



EASTERN ORTHODOX  
**CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION**  
 MILWAUKIE, OREGON

• SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2019 •

## *Harvest Festival*

By Harvest Festival Committee

*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133.1*

Our Harvest Festival is September 21st at 2p.m. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dessert and/or bag of chips or popcorn for snacks. A cart for the snack donation is downstairs at the bottom of the stairs. First-place blue ribbons will be given to the winners of Dinner is going to be at around 4:15 followed immediately by dessert. Our menu for dinner will be burgers with fixin’s, sesame slaw, and baked beans.



### *Schedule of Events*

- 2:00 Start time - games and snacks and drinks
- 2:45 Desserts Judged
- 3:30 Lawn Races
- 4:00 Dessert Winners Announced
- 4:15 Dinner Served
- 4:45-6:30 Musical Entertainment
- 6:30 Saint Story by Father Nicholas

We always need help clearing up and bringing tables and chairs back inside after the day’s events. Please help before Vespers if you are able. Hope to see you there!

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### UPCOMING EVENTS



September 19 - Catechism resumes, Thursdays at 7 PM

September 22 - Sunday school resumes

October 1 - The Protection of Our Most Holy Theotokos

*If you have submissions for the newsletter, please contact Moses Ziegenfus (evanziegenfus@gmail.com)*

# *Wildwood Trip 2019*

By Dn. Cuthbert Downs

For everyone who is looking forward to going down to Wildwood again this Fall to help the nuns at St. Xenia's Skete get ready for Winter, the pilgrimage this year is scheduled for the second weekend of October (10th-13th –which is Columbus' Day weekend). We have had



a very good response so far, but we can always accommodate more folks! If you'd like to go, please let Dn. Cuthbert or Martine Downs know soon. If you can't go this year, but you would like to support our pilgrimage, gifts of food for the monks and nuns or monetary gifts to help defray our expenses would be helpful and very welcome. As always, we covet your prayers for the success of our pilgrimage. If you would like to donate food items, or if you have any other questions about the pilgrimage, please feel free to ask!



## *Meet Our New Catechumen*

Annunciation recently welcomed Carrie Brennan as a catechumen! Carrie anticipates being baptized under the patronage of St. Anna.

# *First Fruits: A Youth Group Retrospective*

By Oscar David Johnson

As we enter into the Orthodox Christian Church New Year (Sept. 1), the Youth Group has much to be thankful for and reflect on. We have had some great trips to Astoria, Bend (Ore.) and Montana; bonded over sushi and summer yard work; and have been blessed with memories of both fun and faith.

Autumn camping and helping our sister parish in Astoria, Sunday hospitality fund raising, the annual Harvest Festival, and a new T-shirt are some of what's on the immediate horizon for the Youth Group. However, since harvest season punctuates the traditional New Year, it seems fitting to give an account of the previous year as a sort of "first fruits" offering for all the support the church community has sewn with its youth.

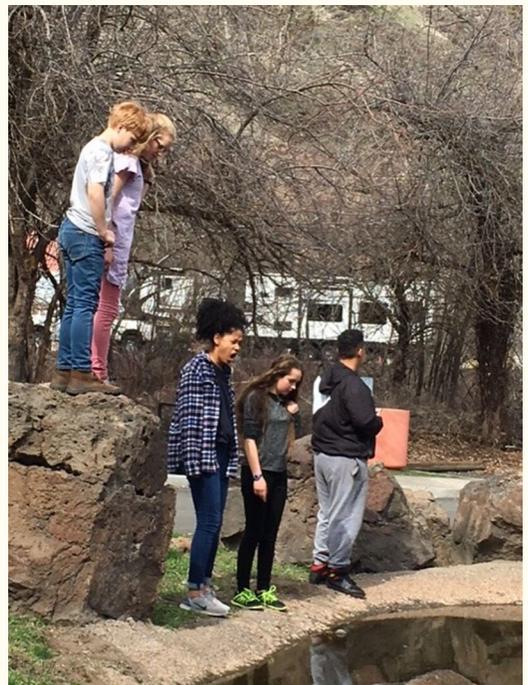
## **Youth Group Funding: T-shirts! Get your T-shirts!**

Look for the new "Annunciation Orthodox Church" T-shirt and help support the Youth Group! The youth came up with the idea to sell their own T-shirts as a fundraiser, and the new shirts have just come in! With support from other youth, Aquilina Larkins created the logo, which incorporates the church name, "Milwaukie, Oregon" and the Cross in a stylish yet modest design. Supply is limited, so see a Youth Group member to get yours today!

The Youth Group has been working hard to raise funds for the pilgrimage we made to St. Peter's Monastery in Harrison, Mont., in June (see below) and our planned 2020 pilgrimage to Alaska. And we've been blessed with some great results.

Notably, our Sunday hospitality chili fund raisers in January and May netted \$2,332 (\$1,212 and \$1,120, respectively); and eight yard work projects Annunciation youth did for parishioners this summer earned \$1,890. (Apologies to those we couldn't get to this year; please try us next year – and thanks everyone for your support!) That puts us close to about half of what we need for Alaska next year.

Why all the fund raising? The church provides an annual use-or-lose Expense Account of \$1,800 for Youth Group expenses, such as outings, activities and related supplies. But it's up to our young church members to step up and raise the money they need for more extensive, and expensive, travels and activities such as Montana and Alaska.





The Youth Group Service Account where these funds go can accumulate over time. So monies raised at any given time may not be just for the next summer pilgrimage, but future trips as well. Some youth fundraising efforts can be long-term investments in these future trips, while efforts from others who have aged out of the Youth Group can be a way to “pay it forward” to the next generation. These young adult Youth Group grads also can help out as much-appreciated chaperones.

These and other chaperones who volunteer to help out with our youth trips and activities are a boon. From heading up yard work crews to helping clean chili pots to driving on car-crippling road trips, they are the Youth Group’s unsung heroes! Thanks! Here is a recap of some of this year’s Youth Group activities that we could not have done without chaperones and other support from our church community.

### **What We’ve Been Up To: On the Road Again**

On February 2, nearly a dozen youth made their first group trip of the year as an overnighter to Saint Brendan the Navigator Eastern Orthodox Mission (<https://www.oca.org/parishes/o-ca-westsb-n>) in Astoria. Initially conceived as a December service project to help our sister parish spruce up the church property, circumstances dictated a later trip on which parishioners graciously hosted us in a nearby hotel and at church. It was a great bonding opportunity.

We took in the view at the historic 125-foot Astoria Column (after climbing all 164 stairs!), and Deacon Cuthbert and Martine Downs treated us to a presentation on their pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, UK. Fr. Kevin Lien serves Divine Liturgy at St. Brendan’s monthly, so that Sunday we were able to partake of Holy Communion and an agape meal provided by our generous hosts before heading home. We now look forward to returning to express our gratitude with some long-overdue labor in October. The trip also set the tone for our spring adventure.

March 28–31, about 10 Annunciation youth visited Bend to help Fr. Damian Kuolt and St. Jacob Orthodox Christian Church (<https://orthodoxbend.com>) parishioners lay the groundwork for a mission. The parish acquired a bookstore that they are converting into Agia Sophia Coffeehouse and Bookstore (<http://agiasophiabend.com>) to introduce locals to the Orthodox Christian faith. Fr. Damian organized a wonderful itinerary, and the community's hospitality was amazing!

The youth spent their mornings sorting, boxing, and moving an inventory of 50,000 books; moving bookshelves; and prepping for pending construction work. Our afternoons were spent ice skating and sledding in and around beautiful Bend. On our last evening there, Fr. Damian presented the movie *Risen* (<https://www.sonypictures.com/movies/risen>) about a Roman centurion tasked with investigating and finding the body of Jesus after his Passion and Resurrection; Fr. Damian led a stimulating discussion afterward. We were further blessed with Divine Liturgy and a scrumptious agape meal before departing the next day.

Our next adventure afforded an opportunity to reap the benefits of the youth group's oft-touted fundraising – and your generous contributions. By God's Grace, the harvest – of faith, fellowship and fun – was plentiful! As Maddie Reynolds wrote in our previous article, “We had an amazing time!”

June 23–30, eight youth—including one from St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church—made the de facto hajj (pilgrimage) to St. Peter's Monastery (<http://stpetersmonastery.com>) in Harrison, Mont., via caravan (camping on the way) for a rare summer youth camp experience. We joined about 60 youth and staff from as far afield as Pennsylvania and Colorado to help build the monastery, which is still a charitable work in progress. It was not for the faint of heart; and our youngsters soared to the occasion!

Teen work crews prepped and poured concrete foundations and walls, planted and pruned trees, and refurbished antique doors. Swimming and boating were available onsite; and field trips included a hot spring, cavern tour and majestic hike. Iconography, hymnography and Divine Liturgy workshops were on offer as well as daily lectures, reflection time, and group discussions. Plenty of clergy were on hand, including a visit from Archbishop Benjamin, as well as the Grace of Confession and two Divine Liturgies. As David Jensen's amazing video shows (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPMjYx-y3W8>), it all took place amid the rolling hills of bucolic Montanan beauty.

The following month, several of us joined youth from Holy Apostles Orthodox Church and St. John's for an impromptu movie night at Hollywood Theater on July 22. We got together for fellowship over burgers before walking over to see *Parallel Love: The Story of a Band Called Luxury*, an award-winning documentary about a rising young indie-Christian-punk band, three of whose members have since become Orthodox priest. They still play music together. The premier was followed by a Q&A with the film's director and band confidant..

Many, if not most, in attendance turned out to be members of other local Orthodox churches. Our youth get-together was the brainchild of Holy Apostles' youth coordinator Tasza. We plan for it to be the first of many, so don't be surprised if you see a few new young faces around on occasion

What's next? As I write this, the Youth Group is turning its gaze toward Annunciation Church's annual Harvest Festival. Youth will be volunteering to run the games; we'll also have a table and will be selling our new T-shirts. Look for us!



Image: <http://portlandgreekfestival.com/>

October 4th-5th-6th  
Friday & Saturday: 10 AM to 10 PM  
Sunday: 11 AM to 8 PM

Address: Holy Trinity Cathedral  
3131 NE Glisan St, Portland, OR

Admission: Free  
Parking: Street Parking

Phone: (503) 234-0468  
Email: [PortlandGreekFestival@gmail.com](mailto:PortlandGreekFestival@gmail.com)