



## **St. Christopher Hellenic Orthodox Church**

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### **Pastoral Message from Fr. George, October 15, 2025**

**St. Christopher Church: "A Call to Action"**



*"Cast your nets at His word." – Luke 5:5*

## **A Call to Serve Our Neighbors in Need**

Beloved Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Recently I spent time with our parishioner Faye Georgeo and sought to learn what motivated her to be so deeply involved in relief efforts in Western North Carolina following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. Truly, her

volunteer work outside of our parish is one of the blessings I have discovered since initiating **“A Call to Action”** this summer – encouraging parishioners to discern their gifts, serve with joy, and help build up the Body of Christ:

Let your faith find expression in service. Let your joy take root in community. Let us build God’s Holy Church—together.

***“Each one has received a gift.  
Use it to serve one another...” – 1 Peter 4:10***

I want to take a moment to recognize Faye’s extraordinary commitment—not only has she given of her time and energy, but she has also made significant personal and financial sacrifices to help hurricane disaster families in need.

Faye has partnered with grassroots teams like the Cajun Navy, Mountain Mule Packers, and even Amish work crews. She’s helped organize winter clothing shipments and been witnessed creative methods like goat-scaping to clear debris from damaged properties. Her work is a living example of Christ’s love in action.

I’ve encouraged Faye to share her ministry at our upcoming Philoptochos General Meeting on October 19 under New Business, and I hope many of you will be there to hear her

witness of service and compassion to those who have not yet recovered from the devastation of Hurricane Helene.

*But today, I want to invite you to do more than listen—I want to invite you to join her efforts as you are able.*

With God's help and ours, Faye would like to organize a weekend relief trip to Western North Carolina in the near future. I plan to reach out to my Brother Priest in Asheville, NC, and solicit him to work with his parish families to host our volunteers on Friday and Saturday nights. On Saturday, we'll help with home repairs, debris removal, and hopefully share time with those we serve. On Sunday, we'll worship together with the local community.

Many people assume that the majority of need in Western North Carolina has already been met—but it has not. Families are still struggling, and our help is still needed.

*"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." — Philippians 2:4*

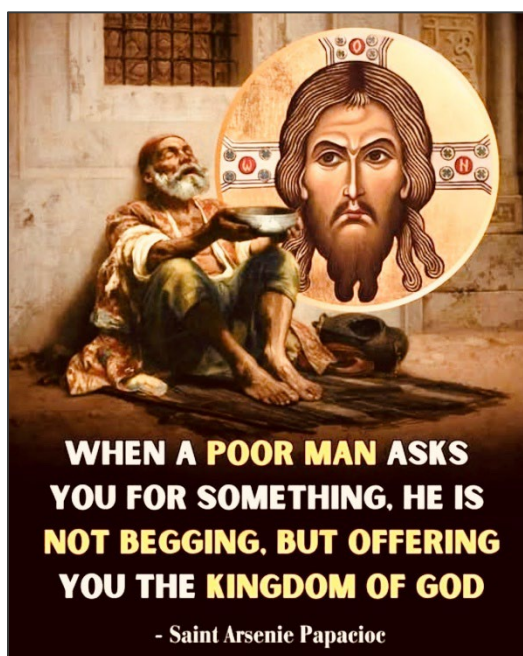
This verse reminds us that Christian love is not passive—it moves us to action. By joining this mission, we embody the selfless care Christ calls us to offer. Whether through hands-on service, prayer, or presence, your participation will bring hope and healing to those still recovering.

Let us not pass by like the priest or the Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Let us stop, kneel, and serve. Let us bring the light of Christ into the lives of those still walking through the shadows of loss and recovery.

If Faye can garner the support of our Philoptochos Society, I call upon you to join this effort and speak with Faye, so she can organize sign-ups and coordinate travel and lodging. As Faye has assisted those in need, she has encountered volunteers from other states who are pitching in using their own



*Outing with Faye and Presbytera Marinda*



*Faye shared this inspiring image that touched her heart.*

funds to help repair their RVs that were damaged and are essential to keep residents dry this winter. [See pictures on the following page.]

May the Lord bless our efforts and multiply our gifts for the healing of His people.

In Christ's love,

+Fr. George Tsahakis



## The Power of Teamwork:

Faye Georgeo shared photos of her relief work in western North Carolina to help someone she discovered had serious health issues named Tracie. Following Hurricane Helene, Tracie had been homeless for more than a year, living in her car before being given an RV that was run down. Scott, a volunteer carpenter, did electrical work but noted the rubber roof was splitting and only good for another few



months. In the photo at right, Tracie is wearing the purple shirt standing next to Scott's wife, who worked tirelessly with many volunteer groups, coordinating supplies, vetting trailers, everything! The past year has taken a toll on Tracie's health, which was not great to begin with. She



has a goat-scaping business and rents them for events but with all the devastation, it brings in limited income as she seeks to repair her RV and maintain her fragile health.

Pictured at left is Scott, the carpenter from Pennsylvania who came right after the hurricane and helped many people, including a poor woman who was having cancer treatments. He and another volunteer carpenter from Charleston, SC, gutted the floors of Tracie's RV and tore out wallboard up at least a yard, to save her home. Scott and his wife drove down again from Pennsylvania about three weeks ago, met Faye and Tracie and he replaced her leaking RV skylight and advised that she desperately needed a metal pavilion like the one in the third photo to protect her RV when winter weather arrives. It costs between 5 and 8 thousand dollars as it needs to be anchored in cement.



# Join Us Often with Your Family

## Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

8:00 Orthros & 9:00 Divine Liturgy at Archangel Michael Chapel (Metropolis Office)

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Tiropita Batter



## Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Tiropita Folding

## Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Tiropita Folding

## Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of St. Luke

8:00 Orthros

9:00 Divine Liturgy & Special Presentation

10:45 Religious Education Classes

*[Our Adult Religious Education will begin discussing Chapter 2, pages 99-112 of our textbook.]*

11:45 Philoptochos General Meeting

## Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:30 Philoptochos Fall Pastry Sale - Tiropita Batter



**After Sunday service, Christina lingered in the fellowship hall, savoring her coffee and chatting about her rice pudding. One by one, everyone left—Pastor, Parish Council, Philoptochos. She didn't notice until the silence hit.**

**Christina wandered through the church and classrooms. Empty. Lights still on. Doors unlocked. She realized something terrifying: she was the last one in the building... and had no idea how to close the church.**

**Eventually, she called a Parish Council member who came and secured the church—but Christina had learned a vital lesson: Safeguarding our parish property isn't just for the Pastor or Parish Council. It's for anyone who might outlast the coffee! Thanks for joining me today and listening on "how" you can help us take care of our building, its assets, and the property of our landlords!**

**Following this Sunday's Divine Liturgy, Fr. George will offer a short but engaging presentation addressing the above scenario that happens from time to time. *Learn how to safeguard our church when the need arises.***



Thanks to Presbytera Stavroula Matos, a widowed Presbytera living in Florida, for sharing this image. *Her husband of blessed memory, Fr. Christos, was a true servant of our Lord who never said no to a call for help from Former Metropolitan Alexios or myself. This month, let us pray for our clergy of blessed memory as well as those serving us now in God's Holy Vineyard. May their memory be eternal.*

Say a prayer for your priest! 🙏

**In honor of Clergy Appreciation month, I think it's important to remember that priests need our prayers just as much as we need theirs** ✝️ 🙏

Sometimes we look at priests as if they were tireless machines—never weak, never weary, never wrong, and always available. But priests are not machines.

They are human beings called by God, with hearts that feel joy and sadness, dreams and disappointments, strength and fragility.

A priest's mission goes far beyond the altar and parish meetings. He walks with families, comforts wounded hearts, visits the sick, guides leaders, listens to struggles, and often carries invisible burdens.

**Remember to pray for your priest.**

Not a machine, but a person—a brother, a father, a shepherd.

