

Diocese of the South (OCA) 2014 Annual Assembly
Appalachian Deanery Report

The Appalachian Deanery is composed of 9 churches, 4 of which are parishes and 5 are missions. The Deanery covers the geographical region made up of the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and most of Virginia (the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC fall under the Archdiocese of Washington, DC). We have one mission (St. Tikhon, Chattanooga, TN) under the care of Deanery and retired clergy.

Dormition of the Theotokos Church, Norfolk, VA

<http://www.dormitionnorfolk.org>

Priest John Cox

Voting Members: 52

Average Sunday Attendance: 75

Average Great Vespers Attendance: 12

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2012-13: +20%

Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 100

Attendance for Pascha 2014: 70

The challenge facing the parish is finding suitable facility or land to move into as a stepping stone or permanent location. The current space is limiting growth and beginning to diminish morale. Otherwise, the parish is growing and ministry is expanding to the community.

St. Andrew's Church, Ashland, VA

<http://www.firstcalled.org>

Priest Adam Sexton

Voting Members: 27

Average Sunday Attendance: 30

Average Great Vespers Attendance: 18

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2012-13: NA

Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 52

Attendance for Pascha 2014: 45

Fr. Adam Sexton and his family moved to Virginia and began their service with St. Andrew's on February 1, 2014. There is continued enthusiasm among the faithful as is seen in external beautification of the facilities and outreach to the community.

St. Seraphim Church, Memphis, TN

<http://www.orthodoxmemphis.org>

Priest Mark Sutton

Voting Members: 39

Average Sunday Attendance: 30
Average Great Vespers Attendance: 5
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2012-13: + 0.48%
Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 81
Attendance for Pascha 2014: 40

The evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit at St. Seraphim lies in the gradual growth of faith and spiritual understanding in the congregation from year to year. People are progressively learning to live life in the Orthodox way and to make Christ the center of their life. There is a constant struggle with the constraints of 'time and space' which is not at all unique and in spite of the obstacles consistently the faithful continue in the faith, not perfectly, but humanly.

Many good things are in place and have been. Sundays, Feast days, nearly full Holy week, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and as of January Matins every morning, catechism, book discussion group, altar servers, choir, prosphora bakers, regular food providers, regular readers, greeters, a web site, regular parish board meetings---again, nothing particularly unique but signs that people are helping.

In the context of our Annual Meeting we invited Milos to Memphis to help us build a greater awareness of giving in the parish. In 2012 our income included a few one time gifts that helped our bottom line but we needed more people to give regularly. In 2013, by encouraging the members, our tithes alone brought us to the same level as 2012. And in 2014 we are ahead of 2013 year to date.

St. Anne Mission, Oak Ridge, TN

<http://www.stanneorthodoxchurch.com>

Archpriest Stephen Freeman

Voting Members: 100
Average Sunday Attendance: 80
Average Great Vespers Attendance: 15
Increase in Giving: 0.0%
Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 162
Attendance for Pascha 2014: 200 (approximate)

St. Anne is continuing to weather some financial setbacks, primarily through the loss of a key family, the local economy and some members leaving for the new, neighboring ROCOR parish. The parish has continued to grow, and is larger than it was before a number of families moved to the neighboring parish. Finances are growing in fits and starts but seem to be moving in a healthy direction. The overall tenor of the parish has probably improved.

We have been in the midst of a "baby boom," with tremendous numbers of births in our young families. Our facilities are being used to the max. We are in the process of re-financing our building loan. Though the facility is valued at \$450,000, and we owe only \$174,000, our monthly payments have been in excess of \$2,000, creating some drag on our budget and slowing expansion plans.

We enjoyed the visit of Archbishop NIKON in February of 2014 at the ordination of Fr. Kevin Rigdon to the priesthood. We also had recent overflow crowds for the visit of the wonderworking St. Anne Icon

from St. Tikhon's monastery.

St. Athanasius Mission, Nicholasville, KY

<http://www.athanasiusoca.org>

Priest Justin Patterson

Voting Members: 76

Average Sunday Attendance: 113

Average Great Vespers Attendance: NA

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2012-13: +7%

Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 180

Attendance for Pascha 2014: 180

Our main work this year, outside of the ongoing work of the Church, has been the ongoing construction of the first phase of our parish campus. Most of 2013 was devoted to preparing final architectural plans, having those plans approved by the parish and by the proper civil authorities, securing a friendly loan, vetting contractors, and making final plans to begin construction. Construction commenced in November 2013. We are scheduled to complete the first phase construction in July 2014 and to occupy the new church at this time. Archpastoral Dedication of our church is tentatively scheduled for February 2015.

Because of all the energy the parish leadership and I have directed towards the building project, I am feeling (as priest and pastor) an earnest desire to refocus my pastoral attention fully on the parishioners God has entrusted to my care, once we are moved into the new church. This new building positions us nicely to continue our growth, engage in active ministry locally, and look to the long-term missionary work here in Kentucky.

St. Cyprian of Carthage Mission, Richmond (Midlothian), VA

<http://www.stcyprianoca.org>

Priest David Arnold

Voting Members: 71

Average Sunday Attendance: 65

Average Great Vespers Attendance: 27

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2012-13: +0.03%

Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 113

Attendance for Pascha 2014: 121

The parish embarks on an Iconography program for the Apse wall and other ceiling/wall space in the sanctuary. Surface preparation begins this summer, with Iconography in the fall. Learning Archbishop Nikon, as locum tenens, is unable to consecrate the newly constructed altar, a date will be set with a ruling hierarch in the future. There will be a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the mission under the Diocese of New York in 1974 on the Feast of St. Cyprian of Carthage, August 31.

Protection of the Holy Virgin Mary Mission, Clarksville, TN

<http://www.orthodoxclarksville.org>

Priest Thomas Langdon

Voting Members: 40

Average Sunday Attendance: 41

Average Great Vespers Attendance: 16

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2012-13: +20%

Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 100

Attendance for Pascha 2014: 50

The year of 2013 was a very transitional period for Holy Protection Mission in Clarksville, TN. We explored numerous options to relocate, either to rent or purchase, and finally found a property with two buildings located on 6 acres very reasonably priced. Through the concerted efforts of the Diocese and our members we were able to finalize the purchase and move this Pascha. We've also had a substantial transition in membership. A number of new families and individuals began participating in our Church community, but we've also had 38 people (22 adult and 16 youth) move out of the Clarksville area over the last year. Due to Fort Campbell Army Post located here, Clarksville is a very transient area. However, having our own Church property affords an opportunity for a new sense of permanency and growth. May God give the increase.

St. Tikhon of Moscow Mission, Chattanooga, TN

<http://www.sainttikhons.org>

Census figures not available

Mission served by Deanery and Retired Clergy

Rev. Daniel Talley served Vespers and Divine Liturgy on rotation once a month. He was also able to offer additional services during Great Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. There have been several new souls received into the flock and many more catechumens and inquirers. He is thankful to be able to serve the mission in Chattanooga, as well as being available to other churches in the diocese as needed.

St. Maria of Paris Mission Station, Cleveland, TN

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

Priest Kevin Rigdon

Voting Members: 29

Average Sunday Attendance: 33

Average Great Vespers Attendance: 18

Percentage Increase/Decrease in Tithes/Offerings from 2012-13: NA

Total Parish (Active/Inactive/Seekers): 67

Attendance for Pascha 2014: 50

In the Fall of 2014, we will have an OCF chapter at Lee University (Pentecostal Liberal Arts School). We are expanding again into an adjoining space in our current building. The move should be complete by the end of July.

