

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 12, Issue 10

October 2014

September Council Highlights

- ✘ August's Operating Income was \$9,458.14 while Operating Expenses were \$11,328.09, resulting in a deficit of **\$1,869.95**. Our year to date deficit is **\$4,720.19**
- ✘ Plans are on track for the Diocesan Assembly to be held October 6-9, 2014.
- ✘ Church school students replaced plants on church grounds on Sunday, September 28th.
- ✘ Youth to collect supplies to assemble Health Kits for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).



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Glorification of St Tikhon, the Apostle to America

St Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Apostle to America was born as Vasily Ivanovich Belavin on January 19, 1865 into the family of Ioann Belavin, a rural priest of the Toropetz district of the Pskov diocese. His childhood and adolescence were spent in the village in direct contact with peasants and their labor. From his early years he displayed a particular religious disposition, love for the Church as well as rare meekness and humility.

When Vasily was still a boy, his father had a revelation about each of his children. One night, when he and his three sons slept in the hayloft, he suddenly woke up and roused them. He had seen his dead mother in a dream, who foretold to him his imminent death, and the fate of his three sons. She said that one would be unfortunate throughout his entire life, another would die young, while the third, Vasily, would be a great man. The prophecy of the dead woman proved to be entirely accurate in regard to all three brothers.

From 1878 to 1883, Vasily studied at the Pskov Theological Seminary. The modest

seminarian was tender and affectionate by nature. He was fair-haired and tall of stature. His fellow students liked and respected him for his piety, bril-



liant progress in studies, and constant readiness to help comrades, who often turned to him for explanations of lessons, especially for help in drawing up and correcting numerous compositions. Vasily was called "bishop" and "patriarch" by his classmates.

In 1888, at the age of 23, Vasily Belavin graduated from the St Petersburg Theological Academy as a layman, and returned to the Pskov Seminary as an instructor of Moral and Dogmatic Theology. The whole seminary and the town

of Pskov became very fond of him. He led an austere and chaste life, and in 1891, when he turned 26, he took monastic vows. Nearly the whole town gathered for the ceremony. He embarked on this new way of life consciously and deliberately, desiring to dedicate himself entirely to the service of the Church. The meek and humble young man was given the name Tikhon in honor of St Tikhon of Zadonsk.

He was transferred from the Pskov Seminary to the Kholm Theological Seminary in 1892, and was raised to the rank of archimandrite. Archimandrite Tikhon was consecrated Bishop of Lublin on October 19, 1897, and returned to Kholm for a year as Vicar Bishop of the Kholm Diocese. Bishop Tikhon zealously devoted his energy to the establishment of the new vicariate. His attractive moral make-up won the general affection, of not only the Russian population, but also of the Lithuanians and Poles. On September 14, 1898, Bishop Tikhon was made Bishop of the Aleutians and Alaska. As head of the Orthodox Church in America,

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Message from Our Rector

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month, our parish community has the honor and joy of hosting the 2014 Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of the West. Parishes throughout the Diocese normally take turns hosting this event—most gen-

erally in the San Francisco Bay Area or the Pacific Northwest. It has been exactly twenty years since this annual diocesan meeting has taken place in Phoenix—so it's certainly our turn. In 1994, the Assembly was held at the local Franciscan Retreat Center, with only the

Divine Liturgy taking place in our church. Much has changed in the past twenty years—the Diocese has grown (nearly doubled in number of communities); Phoenix has grown; and, thanks be to God, our parish has also grown. And we've also seen many improvements to our temple and parish property over these past years. The Assembly offers our parish the opportunity to offer hospitality to our brothers and sisters throughout the Diocese as well as to showcase our parish community as we live and celebrate our Orthodox Faith here in the Sonoran Desert.

Particularly special to this 2014 Assembly is the fact that, in addition to our own Archpastor, Archbishop Benjamin, we will welcome His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. Although His Beatitude has been present in the Diocese of the West prior to this, this will be his first official visit to a diocesan-wide event.

Additionally, over one hundred clergy, lay delegates, and observers will come together for prayer, to review the life of the Diocese over the past year, and to plan for the future. Through the past few months, several members of our parish community have been planning and working to make

this a memorable event. The “behind-the-scenes” activities and preparations are more involved than most would imagine!

A lot of hard work and enthusiasm—and a lot of love and care—are a part of hosting this Assembly. While the planning and

carrying out of the plans for this event might at times be tiring or frustrating, in the end we all know that what we are doing by hosting this Assembly is of service to the Church and to the Lord Himself. As we welcome all of our guests, we welcome them into our parish family home with love and with open arms—we welcome them as we welcome the Lord Himself.

As I have announced on several occasions, the highlight of the Assembly will be the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Thursday, October 9, at 8:00 a.m. This is also the Feast of the Glorification of Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America—and His Beatitude's nameday. I encourage everyone in the parish, if at all possible, to take the time away from work or school or whatever else you might be engaged in that day, in order to be present and participate in this Liturgy. It is a rare occurrence that the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America is present in the Diocese of the West—and even rarer that he would visit our parish. Hopefully, everyone realizes the importance and meaning of this special visit and will be able to participate.

May the Lord bless all of you for your kindness, hospitality, and willingness to welcome our guests to Phoenix.

With love in the Lord,

Father Daniel



From the Fathers . . .

"Remember that the Lord is in every Christian. When your neighbour comes to you, always have great respect for him, because the Lord is in him, and often expresses His will through him. 'It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure' (Phil. 2:13). Therefore, do not grudge anything to your brother, but do unto him as unto the Lord; especially as you do not know in whom the Lord will come and visit you; be impartial to all, be kind to all, sincere and hospitable. Remember that sometimes God speaks even through unbelievers, or disposes their hearts towards us, as it happened in Egypt when the Lord gave Joseph favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. (Gen. 39:21)."

—St. John of Kronstadt



"However hard I try, I find it impossible to construct anything greater than these three words, 'Love one another'—only to the end, and without exceptions: then all is justified and life is illumined, whereas otherwise it is an abomination and a burden."

—Mother Maria of Paris

Glorification of St Tikhon, the Apostle to America

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Bishop Tikhon was a zealous laborer in the Lord's vineyard.

He did much to promote the spread of Orthodoxy, and to improve his vast diocese. He reorganized the diocesan structure, and changed its name from "Diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska" to "Diocese of the Aleutians and North America" in 1900. Both clergy and laity loved their archpastor, and held him in such esteem that the Americans made Archbishop Tikhon an honorary citizen of the United States.

On May 22, 1901, he blessed the cornerstone for St Nicholas Cathedral in New York, and was also involved in establishing other churches. On November 9, 1902, he consecrated the church of St Nicholas in Brooklyn for the Syrian Orthodox immigrants. Two weeks later, he consecrated St Nicholas Cathedral in NY.

In 1905, the American Mission was made an Archdiocese, and St Tikhon was elevated to the rank of Archbishop. He had two vicar bishops: Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) in Alaska, and St Raphael (Hawaweeny) in Brooklyn to assist him in administering his large, ethnically diverse diocese. In June of 1905, St Tikhon gave his blessing for the establishment of St Tikhon's Monastery.

In 1907, he returned to Russia, and was appointed to Yaroslavl, where he quickly won the affection of his flock. They came to love him as a friendly, communicative, and wise archpastor. He spoke simply to his subordinates, never resorting to a peremptory or overbearing tone. When he had to reprimand someone, he did so in a good-natured, sometimes joking manner, which encouraged the person to correct his mistakes.

When St Tikhon was transferred to Lithuania on December 22, 1913, the people of Yaroslavl voted him an honor-

ary citizen of their town. After his transfer to Vilnius, he did much in terms of material support for various charitable institutions. There too, his generous soul and love of people clearly manifested themselves. World War I broke out when His Eminence was in Vilnius. He spared no effort to help the poor residents of the Vilnius region who were left without a roof over their heads or means of subsistence as a result of the war with the Germans, and who flocked to their archpastor in droves.

After the February Revolution and formation of a new Synod, St Tikhon became one of its members. On June 21, 1917, the Moscow Diocesan Congress of clergy and laity elected him as their ruling bishop. He was a zealous and educated archpastor, widely known even outside his country.

On August 15, 1917, a local council was opened in Moscow, and Archbishop Tikhon was raised to the dignity of Metropolitan, and then elected as chairman of the council. The council had as its aim to restore the life of Russian Orthodox Church on strictly canonical principles, and its primary concern was the restoration of the Patriarchate. All council members would select three candidates, and then a lot would reveal the will of God. The council members chose three candidates: Archbishop Anthony of Kharkov, the wisest, Archbishop Arseny of Novgorod, the strictest, and Metropolitan Tikhon of Moscow, the kindest of the Russian hierarchs.

On November 5, following the Divine Liturgy and a Moleben in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a monk removed one of the three ballots from the ballot box, which stood before the Vladimir Icon of the Mother of God. Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev announced Metropolitan Tikhon as the newly elected Patriarch. St

Tikhon did not change after becoming the primate of the Russian Orthodox Church. In accepting the will of the council, Patriarch Tikhon referred to the scroll that the Prophet Ezekiel had to eat, on which was written, "Lamentations, mourning, and woe." He foresaw that his ministry would be filled with affliction and tears, but through all his suffering, he remained the same accessible, unassuming, and kindly person.

All who met St Tikhon were surprised by his accessibility, simplicity and modesty. His gentle disposition did not prevent him from showing firmness in Church matters, however, particularly when he had to defend the Church from her enemies. He bore a very heavy cross. He had to administer and direct the Church amidst wholesale church disorganization, without auxiliary administrative bodies, in conditions of internal schisms and upheavals by various adherents of the Living Church, renovationists, and autocephalists.

The situation was complicated by external circumstances: the change of the political system, by the accession to power of the godless regime, by hunger, and civil war. This was a time when Church property was being confiscated, when clergy were subjected to court trials and persecutions, and Christ's Church endured repression. News of this came to the Patriarch from all ends of Russia. His exceptionally high moral and religious authority helped him to unite the scattered and enfeebled flock. At a crucial time for the church, his unblemished name was a bright beacon pointing the way to the truth of Orthodoxy. In his messages, he called on people to fulfill the commandments of Christ, and to attain spiritual rebirth through repentance. His irreproachable life was an example to all.

In order to save thousands of lives and to improve the general position of the church, the Patriarch took measures to

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Glorification of St Tikhon, the Apostle to America

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prevent clergy from making purely political statements. On September 25, 1919, when the civil war was at its height, he issued a message to the clergy urging them to stay away from political struggle. The summer of 1921 brought a severe famine to the Volga region. In August, Patriarch Tikhon issued a message to the Russian people and to the people of the world, calling them to help famine victims. He gave his blessing for voluntary donations of church valuables, which were not directly used in liturgical services. However, on February 23, 1922, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee published a decree making all valuables subject to confiscation.

According to the 73rd Apostolic Canon, such actions were regarded as sacrilege, and the Patriarch could not approve such total confiscation, especially since many doubted that the valuables would be used to combat famine. This forcible confiscation aroused popular indignation everywhere. Nearly two thousand trials were staged all over Russia, and more than ten thousand believers were shot. The Patriarch's message was viewed as sabotage, for which he was imprisoned from April 1922 until June 1923.

His Holiness, Patriarch Tikhon did much on behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church during the crucial time of the so-called Renovationist schism. He showed himself to be a faithful servant and custodian of the undistorted precepts of the true Orthodox Church. He was the living embodiment of Orthodoxy, which was unconsciously recognized even by enemies of the church, who called its members "Tikhonites."

When Renovationist priests and hierarchs repented and returned to the church, they were met with tenderness and love by St Tikhon. This, however, did not represent any deviation from his strictly Orthodox policy. "I ask you to believe me that I will

not come to agreement or make concessions which could lead to the loss of the purity and strength of Orthodoxy," the Patriarch said in 1924.

Being a good pastor, who devoted himself entirely to the church's cause, he called upon the clergy to do the same: "Devote all your energy to preaching the word of God and the truth of Christ, especially today, when unbelief and atheism are audaciously attacking the Church of Christ. May the God of peace and love be with all of you!"

It was extremely painful and hard for the Patriarch's loving, responsive heart to endure all the Church's misfortunes. Upheavals in and outside the church, the Renovationist schism, his primatial labors, his concern for the organization and tranquility of Church life, sleepless nights and heavy thoughts, his confinement that lasted more than a year, the spiteful and wicked baiting of his enemies, and the unrelenting criticism sometimes even from the Orthodox, combined to undermine his strength and health.

In 1924, Patriarch Tikhon began to feel unwell. He checked into a hospital, but would leave it on Sundays and Feast Days in order to conduct services. On Sunday, April 5, 1925, he served his last Liturgy, and died two days later. On March 25/April 7, 1925 the Patriarch received Metropolitan Peter and had a long talk with him. In the evening, the Patriarch slept a little, then he woke up and asked what time it was. When he was told it was 11:45 P.M., he made the Sign of the Cross twice and said, "Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee." He did not have time to cross himself a third time.

Almost a million people came to say farewell to the Patriarch. The large cathedral of the Donskoy Monastery in Moscow could not contain the crowd, which overflowed the monastery property into the square and adjacent streets. St Tikhon,

the eleventh Patriarch of Moscow, was primate of the Russian Church for seven and a half years.

On September 26/October 9, 1989, the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified Patriarch Tikhon and numbered him among the saints. For nearly seventy years, St Tikhon's relics were believed lost, but in February 1992, they were discovered in a concealed place in the Donskoy Monastery.

It would be difficult to imagine the Russian Orthodox Church without Patriarch Tikhon during those years. He did so much for the Church and for the strengthening of the Faith itself during those difficult years of trial. Perhaps the saint's own words can best sum up his life: "May God teach every one of us to strive for His truth, and for the good of the Holy Church, rather than something for our own sake."

Reprinted from the Orthodox Church in America web site, <http://www.oca.org>*

From the Fathers . . .

"My poor soul! Sigh, pray and strive to take upon you the blessed yoke of Christ, and you will live on earth in a heavenly manner. Lord, grant that I may carry the light and goodly yoke, and I shall be always at rest, peaceful, glad and joyous; and I shall taste on earth of crumbs which fall from the celestial feast, like a dog that feeds upon the crumbs which fall from the master's table."

—St. Tikhon of Voronezh

A Look Back at September



Father Daniel addresses students and teachers to mark the beginning of the school year. (center) Church School youth work to beautify the church grounds (above and below).



Two Confessors of Romania

On October 21 the Church commemorates two men who lived in 18th-century Romania. Saint Sophronius and Saint Bessarion Sarai are called "confessors" for the faith.

"Confessor" refers to someone who witnesses to the faith but is not directly killed, or martyred, for doing so. Many confessors, like Sophronius and Bessarion Sarai, still suffered greatly. Both men, by example, encouraged other Orthodox to resist powerful efforts to make them deny their ancestral faith and become Roman Catholics.

Saint Bessarion Sarai, Serbian by birth, was born in 1714. After traveling to the Holy Land and being tonsured a monk in his mid-twenties, he returned to his homeland and lived in a remote cave. His prayer was so deep and sincere that he was granted the grace to work miracles.

But like others who hoped to spend their lives in solitary prayer, his gifts were needed for the larger Church. The Romanian regions of Transylvania and Banat had seen the forcible union of numerous Orthodox to the Roman Catholic Church. Hearing of Bessarion's holy life, the regional Patriarch summoned him, ordained

him, and sent him to teach and defend the faith in the troubled area.

Bessarion obediently set out for Banat, where the Orthodox gladly gathered around this solitary monk who turned out to be an exceptional preacher, effectively reminding them that their Orthodox faith was a gift handed down to them through generations. He was able to bring large numbers of people back to the Church.

But Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, a staunch Catholic (and, incidentally, mother of Marie Antoinette), was keenly interested in Banat. She had colonized it with German farmers who profited from its mineral wealth, and didn't want the local Orthodox stirring up trouble. So while Bessarion was traveling to visit his flock in 1774, he was arrested by the Austrian army and imprisoned in Vienna on her orders. Some months later he died in a dank cell.

Saint Sophronius, a contemporary of Bessarion but Romanian by birth, also loved the quiet life of prayer. He too was tonsured a monk, and established a small hermitage in the Romanian forest. As his monastery grew in size and reputation, other men joined him.

Sophronius shared Bessarion's concern

that the Orthodox in Ardeal (the Romanian name for Transylvania) were being persecuted and pulled, sometimes by force, into the Roman Catholic Church. Like Bessarion, Sophronius traveled to villages to encourage people to stand firm against Roman Catholic pressure. Unfazed by imprisonment and torture, he decided to deal with the problem in a more political way, calling the Orthodox together to demand that an Orthodox bishop be appointed and that Romanians receive equal treatment under the law. Sophronius' methods were effective, and once the demands had been met he was content to enter a monastery and spend the rest of his life there.

In today's reading from Ephesians 4: 25, Saint Paul urges each of us to "speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another." Finding themselves among Orthodox who were tempted and coerced to give up their faith, Saints Bessarion and Sophronius did just that.

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.

Around SS Peter & Paul

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- October 2 Walter and Vera Moschowsky
 3 Dusanka Marceti
 4 Christi Sourk
 10 Rose Koval
 13 Alexander Gala
 15 Eugenia (Gina) Mudrenko
 17 Rosemarie Osolinsky
 20 Stephanie Sedor
 21 Svetlana & Arthur Fleenor
 23 Harold Homyak



PRAYER LIST

"I was sick and you visited me."

Matt 25:36

We offer prayers to all of our parishioners who are ill or unable to attend services:

Rose Kurowski
 Ann Garza
 Rose Koval

If you know of anyone else in need of our prayers, please contact Father Daniel

Many Years! Mnogaya Leta!

Bits and Pieces

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY ---THE DIVINE LITURGY

Metropolitan **TIKHON** and Archbishop **BENJAMIN** will preside at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Thursday, October 9, at 8:00 a.m. October 9th is the day on which the Orthodox Church commemorates the Glorification of Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow. It is also Metropolitan Tikhon's nameday. Mark your calendars now and plan on attending. This is an historic event for our church and community—plan on taking a few hours off of work or away from school in order to participate in this special moment. You'll be glad you made the effort to participate in this memorable event.

SHARING THE LOAD

Week after week, month after month, year after year, very dedicated parishioners have seen to the upkeep and maintenance of our parish property and facilities. While no one has complained about the amount of time they have put in to keep things running, it's time to begin to share the load. A list of specific tasks, chores, jobs, and assignments has been prepared and will be made available in the parish hall for everyone to review—but not just to review! Take a look and see the broad scope of the various tasks, consider your own talents, and sign up to help. We all share in the work of our parish... our commitment and responsibility to care for the blessings we have received in this parish is common to all of us. Also—as the saying goes: "Many hands make light work."

THANK YOU!

Thank you and blessings to our Sunday School students and their teachers for the planting they did to beautify the church property in preparation for welcoming our Diocesan Assembly guests to Phoenix!

FLOWERS

Each Sunday the Myrrh Bearers make sure that we have flowers for the Tetrapod and Altar to beautify the church. If you want to donate flowers for a particular month, please contact Elena Kerr.

ONGOING FAITH FORMATION – ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Faith Formation classes for adults will resume on Wednesday, November 5. These classes will be held every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of November 26), and will conclude on Wednesday, December 17. This series of classes will focus on a study of the Gospel According to Saint Matthew and will include the discussion of Orthodox spiritual and liturgical life. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to speak with Father Daniel.

IOCC HEALTH KITS

Basic items like a bar of soap, wash cloth, comb, and band aids may seem small, but putting them all together in a Hygiene Kit can make an instant difference in an ongoing development program or when disaster strikes.

SS Peter and Paul Church School students will be organizing a drive to provide Health Kits to the IOCC to be used throughout the world. We ask your support with the worthwhile project.

Each kit contains:

- ✘ One gallon plastic zip lock bag
- ✘ One hand towel
- ✘ One washcloth
- ✘ One comb
- ✘ One metal nail file or nail clipper
- ✘ One bar of soap (bath size, new and wrapped in original packaging)
- ✘ One toothbrush
- ✘ Six Band-Aids

We will also accept monetary donations to cover the shipping costs. For further information, please contact Stephanie Homyak at 602.432.7473.

FALL READING

If you're looking for reading material as you sit and enjoy the cooler evenings, don't forget to visit our parish library. We have about 300 titles in various topics relating to the Orthodox Christian life.



BOOKSTORE

With the holidays rapidly approaching, now would be an excellent time to review your gift giving list. If there are items that you would like the bookstore to special order, such as icons or a book that we don't usually keep in stock, please do so soon. Once we get into November, order times (especially with icon stores) tend to get lengthy.

Also, if you are interested in Christmas cards, please let Katrina Delsante know and she will make sure we have them in stock.

WELCOME

We welcome all visitors to SS Peter & Paul. We hope your visit was enriching and enlightening. Please join us in the Cultural Center, behind the church, for our Fellowship Hour. It's a chance to meet some of our members, other visitors, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship

MYRRH BEARERS ALTAR SOCIETY

The Myrrh Bearers will meet on Sunday, October 12th following coffee hour. New members are always welcome. Please make every effort to attend.

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour provides an opportunity for fellowship; a chance to catch up with old friends and make new friends. Please help support coffee hour. How? Consider making a cash donation to cover supplies, donating staples for coffee hour (we can always use peanut butter and jelly), or helping to clean up! For more ideas, check with Barbara Peterson or Marty Gala. Let's all pitch in and help!



NEW ADDITIONS TO CHURCH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Three new books have just been added to the church school library: Mwangi: A young African Boy's Journey of Faith; The Ravens of Farne: A Tale of Saint Cuthbert; and The Monk Who Grew Prayer. Please stop by to check out these new additions.

October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.</p>			1 Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos	2	3	4 5:00pm Vespers
5 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	6 St. Innocent, Metr. Of Moscow	7 Icon "Our Lady of Tenderness" at Pechersk 5:00pm Vespers	8 5:00pm Vespers	9 St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow 8:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy-Glorification of St. Tikhon	10 Akathist Icon at Zographou	11 5:00pm Vespers
DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY						
12 Fathers of the 7 th Ecumenical Council 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School MBAS Meeting	13	14 6:00pm Council Meeting	15	16	17 Icon 'Our Deliverance'	18 Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke 5:00pm Vespers
19 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	20 Faith Formation Classes Wednesdays, November 5—December 17 Time: 7:00 pm Focus: The Gospel According to Saint Matthew		21	22 Kazan Icon	23	24 "Joy of All Who Sorrow" 25 5:00pm Vespers
26 Greatmartyr and Myrrhgusher Demetrius 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy Church School	27	28	29	30 Ozerianskaya Icon	31	1 5:00pm Vespers
IOCC HEALTH KITS The Church School students are accepting donations of items to make Health Kits for the IOCC. Items needed are: One gallon plastic zip lock bags, hand towels, washcloths, combs, metal nail file or nail clippers, band aids, bars of soap (bath size, new and wrapped in original packaging), and toothbrushes. Please help support this worthwhile cause.						