

**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

WEEKLY BULLETIN

256 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-627-4389

Email: office@saintgeorgecathedral.org

Web: www.saintgeorgecathedral.org

Office Hours, Tuesday – Thursday, 9:30am to 2:30pm

**Very Reverend Archimandrite Ambrose Bitziadis-Bowers
Presiding Priest**



Today is: Sunday, December 26, 2021

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos

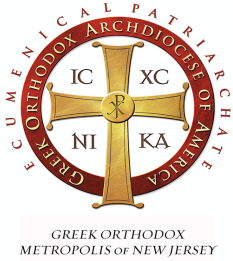
**Ἡ Σύναξις τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Δεσποίνης ἡμῶν Θεοτόκου
καί ἀειπαρθένου Μαρίας**

***Thank you for worshiping at St. George Greek Orthodox
Cathedral in Philadelphia.***

The work of the Cathedral in service to the Eastern Orthodox faithful and predominately the Greek Orthodox faithful to the city of Philadelphia is made possible entirely through private support. The gifts of people from across the country are behind every worship service, public ministry and the work of maintaining this historic landmark. It is only through your generosity that the Cathedral can fully live into its priorities of welcoming, deepening, convening, and serving.

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Visit: www.stgeorgecathedral.org to sign up for our weekly newsletter. You can also make a gift to help keep the Cathedral strong -- either as the plate is passed or by using our online giving program.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please know that your presence with us today has been a blessing.



Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Fax: (215) 627-4394 • Web: saintgeorgecathedral.org
Very Reverend Archimandrite, Ambrose Bitziadis-Bowers, Presiding Priest
office@saintgeorgecathedral.org

My beloved parishioners and friends of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral,

Whether you are returning Greek Orthodox to our legendary St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, or a newcomer to Philadelphia, or the Greater Delaware Valley, or someone with an emerging interest in the Orthodox Faith, I, the Parish Council and the parishioners and families of St. George Cathedral welcome you to our home where we have been serving for close to 100 years. Since the days of the first Divine Liturgy back in 1912 in the original church and continuing through their current St. George Cathedral, the people of Orthodox faith have gathered together for prayer, faith foundation, worship, service to the poor and fellowship. As a parish community, some of our proudest moments come through the children served through our Religious Education and Greek school programs creating the next generation of Orthodox to serve here locally and to share the message of Christ throughout the world.

Our schools commit to teach as Jesus did; instilling a love of our Orthodox faith and love of neighbor. St. George Cathedral Religious and Greek Schools create a caring, respectful environment which promote the learning of language, history and tradition and religion, and develop faithful Christians and responsible citizens. The schools strive to reach each child through an engaging environment filled with hands on teaching and a true compassion for sacred life. Instilling a love for God, the teachings of Jesus and a true passion for learning are the most important lessons we can share with our children.

I ask that you go to the website of the Cathedral at: <https://www.saintgeorgecathedral.org/language.html> for the Greek School and: <https://www.saintgeorgecathedral.org/education.html> for the Religious Education School for an opportunity to learn more about our Cathedral Schools. Please contact the Principals of the Religious Education School, Eleni Belisonzi at: ebelisonzi@gmail.com and Agnes Zidros, the Directors of the Greek School at: Saintgeorgeagnes@verizon.net or for both the office of the Cathedral at: 215-627-4389 for more information, or to arrange a tour. They look forward to hearing from you!

I certainly hope you will acquaint yourself with what our schools have to offer by exploring our website and find something that interests you as well as encourage you to become an active member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any other member of the parish staff, by calling the Parish Office at (215-627-4389) or office@stgeorgecathedral.org.

God Bless you all,

Very Reverend Archimandrite Ambrose Bitziadis Bowers
Dean of the Cathedral

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

TODAY	SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sat., Jan. 1	St. Basil the Great (THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR) 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sun., Jan. 2	SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy <i>-Memorial Service Aikaterini Bitziadis. May her memory be eternal!</i>
Wed., Jan. 5	The Royal Hours of the Epiphany with the St. Basil's Vesperal Liturgy, and the Holy Water Service Service starts at 8:30am
Thur., Jan. 6	THE HOLY EPIPHANY with the Service of the Holy Water 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Frid., Jan. 7	St. John the Baptizer 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Sun., Jan. 9	SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sun., Jan. 16	12TH SUNDAY OF LUKE 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Mon., Jan. 17	St. Antony the Great 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Tus., Jan. 18	St. Athanasius the Great 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy

ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΚΟΝ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

ΣΗΜΕΡΟΝ	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ 8:45π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 10:00π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία
Σαβ., 1 Ἰαν.	Ἁγίου Βασιλείου τοῦ Μεγάλου (ΑΡΧΗ ΤΟΥ ΝΕΟΥ ΕΤΟΥΣ) 8:45π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 10:00π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυρ., 2 Ἰαν.	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ 8:45π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 10:00π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία <i>-Τεσσαρακονθήμερον Μνημόσυνον Αἰκατερίνης Μπιτζιάδου. Εἶθε ἡ μνήμης αὐτῆς νά εἶναι αἰωνία!</i>
Τετ., 5 Ἰαν.	Οἱ Βασιλικές Ὁρες τῶν Θεοφανίων μετά τοῦ Ἑσπερινοῦ τῶν Θεοφανίων καί τῆς Θείας Λειτουργίας τοῦ Μ. Βασιλείου, καί τοῦ ἁγιασμοῦ τῶν ὑδάτων Ἡ ἀκολουθίες ἀρχίζουν στίς 8:30π.μ.
Πεμ., 6 Ἰαν.	ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ 8:30π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 9:00π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία, καί ἐν συνεχείᾳ ὁ ἁγιασμός τῶν ὑδάτων
Παρ., 7 Ἰαν.	Ἁγίου Προδρόμου καί Βαπτιστοῦ Ἰωάννου 8:30π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 9:30π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυρ., 9 Ἰαν.	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ 8:45π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 10:00π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυρ., 16 Ἰαν.	ΔΩΔΕΚΑΤΗ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΛΟΥΚΑ 8:45π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 10:00π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία
Δευτ., 17 Ἰαν.	Ἁγίου Ἀντωνίου τοῦ Μεγάλου 8:30π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 9:30π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία
Τρίτ., 18 Ἰαν.	Ἁγίου Ἀθανασίου τοῦ Μεγάλου 8:30π.μ. ὁ Ὅρθρος, 9:30π.μ. ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Sun., Jan. 9** **100th Anniversary Vasilopita Cutting and Philoptochos Sisterhood Luncheon. Proceeds benefit St. Basil Academy, Garrison, NY**
@ the Social Hall immediately after the end of the Divine Liturgy
- Mon., Jan. 3** **Metropolis of New Jersey Vasilopita Cutting with the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America**
@ 6:00 pm @ the Metropolis Head Quarters, Westfield, NJ
- Tues., Jan. 4** **100th Anniversary Committee Meeting**
@ the Cathedral Office, @ 6:00pm
- Tues., Jan. 11** **Parish Council Meeting**
@ the Cathedral Office @ 6:30pm.
- Sun., Jan. 16** **Vasilopita Cutting Brotherhood of Demati, Ipiros, Greece**
@ the Social Hall immediately the end of the Divine Liturgy
- Sun., Jan. 30** **Metropolis of New Jersey Greek Letters Celebration with the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America**
@ St. Luke Church, Broomall, PA, @ 4:00pm
- Tues., Feb. 1** **Parish Council Meeting**
@ the Cathedral Office @ 6:30pm.
- Tues., Feb. 8** **100th Anniversary Committee Meeting**
@ the Cathedral Office, @ 6:00pm
- Sun., Feb 13** **100th Anniversary Historic presentation and Stewardship Sunday**
@ the Cathedral Social Hall, immediately the end of the Divine Liturgy

THE EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians

1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Ο ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

1.11-19

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἦκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἱστορῆσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

THE GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel is According to Matthew

2:13-23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

ΤΟ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαίον ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

2.13-23

Αναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου. Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνεῖλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὀρίοις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμᾶ ἠκούσθη, θρῆνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὄδυρμος πολὺς· Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσίν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεύει ἐπὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ Ἡρώδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral



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CHRISTMAS 2021

My beloved parishioners:

In few days we will be celebrating the kick-off of our Cathedral's 100th Anniversary year. On September 9, 1822, the cornerstone was laid for an Episcopal Church in Philadelphia which led America's fundraising support for the Greek War of Independence from the Ottomans. Exactly a hundred years later, this extraordinary Greek revival monument was bought by an emerging Greek community and became in 1922 the Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Philadelphia.

Since then we went through various liturgical seasons, our Christian and philanthropic ministries established and increased, our young students of the Catechetical and Greek Schools entered and graduated by the hundreds, buildings expanded, and district and national spiritual reputation uplifted; but beneath all of this spiritual evolution there is the living and changeless blessing upon all that transpires the Cathedral, blessed as all of us are by the smile of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our patron saint, St. George the Trophy-Bearer.

I hope and pray that this permanent reality of our patron Saint's blessing draws all of us closer together at this Christmas time and this celebratory upcoming year, and unite us in this great reality that all of us have been blessed to share. The word most commonly seen in the hymnology of Christmas is "peace," and I pray that this will be the best word that shall describe the atmosphere in our Cathedral in the years to come, in spring and summer, in autumn and winter.

Through sunshine and snow, light and shadow, there is a permanence to the real values that all of us have cherished here. The Cathedral community gives as best as it can and receives far more than it deserves of your own true loyalty, boundless generosity, and constant dedication. And as we are strengthened by your strength, I do hope that a very real blessing goes out from this place into all of our lives, to gladden our homes, to warm our hearts, to uphold our values, and to bring to us all, especially at Christmas time, the peace and blessing of the Christ child held in the arms of his dear mother, our Theotokos.

Christmas began with a family, and without that family there never would have been a Cathedral to love and cherish as a divine institution. And even in our present struggles because of the COVID pandemic, remember that we are not alone and that there is a God who journeys this life with us in our tragedies and sorrows. This is the incarnated Christ who came into the world to give us hope when we are desperate, and exuberate and lift us up to God.

May all of your families enjoy during this Christmas time the peace and joy that stretches across the years from Bethlehem, and may the New Year bring to all of you, abundance of health, continued blessings and spiritual prosperity.

With much love in Incarnated Christ our God,

Very Reverend Archimandrite Ambrose Bitziadis-Bowers
Dean of the Cathedral

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Starting in November, the Cathedral Philoptochos Sisterhood will be collecting gently used men's clothing and also toiletries for the **ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE** in Philadelphia for the Homeless. Please help us by contributing to this good cause. We will be collecting items until Christmas.

St. John's Hospice is a Catholic Social Service located in Center City Philadelphia. Established in 1963 by Monsignor Anthony J. O'Neil and the little brothers of Good Shepherd, St. John was created as an outreach ministry to serve and assist the poor and homeless in the community. St. John's continues to provide crucial, life-sustaining service with dignity, respect, and compassion to homeless men in Philadelphia. They take care daily close to 200 homeless people.

For contributions, please contact the Cathedral office @ 215-627-4389, or Jenny Kravaris @ 610-716-4502.



St. George Cathedral Philoptochos
“Ai Myrophoroi”

*Please join the members and friends of
St. George Cathedral to kick off the year
by celebrating the*

100 Year Anniversary!

January 9, 2022

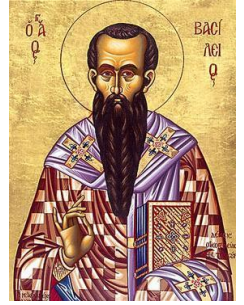
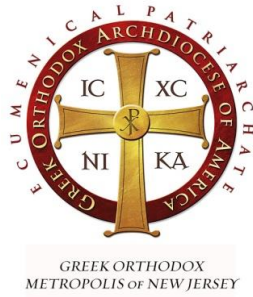
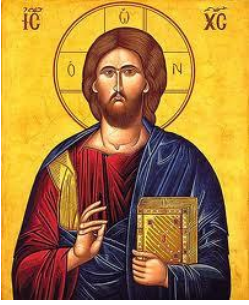
and the same time to help raise funds for

St. Basils Academy

with a luncheon and auction

Lunch: (Pastitsio, Salad & Dessert) - \$15.00





2022 Vasilopita Celebration



*His Eminence,
Archbishop Elpidophoros of America*

*Cordially invites the Reverend Clergy and their families,
the Members of the Metropolis Council,
the Archons of the Order of St. Andrew,
the Members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Society,
the Presidents of the Parish Councils and Parish Philoptochos
Societies, and all heads of the Parish Organizations to the
Metropolis Headquarters (215 E. Grove Street, Westfield, NJ)
to celebrate the New Year with the Cutting of the Vasilopita on*

Monday, January 3, 2022 at 6:00pm

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral



GOD BLESS & PROTECT OUR HEROES

**HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
FIRST RESPONDERS • ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

Welcome to Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Saint George is an historic Cathedral located in downtown Philadelphia, under the spiritual auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We extend to you a warm and heartfelt Orthodox Christian welcome. Our Greek Orthodox Cathedral is dedicated to imitating the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ by sharing the gospel with our words and living it with our lives. It exists to lead the faithful to the worship of the Holy Trinity according to the Faith and Tradition of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Our witnessing to our Faith is accomplished through the Sacramental life of the Church, its values and traditions, stewardship, fellowship, service, and Christian education.



Published by:

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Contact Information:

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