

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 15, 2011

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

SUNDAY/MAY 15

4th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 3)

The Paralytic at the Pool

8:00a.m. Church Open

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour; Teen Class; Church School

4:30p.m. Concert: "Spirit of Orthodoxy" and
Festal Reception

TUESDAY/MAY 17

7:00p.m. Vespers

7:45p.m. Lesser Blessing of Waters

WEDNESDAY/MAY 18

Mid-Pentecost

(the 25th of the 50 Days)

9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

6:30p.m. Compline

7:00p.m. Adult Study: "Christ as the Wisdom of
God the Father"

THURSDAY/MAY 19

7:00p.m. Parish Council Meeting

SATURDAY/MAY 21

**Ss. Constantine & Helen; Equal-to-
The Apostles**

9:30a.m. Mollieben to Ss. Constantine & Helen;
Confession

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/MAY 22

5th Sunday of Pascha (Tone 4)

St. Photina the Samaritan Woman

8:00a.m. Church Open

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour with Question & Answer Period

12-2 Church Doors Open



Lessons in Divine & Christian Love (57)

If someone says: but man has to live according to his nature, we ask by whose nature? Is that according to his fundamental, innocent, paradisaical nature, as God created him, or according to his other diseased, degraded, demonic, polluted, sinful, disfigured, passionate, benumbed nature? For God did not create man as He created all the rest of nature, but in a special manner. Moreover, He gave them all power over and above the rest of nature. In this man is clearly exceptional to other physical natures: fish, birds, beasts, and raised above all the animal kingdom, even monkeys or apes. Christ came to restore this first and true nature. And only one who lives according to this restored nature lives truly in accordance with the nature of humankind. Zoology lies under the feet of anthropology.

Fr. Callistratus of Mileseva (Serbia)

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

May 18th 40th Day for Murza Kristani
May 15, 1925 Maria Barna
May 15, 2005 Olga Shemansky
May 16, 1953 Michael Hobora
May 16, 1962 Theodore Janushenko
May 18, 1975 Wasil Kosticz
May 19, 1939 Gregory Halkovich
May 21, 1985 Julia Grigorieff
May 22, 1939 Ephrem Demianov
May 22, 1951 Joseph Fenuck

Offerings for the week of May 15

Olive Oil – in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; in memory of Joan and for the health of Sandy; for the health of Andrea (birthday); in memory of Catherine.

Coffee Hour Hosting

May 15 - Motoviloff, Kachek and Torrissi
May 22 - Combs, Mantafos, Parsells, Sokol
May 29 - Hunchar, Erkman and Turri

Pascha Photos on Parish Website

101 photos for your delight.

Annual Parish Cemetery Envelope

Is attached to the Bulletin today. May your offering be blessed!

Financial Summary Year to Date

| CHURCH OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSE | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| CATAGORY | JAN - MAY 2011 | BUDGET |
| Candles | \$2,961 | \$3,217 |
| Hall rentals | \$4,700 | \$4,826 |
| Sunday Envelopes | \$29,408 | \$35,752 |
| Other income | \$6,100 | \$4,346 |
| Total Income | \$43,169 | \$48,141 |
| Expenses | \$46,593 | \$48,659 |
| Net Church Income | \$-3,424 | \$-518 |

| CEMETERY OPERATING INCOME/ EXPENSES | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| CATAGORY | JAN - MAY 2011 |
| Income | \$2705 |
| Expenses | \$1143 |
| Net Cemetery Income | \$1562 |

The Calendar

May 4/11/18. Weds. *Adult Study Classes*

May 15/Sun. *"Spirit of Orthodoxy Concert" at 4:30p.m. with reception to follow*

May 19/Thurs. *Parish Council Meeting, 7:00p.m.*

June 2/Thurs. *Ascension Day (40th Day of Pascha)*

June 4&5/Sat. & Sun. *Visitation of Bishop Michael to our Parish*

June 12/Pentecost Sun. *Memorial at Cemetery at 4:00p.m.*

June 19/Sun. *Recognition of Graduates Sunday*

June 19/Sun & June 21 Movie Presentation:
"Glory to God: The Life of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)"

June 25/Sat. *Parish Council Workshop in Trenton*

June 29/Wed. *Ss. Peter & Paul Feast Day*

Church Open Door Ministry

In May and June month the Church Doors are left "open" from 12-2p.m. Door-Keeperers are sought.

Graduates Spring 2011

On Sunday, June 19th, we will recognize our parish graduates. Please submit names to Father James as soon as possible.

Visitation of Bishop Michael to our Parish

Please reserve the weekend of June 4th, Saturday and June 5th, Sunday for the visit of Bishop Michael to our parish.

And unto us He has given eternal life, let us worship His resurrection on the Third Day!

Presbyterians Approve Ordination of Gay People

By LAURIE GOODSTEIN

After 33 years of debate, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has voted to change its constitution and allow openly gay people in same-sex relationships to be ordained as ministers, elders and deacons.

The outcome is a reversal from only two years ago, when a majority of the church's regions, known as presbyteries, voted against ordaining openly gay candidates.

This time, 19 of the church's 173 presbyteries switched their votes from no to yes in recent months. The Twin Cities presbytery, which covers Minneapolis and St. Paul, cast the deciding vote at its meeting on Tuesday. The vote was 205 to 56, with 3 abstentions.

(May 10, 2011)

Cynthia Bolbach, moderator of the church's General Assembly, its highest legislative body, said in a phone interview from Minneapolis after the vote: "Everyone was civil. There was no applause, no cheering. It was just reflective of the fact that we are moving forward one other step."

Although by the time the vote was taken in Minneapolis the outcome was expected, Presbyterian church officials said that even a few months ago they would not have predicted that the church was ready to change its policy.

"All of us are surprised," said the Rev. Gradye Parsons, the church's stated clerk, its highest elected official. He attributed the turnabout in the votes to both the growing acceptance of homosexuality in the larger culture, and to church members simply wearying of the conflict.

"We've been having this conversation for 33 years, and some people are ready to get to the other side of this decision," he said. "Some people are going to celebrate this day because they've worked for it for a long time, and some people will mourn this day because they think it's a totally different understanding of Scripture than they have."

"I hope that going forward we can stay together and be faithful witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) now joins a growing bloc of historic, mainline Protestant churches that have voted to accept gay clergy members and church leaders — a bloc that includes the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church. (The largest mainline Protestant denomination, the United Methodist Church, is still fighting over the issue). ↘

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has about two million members. The Presbyterian Church in America, a much smaller and more conservative denomination, prohibits the ordination of women and openly gay candidates.

Longtime advocates of gay equality in the Presbyterian Church savored the day. The Rev. Heidi Vardeman, senior minister of Macalaster Plymouth United Church in St. Paul and a spokeswoman for a pro-gay church group called More Light Presbyterians, said in an interview, "Finally, the denomination has seen the error of its ways and it will repent, which means, literally, to turn around.

"I've had young people who have been exemplary, obviously good candidates for the ministry," she said, "but then you have to have this weird conversation in which you say that, umm, because they might be gay or lesbian, it's not going to work. But now we're free! We can endorse and propose and assist and elect those whom God has called."

In the next few months, the denomination will gauge the reaction from its more theologically conservative members, who believe that ordaining sexually active gay people is inconsistent with the Bible. Some have already departed. The Presbyterian News Service estimates that approximately 100 congregations have left the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the last five years. Several were large congregations, which could help explain why the vote in some presbyteries switched from 2009.

Paul Detterman, executive director of Presbyterians for Renewal, an alliance of conservative Presbyterians, said: "We see this as a bit of a crisis of conscience for us. The book that we hold up as holy is saying one thing, and now the church is behaving differently."

However, he said groups like his were not planning to separate from the denomination, but to push to create some kind of a formal entity within the Presbyterian Church for conservatives. It could be a nongeographical presbytery or a fellowship, he said. "We need to have some kind of an identity," he said.

He said he did not think the homosexuality issue was resolved because gay advocates are likely to try to pass an amendment at the church's next General Assembly in 2012 calling for the church to bless same-sex marriages and unions.

The change approved on Tuesday does not mean that presbyteries must ordain gay candidates — only that they may. The wording leaves the decision open to local presbyteries, according to church officials. It says that governing bodies that consider candidates "shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates."

The measure changes the church's constitution by removing a 1997 amendment that said that those ordained were required to live in "either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman" or in "chastity in singleness."



Husband Celebrates Miracle as 'Brain Dead' Wife Wakes Up in Hospital

Published May 11, 2011 | NewsCore

DARWIN, Australia — A woman who was diagnosed as being brain dead has recovered three days after her husband begged doctors to put in a breathing tube before switching off a ventilator at an Australian hospital, the Northern Territory News reported Wednesday.

Gloria Cruz, 56, underwent brain surgery after a tumor was discovered when she suffered a stroke on March 7 and was rushed to the Royal Darwin Hospital in Darwin, Northern Territory.

Doctors told her husband Tani Cruz, 51, the case was "hopeless" and she would probably die within 48 hours following the surgery.

After two weeks, a breathing tube was inserted in Mrs Cruz's mouth and the ventilator was turned off. Hospital staff were stunned when she woke from her coma three days later.

When a doctor recommended that the ventilator be removed and Gloria Cruz be allowed to die, her husband told them, "I'm a Catholic — I believe in miracles."

"I told him that God knows how much I love her — that I don't want her to suffer but I don't want her to leave us," he said.

A doctor described her recovery as "a miracle."

Mrs Cruz is now alert and getting around in a wheelchair at the hospital.

"She's well on the way to recovery," her husband said.