

From Maria Melts Stasios, Parish Council President

Do you remember Y2K? It's hard to believe it's been a decade since the turn of the century and that 2009 is on its way out with 2010 quickly approaching. It's been another active year and a summary list of activities for our parish is included in this newsletter.

Thank you to each one of you for your gifts of time, talent and treasure to our St. Nicholas Parish, and I'd like to thank the Council members who supported me in my second term as President. Their continued dedication to our parish community is such a gift and I will always value the time we have worked together.

I'd like to recognize and thank our Parish Council member John Psilos who is completing his term of service and is leaving the Council for now. His time and commitment to St. Nicholas is very much appreciated. The other Council members whose terms were complete have chosen to serve and have been elected to another term of service. For this, we are very thankful to Manny Miliotis, Nick Saffo, and Alexandros Theodoropoulos. These parishioners play an integral role in our accomplishments and their dedication to St. Nicholas is sincerely appreciated.

Please also join me in welcoming Angelo Fragos as a newly elected Parish Council member for 2010 pending ratification of our elections by the metropolis office. He joins Tina Bostic, Ron Demas, Debra Rallis, Barbara Reynolds, Irene Sotiriou Vogiatzis, Sam Wiersteiner and me along with the aforementioned Council members. Our Council continues to meet on a monthly basis with great harmony and love for our church. Please join me in thanking these parishioners for their continued service to our parish.

Finally, Merry Christmas to you and your families from the entire Parish Council. We wish you peace and joy during the nativity season and in the new year. As always, please let us know if you have questions or concerns we can address.

A sampling of 2009's activities and accomplishments include:

- Visit by Fr. Grigorios Tatsis, Father Confessor, at St. Nicholas
- 9th Annual Epiphany Dive (8 divers, 4 priests)/Christopher Snow retrieved cross
- Hellenic Dance Festival in Atlanta, Georgia with both choral and dance groups
- Adult Education program with weekly meetings
- Hellenic Culture Committee presentation
- Super Bowl celebration in the Hellenic Center with about 40 parishioners
- St. Nicholas By-laws update meetings / draft document
- Monthly Family Nite dinners and activities
- Strong stewardship drive
- Participation at UNCW's Intercultural Festival (display booth, 2 dance groups performing)
- Greek School Valentine's dance attended by over 100 parishioners and friends
- General Assembly meetings in February and November
- Fr. Grigorios Tatsis meeting in March with Parish Council
- Youth participation in local church-league Basketball programs for both boys and girls
- Mission Sunday presentation
- Oratorical Festival with 14 youth presentations on a variety of topics related to our faith
- Lenten Retreat attended by our youth and youth workers
- Holy Week services with a visit by seminarian Barnabas Powell
- Saturday of Lazarus pancake breakfast and palm-making following liturgy
- Pascha Agape services and Picnic at Halyburton Park with over 200 attending
- Greek Independence Day program with poems by Greek School children and presentations by Romiosini Dance and Choral groups