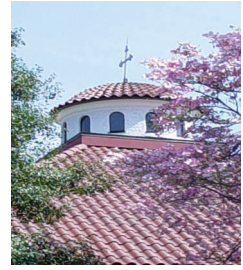


## PARISH COUNCIL

### Congratulations we're 40!

Forty years old usually marks a defining threshold for individuals. Many feel that this age is the loss of youth or the beginning of what is termed "middle age". Those who know better, realize that the 40<sup>th</sup> year brings with it a chance to demonstrate that the first four decades of personal experience will lead to a fruitful, productive future! In other words, an individual is most likely reaching a point where he or she begins to shape the future from the education, wisdom and vision amassed over time.



This is most evident within our parish of St. George. We are defining our future after a successful first 40 years of growing a church in Bethesda, Maryland. This has not been an easy task. The vision created by a handful of Greek Orthodox Christians 40 years ago and the risks taken to lay the foundation for this parish were the beginning of the labor of love that is St. George today. Scores of individuals along the way have added to and enhanced the community. We will celebrate our "ruby" anniversary in style!

All parishioners will receive an invitation to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. I encourage everyone to attend the events scheduled by the Parish Council and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. We are hosting our Taverna Night on October 20<sup>th</sup>, featuring comedian, singer Jimmy Santis. This is a first ever event for this area and you will surely enjoy the evening of mezethes, entertainment and dancing. Help us fill the house by bringing your friends and relatives!

The banquet on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October will be an elegant evening and a chance for celebrating our past and looking into the future. Our historical perspective will give us the realization that we continue to move in the direction of growing for the future needs of the church. On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate a Hierarchal Divine Liturgy followed by a brunch in honor of our Charter Members. The brunch, hosted by Philoptochos, will be the final event of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary festivities.

This is an exciting time for St. George. I hope that each one of you will make it a priority to be both part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary events and the future growth of our parish. You are the church of St. George! Respond to the invitation, reflect on our history, reenergize and renew your stewardship to this parish as we begin the next chapter in our history together.

***For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's building..... I Corinthians 3:9***