
St John of the Ladder	\$ 2,250.00
Holy Resurrection	\$ 400.00
St Basil	\$ 1,835.00
Holy Apostles	\$ 1,200.00
Holy Transfiguration	\$ 0.00
St Timothy	\$ 0.00
St Nicholas	\$ 0.00
	<u>\$ 9,185.00</u>
Interest:	\$ 488.06
Ending Balance (10/10/11):	\$19,976.46

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Carolinas Deanery Choir, which has had 'success' singing at missions, festivals, and concert series throughout the Carolinas---most notably it has been a regular participant at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC.

Two concerts of Nativity hymns and folk carols at Holy Apostles' St Nicholas Festival, Dec 2010;

Deanery Summer Internship (*for rising senior seminarians*)

The goal of this internship was to provide practical parish experience. Other parishes and missions are also interested in establishing such a program and/or perhaps 'sharing' such an intern over the course of a summer.

Holy Ascension Orthodox Church/St John of the Ladder Orthodox Church: Dn James Bozeman, Summer 2011

Report Submitted by

Archpriest Marcus

VRev Fr Marcus C Burch

Dean, Carolinas' Deanery