



ST. LUKE NEWSLETTER

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

April 2008

Volume 7, Issue 1

April 2008

Volume 7, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Izveštaj predsednika!	1
Lenten Address	2
There is progress	3
Parent's Club	4
Gala Report	6
Membership	7
Financial Summary	7
President's Report	8
Young acheavers	8
Schedule of services	9

IZVESTAJ PREDSEDNIKA

Dolaze nam najsvetiji dani Hriscan-ske vere, Cveti, Veliki Petak i Vask-rsenje naseg Gospoda Isusa Hrista. Ove godine **Sveta Sluzba za Veliki Petak odrzace se 25 aprila u 20:00 casova u Potomac United Presbyte-rian Church, 10301 River Road** (preko puta naseg imanja, oko ¼ milje blize Potomac Village-u). **Uskrsnja Sveta Liturgija odrzace se u nedelju 27 aprila u 10:00 casova u Grckoj pravoslavnoj crkvi Svetog Djordja, 7701 Bradley Blvd, Be-thesda, odmah uz Seven Locks Road** (za uputstvo vidite unutra). Isto tako **Vrbica, namenjena nasoj deci, bice proslavljena na nasem imanju u subotu 19 aprila u 18:00 casova.** Kompletan sadrzaj Sluzbe Bozije za Uskrsnje praznike nacicete na strani 9. Nadam se da cete nam se svi pridruziti da zajeno proslavimo ove velike Praznike i da cete dovesti svoju decu na Vrbicu. U ime nase uprave i svoje licno, svima vam zelim sve na-jbolje za Uskrsnje praznike sa pozdra-vom

HRISTOS VOSKRESE !

I ove godine nasa parohija je pocela sa dobrim uspehom. Prisustvo vernih na Badnje vece i Bozic bilo je re-kordno. Isto tako Svetosavska pro-slava je bila masovna sa vrlo uspes-nim ucestvovanjem u programu od

preko osamdesetoro dece. Hrana je bila odlicna zahvaljujuci nasem kolu. Masa je bilo toliko velika da cemo morati sledecih godina da uvedemo specijalne mere kontrole.

Ove godine je odrzana 23 februra prva godisnja Gala priredba nase Crkve u korist Fonda za izgradnju. Odrzana u cuvenom Mayflower Ho-tel-u to je bila vrlo uspesna, izizentno elegantna svecanost, prva ove vrste u Vasingtonu. Kao sto nas je obavestila u ovom Biltenu predsednica Organi-zacionog odbora Drina Rajic, bili smo pocastvovani dostojanstvenim gostima, kao sto su bili Njegovo Preosvestenstvo Vladika Mitrofan, Njihova Kraljevska Visocanstva Princeza Tomislava Karadjordjevica i njen sin Princ Mihajlo, G-dja Jelica Petrovic Vujacic, supruga Ambasa-dora Srbije u Vasingtonu, bivsi clan Kongresa Helen Delic Bentley i Proto Djokan Majstorovic iz Njeujorka. Za veme koktela i banketa svirao je klasicni kvertet Dzordza Vance-a, a posle nekoliko govora zvanicnika, igranka je trajala do posle ponoci. To-kom veceri trajala je tiha aukcija iz-vesnog broja znacajnih umetnickih i istorijskih dela. Prisutnost je bila preko ocekivanja sa preko 170 gostiju i cist prihod za Fond za izgradnju je dostigao 17.000,00 dolara. Zelim da

(Continued on page 2)

If you are not able to come to Easter, please use attached envelope to send us your donation.

Thank you!

LENTEN ADDRESS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As we begin the Lenten season, it is normal for us to think about and anticipate the coming Pascha (Easter) feast. We should however remind ourselves that Christ was indeed resurrected from the dead, but in order to do so, He first had to die. The death He suffered was a criminal's death, as crucifixion at that time and place in history was reserved for the most despicable characters in society. If we truly proclaim Him to be our God, Who created all things out of nothing, Who breathed life into us, His creation, then it would make sense that we would be willing to walk together with Him, to be with Him, to be part of Him. He desires this for us as well, as He created us expressly for this purpose, out of genuine and unlimited love for His creation. As we are willing to go to the grave for our loved ones here on this earth, how much more so are we willing to do so for our God? To die a violent death is not asked of us, but a genuine and sincere feeling of oneness with Him is all that is required. This means that we walk with Him, even to the

Cross, and as His mother and “the apostle He loved” stayed to the end, so too, we witness to that horrible act that occurred that day at Golgotha. Just as Simon of Cyrene, a foreigner and stranger, carried His cross when He stumbled, and Joseph of Arimathea, a rich nobleman, came forward to take Him down from the Cross after His death, we also witness, not as historical testimony, but as putting on spiritual armor. The crucified Christ is that armor, for we know why He was crucified, namely as a sacrifice in exchange for the salvation of the sinful souls of mankind. His crucifixion is our crucifixion, and therefore His resurrection is ours as well. The sacrifice that we make this season, in the form of prayer, fasting, and charity is miniscule compared with the sacrifice of the Almighty God, but the reward is the same, as we look forward not only to His resurrection from death, but also our own. May the crucified Lord be with you on this path to salvation.

Father Aleksa

(Continued from page 1)

cestitam gospodjama iz Organizacionog odbora i da se zahvalim priložnicima aukcije, kao i svima ostalima koji su pomagali ovu izuzetno uspesnu priredbu. Ovaj veliki uspeh enkurazira nas da nastavimo svake godine sa svecanim godisnjim Gala Banketom.

Sve ove aktivnosti su doprinele da smo za prva dva meseca ove godine ostvarili cist prihod od 40.000,00 dolara, sto je rakord do sada. To je dobar znak za buducnost. Medjutim, kada uzmemo u obzir da cemo vrlo skoro da pocnemo sa velikim radovima na nasoj zgradi, trebace nam svaki cent da bi mogli da finansiramo hipotekarni dug za sve to. Zato se nadamo da cete nam vi svi pomoci sa svojim izdasnim priložima i ostvarenjem vasi obaveza.

Sto se tice procesa rekonstrukcije nase zgrade, mi

smo najzad dobili sve potrebne dozvole od drzavnih i opstinskih biroa. Kao sto je Miran Vucic, predsednik Odbora za izgradnju, naglasio u ovom Biltenu, revizija svih planova je prakticno završena. Mi cemo odmah potom da pocnemo pregovore sa kontraktorima za njihove ponude, sto ce nam omoguciti da deponiramo potrebne monetarne garancije vlastima, dobijemo zvanican “building permit”, kao o zajam od banke, pa onda da pocnemo sa izgradnjom. Najzad ova duga borba ce biti završena i mo ocekujemo da cemo poceti sa radovima pocetkom leta. Potom, sve ce zavisiti od svih nas.

Sa ovim mislima zelim vam sve najbolje za nase svetle Praznike.

Zoran Hodjera

There is progress...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The revised plans for our new Chapel and Social Hall are 95% completed and will be forwarded to a General Contractor by next week to undergo a bidding process and give our Church a true cost of our renovation.

I want to emphasize that our Architect, Bob Vujcic and our Mechanical Consultant, Rasko Dabic have redesigned the whole project one more time without any charge to our Church. That work was done at night or over the weekends and deserves our deepest gratitude. The only bill we will incur is for site redesign and, possibly, for structural changes. Bob has also donated (40) down-lights for our new space (value = \$ 3,000).

Once we get a Builder's proposal, we will be able to negotiate our construction loan with several banks and post bonds required by Montgomery County. We hope to complete this phase in May and to start construction in June. There is a slow-down in construction which might help us on our construction cost, although the price of most building commodities has gone up.

As you know, we have collected \$ 110,000 in pledges and approximately \$ 15,000 has already been donated. I want to commend Dr. Marko Vujcic who has donated his honorarium of \$ 1,000.

from speaking at the CGFNS International Symposium in December 07 to our building fund. When the construction is about to begin, I will personally contact by e-mail all of the donors and other people interested in our Church. I will keep you informed of our progress, our construction schedule, need for volunteer work etc. That is when our pledges are due either as lump sum payment or as a monthly withdrawal from your checking account.

I hope that the beginning of construction will inspire our parishioners who have been skeptical or who have donated in the past without visible result, to contribute and help us build a dignified building that will motivate us towards religious, cultural and social activities. The construction of our Church has been blessed by our Patriarch Pavle in mid February as he was recovering in a hospital in Belgrade with a comment that an Orthodox church in Washington DC would rejoice him the most...

I want to congratulate the organizers of our first fundraising Gala for a successful evening with 170 participants and \$ 17,000. net contributions to the Building Fund. Next year it will be even more successful and will become part of our tradition.

Dear brothers and sisters let us persevere, unite and finally build our Church.

Miran Vucic, Chairman Building Committee

PORUKA ZA VREME VELIKOG POSTA

Draga Braćo i Sestre:

U vreme ovoga Velikog Posta razumno je da razmišljamo i očekujemo dolazak velikog praznika Vaskrsa (Pashe Gospodnje). Uvek treba da se opomiljemo da je Hristos zaista vaskrsao iz mrtvih, a da bi to shvatili, moramo razumeti i da je On prvo umro (za nas). Smrt koju je On pretrpeo bila je kao smrt razbojnika, jer je u to istorijsko vreme raspeće na krstu (smatrano kao sramno) i bilo je određeno za najveće razbojnice i

ološe toga društva. Stoga, ako Ga zaista proslavljamo kao našeg Boga, koji stvori sve iz nebića, koji nam dade životni duh, koji stvori svu tvorevinu, onda je i razumljivo da hodimo zajedno sa njim, da želimo da smo sa Njim, i da budemo deo Njega. A On to i želi od nas, jer nas stvori usključivo za tu svrhu, iz prevelike (ne uslovne) ljubavi za svoja stvorenja.

Razmislimo samo, kako željno idemo na groblja da

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

posetimo naše najbliže preminule srodnike, a koliko bi tek trebalo da želimo da isto to učinimo za našeg Boga?

Niko od nas ne traži da umremo nasilnom smrću, ali se istovremeno od nas zahteva da saosećamo u jedinstvenosti sa Njim. A to znači koračati zajedno sa njim, čak i do Krsta, kao što Njegova Mati i "ljubljeni učenik (Jovan)" ostaše do kraja, kako bi i mi postali svedoci (na tajanstven način) tom strašnom nedelu na Golgoti.

Kao što je Simon Kirinejac, stranac i došljak iz drugog kraja, poneo Krst kada je Gospod poklekao, i kao što je Josif iz Arimateje, bogati vlastelin došao do Krsta da skine i obavije u platno Ljegovo sveto Telo, tako i mi treba da svedočimo ali ne kao istorijsko svedočanstvo, već u smislu stavljanja duhovnog štita (na

nas). A duhovni štit nije ništa drugo do raspeti Hristos. Mi svi znamo zašto je On raspet, prvenstveno dakle kao žrtva u zamenu za spasenje duša celog čovečanstva.

Njegovo raspeće je naše raspeće, pa prema tome i Njegovo Vaskrsenje je i naše vaskrsenje. Žrtva dakle koju pravimo u vreme Velikog Posta u smislu molitve, posta, i milostinje nije ni približna žrtvi Svemogućeg Boga, ali je nagrada ista, ne očekujući samo Njegovo vaskrsenje iz mrtvih, nego i samo naše vaskrsenje.

Neka bi nas raspeti Gospod uvek vodio na stazi našeg spasenja.

Jerej Aleksa Mičić

ST. LUKE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS CLUB

Teen Classes With Father Aleksa

Father Aleksa is pleased to offer classes for our teens every other Thursday night. These classes are open to ALL teens of our parish. Because our teens face so many different issues each and every day, it's important that they know how to appropriately handle these issues in a way that supports their Orthodox faith.

Please join us! The next classes are scheduled for: March 27, April 10, 24, May 8, 22 and June 5. Classes begin at 7:30 and end at 9 pm.

Palachinka Breakfast

On Sunday, March 9th, the children of our Sunday School prepared palachinka for the parishioners. This marks the third year that the children have prepared this breakfast. These children carefully cooked, filled and rolled palachinka all morning, then served the lunch. Through the generosity of the parishioners, the children were able to raise \$300 which will be used to help send children to camp and the Youth Conference. We would also like to thank Victor Isailovic for coordinating the breakfast. Thanks, Victor!

Summer Fun!

Don't forget about these EXCITING opportunities for our kids!

Summer Camp Sessions at Shadeland

There are 3 different week-long camp sessions offered for our children. The first 2 weeks are standard camp sessions. The campers are able to enjoy educational sessions, crafts, swimming, games, and worship with other Serbian Orthodox children from the eastern diocese.

The 3rd week session is the popular Tambura Week (also known as "Tammie Week"). This is a week-long intensive dance and musical practice camp for children who have had some dance and/or music training. The week of practices ends with a performance on Saturday as part of the annual Diocesan Days.



Here is the photo from the palachinka breakfast

Camp schedule and registration papers will be available soon at <http://www.easterndiocese.org/shadeland.html>.

Youth Retreat in Los Angeles!

The Youth Conference for all teens ages 13 – 18, is scheduled for August 6 – 10 and will be held in Los Angeles. Educational sessions, tours, activities and prayer services are some of the events planned for the Retreat. There are some very exciting sessions being planned, so I hope all of our teens consider attending the conference. This is a great opportunity for our teens to meet other teens from across the US!

Be a Verb

As the plans are finalized for the renovation to convert the house property into a place to worship and gather as a Serbian Orthodox community, let's stop and think about what that new building will represent. The PLACE is simply a noun and the PEOPLE who will come to that PLACE are also simply nouns. But what should the people DO with that PLACE? We can GATHER, we can PRAY, we can WORSHIP, we can CELEBRATE. Basically it will provide us with the opportunity to get together as a community. It will provide us with space to bring our children, to teach them about their Orthodox faith. It will provide us with a place for our children to learn about their Serbian heritage. It will provide us with a place to grow together as a community. However, if we don't become a verb, if we don't take action, the PEOPLE and the PLACE will mean nothing. I encourage each of you



St Sava

– adult

AND children, to COME to church, PRAY, WORSHIP, LEARN, GROW. And remember this, FAITH is a NOUN and a VERB. Faith isn't something that we'll automatically find once we walk through the doors of the PLACE. It is something that we need to nurture and grow within us. It takes action (verb) on our part to have faith (noun). Without FAITH, the people IN the place are meaningless.

Your Sunday School organizers are already thinking about various programs that we can offer to our children once the renovations are complete. However, there is nothing preventing you from coming to church now to worship, pray, and nurture your faith now. Come join us. Take action now. Become a VERB! See you Sunday!

Winter Retreat at Shadeland

From December 26 through 29th, 4 teens from our parish attended the Youth Winter Retreat at Shadeland. There were 56 kids from the eastern and Midwestern dioceses at the retreat. Educational seminars, crafts and worship were offered to the children. Aleks Kesic, Nikola Lojanica, Ana Petronijevic and Andrej Petronijevic from our parish attended the retreat. They said that they enjoyed the educational sessions as well and being able to spend time relaxing with their new-found friends. For a full story about the retreat, be sure to check out the February issue of The Path of Orthodoxy (which can also be found at the following link: <http://www.serborth.org/files/February008Path.pdf>) for a complete story with pictures.

St. Sava Celebration

On Saturday, January 26th, the children of St. Luke's Serbian Orthodox Church performed in front of a large crowd of Serbian Orthodox believers. These children worked incredibly hard to show their appreciation to St. Sava, the patron saint of children. Each child who recited a poem or danced in one of our 3 groups should be commended for their dedication.

During the evening celebration, we recognized 4 high school seniors who will be graduating this year. They are: Sara Dragacevac, Marko Lukic, Bojana Milojkovic, and Ana Vucetic. Each child received an Orthodox Study Bible from the Sunday School Board of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

In Christ,
Becky Kesic
St. Luke Sunday School Administrator

MESSAGE FROM THE GALA EVENT CHAIR

I was honored to serve as the Chair for the First Annual Gala of the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. The Gala was truly a night to remember. It provided a nice convergence of community, elegance and entertainment that celebrated our commitment to our church, faith and each other.

On behalf of the entire Gala Committee, I would like to thank our honorable host His Grace Bishop Dr. +Mitrophan; our special guests: Her Royal Highness Princess Linda Karadjordjevic, His Royal Highness Prince Mihailo Karadjordjevic, The Honorable Helen Delich-Bentley, V. Rev. Djokan Ma-



T.R.H. Princess Tomislav and Prince Mihajlo Karadorđević jstorovic; our sponsors: TSM Global Consultants, LLC, Zagorka Vladimirovic & "My Florist," Artist Bogdan Miscevic, 2008 Australian Open Grand Slam Tennis Champion Novak Djokovic, the leg-

endary soccer player Dragan Dzajic, Artist Miroslav Rudovic, Musicians George and Martha Vance, Zoran and Sigi Hodjera, Mio Grcic, Paul Rasevic, and all supporters for attending our First Annual Gala held on February 23, 2008.

Your presence ensured that the evening was enjoyed by all, and the funds generated from the event will allow us to begin building and renovating our church in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. (We raised close to \$17,000 from this event)

Lastly, I would like to give special thanks to the members of the Gala Committee: my daughter, Tatjana Rajic, Sigi Beck Hodjera, Marta Hryshchyn, and Father Aleksa Micich, for their hard work and who helped make this event possible. I would also like to thank Djordje and Mira Jovanovic, Zvezdana Stojanovic-Scott, the Antic Family, Rachel and Kristina, Obrad and Becky Kesic, Jeb Adams, Peter Beck, and Zoran Bucalo for donating their time and assistance.

I look forward to taking part in organizing our Second Annual Gala next year!

With warmest regards,

Drina Vlastelic Rajic
Chair, Gala Committee
St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church



MEMBERSHIP

How many of you enjoy coming to church when you get a chance to give thanks to God, ask God for help in your life, or to enjoy the peace and predictability of the Orthodox liturgy and the harmonious choir? How many of you are grateful to have a Serbian cultural center where 2nd and 3rd generation American-Serbs can pass along valuable identity defining heritage traits to their kids and where newcomers can associate with other Serbian speaking people to ease the pain of surviving in a new country? Become a supporting member of the St. Luke's community. Your generous financial support enables the church to function; from paying the Priest's modest salary, to deposits for the hall rentals for our slavas, from renting the school building for Sunday liturgy to the renovations of our building which should begin in the near future (which, by the way,

is our least expensive option now to have an actual church and hall). Membership and your continuing financial and physical support now will help the church and church community continue to operate not only now, but will also make it easier for your descendants to stay with their Serbian religion and heritage and in doing so they may feel the same pride in culture and humility towards God that you feel. Membership dues are

\$ 50 / student and seniors, \$ 100 individual, and \$ 150 family.

Thank You,
Victor Isailovic
VP Membership

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THRU MARCH 9, 2008

Account	Income	Expenses	Net
Operating Fund	81,104	57,054	24,050
Mortgage Fund	2,672		
Principal		1,929	
Interest		7,295	
Total	83,776	66,278	17,498
Building Fund	5,725		
Renovation Pledges	18,050		
Renovation expenses		357	
Total	107,551	66,635	40,916

Thanks to your generosity so far this year we will have a very positive financial report to submit to the Bank as we apply for the loan for our renovation. We do not have the very generous matching Easter donation that we had last year. Therefore, please make an effort to increase your normal donation for Easter.

Again, thanks to many of you we have reached our projected goal for pledges for the renovation. However, since the Church represents the body of Jesus Christ on this earth its status and activity reflect our dedication to and love for GOD, I would appeal to all of you who have not yet made a pledge to do so. In this way you will feel that this is truly your Church and that we are all a part of this renovation.

Donald C. Fish

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The holiest days of our Christian Faith, Palm Sunday, Great and Holy Friday, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ - Pascha, are upon us. This year, Great and Holy Friday will be celebrated on April 25, at 8 pm, at Potomac United Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road (across the road from our property, ¼ mile closer to Potomac Village), Pascha will be celebrated on Sunday, April 27, at 10 am, at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 7701 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda, off Seven Locks Rd (for directions see inside). Also Vrbica, dedicated to our children, will be celebrated on Saturday, April 19, at 6 pm, at our property. A complete schedule of services and event you will find on the next page. I hope that all of you will join us in celebrating together these great and holy days, and will bring your children to Vrbica, on Saturday, the 19. In the name of our Board and my own, I wish you all the best for these Holidays with

HRISTOS VOSKRESE - CHRIST IS RISEN !

Our parish has had a very good start this year. The participation at Christmas Eve and Christmas was record. For St. Sava we were even somewhat overwhelmed by the attendance, with some 80 children participating in the program. At the end the crowd became somewhat unruly, so that in the future we are going to take necessary corrective measures to prevent such things from happening.

On the other hand, our first formal Fund-raising Annual Gala, organized on February 23, at the Mayflower Hotel was a very elegant dignified black tie occasion, and a crowning success. As pointed out in this Newsletter by Drina Rajic, the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, we were honored by distinguished guests, including Right Reverend Bishop Mitrofan, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Tomislav and Prince Mihajlo Karadjordjevic, Mrs. Jelica Petrovic Vujacic, wife of the Serbian Ambassador, The Honorable Helen Delich Bentley, and V. Rev. Djokan Majstorovic. During cocktails and the banquet a classical quartet, led by Mr. and Mrs. George Vance, was playing, while, after several addresses by dignitaries, the dancing

proceeded until after midnight. In the course of the evening, a silent auction of a number of important art and historic objects was held. The attendance was beyond expectation, with over 170 guests participating and a net income of about \$17,000.00 added to the Church Building Fund. I would like to congratulate the ladies of the Organizing Committee, to thank the contributors to the auction, and to all others who helped in this very successful event. This success encourages us to continue every year with a formal Annual Gala.

All these activities yielded for the two months of 2008 a net income on various Church accounts of over \$40,000.00, a record so far. This is very encouraging. However, considering that we are very soon going to start with extensive constructions, we will need every penny that we can get to finance the mortgage for the new addition. That is why we hope that you will help us with your generous contributions and responses to your pledges.

Regarding the remodeling of the Church building, we have finally received all the necessary approvals by the County and the State. As Miran Vucic, Chairman of the Building Committee pointed out in this Newsletter, the necessary redesign of plans is about completed. We are then submitting them to contractors for bids, which would allow us to deposit the necessary bonds, obtain the building permit, the loan from a bank and proceed with construction. Finally, the long battle will be over and we expect that the works will start early this summer. Then, it is all up to us.

With these thoughts I wish you all the best for the Holidays.

Zoran Hodjera

COFFEE HOUR

We have had so many people preparing coffee hour recently, and all of our parishioners are very appreciative of the opportunity to visit with each other and have a delicious snack after Liturgy on Sundays. Thank you to all those who have helped to make our coffee hours such a pleasure. If anyone would like to volunteer for coffee hour, please call Sigi Beck Hodjera at 301-412-0330 to arrange a convenient Sunday.

ПРЕГЛЕД СЛУЖБЕ ЗА СВЕТУ НЕДЕЉУ**19. Април—Лазарева Субота**

10:00Ч Света Литургија у капели на имању

18:00Ч Вечерње и Врбица у капели на имању

**20. Април—Улазак Господа Исуса
Христа у Јерусалем (Цвети)**

10:00Ч Света Литургија у Beverly Farms Elementary School

25. Април—Велики Петак

(Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac

16:00Ч Царски часови

20:00Ч Јутрење

26. Април—Света Субота

(Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac

9:00Ч Света Литургија

19:00Ч Исповест до 19:45Ч

20:00Ч Ускршње Јутрење

**27. Април—Васкрсење Господа Исуса
Христа**(у сали грчке цркве Св Ђорђа - 7701 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda
упутства за возњу су на предходној страници)

9:15Ч Исповест до 9:45Ч

10:00Ч Света Литургија

**ST. LUKE SERBIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

10660 River Road

Phone: 301-299-2704

Fax: 301.576.5664

www.svluka.org