

# ST. GEORGE *Chronicle*

Rev. Christopher Morris  
Pastor

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

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## Our Beloved Icons *by John Wolf*

The second icon in this series is **The Presentation of the Theotokos**. The more correct name, according to many scholars, would be **The Entrance of the Theotokos**, because the word in Greek is "eisodos", which literally means "entrance." Those in favor of the word "Presentation" like to see this feast as the fulfillment of **Joachim and Anna's promise** to dedicate Mary to the service of the Lord. Thus Joachim and Anna present Mary to the Temple. Those in favor of the word "Entrance" would like to give Mary the credit for entering the temple. As St. Gregory Palamas puts it:

*"And She, being filled with Divine gifts even at such a tender age, she, rather than others, determined what was being done over Her. In Her manner she showed that she was not so much presented into the Temple, but that she **Herself entered into the service of God of her own accord**, as if she had wings, striving towards this sacred and divine love. She considered it desirable and fitting that she should enter into the Temple and **dwel in the Holy of Holies.**"*



There is no doubt that Mary was presented to the temple by her parents, and there is no doubt that She entered of her own accord. As in all of Orthodoxy, **we must balance the two** and arrive at the truth which lies somewhere in the middle.

Now, there is a popular little phrase that keeps creeping into the Christian vocabulary; a "sound bite" really, that needs to die a quick and horrible death. I am speaking of people who say, "Well, after all, even Jesus was born of a poor, unwed mother." (!!!) There are no words to describe how disgusting and foul that sentence is. As if Mary was some barefoot teenage girl that made a mistake, instead of the

*Sponsorship of The Presentation of the Theotokos icon at St. George Kearney, was offered by the Nimir Maloley and Joseph Maloley Families.*

*(continued on page 3)*

## *A Note from Fr. Christopher ~*

Dear Members, Friends and Benefactors of Saint George,

Summer has finally arrived in central Nebraska after a long and beautiful spring. Several parishioners have already been on vacation, and others will be leaving soon. Families from Saint George are traveling across the country to see children and grandchildren, visiting the nation's capital, cruising in the Mediterranean, and returning to their ancestral village in Greece.

Two families recently returned from Denver, Colorado where they attended **our annual Parish Life Conference**. It was a "diocesan family reunion," with **workshops** on how to **raise our children** to become saints, a **lively Bible bowl** contest, and time to reconnect with dear friends.

A special event was the **awards ceremony** for the Creative Arts Festival. This is the second year that the youth of Saint George have participated in this diocesan-wide event, and we had many winners from our parish.

**Congratulations!** You can see photos of the awards ceremony in this month's **Chronicle**. All of the entries are currently on display downstairs in the church. **God has blessed us** with some very talented young people!

Next year's PLC will be held in **Tulsa, Oklahoma**. I encourage anyone who is able to consider attending. It is a fun and inspiring time **together with Bishop Basil**, clergy from throughout the diocese, and **hundreds of faithful** from our 50 parishes scattered across the Great Plains. We sometimes feel isolated as

Orthodox Christians here in central Nebraska, and the PLC is a wonderful reminder that we are part of a **much bigger family**. It is an especially great opportunity for our children and young people to make friends with peers who share the same faith. **Please consider attending!**

Two more exciting events are happening this summer in regards to our children and youth. We have five attendees who will be traveling to our diocesan camp in Oklahoma—**Camp Saint Raphael**—at the end of the month. And next month, for the first time in many years, we are having a **Vacation Bible School** at Saint George! It will take place in the afternoons during the **third full week of July**. We look forward to a fun time together, and would appreciate any **help from volunteers** within the parish. Look for photos of our VBS in next month's Chronicle.



Have a great summer!  
Fr. Christopher

### *Please note*

*Articles and photos for the Chronicle are due on the 20th of the month, prior to the month of the desired publication.*

*Please submit content to:*  
[stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)

*The Chronicle is the monthly newsletter of St. George Orthodox Christian Church of Kearney, Nebraska.*

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**Hello St. George Parishioners!** Volunteers from our parish, continue to help collect items at **Crossroads' WinBins** throughout town. **Two volunteers** are needed for each collection, and collections take place **twice a week**. *Wednesdays and Saturdays* are the days we have chosen to help Crossroads but days can be **flexible**, according to the needs of the volunteers. Please see the sign-up sheet and helpful information, in the parish hall downstairs. Any questions or concerns? please see John M.



Many Thanks to those who have already signed up and helped with collections.

(continued from page 1)

**Spotless ever-virgin Daughter** now praised by us, whom God marked from *before the ages*, and from eternity, choosing her from out of His elect!

**The Most-Holy Theotokos entered the temple at the age of three**, was taken into the Holy of Holies, (which was forbidden to all but the High Priest who could only enter once a year!), and lived within its walls until she became of age. Moreover, St. Gregory says:

*“Through His angel, God assisted the Virgin and sent Her mystical food, with which She was strengthened in nature, while in body She was brought to maturity and was made purer and more exalted than the angels, having the Heavenly spirits as servants. She was led into the Holy of Holies not just once, but was accepted by God to “ dwell there with Him during Her youth,” so that through her, the Heavenly Abodes might be opened and given for an eternal habitation to those who believe in her miraculous birthingiving”.* Does this sound like the early years of a poor, unwed mother?

In the icon of the feast, **the infant Mary is shown as a small adult**, wearing even the same clothing (purple-over-blue) as in icons of her as an adult. She is **offering herself to St. Zacharias** at the entrance of the Temple, dressed unmistakably as the High Priest and with halo, who stoops down to greet her. In her wake she leaves her parents Ss. Joachim and Anna (also with halos).



Church tradition further states that during Mary’s time in the Temple, she was lead into the **Holy-of-Holies** – the most sacred part of the Temple – where she was **attended to by angels**. This is shown in the upper right corner of the icon, where Mary is seemingly at the top of a tall tower, where an angel offers her bread; this is figurative, as the Holy-of-Holies was not at the top of a tower, but behind a veil (which can be seen behind Anna and Mary in this icon, flung back). All of this refers, of course, to the fact that with Mary, the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem ceases to be the place where God dwells. Instead, **it is Mary’s very own Most Holy, and All-Pure Body which becomes the true Temple.**

As we venerate this icon, St. Gregory exhorts us to contemplate upon the fact that: *“Today the Ever-Virgin Mary, like a Treasure of God, is stored in the Holy of Holies, so that in due time, (as it later came to*

*pass) She would serve for the enrichment of, and an ornament for, all the world. Therefore, **Christ God also glorifies His Mother**, both before birth, and also after birth. How shall we not unceasingly hymn and bless the Mother of the Author of our Salvation and the Giver of Life, celebrating Her conception and birth, and now Her Entry into the Holy of Holies?”*



# WE GET LETTERS . . .



Dear Father Christopher,

I just went online and viewed videos and photos of the Iconography project and other events at St. George. I look and ask, "Is this the same St. George where I presented a Midwest Church School presentation over 30 years ago?" I cry tears of joy and gratitude for what I see at my grandparents' church. It is overwhelming and awesome to see the activity and transformation. There simply are no words to capture the emotions I feel.

The iconography talents of Dimitri touch one's souls. His figures have a holy softness and are not stark as some I have seen in all my years. As I shared with you, my beloved John's

American ancestry is from the Russian side while mine is from the Lebanese and Czech sides but we are all one in Our Heavenly Father's Eyes. To have Dimitri creating these holy images just perpetuates that our heritages have become uniquely joined but St. George is absolutely unique in God's sight.

In public teaching, I would not allow the use of "diversity" in my classrooms. I had UNIQUE in large letters across a bulletin board. Diversity by its root is divisive, while unique represents union. I wanted each of my students to realize we were members of one class family but to know their heritages which made each of them unique. Prayerfully God used me to instill in those pre-teens and teens that we

all belong to one family. I often reminded them that if one in our class was struggling that we all were struggling for we were one. As we don't get to choose our blood families, so too we don't choose our "classroom family" but we learn to love and help one another.

I so appreciate the monthly newsletters. I am so truly thankful to God for all that is happening in Kearney. I posted the KEARNEY HUB article at *St. Peter's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Fort Worth* as I know several of our members attended the Kearney pilgrimage years ago.

Respectfully in love in the RISEN CHRIST,  
July Yacio



## Birthdays

**July 1**

Virginia Suleiman

**July 5**

Linda Maloley

**July 11**

Joanie Klein

**July 17**

William Suleiman

**July 18**

Drew Fothergill

Amanda Shada

**July 20**

Beverly Shada

**July 22**

Tasia Theoharis



**July 7**

Mark & Sandee Buchman

**July 10**

John & Theo Wolf

**July 12**

Phil & Ashley Maloley

*In Memory of*

In Memory of John "Smoky" Shada and Maxine Greever from Jackie Shada

In Memory of Maxine Greever from Mark and Joanie Klein

## Donations

*Gratefully Received*

Donation from Vernon, Lee, Brenda, and Wayne Yanney

Donation to the Chronicle from Anonymous benefactor

Donation in honor of Milly Yanney Shada from Norma Deeb

Donation to the Chronicle from Nimir & Margo Maloley

Donation to the Chronicle from Paul, Pierre, and Ann Maloley

*May God bless you all for your generosity!*

**MANY YEARS**

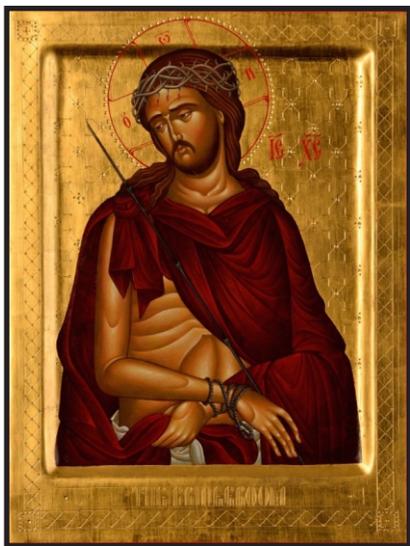
## ST GEORGE YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL AT PLC 2015



*His Grace Bishop Basil and Fr. Christopher with St. George winners that attended this year's PLC: Juliana Morris, Claire Maloley, Grace Maloley and Gabriella Morris*

Our Sunday School students participated in this year's **Creative Arts Festival** for the Parish Life Conference in Denver. Participants from throughout the **entire diocese** submitted entries in **creative art, creative writing, photography, and poetry**. Winners were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in their age groups. At the Parish Life Conference, the winners went forward to receive a ribbon and small award and receive Bishop Basil's blessing. All of our St. George young people submitted great entries this year, **and several won!**

Congratulations to all of our youth members that participated ~ you represented St. George of Kearney, Nebraska very well! *Fr. Christopher* *(more scrapbook photos on page 8)*



**Icon of  
Christ the Bridegroom**  
*Offered in memory of  
Blaise Roy  
by his family.*

*Thank you for your generous gift to  
St. George Orthodox Church*

### St George **BOOKSTORE**

Remember your **St. George Bookstore** for all of your gift-giving needs!

We have a great selection of beautifully crafted, wooden plaque Icons in a variety of sizes and price. Perfect for your **Orthodox prayer corner**.

Incense, Prayer ropes, Jewelry, Crosses, T-Shirts, and Gift Cards. Many items for purchase, yes, but we also offer a huge selection of reading material that you and your family can **check out for FREE!**

Do you have a favorite book? Please consider sending a "**Book review**" to the **Chronicle** to share with your parish family! Kids are encouraged to participate. Share your thoughts and **inspire others** with **YOUR** love of reading!



### Women's **BIBLE STUDY**

The **Women's Bible Study** group will meet every **Wednesday, at 3:00 pm**, during the summer months. Child care is provided.

We are getting close to the end of the book "**Wounded by Love**" on the life of newly glorified, Saint Porphyrios. So much **holy wisdom** on how to raise our children, be better parents, grandparents, and teachers; as well as, learning ways to become whole persons in our Orthodox faith.

**Come Join Us!** we would enjoy seeing you.

## Parish Family Shares Highlights Of PLC 2015

by Ashley Maloley

Our family just returned from the DOWAMA Parish Life Conference in Denver, Colorado. This event is referred to as our **Diocesan Family Reunion** and very much is, as we see many of the same faces each year. We get a chance to renew our faith with the various services, social gatherings and for sure the **Hierarchial Divine Liturgy** on Saturday morning . . . all the priests from our diocese **serve with Bishop Basil**. I can't explain what an **incredible experience** this is to take part in a liturgy with an amazing choir and over 400 other Orthodox faithful.

Phil and I decided a few years ago that we would attend the annual Parish Life Conference each year, if we were able. We felt like it gave our kids a chance to get to know other Orthodox Christians and **make lifelong friends**. Grace has several friends that she was looking forward to seeing this year and they danced the night away at the **Hafli** that is held after the **Grand Banquet on Friday night**. They always have great events for the 4 days we are there and fun kids club activities also. This year the kids went to the **Butterfly Pavilion** and then went to **mini golf** and **go-kart riding** the next day. This allows time for us to attend meetings and workshops.

Next year's **2016** Parish Life Conference will be hosted by St. Antony Orthodox Church in **Tulsa, Oklahoma in June**. I have already reserved our rooms and they were only \$95.00/night. [www.diyliving.com](http://www.diyliving.com)

It would be so fun to have more of you attend the conference, and I **personally invite every one of you**. It really does put a spring in your step when you see and hear what other parishes are doing and the fun that they have....I was so renewed, I agreed to "step up" my stewardship and offered my time to serve as the Ladies Society President at St. George! :)

*Phil and I hope to see you all next year in Tulsa, OK!*

"Whenever we cover our brother's sin, God will cover ours; whenever we tell people about our brother's guilt, God will do the same about ours."

~ St. Poemen the Great

### "Habit In Worship Is the Greatest Danger"

By Elder Eusebius Yiannakakis

So that which is a risk, a great risk, is habit; a great and terrible danger is habit.

We cannot allow ourselves to be habitual, neither during the Liturgy, nor with chanting, nor with the Chalice of Life - let us not be habitual with them.

**We must feel awe every time a Liturgy is done.** Let us follow it with much emotion, awareness and gratitude.

We can always follow the Divine Liturgy as if it was the first and the last time.

**Therefore, the greatest danger is habit.** Habit in one's rule, and in prayer, and in the Liturgy, and, and, and....

When someone is trying to feel the Lord close to them, and to live their ideal, they never become habituated. Even if there is no time, let's say, for them to do their entire rule, if they do that rule at least well, neatly, clearly, and with much awareness, God will receive it as ten rules. Let our minds and thoughts be on God and feel God there with us. **Well, then the Lord blesses and sanctifies.**

Our life should walk away from weaknesses, and far from divisions and compromises. **Let us seek a pure life, a completely pure and Sacramental life.** For it to be

fragrant with prayer, worship, and spiritual and holy struggle. So that all of these will attest that we are steadfast in our calling, and that we hold strongly to the holy inheritance of our life which has placed faith in the Lord.



# ST. GEORGE BULLETIN BOARD

## Congratulations!



Micah  
Alexi  
Rachel  
Grace  
Gabriella  
Juliana  
Delaney  
Claire

## Creative Arts Festival Winners

Parish Life Conference 2015

Note: please send any additions or corrections to the editor at [stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorgechronicle@yahoo.com)



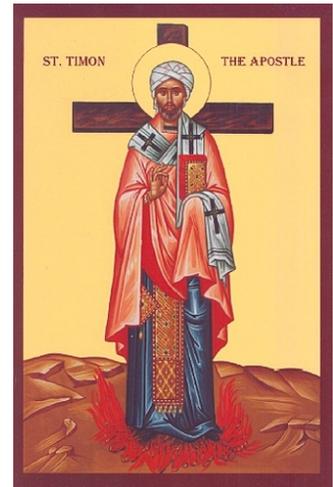
## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday School teachers are looking for "substitutes" or a teacher willing to help once a month with the pre-school aged kids.

**Thank you** for considering your time in offering your gifts to **St George**

Do not give up, the beginning is always the hardest

## ST. TIMON SUNDAY



A reminder . . . the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America will observe "St. Timon Sunday" on Sunday, July 26th. After Liturgy, we will accept donations to be given to our **Sister Diocese of Bosra-Hauran** shepherded by His Eminence Metropolitan Saba.

*Please make check payable to St. George with message line to read "Bosra-Hauran".* Thank you for your continued support to help **St. George Kearney** participate in this offering to our Sister Diocese.

## Save the Date!

August 30, 2015

**St. George Annual Parish Retreat** at Yanney Park, in Mitzi's Pavilion, immediately following Liturgy. Potluck lunch to be followed by adult bible bowl and kids craft and splash-ground time.

### Bible Bowl Theme:

"The Life of St. Raphael". Teams of (3) should sign up in the parish hall. All are invited to participate.

*Hope to see you all there!*

# THANK YOU!

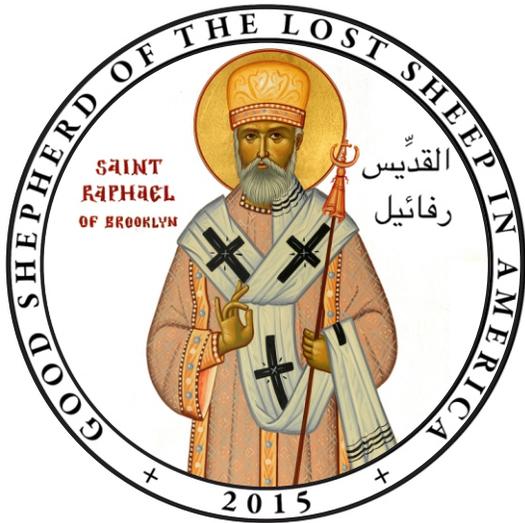
To the **Building & Grounds Committee** for the newly planted Flowers and Shrubs. They look Beautiful!

## Visit Us Often



[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 and our Monthly Calendar. Stay Informed by visiting often.



## WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT PLC IN DENVER

*by Ashley Maloley*

The theme for this year's Parish Life Conference was "Good Shepherd of the Lost Sheep in America, the 100th Anniversary of the Falling Asleep of Saint Raphael." In Sunday School we have been teaching about St Raphael since the year began in September so that the children would have some background knowledge of what an amazing person St. Raphael was and how important he was for us, because **he founded 30 parishes across the United States**, one of them being our very own **St George of Kearney**. Our students did a phenomenal job this year and the winners were:

### CREATIVE WRITING:

Claire Maloley—1st place in the 1st grade category  
Delaney Denny—3rd place in the 1st grade category

### PHOTOGRAPHY:

Juliana Morris—2nd place in the 2nd grade category  
Gabriella Morris—1st place in the 3rd grade category  
Grace Maloley—1st place in the 5th grade category

### POETRY:

Juliana Morris—1st place in the 2nd grade category  
Gabriella Morris—2nd place in the 3rd grade category  
Grace Maloley—1st place in the 5th grade category  
Alexis Hadley—2nd place in the 6th grade category  
Micah Hadley—3rd place in the 8th grade category  
Rachel Rehtus—1st place in the 9th grade category



# ST. GEORGE SCRAPBOOK



St. George youth, for **CAMP RAPHAEL**, provided treats and hosted social hour after Liturgy, to help raise money for their traveling expenses.

They're headed for Tulsa, Oklahoma!  
**JUNE 28 - JULY 4**

Keep them in your prayers and "thank-you" to all that offered their generous free-will donations to help out!

## PLC AWARDS CEREMONY



Claire, Grace, Gabriella, and Juliana receive their **Creative Arts** awards at 2015 PLC in Denver.



Excitement, Smiles, Applause, and Blessings from Bishop Basil.  
**Glory to God for All Things!**

*Our Sympathy*

TO THE FAMILIES OF:

**Tony and Bessie Shada**, and **Victoria Applegarth**, on the loss of Tony and Victoria's sister **Maxine** on May 23

**Paul Steinbrink** on the loss of Paul's brother **Eldon** on June 9



MAY THEIR  
MEMORY  
BE  
ETERNAL

**FROM OUR READERS . . .**



Enjoy reading your new "**St. George Chronicle**" every month, . . . may it be a continued blessing to your entire Congregation!

David Sault

\*\*\*

We enjoy reading the **Chronicle** very much! Many, many, thanks!

Nimir & Margo Maloley

\*\*\*

Thank you for including us in the mailing of the **Chronicle**. We all enjoy reading the articles and keeping up with our **St. George family**. Enclosed please find a check from Paul, Pierre, and Ann. Please use these funds for the Chronicle or wherever you determine best.

Love in Christ,  
Paul, Pierre, and Ann Maloley

\*\*\*

Eat Less, Talk Less, Pray More, and Give More

**Snacks, items, and volunteers needed!**

We are in need of parishioners willing to help with our Vacation Bible School. If you would like to **provide snacks or donate your time** by volunteering to help supervise or co-teach during the bible school week please see Kh. Anastasia. We would love your help!

**★ Calling All Volunteers ★**

We also are in need of items to help make **IOCC School Kits** during vacation bible school for children in need. Items needed are:

blunt metal scissors, spiral notebooks, rulers, hand-held pencil sharpeners, new pencils with erasers, large pink erasers and boxes of 24-count crayons. Items can be left in the parish hall. A sign-up sheet can be found on table downstairs.

**Many Thanks!**

**SNACKS**



**your time**



**Year-to-date for 2015**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

As of **June 28** ... We have received \$50,694 of the \$81,055 we have budgeted for pledges.

As of **June 28** ... We have received \$8,992 of the \$17,000 we have budgeted for trays and candles.

*Thank you!*

The Parish Council is seeking benefactors who may be interested in offering a donation **over and above their pledge** to help pay down our \$25,000 - leftover from the 2008 hailstorm repairs. I will also contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help pay down this loan.

My Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity*



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Volume 1, No. 5, July 2015

Monthly Publication of  
St. George Orthodox Christian  
Church, Kearney, Nebraska

A parish of the Antiochian  
Orthodox Christian Archdiocese  
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The Rev. Christopher Morris,  
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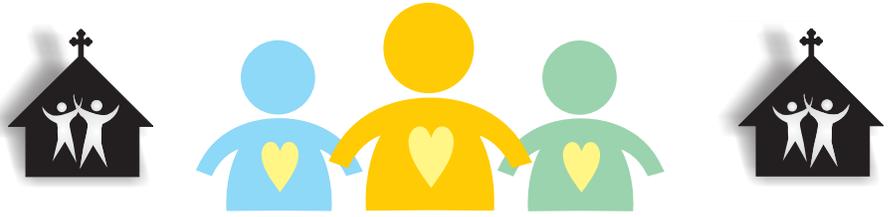
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God Always  
Rewards  
Generosity

## Calling all kids! Vacation Bible School



St. George Church will offer a **Vacation Bible School July 20-24, 2015**. Classes will be held from **12:30-3:00 pm** in the **St. George Parish Hall**. We invite all pre-school and school-aged children (Ages 3 and up) to attend!

We will offer educational lessons, fun activities, crafts, snacks, songs, and volunteer service opportunities. **Please register** by contacting Kh. Anastasia. We look forward to seeing you!

## JULY FASTING



The traditional fasting from flesh meats, and dairy products is observed on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** for the month of July.

A reminder that the **Dormition Fast begins August 1st through August 14th**. The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos is celebrated on August 15th.

## A GIFT FOR ST. GEORGE



*I am committed to Stewardship and growth at St. George Orthodox Church in Kearney, NE. As an expression of my gratitude to God for His many blessings in my life, I would like to make a donation to my church.*

*Please use this donation for \_\_\_\_\_.*

*I would like my donation to be in **Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_,  
or in **Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Please make my donation (circle one) **anonymous** or you can use **my name** in the Chronicle.*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$** \_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

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