



Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians — December 2007

click on <http://www.sfgocm.org/news>

Director for 2008 Choir Conference chosen

I am happy to report that Dr. Philip Thevaos current Choir Director of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte, NC has accepted our invitation to be our guest conductor for the 2008 Choir Conference to be held in New Port Richey, FL July 24 - 27, 2008.

Philip has been an active member of the federation since his youth and has served the federation in various leadership capacities including Guest Conductor for the 2003 Choir Conference in Clearwater, FL.

Philip's musical background, enthusiasm, boundless energy coupled with his charismatic southern charm make him a very popular and well liked director. We are fortunate to have him as our director and I believe we will all benefit greatly from this experience.

We look forward to singing the Zervos Bilingual Liturgy under your direction and we thank you Philip!

I remain in His service,

John Mitchell

Winter Youth Rally

This year's Winter Youth Rally will include two Vespers services in Atlanta's Annunciation Cathedral to which everyone is called to attend. Vespers was a great success last year with over 500 youth in the congregation.

Our goal this year is to increase youth participation in our worship services.

To this end, Fr Seraphim Dedes has prepared translations of the services in English and provided musical settings for the hymns to be sung. If you know of any boys or girls in your parish who have expressed an interest in chanting or choral singing in the Church, we ask that you forward this music to them or print and distribute, whichever is convenient. We will have a rehearsal prior to Vespers for all youth who wish to participate from the chanters' stand.

Please direct questions to: Constantine Kokenes, MD: 678-768-6446 <mailto:kokenes@mindspring.com>

'Becoming an Instrument of God'

'And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.' (Romans 6:13)

When: Wednesday evening, December 26 through Saturday afternoon, December 29

Where: Atlanta Century Marriott Hotel

What: Basketball, Volleyball, The Bible Bowl, Welcome Mixer, All Activities, & Church Services!

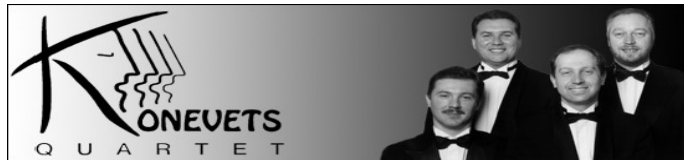
Winter Youth Rally Chairman: +Father John Johns: <mailto:agiatrias1@bellsouth.net>.

Bible Bowl Direct Link to study

Please contact Julie Orogas at <mailto:orologas@bellsouth.net> to VOLUNTEER! Thanking you, in advance.....Many hands make labor light!



Konevets Quartet



On Saturday, December 8, 2007, Christ the Saviour Cathedral (OCA) in Miami Lakes (16601 NW 77th Ct, Miami Lakes FL 33016 (305)822-0437 (or click on www.orthodoxmiami.org) will be presenting a *free* concert after vespers of the Konevets Quartet of the renowned male a cappella ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia, of Russian Sacred & Secular Music from the 18th – 20th centuries. Check out their website at www.konevets.com.

While the concert starts at 7:30 PM, attendees are encouraged to be present before hand for vespers.

For those of you who were lucky enough to hear the Russian Patriarchal Choir on November 8, it was just wonderful. Their *Se Imnoumen* lasted about 10 minutes but was breathtaking, as was their *Axion Estin*. Naturally, it was in Russian, but those are a couple of the hymns they chanted.

Christmas connections

Calling all Youth Workers- Christmas Resources (click on the underlined text):

[*Teaching website about the Feast of the Nativity of Christ:](#)

[*GOYA session on Christmas \(PDF file\),](#) **[*JOY session on Christmas \(PDF file\),](#)**

[*Find Orthodox children's books about Christmas,](#) including advent calendars, online at the following Orthodox book suppliers: www.orthodoxmarketplace.com, www.light-n-life.com, <http://www.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/departments/religious/>

[*Help your child discover the real Christmas,](#) **[*Orthodox Christmas ideas for children,](#) **[*More ideas on celebrating the Nativity,](#) **[*Orthodox Nativity resources from the Dept of Outreach and Evangelism,](#)******

[*Youth Activities,](#) **[*Suggested books for Christmas from Orthodox Family Life journal,](#) **[*Coloring Pages,](#) **[*Christmas Carol Lyrics,](#) **[*Teen activities,](#) **[*Teen Holiday Traditions](#)**********

Federation Trip to Greece, 2008

Please see the next page for forms and contact information.



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FEDERATION CHOIR TRIP TO GREECE

As you may remember, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios has recently been encouraging the federation to organize a choir tour to Greece. We have accepted this challenge and have now begun making plans for this trip. We have confirmed with His Eminence a departure date of Thursday, June 5th, 2008, and a return on Monday, June 16th.

Traveling with His Eminence, we will be singing the divine liturgy at the church of St. Andrew in Patras, and also presenting a concert there. In addition we will visit Kalavryta, Zachynthos, Olympia, Delphos, and Meteora, presenting concerts of sacred and folk music. We will also sing the divine liturgy at a church in Athens.

While the cost of the trip cannot be confirmed at this date, based on this year's costs, plane fare will be approximately \$1000 to \$1200 per person, and the cost of lodging, food and local transportation is estimated to be approximately \$1000 per person. The federation will make every effort to keep travel costs low; for example, we are exploring the possibility of staying in homes while in Patras.

The core of the choir will be members of the Dormition choir from Greensboro, NC and the Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay, groups which were awarded gold medals in the Metropolis 2006 and 2007 Hellenic Dance Festival choir competitions. The group will be directed jointly by Kevin Lawrence and Joanne Kambouris. We are sure to have room for additional singers from around the Metropolis, especially tenors and basses. Since it is important to have some idea of how many are interested in taking part in this adventure, we ask you to fill out the brief survey and return it by the end this month.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Toula Chininis
336-288-7968
2LA@bellsouth.net.

CHOIR TRIP SURVEY

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Federation Choir Conference (years participated) _____

Voice Part _____

Any musical training in voice _____

Any musical training in an instrument _____

Member of church choir (years) _____

Please submit survey only if you are truly committed towards this trip. Selection may be based on auditions and choir director's recommendations.