



THE BASIL LEAF

St. Basil The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Parish Happenings:

The Stewardship campaign is still ongoing! If you haven't yet, please complete and turn in your Stewardship cards, and don't forget to include birthdays and anniversaries! 100% of packets have been distributed. Please take a moment to fill out and return them in the post-paid envelope or return them to the church admin office. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

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Take Back Terms, Give Good News

Fr. James Purdie

Evangelical and Bible Believing Christians are people of whom I am somewhat familiar. Perhaps I even used to be one. I certainly ran into them at the seminary. I meet them in Hampton Roads where I live. They are in my family. Many of my in-laws are what you might call "Evangelical," or "Bible Believing" Christians. Maybe they'd take issue with those labels, but they're not intended disparagingly. Most of the people I have in mind actually use those terms to describe themselves. What's more, I consider myself evangelical. I wouldn't even object to being called "Bible Believing," although it depends on how you define the terms.

There is joy in heaven over those who are being saved, and Christ, like the father of the prodigal son, makes a feast for his rescued child.

-St. Gregory of Nyssa

If evangelical means being concerned with missionary work and sharing the Gospel, then yes, I am evangelical. If it is understood as putting forth the effort to respond to the great commission (Matt. 28:16-20), then sign me up. If, however, the term is a synonym for a particular form of protestant Christianity allied with certain political movements, then you can take me off the list, for that is a false representation of what evangelical means. It is time we Orthodox re-appropriate the term.

We Orthodox are the original evangelicals. It is our Church who first received the Gospel. As such we are the first evangelicals. We brought it from Jerusalem to Judea, to Rome, and then to the world. It is our saints who did the missionary work. People like St. Mary Magdalene, Sts. Peter and Paul, the Twelve Apostles, The Seventy Apostles, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, St. Patrick and Columbkille, and all those saints who enlightened particular people and nations. Plus, all the faithful throughout every generation who shared the Good News with their families and friends, and those who acted as silent witnesses and public martyrs. Not to mention the monastic witness that brought the faith to countless people. As missionaries and evangelists, our Orthodox faithful brought Christianity to the world. Modern "Evangelicals" stand on the shoulders of those men and women. We Orthodox cannot and should not abandon the term and let it become narrowly defined by others.

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Parish Happenings (continued from p.1)

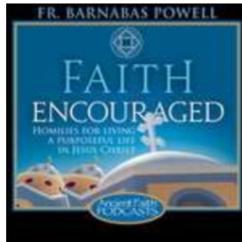
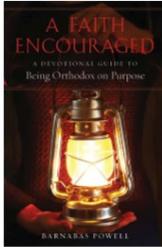
Studying for the Bible Bowl has begun! Over pizza, our teams are creating their own questions and are meeting regularly. If you or your student is interested, please let Kh Kelly know as there is space for a few more people. (Teammates not pictured are Caleb and Michael Nixon.



(Continued on page 3)



The OCF/Young Adult retreat will kick off with a Paraklesis Service on Friday, February 8th, at 7:00 p.m. following which Fr. Barnabas Powell will speak and take questions. Everyone is welcome to the Paraklesis and to hear Fr. Barnabas, not just the students. A reception to follow is for the young adults and students participating in the retreat."



https://www.ancientfaith.com/contributors/barnabas_powell

ST. BASIL THE GREAT YOUTH GROUP

Next Meeting
Friday, February 8th, 6:30pm
Game Night!

Our Youth Group is aimed at kids in the 5-8th grades, an age when kids first start to have meaningful and difficult questions about the faith. The Youth Group is a chance to give the kids at St Basil to ask these questions in an Orthodox environment. While the discussion is guided, there is plenty of space for kids to be involved and to have their concerns addressed.

Parish Happenings: (continued from p. 2)

SACRAMENTS

Baptism—

January 26, 2019

Dennis Benjamin Utugi Edens

Chrismation—

November 11, 2018

Adam Nasi

Marriage—

November 10, 2018

Derek and Rebeca Butler

December 29, 2018

Adam and Renee Nasi



Adam and Renee Nasi pose with family following their wedding

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY
ST. BASIL THE GREAT



MARCH 17, 2019
VESPERS
6:30PM

FEATURED SPEAKER
DN. JOHN GRESHAM
MEAL TO FOLLOW

Take Back Terms, Give Good News (continued from p. 1)

Now, I like coming across self-proclaimed Evangelicals. I like to tease them. God help me because I just can't help myself. I like to playfully tell them that I, too, am an evangelical and that I belong to an evangelical Church because I do. I belong to the Church of the Evangelists- the Church of the Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Orthodox Church.

I can also tell them that I belong to the original Bible believing Church because I belong to the Church that brought the Bible to the world. And when we gave the world the Bible, we actually believed the words therein. We still do. In fact, when push comes to shove, I find that we are the ones who most closely follow the Bible, despite what scripture-alone folks might say. We Orthodox should also re-appropriate the label "Bible Believing."

We can play this game all day long. For example, we are Pentecostal. We are the Church of Pentecost. The Church that was founded by the Holy Spirit. The Church that is still enlivened by the Holy Spirit. We are the first Baptist Church because we are the Church of John the Baptist (can you imagine how giddy I get when I come across someone from an Antioch Baptist Church? Helps if you know I am Antiochian Orthodox). We are the first Catholic Church. We have the fullness of the faith for the world. We are the first Church to have an altar call. In fact, we have two. The first one sounds like this "Holy things are for the Holy," and the second goes something like "With fear of God, faith and love draw ye near." We are the first Church to do feet washing (see Holy Week, and that time the Head of our Church washed His disciples' feet).

All of this is to give you some concepts and ideas to use when speaking to others about the Orthodox faith. It is also to encourage us Orthodox to lay hold terms, like "evangelical," that really ought to be associated with Orthodoxy. We've got to get out there and use the gifts God has given us. We've got to share the beauty of our faith.



**CHURCH
COMMUNITY &
RESPONSIBILITY**
Retreat

MARCH 30, 2019 | 10:00AM – 4:00PM
VESPERS AT 4:00PM

Featuring
Father Patrick Cardine of St. Patrick's Orthodox
Church, Bealeton, VA

Discussion Panel
Father Adam Sexton
Father John Cox
Father George Chioros

Registration details to come!

Dates to Remember

Great Vespers, Saturdays 6:30 PM. Matins, Sundays, 9:25 AM.
Divine Liturgy, Sundays, 10:30 AM.

Sunday School & Adult Ed, Sundays following Liturgy.

Feb

- 1 Homeschool Group, 9:00am
- 2 Presentation of Christ
Matins, 9:25am
Liturgy, 10:30am
- 3 Parish Council Meeting, 12:45pm
- 5 Bible Study, 11:30am
Chapel of St Basil, 7:00pm
- 8 Youth Group, Game Night, 6:30pm
OCF/Young Adult retreat with Fr. Barnabas
- 12 Bible Study, 11:30am
Chapel of St. Basil, 7:00pm
- 14 Orthodoxy on Tap, 7:00pm
Oozlefinch Brewery, Fort Monroe
(Change in location)
- 15 Homeschool Group, 9:00am
- 17 Antiochian Women's Meeting
- 19 Bible Study, 11:30am
Chapel of St. Basil, 7:00pm
- 26 Bible Study, 11:30am
Chapel of St. Basil, 7:00pm

Mar

- 1 & 15 Homeschool Group, 9:00am
- 3 Parish Council, 12:45pm
- 5 & 12 Bible Study, 11:30am
Chapel of St. Basil, 7:00pm
- 8 Youth Group, 6:30pm
- 17 Sunday of Orthodoxy, Vespers, 6:30pm

