

## Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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Archpriest Joseph Hirsch ! Dean

Archpriest Eugene Tarris ! Assistant

Protodeacon Averky Davis

Deacon Alexander Vallens

### Church Seeks to Acquire Property

For the last eight years, we have been attempting to acquire adjacent or nearby property in our neighborhood. We kept finding what appeared to be unreasonable asking prices and were stymied by real estate agents who seemed to be detached. We even got some estimates from the appraiser who is now the head of that office for the City and County of Denver, which told us that the average asking price in Globeville was, perhaps, as much as 50% over real value. Well, now that 20% of the residential properties in the neighborhood are in foreclosure, we know that, indeed, it was a massive real estate fraud which created this anomaly. Right now, we are disposed to acquire enough nearby property to allow us to carry out our Strategic Plan's vision of ample parking, an extended parish campus and land on which, someday, a second and larger Temple can be erected. Thanks to those who have contributed and who are contributing to our Land Acquisition Fund, we have over \$25,000 in this account for down payments, but, it appears that we may not need to touch this fund at the present time. Keep the Parish Council, the Land acquisition Committee and the property owners in your prayers so that we may carry out our plan in a fair and just way.

### Slavonic Liturgy

During the time of Fr. Eugene's inability, we will not have an available priest for our monthly Slavonic Liturgy. Fr. Deacon Alexander is capable of carrying the bulk of the service in Slavonic and Fr. Joseph is willing to serve in English with the silent Anaphora

which has become customary for the Slavonic Liturgies. Iraida Vallens is able to direct the Choir and we have competent singers. While some people have questioned the need to continue the monthly Slavonic Service, there is no question that this ministry has played an important part in the growth and life of our parish over the past seven or eight years. Many who no longer regularly attend the Saturday services, started out using this service as a means of transition into Church life in America. So, if you are one of those people who has a warm spot in your heart for the Slavonic service and if you can put up with monolingual English speaking priest for a few months, let us know of your desire to continue this tradition.

### Church Preservation Project Grants

Glory to Jesus Christ! We have successfully completed phase 1 of our historical preservation program: the part that keeps the Church from falling down, for about 2/3 of the estimated cost and our people have donated the \$34,000 in matching funds so that we do not have to withdraw anything at this time from our endowment. In addition to this, our contractor has forgiven, or, rather, donated the entire \$12,500 cost of repairing our (oor structure. So, what do you suppose we have done? Well, on the last Monday in March, Fr. Joseph and Matushka Paulette turned in a 60+ page grant application for phase 2, which will allow us to repair cracks in our stucco, replaster and repair our Temple interior and repair the entire building. Keep this grant in your prayers as we should hear the outcome the first week in July. Fr. Joseph is planning to write some smaller grant applications to help cover part or all of the match for this grant.

PODD! Bigger and Better for Third Year  
We have now enjoyed our third Annual Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance. We were honored to have as our guests, His Eminence, Archbishop Isaiah of Denver and our own new ruling Hierarch, His Grace, Benjamin of San Francisco and the West. Attendance was up again this year and represented seven Parishes from three jurisdictions. Almost a third of those present won a door prize which equaled or

exceeded the cost of their ticket, Thanks are due to Colleen Ramos and Erin Busken who were the twin engines of the project. We will be sending some of the profits to participating Parishes and a nice check to International Orthodox Christian Charities.

### 110 Years

On 11 September, 2008, we will celebrate the 110th anniversary of our Temple and Congregation. We will officially kick off our 110th year celebration on 6 August, The Feast of the Holy Transfiguration, this year, when, His Grace, Benjamin will be with us. We will celebrate the Forefeast on Sunday the 5th and His Grace will join us for Vigil at 6:30 that night. On Monday 6 August, we will celebrate a Hierarchical Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. This will be followed by a pot luck + fish wine and oil, luncheon. This will be the official start of our 110th year. A committee of the Parish Council is discussing how we will observe the event in September or October of 2008 but we hope to have our Bishop and both of our Metropolitan for that auspicious event which will also celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Globeville Community. If you have thoughts about the event in 2008, see Erin Busken or another Council member with your suggestions.

### Many Years!

To Fr. Deacon Averky Davis, who was elevated to the rank of Protodeacon by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America. Fr. Averky who is the author of several nationally published manuals for Deacons and Readers, will be elevated at His Grace, Benjamin's next opportunity.

To Yana Kosic who has been a hard working, industrious and productive member of our parish for four years but who is being forced by the exigencies of business to relocate to South Carolina. Like Sylvia Mioc, who had to move to New York last year this is a real loss to the Parish.

To Xenia Grant who commissioned and donated the Icon of St. Xenia of St. Petersburg to the Church.

Vidovdan We will serve Vidovdan and the Slava for St. Prince Lazar on Sunday July at the end of Liturgy. We need a volunteer to bake the Kolach and to make the Zhito + Koliva, for that day.

### Romanian National Day

We will celebrate the old Romanian National Day with prayers for King Michael on Sunday 20 May when we will also celebrate the birthday of Nicole Isabela Hirsch. Magda Blagaila and Luminitza Gurau will sponsor the National Day.

### Rocky Mountain Orthodox Camp

Our camp this Summer will run from Sunday 5 August through Noon on Wednesday 8 August. The bad news is that this overlaps with our Parish Feast Day. The good news is that His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, will be with us all week and will attend some of the Camp. Registration forms will be available as soon as we receive them from Fr. Anthony.

### Deep Fat Fryer

We have a chance to purchase a large deep fat fryer from St. Herman Church for about \$200. This would be excellent for frying potatoes for the Festival, for french chicken fries and for calamari + squid, if you are into that kind of thing. If anyone would like to donate the fryer to the Kitchen, please see Mira or Tom Hill.

### Home Blessings

We had an unusually short home blessing time this year. Many of our people put off making an appointment until there was no time left before Cross Veneration Sunday when home blessings are suspended. Anyone who failed to have their home blessed so far this year and who is still desirous to have this done, should contact Fr. Joseph or Matushka Paulette. We will try to get these finished during the Paschal time.

### Flowers, Palms and Willows

We are grateful to all of those who contributed toward the purchase of the flowers, palm and willows which adorned our temple during Great and Holy week and Pascha/It appears that we received enough contributions to cover the cost this year

### Choir

Our Choir is deserving of special praise for extraordinary service throughout Great Lent and, especially during Great & Holy Week. Certainly, first among those worthy of mention are Beth Mary Johnson who managed to direct all of the Lenten and Holy Week services in a professional and edifying manner. It will be a real, if temporary, loss to us when Beth and Reader Simeon take off for Seminary in the East at the end of July. We also owe a debt of gratitude to all who sang those many beautiful services: for what is a director without a Choir? We thank Anastasi Whitted who was present for every service of Holy Week and to Becky Schilling, who was also present for most of the services and who did a most inspiring rendering of #The Wise Thief \$ on Holy Thursday evening. Matushka Masha Valenna was also present and helpful for most of the services as was Gabriel Hayman.

### Church Gardens

We are in need of ladies to design, plant and maintain the gardens in front of the two #tr oitzas\$ on the Church grounds as well as the large %ower pot in the quad! rangle.

### Holy Pentecost

Holy Pentecost comes on 27 May this year. As is usual, we will have Church school Graduation that day. We also need to have donations of garden %owers and, especially of fragrant herbs such as basil and mint to adorn the Church that day. We will, God and the weather permitting, serve the Memorial Saturday at River!

side cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on 26 Saturday at the St. Archangel Michael Chapel.

By the way, Our Parish has been involved in an effort to persuade The Fairmont Cemetery Board to carry out their moral, legal and ethical obligation to preserve and maintain Riverside Cemetery. A meeting was held in our Hall on 21 September to consider our options. Steve Dawson has been of some assistance in this effort.

### Hand Rail in the Church

We have had a positive response both from the Parish and Council to our suggestion to add a double hand rail on our Amvon to assist those coming to Holy Communion as well as our decrepit Clergy. Donations for this project will be gratefully accepted.

Yard Sale The Sisterhood will be holding the biannual Yard Sale on the Friday and Saturday, June 15 & 16 from about 8:00 a.m. to about 4:30 in the afternoon. This important events requires:

Your good reusable furniture, working appliances, toys, videos and DVDs, decorative and jewelry items, cookware, good used clothing.

Your help in pricing and sorting donated items the week before the sale.

Your help in working the sale either Friday or Saturday & or both'. Also, in putting up %yers ahead of the event.

Your participation in purchasing items which you want or can use.

### Orthodox Food Festival & OFF' #4 and Old Globe ville Days

This is a #No excuses\$, #Man your Battle Stations\$ and #All hands on Deck\$ event. The Dates are Saturday and Sunday, 21 & 22 July. See Erin to find out what you can contribute to this growing Parish Event.



# Holy Transfiguration of Christ Cathedral

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
349 E. 47th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80216

THE VERY REVEREND  
FATHER JOSEPH HIRSCH  
ARCHPRIEST AND RECTOR

22 April, 2007

The Myrrh Bearing Women

**Dearly Beloved,  
Christ is Risen!  
Indeed, He is Risen!**

When, on Bright Friday, 13 April, we hosted our annual Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance, we had the distinct pleasure of having two hierarchs with us for the supper portion of the evening. One was our beloved Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, who, for over a decade and a half, has provided all of the Orthodox people of our area, with a sense of stability, piety, and presence of mind which has born fruit in so many ways in all of our parishes.

Our other honored guest was our own new ruling Bishop, His Grace, Benjamin of San Francisco and the West, who, over the past four years or so, has restored to us an image of Pastoral Care within the Episcopate. His Grace, who travels, perhaps two thirds of the days in any year to cover this expansive Diocese, has become a regular fixture within our Colorado Parishes whenever we were celebrating Parish feasts or landmarks in our personal or community life.

Having been unanimously nominated by a special Diocesan Assembly in early winter, His Grace was canonically elected to the See of San Francisco during the Holy Synod Meeting in the fifth week of Great Lent. Having assumed his oversight immediately, we will celebrate His Grace's enthronement in San Francisco during our October Diocesan Assembly. Some of you may want to attend this event. In the mean time, we will have His Grace with us for our August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> celebration of Holy Transfiguration and for part of our Church Camp.

In a world of unsteady, irrational and unreliable leadership, it is a joy to have these two loving Fathers and Archpastors in Christ to guide us and to assure us of God's boundless care and unfailing love for us.

Abiding in the Paschal Joy I remain:

Yours in the Love of Christ,

Archpriest Joseph

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## Parish Council Update

The Council is well underway with a number of projects for the year. As I shared with you last time we started the year by generating a list of ideas / projects. We are continuing to discuss those ideas and decide which ones to work on. You will be hearing more about the ideas as we work to implement them. Some projects definitely in the works follow:

**110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** - In the fall of 2008 we will celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish! As you probably know we are the oldest Orthodox parish in Colorado and one of the three or four continuously used Temples in the lower 48 states and the oldest Church between the Mississippi and the West Coast. We plan to invite Metropolitan Herman as well as Bishop Benjamin thereby making it a significant Pan-Orthodox event. We will definitely have a dinner and celebration at the parish. A committee will be established to plan and implement the celebration. If you have an interest in being part of this planning committee or have ideas for the celebration, please see me. We will need a number of people to make this a special event and will need to start the planning soon.

**Bright Friday Pan-Orthodox Dinner/Dance** - Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pan-Orthodox Dinner/Dance (or PODD as we like to call it) was definitely our best yet. We had the most people we have ever had (almost 90) with one-third of those being from other parishes. Bishop Benjamin and Metropolitan Isaiah were our guests which made the night even more special. We met our goal of \$500 of income for our operating and will have extra to donate to charities including IOCC and possibly our historic preservation project. We also shared a portion of the net proceeds with the other parishes in attendance. Thank you to Peggy Yadlowsky for once again baking the dessert cakes for the dinner. And thank you to Chris & Kat Jobanputra for bringing out Bishop Benjamin. A huge thank you to Colleen Ramos who coordinated the door prize, raffle and auction piece of the event and obtained most of the donations for these herself.

**Communication** - In the next couple of months e-mail should become a more regular way of communicating with parishioners. We hope to obtain current contact information from anyone we missed in March. If we don't have your e-mail address please let us know.

**Lecture Series** - Lidia Stcherbak is organizing a regular lecture series. This will include another retreat like we did in 2006 as well as additional lectures. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please see Lidia.

**Festival** - The Festival is quickly approaching. This is the biggest fundraising and parish-wide event for us. This year it is July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be extending our Saturday hours to 10:00pm. You can help by:

- Sharing any ideas for donation opportunities for a sweepstakes (kind of like a raffle) with John Baird.
- Volunteer to take over the Vendor Coordinator position. Yana Kosic, our current Vendor Coordinator, is moving out of the state in May. We need someone to take over this position. The main job will be the contact person for the vendors during the event. Please see me or Yana if you are interested.
- Sharing any ideas for food and beverage donations with Tom Hill. Or if you have any other ideas for business that might like to sponsor the event please talk with Tom.
- Sharing any publicity leads with Matushka. If you know anyone in television, radio, newspaper, etc. please let her know. We want to promote this to EVERYONE.
- Staying tuned for volunteer opportunities for the weekend of the Festival in the next couple of months. This event takes ALL of us to make it a success.

Lastly, as summer and vacations are quickly approaching, please remember to give regularly. Summer giving tends to decrease while people are away. But remember the church still operates even if you are not here.

If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, have any ideas or input on these projects or additional projects, please let a Parish Council member know. We look forward to an exciting year!!

In Christ,  
Erin Busken, Senior Warden

## Sisterhood Update

The Sisterhood would like to extend their gratitude to all those who gave of their time and talents to make this Pascha season so beautiful. From those donating towards the flower fund, to those who took time to help decorate and clean the church, you made this Pascha special! Flower palm and willow donations for Holy Week and Pascha totaled was \$514.50. This should come close to covering our costs.

A big thank you to Steve Dawson who donated a stunning 14k Tanzanite and Diamond ring to the Sisterhood. Raffle tickets for the ring were sold throughout the Lenten Season and a drawing held on Agape Sunday. Proceeds from the ticket sales brought the Sisterhood \$500. Thank you both to Steve and to those buying tickets.

The Sisterhood is planning another Yard Sale for 14 and 15 June. While you're doing your house cleaning and organizing this spring, please remember this event. An announcement will be made later as to when items can be dropped off for the sale. Clean, usable items may be brought to the Church Hall beginning with Sunday, 6 May.

We encourage all Sisterhood members to join us in our various activities. We have a couple of upcoming fun events currently in the planning stage... Tea at Brown's Palace and a spiritual retreat... and would love to have everyone come and be a part of the group.



The Broncos would just go NUTS for a YARD Sale.

Well, its Third and One and we are having the sale on 15 & 16 June.

Don't Miss It !!!!

Bring your old usable items. Buy more STUFF that you just can't live without.

Work the Yard Sale.

Go the EXTRA YARD for your PARISH & SISTERHOOD. And score a goal for Holy Transfiguration.

**We Need:**

**You.**

**Your Work.**

**Your Support.**

**Your Good Used:**

**Antiques**

**Kids Toys**

**Games**

**Jewelry**

**Furniture**

**Appliances**

**Kitchen items**

**Video Tapes & DVDs**

**Dishes**

**Decorative items**

**Bikes**

**Lawn tools**

**Good used clothing**

***WE ALSO NEED A LOT OF HELP IN SORTING, PRICING, MOVING AND SELLING ITEMS AS WELL AS IN SET UP EACH DAY.***

***SCORE AN EXTRA POINT BY CONTACTING BECKY SCHILLING TO VOLUNTEER.***

If you are on the disabled list, call Becky and we'll try to get someone to pick up your donations

Clean items may be brought to the Church Hall, starting the 6<sup>th</sup> of May

**ST. MARY'S HOLY PROTECTION  
SISTERHOOD  
HOLY TRANSFIGURATION CATHEDRAL  
349 E. 47<sup>TH</sup> AVE, DENVER, CO**