NEWSLETTER

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Ss Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

2747 Riva Rd
Annapolis, MD 21401

Office: 410-573-2072

Reverend Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Throne,
Kosmas Karavellas

Volunteers Needed

The following items are in need off attention within the parish. If you are interested to participate and volunteer some time and/or expertise in these areas please contact the office to leave your contact information and area of interest.

Flower Pots Around the Church

There are flower pots at several entrances to the building. If there is anyone that likes to take care of flowers and can spend a few hours for every season to freshen them up, would greatly be appreciated. The only thing you will need is the knowledge of flowers and the ability to arrange them.

Handy Persons

There are always items that need some repair or cleaning within the church. Light bulbs burn out, light painting, minor repairs on our aging building. Please come and help keep this place, that we love to assemble and enjoy for many occasions, alive and well taken care of. It would be great to see a group of people regularly take on

Welcome

Greetings from the Ss Constantine and Helen (SCH) Greek Orthodox Church of Annapolis. This is the first of hopefully a regularly posted newsletter informing the parish of happenings and events. Starting slow, this newsletter will be quarterly, and progress to monthly. The Parish Council looks forward to the continued efforts in creating and distributing this communications platform. Every mission of SCH is encouraged to participate and contribute whatever they would like the parish to know, event updates, registration events, and calendars etc..

Newsletter Content Creator

Like what you see here?
It is important to communicate to the parish. The council is looking for a content creator to assemble what our missions have been doing or planning and report through this medium. The ability to assemble documents, pictures from our many missions that are active in our community. The format is not yet determined, and may be changed to fit the needs of the church. The goal of this newsletter is to be quarterly in publishing at the moment. It should be able to be sent electronically and printed format.

Fr. Kosmas has performed the following services so far this year

Weddings, 12

Baptisms, 23

Funerals, 6

If you would like to publish to this newsletter please send articles, events and pictures to vicepresident@schgochurch.org

Message from the Parish Council:

Dearest Parishioners,

As summer arrives, activity at the church often slows down—but not this year. We have undertaken a sizable renovation of the Preschool bathroom, as approved in the 2026 budget at the General Assembly. The renovation involved removing the wall between the two existing bathrooms and creating one large, more functional space with five toilets and two large sinks. The project began promptly after the school dismissed for summer break and has now been completed. As is customary during the summer months, all classrooms are also being thoroughly cleaned and prepared for the upcoming school year.

This is just one of the many projects completed since the beginning of the summer. Our aging building continues to require periodic maintenance, including service to the sprinkler systems throughout the facility and regular maintenance of the kitchen hood. The parking lot lights have been replaced, and both fountains have been restored with the help of a very caring parishioner. The front stair treads and railings have also been repaired and painted.

Building maintenance is only one aspect of this busy summer. Father Kosmas has had a full schedule of weddings, baptisms, and our regularly scheduled services. Many of those being baptized come from outside the Orthodox faith and are searching for the fullness and truth of the Orthodox Christian religion. Please welcome them into our community with the open arms and hospitality that are such an important part of our heritage. We also congratulate the couples whose weddings Father has celebrated and look forward to welcoming their growing families into our Parish Community.

Our youth organizations continue to grow with the formation of the Parent Youth Organization (PYO). The PYO has been reaching out to the children and families of our community while organizing events and activities for Catechism School, the dance groups, JOY, and GOYA. See their section later in this edition.

In late June, our children participated in a weeklong Vacation Bible School focused on the Saints of Orthodoxy. The program included daily visits with Father Kosmas in the church and his office. We extend our sincere thanks to Christina Deuschel, her husband Stephen, and everyone who helped organize and carry out this wonderful event.

The church is also looking to restart its Greek Language Program with in-person instruction. Please support our children's ministries and follow the "Youth Corner Updates" in the newsletter for information about upcoming activities and opportunities to participate.

This year, the Parish Council introduced a new giving platform, Pushpay, as part of our transition to a true stewardship program based on freewill giving. In the past, our system relied on dues or minimum contributions for families and individual parishioners. Christian stewardship is a way of life that acknowledges our accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God.

True stewardship is more than making a financial pledge. As Orthodox Christians, we are called to promote spiritual growth and strengthen our faith by participating in all aspects of church life. Stewardship includes the offering of our time, talents, and resources. It extends beyond participation in the annual festival and invites each of us to support the ministries of our parish, as well as the work of the Metropolis and Archdiocese, in whatever ways we are able.

Two representatives of our parish attended the Clergy-Laity Congress in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme of the 48th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress was “Rise and Build.” This message from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros resonated with participants as a call not only to strengthen stewardship, but also to encourage every parish in the United States to continue growing spiritually.

This growth requires every form of stewardship, including the gifts of our time and talents. “Rise and Build” does not happen in isolation; it requires many hands working together. In the coming months, you will be asked to complete a new pledge card for 2027. These pledges help the Parish Council develop a responsible budget for the coming year. The pledge card will also include an opportunity for you to identify areas of expertise or knowledge that you may be willing to share with the Parish Council or another ministry of our beloved church.

We would be deeply grateful for your willingness to offer your time, talents, and support as we do our best to “Rise and Build” together.

As summer winds down, there is still much work to be done. The Preschool and Catechism School are being prepared for another successful year, and we look forward to increased activity throughout the church and its facilities as fall approaches.

Finally, in September we celebrated with a Dinner and Dance congratulating Father Kosmas’s 40 years of service to Saints Constantine and Helen Church and 45 years of priesthood. We pray that all of you had a wonderful time at this grand celebration and help honor Father Kosmas for his many years of dedicated service. During this celebration Fr Evangelos visited from St Stephens church in Kenya. He graced the attendants with. Presentation of his love for Fr Kosmas and the fantastic progress that has been made in building this church from donations and guidance from Ss Constantine and Helen Church. We were also very blessed to have his Eminence Metropolitan of Denver, Constantine present during the dinner dance, as well as Sunday morning celebrating with a Hierarchal Liturgy. Followed by a breakfast/ coffee social. This was a wonderful full weekend of events commemorating this momentous occasion.

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS! Father Kosmas.

With love in Christ,

Parish Council

PYO Page

The Parent Youth Organization is a group of volunteers with a mission is to provide connection, communication and fellowship across youth programs for parish youth of all ages, and their families and caregivers, as well as between youth programs, parish leadership, and the entire community. Our robust calendar includes weekly Sunday School classes, HOPE, JOY and GOYA fellowship events, Greek Folk Dance practices and events, Youth Choir and more. This year, we celebrated the start of the school year with a backpack blessing by Father Kosmas and Father Dimitri.

Please join us whenever you can. Contact our group leaders (Demi Padussis, Felicia Nolan & Kristy Chandler) at PYO@schgochurch.org for more information. We look forward to meeting you

Ss Constantine and Helen Preschool

Renovated Preschool Bathroom

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AHEPA Upcoming Events and Activities

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1) Oct 18, 2026 – AHEPA Meeting, After Church
2) Oct 29, 2026 – Happy Hour, Fleet Club Annapolis
3) Dec 10, 2026 – AHEPA Christmas Party, 7PM at the West End Grill
4) Dec 19, 2026 – Movie Night 7PM at Byzantium, Featuring ***Christmas with the Karountzoses*** – Ticket sales to benefit AHEPA Veteran Service Dog Project
5) Jun 19, 2027 – AHEPA District Convention and Grand Banquet – at Byzantium

Event being planned

Blood Drive

2nd Annual Bright Saturday Picnic, Spring 2027

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Buy Tickets or make Donations in the lobby after church

Stop by the AHEPA Table and Join today!

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Metropolis of NJ conference

In Late April, Ss Constantine and Helen Church hosted a Metropolis Clergy Retreat for the Metropolis of New Jersey. There were 55 Priests and Deacons attending the days long activities, which included a visit from the Ss Constantine and Helen Preschool children. The children sang Greek songs to the Clergy, showing off their musical skills. Metropolitan Apostolos greeted each of them and gifted them a wooden Cross to commemorate the event.

We welcome the newly appointed Metropolitan of New Jersey, his Grace Athenagoras of Nazianzos. His grace will be arriving soon from heading the Archdiocese Department of Religious Education. We look forward to his enthronement and pray for many years of leadership for our Metropolis.

AXIOS!