

# SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

Volume 15, Issue 6

June 2015

## May Council Highlights

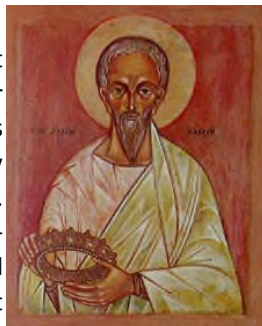
- ✘ April's Operating Income was \$15,406.11 and Operating Expenses were \$16,756.24 resulting in an operating deficit of **\$1,350.13**.
- ✘ Final draft of the proposed Statute of the Orthodox Church in America is posted on the OCA web site.
- ✘ MBAS passed out corsages on Mother's Day, the Church School children passed out treats to the women, and the Teen/Young Adult League hosted coffee hour.

# The Holy Spirit at Work

## Pentecost falls on May 31 this year.

On that day the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were given the power to preach and teach without fear and with joy in the Lord.

June 1 is the feast day of another saint who was empowered by the Holy Spirit. Using his considerable intellectual skills, he sought the true God for



many years. He finally found Jesus Christ, and became one of the most famous Christian teachers of the early Church. He is Saint Justin the Martyr.

Justin was born to pagan parents in about the year 100, in Judea. He had a good early education, but didn't find it sufficient to answer his questions about the meaning of life. He decided to pursue the study of philosophy, and in his writings he describes his experiences with various teachers.

First was a Stoic, who in Justin's words "knew nothing of God and did not even think knowledge of Him to be necessary." Next Justin studied with a traveling, or itinerant, phi-

losopher. But this man, he thought, was more interested in collecting his fee than imparting knowledge. Then there was a teacher of Pythagorean philosophy. But he required that a student take his courses in music, astronomy and geometry before concentrating on philosophy. Justin had little interest in or time for such requirements.

Justin's study of Platonic Saint philosophy brought him closer to answers. As he described it: "And the perception of immaterial things quite overpowered me, and the contemplation of ideas furnished my mind with wings, so that in a little while I supposed I had become wise; and such was my stupidity I expected forthwith to look upon God, for this is the end of Plato's philosophy."

Then Justin had a life-changing experience, which he later saw as a direct gift from the Holy Spirit. He met an old man who, unlike all the wise teachers he'd encountered, convinced him that there was true wisdom—not in the works of philosophers, but in the teaching of the Old Testament prophets

about Jesus Christ. Justin responded with joy:

"A fire was suddenly kindled in my soul. I fell in love with the prophets and these men who had loved Christ; I reflected on all their words and found that this philosophy alone was true and profitable. That is how and why I became a philosopher. And I wish that everyone felt the same way that I do." Observing the unshakable faith of martyrs strengthened his conviction that Christianity was true.

Saint Justin would later write defenses of Christianity (called "Apologies") powerful enough to convince an emperor to halt the persecutions of believers. He also formed basic Christian thought, being among the first to say that the Old Testament foretells the coming of Jesus Christ as Messiah.

Justin accepted martyrdom, inspired by the example of other martyred believers. The Holy Spirit was at work in all of them, just as on the day of Pentecost when wind and fire changed the apostles' lives forever.✘



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# A Man Who Gave Second Chances

**On June 11 the Church remembers two of the Holy Apostles. One is Bartholomew, and the other is Barnabas, companion of Saint Paul.**

Barnabas was born in Cyprus into a Jewish family of the tribe of Levi. His birth name was Joseph. He was a friend and classmate of Saint Paul, then called Saul. They both studied under Gamaliel, the prominent rabbi and teacher of the Jewish Law. Joseph saw and heard Jesus Christ, and came to believe in



Him as the Savior of the world. He would eventually be chosen as one of the original seventy apostles because of his great zeal for the Gospel.

We first read about Barnabas in Acts 4: 36. Those verses describe the sacrifice the early Christians made, selling their property and offering the proceeds to serve the needs of all. But only Joseph, "who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas," is specifically named, so he must have stood out. The name Barnabas means "son of encouragement" and it seems appropriate from the other things we know about him.

In Acts 9 we read about Saint Paul, now converted from a murderous enemy of the faith to a believer. He comes to Jerusalem, hoping to join the disciples. But "they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple." Again, Barnabas is named specifically, and is apparently the only one willing to give Paul a second chance. He convinces the others by telling them that "at Damascus he (Paul) had preached boldly in the name of the Lord" (9: 27).

Barnabas went to Antioch to observe the preaching to non-Jews in the community there. He was glad to see the grace of

God working, and urged the people to "remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose" (11: 23). Then he brought Paul from Tarsus to Antioch, where they taught a "large company" together for about a year. This is where we read that "in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians."

Paul and Barnabas continued their missionary work, accompanied by Barnabas' relative John Mark. But when they got to Perga, John Mark left them to return to Jerusalem. Later, Paul suggested to Barnabas that they return to the cities where they had preached, to "see how they are" (15: 36). Barnabas, again giving someone a second chance, proposed that they take John Mark with them. But Paul refused because of the earlier desertion, and the two parted ways. They were later reconciled, and it seems likely that Barnabas' kind nature was the key to healing the split.

On this same day we read Paul's words in Romans 5: 10 about reconciliation: "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life." Paul must have been glad to have a partner like Barnabas, who always urged him toward reconciliation and the peace it brings.

### Kontakion - Tone 3

You became a true servant of the Lord and appeared as the first among the Seventy Apostles; together with Paul you set your preaching in a clear light revealing Christ as Savior to all; therefore with hymns we celebrate your godly memory, O Barnabas.

## MOTHER'S DAY



# Bits and Pieces

## 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.

## BOOKSTORE

Summer reading starts and ends at the church bookstore and parish library!

Don't fill your free days with senseless drive! Redeem the time! Nourish and refresh your soul! There is something for everyone! Advice for everyday living, stories from centuries ago to present day, history, adventure . . . you name it, we've got it.

And if we don't have it, I can get it for you. So don't fill your head with ridiculous romance or vitriolic political prattle that only infuriates . . . instead satiate yourself with hope, joy and wonder!

All to be found in our humble little bookstore and library.

## FEAST OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

The celebration of our patronal feast will take place on Sunday and Monday, June 28 and 29. Vespers will be served on Sunday, June 28, at 6:00 p.m. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday, June 29, at 9:00 a.m.

## PIROGHI

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christian in America (FOCA) is selling potato piroghi. The cost is \$7.50 per dozen. Please see Stephanie Homyak or John Hecht if you are interested in purchasing some.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

June	1	Elena Kerr
	3	Nancy & Dennis Tarasevich
	4	John Mark Kinney
	6	Noah Phillips
	8	Marilyn Bezkorovainy Sadie Phillips
	15	Olga Bahleda
	21	Alan Burns
	25	Polina Novitskaya
	26	Betsy Begian

*Mnogaya Leta! Many Years!*

## PRAYER LIST

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

Ted Demos  
Larry Gardner  
Vicki Mendez  
Protodeacon Alexis  
Cassandra Wagner  
Rose Kurowski  
Rose Koval  
Ann Garza

*May Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician of our souls and bodies, reach out his healing hand and bless these, His servants.*

# Feed My Starving Children

**Everyone at Sts. Peter and Paul is invited** to be a part of the T/YAL's June service Project which will be at **Feed My Starving Children**. This is a non-profit Christian Organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children and they are shipped to distribution partners. FMSC meals have reached nearly 70 countries around the world.

**WHEN:** June 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 2:00-4:00pm

**WHERE:** FMSC packing site  
1345 S Alma School Rd Mesa, AZ 85210

**WHO: EVERYONE!** But if you are ages 5-8 you must be accompanied by an adult.

**RSVP to Mara Hecht by email/phone or in person by SUNDAY June 7<sup>th</sup> 2015.**

Mara.hecht@gmail.com  
440-479-4982 (call or text)



\*\*\*FMSC relied 100% on donations, they ask each group makes a donation to the best of their ability. Any amount you are able to donate can be given to Mara and we will give one check from all of us on the day we volunteer.

# June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Holy Spirit	2 3rd Day Holy Trinity	3	4	5	6 Leavetaking Pentecost  5:00pm Vespers
7 All Saints 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	8 Yaroslavskaaya Icon	9  6:00pm Council Mtg	10	11 Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas	12	13 Feed My Starving Children 2:00pm-4:00pm  5:00pm Vespers
14 All Saints of America All Saints of Russia 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	15 Marianica Icon	16	17	18 Bogoliubskaya Icon	19 Holy Apostle Jude, Brother of the Lord	20 Hodogitria Icon at Mt. Athos  5:00pm Vespers
21 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy	22	23 Vladimir Icon	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25	26 Tikvin and Sedmiyezerskaya Icon	27  5:00pm Vespers
<p><b>We welcome all of our guests and visitors. Please join us in the Cultural Center for Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy each Sunday.</b></p>						
28 "Three Hands" Icon 8:30am Hours 9:00am Divine Liturgy  6:00pm Vespers	29 Holy Apostles Peter & Paul 9:00am Divine Liturgy	30	1	2	3 Milk-giver Icon at Mt. Athos	4 Galatian Icon  5:00pm Vespers