

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church

MAY 2010

CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Building Fellowship with the Fellowship Hall

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; (Ps 127:1)

Whenever I reflect on King David and his psalms, I see how the Bible looked at him as “a man after God’s own heart.” I see how David constantly desired to provide a house for God as an act of worship. When we go through the process of deciding to build or fix up our present church facility we need to approach it as an act of worship. In a real sense, worship and sacrifice cannot be separated. When Mary poured out the costly perfume over Jesus before His death, some saw it as a “waste of money.” When people decide to sacrifice career and wealth for a call to ministry, the world classifies that as “such a waste.” When Forty-Four members of the St. Demetrius community came together on April 25th 2010 and voted unanimously to build a new handicap accessible Fellowship Hall to our Church. We saw that as an opportunity, and not a waste, to demonstrate to ourselves and to God how much sacrifice we are willing to make where we all can gather together for a meal and build our community from within. What kind of commitment of prayer, love, service and money will be a sacrificial amount for us? That is for us now, to pray for, and to begin making the necessary budgetary considerations.

King David, in 1 Chronicles 29:1-5, in addressing the elders and leaders of Israel in building the Temple, told them that it’s going to be a big job. He knew that their help, experience and example were going to be important to inspire the whole nation to build this temple. David recognized that the structure was going to be built not for man, but for God. It was a great work because it was for God. Although we are not building a Fellowship Hall as magnificent as Solomon’s Temple, we however, need to strive to be good stewards and realize that we are doing this for the glory of God and not for ourselves. If it is not being done for God, then we labor in vain, and it is not worship, but a waste. *Continued on page 2*

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- On Sunday, May 30 & Monday, May 31, Fr. Dusan will be blessing graves. If you would like your loved one (s) grave blessed, please see Fr. Dusan.
- Save the date Relay For Life, August 6 & 7.
- Bill & Cyndee Jongelin are being Christmated on May 30th.
- Graduates will be honored on June 6th.

St. Demetrius Church Hall Vote

On Sunday, April 25th our parishioners gathered for a special All Church Meeting, with the intention of voting on the construction of a first floor, handicap accessible, fellowship hall.

Initially the Church Hall Building Committee presented their researched construction ideas and costs, gathered from three local architects, over the past four months. Then a question and answer period took place and ended with a show of hands confirming that our members had enough information to take a vote. Finally, a vote was taken on the motion “to move forward with building a new handicap first floor church hall.” The vote was unanimous, 44-0, “Yes” to move forward.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come out to vote and support this project on a rainy day. Please watch your mail, for fund raising information coming soon.

May God bless our efforts as we continue with the labors of constructing our new addition!

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The Church Board, and the Building Committee are dedicated and inspired for this building project and that in itself inspires me. I pray that they too, will inspire our whole community to rejoice and participate fully in this building project.

All of us are blessed by God in many ways, and we should be thankful. Many of us have spent many years associated with our church. We affirmed that we needed to have an accessible Fellowship Hall as part of our extension of fellowship in our worship after Liturgy. Sharing, giving, and sacrifice are basic expressions of Christian love, and these are essential to our own well being and usefulness. We do not want to let this opportunity to be fulfilled and find out we did not have a part in it. Each person, from a child giving spare change, to a person purchasing zelnick at a bake sale, to a family giving a little more extra per week towards the building fund, will have a sense of accomplishment when the building project is complete. We all need to participate in any manner we can, as our offering of glory to God. This fellowship we share together building for the glory of God makes any building project magnificent.

Solomon's Temple, after its completion was filled with the Holy Spirit in a form of a visible cloud. I pray that with our completion of our Fellowship Hall it will also be filled with the Grace of the Holy Spirit and the Fellowship of the Body of Christ. Will God be pleased with us when we are done? That depends on you and me. Do we see that we are doing this work for ourselves or for God? Does our gift of support for the work reflect our true thanksgiving for all that God has provided for us? I pray that as we begin this building project that God's Spirit will be manifest in our midst and that we will all know that we are building this for the Glory of God. May we all not waste this opportunity to build our fellowship as we begin to build our new Fellowship Hall.

Fr. Dusan

Mothers in God's Service

Whether we are aware of it or not, we are all called to serve God. Whatever talents He has given us, we should choose to use in the service of his glorification. One such talent is the ability of a woman to care for the children she bears. She takes care of their physical needs and also tries to promote what she herself perceives as a need to know God. To women, God has given the wonderful mission of raising children, of building little temples for Him, raising another generation inspired to praise God.

Orthodox Christians understand just how exalted motherhood is. Has God not willed to be incarnate of a woman—Mary, the blessed offspring of aged Joachim and Anna? She was found worthy to take part in the mystery of the incarnation, having perfected in her soul purity, humility, obedience, silence, simplicity and a gentle disposition. She knew that such is precious in the sight of God (I Pet. 3:4). And in the environment of her purity of mind and speech, as well as her quiet comportment, she raised her holy Son with gentle love and care. While she is unique in her holiness, she is absolutely beautiful in her humanity. Perhaps every woman cherishes the wish in her heart to have the special grace that renders the Mother of God the saint of saints and the model of purity and silence.

To all who are called by God to motherhood, may it be granted not only to be worthy servants of His chosen flock, but also take part in raising that God-glorifying generation. While God entrusts the leading to spiritual growth and development of virtues to many people, including priests and god parents, He chooses women to serve Him in motherhood, and we ought to understand that it is a holy calling. A woman worthy of being called "mother" is also worthy of being deemed "martyr" because raising children is a great sacrifice of self. Do not underestimate the serious and holy service you render when you accept from God to raise the little ones He gives you.

Happy Mother's Day!

Bible Questions

The answers to last months questions:

1. What was Samuel's mothers' name? **Hannah**
2. How many wives did Elkanah have? **Two**
3. Who was it David defeated in a fight? **Goliath**
4. How did David kill the enemy in the fight? **With a stone from his sling.**
5. When Samuel died what city was he buried in? **At his home in Ramah**

The answers can be found in the second book of Samuel:

1. How old was David when he was named King of Israel?
2. David, in battle, defeated Hadadezer and captured how many horsemen and foot soldiers?
3. Who was the beautiful woman David saw bathing from his roof?
4. Absalom was riding on a mule and got something caught in a tree. What got caught?
5. Who said "we have no portion in David, nor any share in the son of Jesse. Every man to his tent, O Israel."

2010 Graduates

We are gathering information about our **2010** graduates and we need your help!

If have a son, daughter, niece, nephew or grandchild who is graduating this year, please be sure to submit their information to Fr. Dusan by **Sunday, May 23** We will publish the complete list of graduates in our June newsletter. The graduates will be honored at the Liturgy on **Sunday, June 6.**

We need the graduates name, school in which he/she is graduating from, degree, parents or grandparents name and any future plans.

Thank You!

Many heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the services for Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha.

For those who attended the services, those who sang, those who read, those who baked prophora, those who decorated the tomb, those who prepared the delicious Pascha breakfast, those who dyed eggs and those who cleaned the church.

God takes account of the intentions of our hearts and rewards for what is done for His glory and honor.

Christ Is Risen!

Indeed He is Risen!

St. Demetrius Orthodox Church

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Please remember in your prayers

For Good Health

Van Christoff

Cyndi Frantzis

Winnie Wangler

Michael Wangler

Kalliopi Anastasiadis

Pavlos Anastasiadis

Mary Lazaroff

Elaine Kleiner

Helen Tannis

Phil Lazaroff

Milan Koprivica

Jack Anderson

John Stamcos

Herb Foor

Patty Canales-Baker

Ted Backos

Departed

Deno Demos

Ted Chames

Ellen Koprivica

Samantha Cipolla

Mike Egnatuk

Archbishop Job

Stella Stamatakis

Norman Kirchis

Elaine Overley

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