

# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

The Very Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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### SAVE THE DATES

**AUGUST 6**  
Transfiguration of Christ

**AUGUST 15**  
The Dormition of the Theotokos

**SEPTEMBER 8**  
Nativity of the Theotokos

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
Back to School - 1st Day Sunday School

**SEPTEMBER 14**  
Elevation of the Holy Cross

**DECEMBER 6**  
St. Nicholas Day (games and activities for children to follow church service)

### Our Beloved Icons

Our second icon in this series, is the **Prophet, Saint David**. The holy and righteous King David was the second king of all Israel, after Saul, c. 1000 B.C. He was advised by Samuel throughout his life, stabilized Israel and fortified it well against enemies. David is also known as the Psalmist, composing songs and poems that glorify God, describing His nature and coming, and our faith. His life prefigures the power, wisdom, and earthly arrival of Christ.

He was born in Bethlehem as the eighth and youngest son of Jesse. After Saul's disobedience to God, the Lord ordered the Prophet Samuel to Bethlehem to visit Jesse and anoint one of his sons as the new king. As the youngest, David was left in the fields to tend the sheep while the holy man was visiting his father; however, the Lord revealed to Samuel

that none of the first seven sons was his **Chosen One**, and Samuel inquired of Jesse whether he had another son. Then David was called, and Samuel was told to anoint him. A notable quotation concerning David's righteousness occurs in this passage: But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his [i.e. Eliab, another of Jesse's sons] height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward

appearance, **but the Lord looks at the heart.**" (1 Samuel 16:7)

Soon he was called upon to visit the court of Saul, who, having forsaken the Lord, was tormented by demons. David was already a talented harp player, and the music he made soothed Saul. Saul liked David and made him his armor-bearer. God's choosing David as king before Saul's reign had ended, mirrors Christ bringing a new order to the world.

Christ bringing a new order to the world.

God's support of David in battle reflects Christ's power on earth. David also once danced, rejoicing and in a state of undress, before the Ark of the Covenant. This image is repeated in the New Testament when John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb when he encountered the unborn Jesus within the **New Ark, the Theotokos.**

David, being human, committed many sins, but he recognized his guilt and confessed his sins before God. God said, "I will raise up your seed after you,

who will come from your body, and I will prepare his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish his throne forever" (2 Kgd. 7:12-13). God refers not only to David's son and successor Solomon, and his building of the Temple, but also points to the "kingdom" established by Christ, who would be born of David's line.

David composed a large number of the Psalms. One example, Psalm 51 (50 in the

*(continued on page 10)*



*Sponsorship of the **Prophet David** icon at St. George Kearney, was offered in honor of Joseph & Linda Maloley, by their children*

# NOTES FROM A PILGRIM

by Kh. Anastasia Morris

I was so very blessed this summer to join a pilgrimage group to the Holy Land. We spent two weeks visiting many holy places throughout Israel and Jordan. Oh, what innumerable blessings I received to stand in the places where Christ Himself stood- where He taught and worked miracles, where He suffered and, most especially, where He died for my sins and rose again from the dead.



The Sea of Galilee



JERUSALEM

\* \* \* \* \*



The Church of Theophany  
(Where Christ was Baptized)



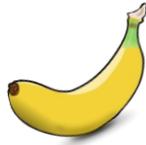
Church of the Multiplication of  
the Loaves and Fish



(continued on page 6)

## Fruit for the Soul: A week at St. George VBS!

Prayers, songs, crafts, arts, snacks, games, and learning about the fruit of the Holy Spirit! Our church building was filled with all of these things and very excited kids during our four days of **July Vacation Bible School**. Each day, Father Christopher led us in opening prayer and set the tone for the day with a reflection for kids and teachers. If you feel like you missed out, just ask him sometime about his **banana phone!** After the reflection, the kids followed their teachers to their classrooms. Miss Amy and Miss Amanda led the little kids and Kh. Anastasia and Miss Sarah led the older kids. The kids memorized two verses from Holy Scripture during the week.



The first, our VBS theme, was “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control**” (Galatians 5:22-23). The second verse was “**I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing**” (John 15:5).

As the students learned about each of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, there were many opportunities for discussion, sharing, and reflection. We munched on fresh fruit and discussed how good fruit is a gift from God and is very tasty. We also learned about another kind of fruit God gives us, called the **fruit of the Spirit**. We don't eat these fruit but we use these gifts to help us live our lives as Christians and share God's message of love and salvation to those around us.

As teachers, we were so impressed by the willingness of the kids to share personal examples (from their home life, church, and school) of how difficult it can be to practice patience, self-control, and others. It's amazing what you can learn when you take the time to ask questions and let the kids share what's on their hearts and minds. The older kids loved acting out the “right way” and “wrong way” to handle certain life situations, such as setting the table with love, helping a sibling, practicing faithfulness, etc. We also had a great time creating crafts. We made wind chimes for the playground area of the church, Love jars filled with

reminders of how to act in a loving way toward our families, painted rocks and wrote the fruit of Spirit on them, made popsicle stick memory verse helpers, and the **younger kids loved getting their hands messy in slime!**



We loved learning about the saints and how they possess the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. We heard about St. Seraphim of Sarov, St. Xenia of Petersburg, St. Herman of Alaska, and many others. We learned that as we grow in our relationships with God, just as the saints did, we develop **unselfish love, true joy, and lasting peace**. As we build relationships with others, we are challenged to practice God's patience, kindness, and goodness. And, as we grow spiritually, we discover an inner strength from God that results in faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



We ended each day with a special visit from Quackers the puppet as he helped us recap the day's theme. **Many thanks to Quackers and his helpers** for the entertaining close to VBS. A highlight of the week was the chance to visit the prize store on the last day of VBS. The kids were

earning **Kindness Coins** throughout the week, and on the last day they traded them in for fruit-themed prizes or a chance to win a raffle basket of fun activities. Congratulations to Schylar Patsios for winning the raffle basket! We ended our week at Nina Hammer Park, playing at the splash ground.

In all, we had 17 kids attend VBS, our biggest crowd



yet! **Glory to God!** Our hope and prayer is that our kids are now armed with the tools to face the ever-changing and challenging world around them. The purpose of learning about the fruit of the Spirit is not to follow a list of rules, but to follow in the love of Jesus Christ. Let us all call out to the Giver of Life, the Holy Spirit: *“Come and abide in us and cleanse us of every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.”*

\* \* \* \* \*

# WE GET LETTERS . . .

Dear VBS parents and volunteers,

Thank you so much for your help with this year's Vacation Bible School at St. George. We had such a fun week with the kids...no one wanted it to end! The kids are now requesting winter VBS! This is a testament to everyone involved. Many thanks to the volunteers who brought snacks each day and thank you to the volunteers who helped in the classes, especially with craft times.

Finally, thank you SO much to the parents who brought their children to VBS. We appreciate you making this a priority in your lives. We pray that this week will be an investment in our youths' long-term journey in life towards salvation. Thank you for modeling the importance of learning about our faith. We hope to see you all again next summer!

Love,  
St. George VBS  
teachers



Dear St. George Vacation Bible School Teachers and Gift basket donors,

Thank you for your many hours of love and devotion to St. George, and our children, as you prepared for another VBS week of fun and learning! Schylar and I were both blessed to be able to attend and make memories with the other kids at St. George.

What a sweet surprise for Schylar to win the VBS gift basket on the last day! It was overflowing with fun toys and goodies. What a nice idea for the kids to cash in their "kindness coins" for a chance to win the basket.



We will keep the goodies at our house and she can find "treasures", when she comes to visit us, over the next few weeks.  
Love, Yia Yia and Gramps

Note of thanks -  
Aboud family  
reunion,

My thanks to Joanie Klein for making the holy bread and to Theo Wolf for making the memorial wheat for me.

I really appreciate it.  
Bless you both.

Jenny Bergt



## Birthdays

(Birthdays we missed last month)

July 30

Jenny Bergt

July 31

Jeannie Hoff

\*\*\*

August 13

Ronda Maloley

August 17

Joe Maloley

August 20

Diana Brailita

August 29

Alexander Maloley

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

August 5

Gerald & Kim Rehtus

Joe & Karen Salem

August 12

John & Margaret Morris

August 15

Fr. Christopher & Kh. Anastasia

August 27

Rocky & Dione Steinbrink



**GOD GRANT YOU  
MANY YEARS**

## Donations *Gratefully Received*

### *In Memory of*

Donation to the **St. George Memorial Fund** in memory of her mother Betty Patsios, on August 24, 1996 from Joanie & Mark Klein.

Donation to the **St. George Building Fund** in memory of the Frank Nama family given by June Nama Murty.

### *In Honor of*

Anonymous donations to **St. Helena's Ladies Society** in honor of their birthdays - Dione Steinbrink, Virginia Suleiman, Joanie Klein, Jenny Bergt and Jeannie Hoff.

Please send additions or corrections to: [stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

May God bless you all for your generosity!

## MINISTRY UPDATES

### *Our Sympathy*

TO THE FAMILY OF:

**Torri & Jared McCracken**, on the loss of Jared's father, Dan McCracken, on July 9, 2017



MAY HIS  
MEMORY  
BE  
ETERNAL

### *Our Sympathy*

TO THE FAMILY OF:

**Levi & Amy Hadley**, on the loss of Levi's step-father, Gale Avery, on July 6, 2017.



MAY HIS  
MEMORY  
BE  
ETERNAL

### Thought for the Day

"If we are unwilling to admit the specific sins in our lives, those that bring us suffering and turmoil, we cannot be freed from them by God's mercy. It is easy for us to admit in a general way that we are sinners, but are we ready to admit every situation where we have done wrong?"

This is hard work, and we must overcome a great deal of fear by trusting in our Lord."

– His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



### Hey Kids!

The first day of Sunday School is **September 10th**. We are excited to offer four classes this year. Miss Amy and Miss Ronda will teach ages 3 through Grade 1. Miss Kim and Miss Ashley will teach Grades 2-4. Kh. Anastasia will teach Grades 5-8 and Miss Sarah will teach Grades 9-12.

We are also looking forward to our new classroom spaces! We will continue to use the current basement room at the old parish house, but will also utilize some of the rooms upstairs this year.

If you have any questions about classes or if you are interested in helping out with special projects, please see one of the teachers.



Thank you!

"The intellect searches for truth and the heart searches for absolute goodness."

– St. Nektarios



## ST. HELENA Ladies Society

Our next meeting will be Sunday, Aug. 6, after Pot-Luck. We will discuss plans for the upcoming Fall Breakfast and Bake Sale.

The Lebanese cookbooks from Jenny's niece, Janet Kalush, have arrived. She even autographed them for us! These would make a very nice gift for family and friends. \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to St. George Ladies Society. Thank you.

Hope to see you Sunday.

### A PRAYER MINISTRY

*for the Departed*



I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.  
HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME,  
THOUGH HE MAY DIE,  
HE SHALL LIVE. - John 11:25

To the Prayer Ministry for the Departed, at St. George,

We have received a kind thank you card from the family of Gale Avery.

Special thanks to the volunteers of this ministry, who give their personal time in offering the Akathist prayers for the departed.

It is a joy to be a part of this ministry with you and even greater knowing, that these prayers provide consolation to our loved ones, who are grieving such a loss.



In Christ's love,  
Joanie Klein

(continued from page 2)

To touch the stones themselves that have witnessed these astounding events of my salvation makes this faith of my childhood into a tangible reality.



The Praetorian (The Prison of Christ)



The Holy Sepulcher

We also visited many ruins of churches from the fifth century and later. It was an awesome experience to touch the work of our fathers among the saints- the men and women who struggled and preserved the faith to pass down to us today.



Church of St. George



The Last Complete Stylus  
(Tower of a Stylite)



The Cave of the Nativity



The Monastery of St. Gerasimos

I am so thankful to my family, and especially, my husband for giving me the freedom and blessing to go. Many of you have asked me if I would ever do it again; my answer is an unequivocal "Yes! In a heartbeat."

# WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF VBS?

"There are too many things!"

- Joseph



"My favorite part of VBS was putting together the wind chime."

- Delaney



"I loved being with the kids, helping out, and reading at the church yard."

- Alexis



"I loved getting to know everyone's kids better. Thank you to all the parents who brought their children."

- Miss Amanda



Writing and performing the Quackers skits! The kids ask about him all day and can't wait for him to show up!

- Miss Amy



"The crafts, the store and the splash pad."

- Juliana



"I liked making the slime!"

-Allison



Eating runts and playing at the splash pad.

- Elizabeth



Playing outside and at the splashpad water park!

- Olivia



"I loved the Popsicles and learning the Coconut Song!"

-Schylar



"Hanging out with my friends at the splash pad."

- Gabriella



"I loved hearing the kids pray together each day in the church and I also loved the precious time I was able to spend with my fellow teachers all week!"

- Miss Sarah



I loved watching the excitement the little ones had, as they stood up in front of their class, and recited their special bible verse, John 15:5. Such joy to watch them learn!

- Miss Joanie



My favorite part was seeing all of my VBS friends again! See you next year!!

- Quackers



**My Abood Family reunion** was held in Kearney July 27-30, 2017. Family members came from CA, CO, MI, TX, and NE.

We want to thank Frather Christopher for the nice memorial service he had for the deceased members of our family on Sunday, and for the tours and history of St. George that he gave on Saturday and Sunday. The family was impressed and thought the church was beautiful.

Thank you to the ladies of St. George for the delicious lunch they served after the service, and to Joanie for all that she did. 12 of our family were unable to stay for the church service but they all got to tour the church on Saturday. I had wanted to give a talk about our family during lunch and introduce them but it just didn't work out. I appreciate the opportunity to share this letter and do that.

Our father Camel Abood, married Rose Khoury in the St. Michael Orthodox Church in Deirmimas, Syria on Sept 11, 1911. They came to the US in December 1912 by ship. Other relatives had come also. Syria was under Turkish rule then. I remember my mother telling me that "the Turks were mean to them", especially the Christians. The country later became Lebanon.

Camel and Rose first lived in Gothenburg, NE where some of their relatives were already living. Their first children, Roy and Emma, were born there. They moved to Iliff, CO in 1916 where George and Lula were born. They moved to Kearney in 1920, where they remained the rest of their lives. Phil, Nick, Dorothy, and Jenny were born in Kearney. Camel and family farmed and did truck gardening.

They had always been faithful members of St. George Orthodox Church of Kearney. Camel helped to start St. George in 1903 when he was first here in Kearney. Camel, along with his son Roy, and other parishioners helped build the present church. Camel was always a chanter and Roy eventually was also. And Roy would most always read the Epistle. Roy's son, Dick was an altar boy.



*Jenny, Nick and Kay Abood*



Vintage photo from the 50's

*L-R (back row) Nick, George, Emma, Phil, Roy  
L-R (front row) Lula, **Rose**, **Camel**, Dorothy, Jenny*

Camel and Rose had eight children. Most from each of the eight children, were here for our reunion. Five children are deceased – **Roy** who lived in Kearney, **Emma** Kalush, and **Lula** Fortino who lived in Michigan, **George** who lived in TX, and **Phil** who lived Iowa.

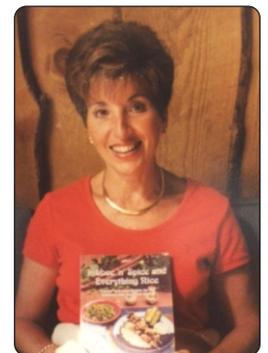
**Nick** and **Dorothy** Bettar who live in CA and **Jenny**, who lives in Amherst, Nebraska remain.

Roy, George, and Phil served this country in the military during WWII.

Nick will be 94 years old this August 26th, 2017. We are so thankful that he could come to this reunion in Kearney with his wife Kay, who is 96 years old. What a blessing!

Dorothy who is 90 years old, would have loved to have come, but was unable to as she takes care of her quadriplegic son Terry, who is bedridden and unable to travel. She has been taking care of him for 44 years since he became paralyzed from a swimming accident at the age of 18. God bless her and him.

Emma's daughter, Janet Kalush Moore of Michigan, the author of Kibbe n' Spice, and Everything Nice Cookbook of Lebanese dishes, was here. She autographed and delivered to St. George, a box of her



*Janet Kalush Moore*

cookbooks for the St. Helena Ladies Society to sell.

The family was so happy to be back in Kearney, where their parents and grandparents were raised and to visit the beautiful church they had attended. (They were amazed to see how much Kearney has grown.)

*Thank You*

Thank you for welcoming us all.

God's Blessings,  
Jenny Bergt



Abood Family Reunion - Kearney, Nebraska 2017

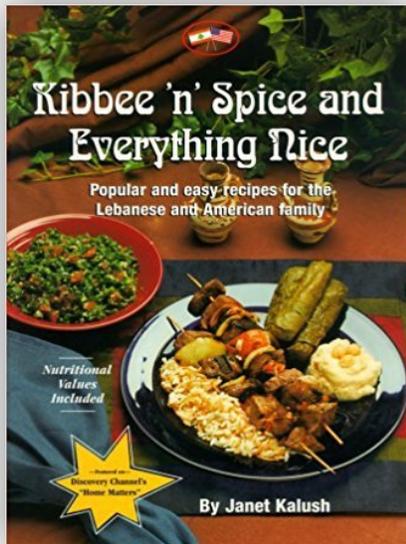
Visit us today!



[www.saintgeorgekearney.com](http://www.saintgeorgekearney.com)

We offer numerous resources to encourage you in your Orthodox journey. Video clips, Articles, Podcasts, Photos, Weekly Church Bulletin, The Chronicle Newsletter, and our Monthly Calendar.

## A COOKBOOK JUST FOR YOU!



Now available for purchase from the **St. George Ladies Society**. This cookbook was authored by Jenny Bergt's niece, Janet Kalush. Read a heartwarming story as she recalls a memory of her grandma Rose making flat bread or affectionately called "Sito" Bread. *Get your autographed copy today!*  
**\$15.00**  
A great Gift Idea for family and friends.

## ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD



To Cora and Darren Theesen, who were married here at St. George on Saturday, July 29th, 2017. Many Years!

## YOUR Offerings

Thank you for your generosity to St. George. When sending your donation (or placing it in the offering tray) please include a note to designate your gift, **and** if you desire your name to be published in the Chronicle or made anonymous. Forms are also available for you to use, on the candle table. Thank you



If a person could realize at once the rising of his pride and say: 'My God, I have nothing of my own and I am full of pride; forgive me!' the compassionate hands of God will take hold of him immediately and set him down gently, without making his fall noticeable.

— St. Paisios of Mount Athos



## No Love, Is Ever Wasted



**FOR ST. GEORGE**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 16**

Friday eve & Sat. morning

*Save the Date!*

More info to come. Start planning now to sort through your offerings for St. George. **Save the date** and volunteer to help by setting-up, working or cleaning-up after it's over.

NO PRICE TAGS. This will be another "Free Will Offering" sale.

**"MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK."**



ST. GEORGE  
*Chronicle*  
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Church, Kearney, Nebraska

A parish of the Antiochian  
Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
of North America, Diocese of  
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Year-to-date for 2017

**\$ FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

Numbers were not available  
prior to the Chronicle being  
sent to the printer.

Thank you for your  
continued stewardship to St.  
George and for your  
monetary gifts and offerings.

Look for our update in the  
September newsletter.

*Thank you*



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST - AUGUST 6



FASTING DISCIPLINE  
DURING AUGUST

**The Dormition Fast** takes place  
August 1 - 14th, we fast everyday  
(with exception on Sat. and Sun.,  
when wine and oil are permitted.)

Saturday, August 6th is the **Feast of  
our Lord's Transfiguration**, there is an  
allowance for fish on this day as well.

The Traditional fasting discipline is  
observed after the fast, August 15th -  
August 31st. We fast from meat,  
poultry, eggs,  
fish, dairy  
products, wine,  
and oil on  
Wednesdays and  
Fridays during  
this time.



*(continued from page 1)*

Septuagint), our most famous  
psalm of repentance, is said to  
have been written by David after  
Nathan confronted him about his  
affair with Bathsheba. In any  
case, David's contribution to  
church music and liturgics  
cannot be ignored, as the Psalms  
figure prominently in our  
Orthodox worship.



*His banner  
reads,  
"The Lord  
is in His  
Holy  
Temple,  
the Lord's  
throne is in  
Heaven."*



*"And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." Acts 11:26*