



OYMT REVIEW

Becoming: Walking like Christ

“Anyone who claims to be intimate with God ought to live the kind of life Jesus lived.”

1 John 2:6



To show our appreciation to all of you, our stockholders, who helped make the Orthodox Youth Mission Team trip to Kentucky possible this past July, we cordially invite you to join any one of our appreciation events and enjoy some delicious homemade food.

You'll see a slideshow of our trip and hear from members of our team about the amazing experiences we had on our mission trip.

We hope you can make it!

PHOTO ALBUM: If you cannot attend, please view our photo gallery at <http://www.oymt.info> #aspmartin

Stockholder Appreciation Events

Presentations will be held at the following parishes

Sunday Sept. 27, 11:00am

St. John's Orthodox Church
364 Mill Hill Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Sunday Sept. 27, 11:30am

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
74 Joes Hill Road
Danbury, CT 06811

Sunday Oct. 4, 11:00am

St. John's Orthodox Church
145 Broad Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Sunday Oct. 4, 11:30am

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
46 Seymour Street
Yonkers, NY 10701

Sunday TBD, 12pm

St. Barbara's
Greek Orthodox Church
480 Racebrook Road
Orange, CT 06477

All are welcome!



One Fruitful Week in July

The Orthodox Youth Mission team was in Warfield, KY from July 11-18, 2015 to participate in the Appalachian Service Project (ASP). The team was lead by Father Luke Mihaly of Holy Trinity in Danbury, CT, Father David Cochran of St. John's in Bridgeport, CT, and Father Michael Chendorain of St. John's in Perth Amboy, NJ, along with 11 other adult leaders. The team consisted of 23 teenagers from the parishes of Holy Trinity Danbury, CT, St. John's Mill Hill Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, Holy Trinity Yonkers, NY, St. John's Stratford, CT, St. Alexis, Clinton, CT, St. Barbara's Orange, CT and St. John's, Perth Amboy, NJ. We worked on 4 homes doing a variety of exterior and interior work including painting, flooring, drywall, building stairs and deck, siding, deck handrails, and trim work. In addition to the construction work, the

team participated in many social, cultural, and devotional activities with three other church groups at the center. After a long week of hard work, the team was rewarded with a visit to Hershey Park. We were blessed to be able to bookend our trip with visits to two other parishes. On the way down we attended Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's in Bluefield, WV with Fr. Mark Tyson and on the way home we joined Fr. Jim Jadick's parish at Holy Ascension in Frackville, PA. Both parishes were most gracious in their hospitality. If you are interested in joining the Orthodox Youth Mission Team, creating your own team, or have any questions, please come to one of our Thank You events, or contact us at www.oymt.info.

Reflections

Matt Delcher - ASP was an experience that I thought was not possible. Originally, I expected to come out knowing that I helped somebody and that I would make a difference. However, I was able to leave with so much more. I was able to step back and completely understand what I was doing. The experience was like no other. The people were great and the staff worked their hardest. The programs and activities were fun and made life after the workday enjoyable. Even with all the complications like the power constantly going out and detours to the work place, I feel I can say that the experience was wonderful and I would do it again.

Michael Delcher - At the beginning of the week, I had no idea what to expect. I thought we would only see and interact with the families once or twice. I was not expecting kids or many pets. I also thought that we would start an entirely new project for the house. Instead, the people we were working for talked to us every day, and offered to help in any way. We talked to and played with their seven-year-old daughter every day. Also, they had two dogs, and everywhere we looked we saw chickens. We also ended up getting assigned to finish and expand on a previous job. Overall, this week was amazing and I won't forget it.

Luke Faubel - This was my fifth year of ASP and also one of the most memorable experiences of my life. This past week, we were working on flooring, dry walling, painting and installing a new ceiling. The family whose house we were working on was a couple named Bishop and Sandy, Sandy's twin sister Brandy, and their daughter Elizabeth. The most incredible

moment this week was the last day of work when we were saying goodbye. That day we showered the family with gifts for them to remember us by. I'll never forget the joy and blissful expression on Elizabeth's face. She not only had a new bedroom, but also had a new wardrobe. Of all my years at ASP, this year holds a special place in my heart and I'm so blessed to have been a part of this mission trip.

Nick Fazekas - ASP stands for so much more than embarking on a trip to relieve the unparalleled strain and burden some of the people we serve endure. Warmer, safer and drier is what ASP sets out trying to ensure and establish as a reality. The bleak reality is that our efforts will never extinguish or even dilute the potency of the poverty straining the region, though we have been enabled to shine an un-diminishable light. Our future as individuals, and that of the entirety of God's never ending majesty; intertwined with diversity, individuality, epidemics, vengeful hostilities, and inescapable distractions isn't written in stone. The littlest things have a tendency to evoke the greatest impact. Many come on ASP to have a physical impact on society, though they depart having formed new friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime. We are showing people that they aren't alone, and that they haven't fallen into obscurity, and that there is a lifeline that grows continually year after year. God has a way of leading people where they need to be and I find myself holding ASP as much of a highlight of my fourth consecutive summer as I believe it is with those attending for their first time.

Reflections

Will Fazekas - I went into this trip thinking it would be just like the last. But as we got to Kentucky, and we met the family we'd be helping, I quickly realized how wrong I was. That's the thing. No matter how many years you've been on the trip, nothing can ever really prepare you for what you're going to experience. And this reminds me of an expression I really love, and that is, "Life isn't measured in the breaths we take, but the moments that take our breath away." And this week, I truly felt like I was living to my full potential. And I concluded that I want to live a life making people happy and giving them a new sense of hope. I want to restore peoples' hope in humanity, and show them that no matter how hard life gets, someone will always be there to help you, and I want to be that person. I want to live that life.

Tess Grimaldi - This year was my fourth time participating in ASP, and each trip has been wonderful in its own way. What stuck out to me this year was the impact I can have on a person in a mere five days, not just materially but on a personal level as well. The family that I worked for was not only grateful for the work we had done, but they were incredibly sad to see us leave when the week was through; just before we left on the last day, the young girl of the household gave me a hug and told me that she loved me. It's moments like that which resonate within me and remind me that ASP has given me so many wonderful opportunities to be a part of others' lives, and has helped me grow as a person in the process.

Alena Kittleman - This year was my first year doing the ASP trip. At first I was nervous and not very excited. But as we started having more and more meetings I started making new friends and getting to know everyone so much better. As we were driving up to Kentucky I got to know everyone on the trip and by the last day I was close with all of them. I would

have to say my first trip did not turn out the way I was hoping it would have due to some other things that happened in my life during the week. But knowing that my crew and leaders were all there for me with comfort and love made it so much easier to get through all the bad things. My work crew was great, we all worked so diligently together and all got along great. We got a lot done and managed our time very well. I would have to say I'm very happy with the work we got done this week and I think Tim was very appreciative and thankful for everything we did for him. Overall I am very blessed to have gone on this trip with all these amazing people. I can't wait for next year to come.

Lexi Klimaszewski - This was my second year on ASP. I was excited to go on the trip again, and this time I knew what to expect. Yet after having such an amazing experience last year, I wasn't sure how this trip could be any better than my previous one. This week ended up being the best week ever. It was ten times better than last year, and last year was already amazing. I got the opportunity to get to know people I knew from last year better, and to meet new people in both my group and from other churches. I loved my crew, a group of people I was originally a little skeptical about. We all worked very well with each other, and together with another crew we got so much more done than I ever could have imagined. I learned so much this year, and also got to do some things on my own and be a teacher to the new members of our group. My family was also incredible. We repaired the home of a sweet couple, very quiet but always wanting to help and be a part of the work. At the end of the week, we were able to provide a much warmer, safer, and drier home for a beautiful family. I have been blessed to be a part of two amazing ASP trips, and I can't wait until next year.

Reflections

Natalie Klimaszewski - Going into ASP, the thing I was most worried about was not knowing anyone. How wrong I was! ASP's purpose may seem like it is to help repair houses while it really is about making friendships. Everyone is so loving and open that it creates a sense of unity and I had no trouble bonding. Sunday, the day we arrived at the center, was the first time that I was hit with an overwhelming wave of "this is going to be alright, you're not alone." I was sitting in the secluded playground with Tess and Anastasia, both of whom I'd barely uttered a sentence to before, and I was so comfortable. We sat there for over an hour, just talking and listening to music. Since then I've had so many great moments with all the people in our crew and some pretty deep talks. That's another thing about ASP, it forces you to see your life and the world in a different way. You see people in dire situations and realize things you thought were horrible simply don't matter that much. Being in such close quarters with so many girls usually would create tension, but things that would have caused controversy at home simply didn't. We knew that we were lucky to have shelter, food, and (for the most part) power. Also being surrounded by so many people with such strong faith really opened up deep thoughts and conversations about religion, which I believe benefited me tremendously. Finally, one of the best things that I got to see on this trip was my relationship with my family growing. At first they were so shy and quiet but by the end they were cracking jokes and talking about their personal lives. They wanted to help in any way possible. Our lady was walking around with a dustpan, opening the trash for us, and even got down on her hands and knees to scrub the floor with us. That was probably one of the highlights of my time with ASP. Definitely this has been one of the most humbling experiences in my life.



Building stairs and deck

Matthew Kuziak - Being my second year at ASP I thought I had an idea of how the week was going to go. I did know a little more about the structure of the week, but the week itself was very different from last year. The power outages at the center were something I definitely didn't expect. That was definitely a big difference from last year, but also at the work site there were some differences. Last year, the house I was working on had just one elderly woman. This year I had a husband and wife with a 7-year-old daughter living in the house we were working on and their entire family living in houses surrounding them. It was great to talk to all the different people including their friends that visited on a daily basis. Also last year being my first year I didn't know many people in my work crew. This year 2 out of the 4 people I was working with were two of my best friends from last year. Overall the trip as a whole was a great time thanks to my great work crew and the great

Reflections

Derek McKane - This is now the end of my 2nd year at ASP, and as expected, it was different in almost every way from last year's trip. I'm going to start out with what ASP means to me. So, what ASP means to me is not just making homes warmer, safer and drier. It's about making relationships with your homeowner(s). It's about maybe you leaving a mark on them so they would change for the better and them maybe leaving a mark on you. It's about making new friends, either within OYMT, or making new friends with the other church groups from around the center. It's also about improving people's lives and that just doesn't happen to the homeowners on the house you are working on. You help change the whole community a little bit at a time, because when ASP works on some houses in a town for a whole summer, the people in that town become very amazed and happy for what us volunteers are able to accomplish in the 6-7 weeks we are there. So they try to give back in any way they can. For example, this week one of the other crews in the center's vehicle got stuck in a ditch on the side of the road near their jobsite. Their homeowner went down the street to go get his friend that has a tow truck, but while this was all happening, one of his neighbors came with his pickup truck and tried to pull him out. He was unable to pull him out, but the fact that he attempted to help the without them asking for his help shows that when ASP comes to town, the people of that town will try to help us out as much as they can. In conclusion, I loved going to ASP every year and I plan to come back next year.

Andrew Nolan - This has been my 4th year and it continues to be as rewarding and eye opening of an experience as ever. I am truly lucky to be able to continue to participate in such an amazing program as ASP. Appalachia seems to be this far off place that one might not think about much in our daily lives, yet it's one of the poorest places in the country. We

are blessed with luxuries in our lives that mean so much to us but which, in fact, are absolutely unnecessary. ASP makes a huge difference to the families they serve, and the whole community, which is made evident by the sincere gratitude shown to us everyday at worksites and in town. I'm already looking forward to next year's trip and hopefully can continue to make a difference by possibly joining ASPs summer staff in the years to come.

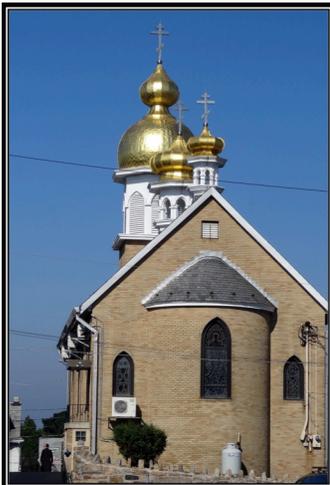
Peter Nolan - At the beginning of the year I was hesitant to commit to participating in ASP but now that the trip is over I'm glad I participated. The trip made me realize how much of an impact a small group of people could have on a family by only working for five days. In addition it makes everyone aware of how fortunate they are. Overall I am glad that I participated in the Appalachian Service Project.

Ana Radcliff - This week was an adventure for me. I didn't know what to expect from this trip, and I was a little hesitant about going. But ASP was an experience I will never forget. I learned new things, abilities, etc. I made some wonderful friends, had tons of fun, and enjoyed every single moment of it. Because of ASP I have gained more confidence, more self-esteem, and made me a better person. I would love to come back and learn even more next year.

Madeline Sulich - This year was just as amazing as the last years. I was building a porch for a younger couple with two kids. They were shy at the beginning of the week but by Friday they were outside with us the entire time talking and playing. It was so inspiring to see this family so happy about the porch we built them, which to us is such an amenity. Although next year I will be going off to college, I hope I will be able to continue making homes warmer, safer and drier.

Reflections

Joe Symochko - This was my second year at ASP, and it was an even better experience than my last one. As many people probably know, I'm a very lazy kid, and even though I had more work to do than last year, it wasn't bad. Honestly, it can be strenuous work, but when you know who you're doing it for, you don't even think about how tiresome it is. Because not only are you doing for the family in need, but you're doing it for yourself and increasing your own faith in God. But of course, working isn't the only part of ASP. I had a great time at the center playing and building strong relationships with people I don't see too often. Overall, I loved this year and can't wait to go back. I highly recommend and hope that more people will decide to join next year.



Liturgy at Holy Ascension in Frackville, PA



Liturgy at St. Mary's in Bluefield, WV



Nick Symochko - This year was very special to me. Every ASP trip that I've been on is special. I love coming to ASP each year with my Church family and my younger brother Joey Symochko because of all the friends I make and I get to serve the Lord and help those who are living in poverty. This year I helped out a guy named Timmy. A nice man and a little bit on the shy side, but still nice. The project that I had to do was in one room, and in that one room we did flooring, sheetrock, drop ceiling, lighting, windows, threshold, painted, and trimmed. The room looked beautiful. I could not believe how beautiful the room looked. This week on Friday, I did the morning devotion and I spoke a little bit about talents and how God gave each and everyone of us gifts and to use them to serve others this week at ASP. I am glad that God has sent me to Kentucky this week. I want to come back next year.

Reflections

Adriana Szpynda - This is my second year on ASP and I want to keep coming back every year. The experience is indescribable, but I'm going to try to explain it in the hopes of expanding our team. You go down to Appalachia, bear the hot and muggy weather, and work through the dirt and sweat in order to contribute in one of the 7 weeks of the ASP program. That sounds like a lot of work for some amateur kids to go and do construction work. But we don't feel like amateurs when we see the homeowner's smile or tears as they see their brand new roof. It doesn't look like amateur work when you see brand new walls and flooring put down throughout their house. It doesn't feel like just a minor impact when you hear how many thousands of dollars ASP puts into these communities just from buying food for all the volunteers. And it especially does not leave a minor impact on you, a volunteer, when you finish your job Friday and have to leave your worksite with a mixed feeling of pride and sadness. We make ourselves uncomfortable to make other people's homes warmer, safer and drier, and that's what ASP is all about.



Team Szpynda



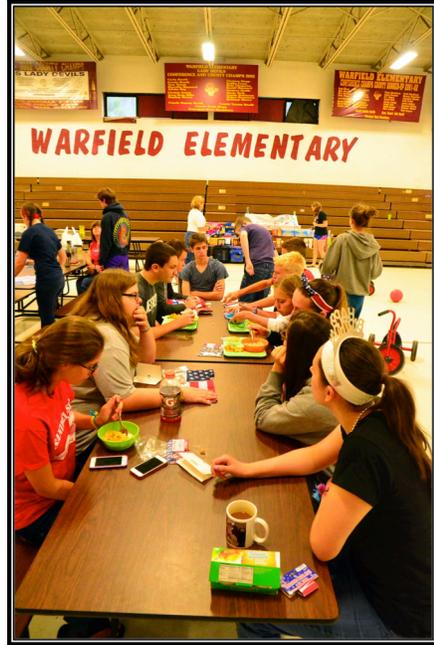
Getting the flooring just right

Emily Szpynda - This was my second year at ASP and I thought I knew what to expect. Although this year's trip differed with power outages, floods and brand new amazing people, it still gave me the same full force strengthening of faith and passion for helping others. This service project is not just what people think of when they hear of it. Yes, we all come down to help those less fortunate and all of our phones become just metal and plastic with the extremely sketchy service but there's so much more that they don't understand unless they take part in it. Our faith and our beliefs are questioned and picked apart regularly during our daily routines all year round. The Internet, outside influences and modern science has changed the upcoming generation's perception a lot. ASP has not only allowed me to make friends with some of my favorite people in the world but also helped me truly get a firmer grip on my faith. Coming down to Appalachia and putting everything into action has made me understand what our faith's about and I wish every kid could go through the same thing. It's truly a great trip and I want to do it again and again.

Reflections

Melissa Tartaglio - To say that my experience from this year is the same as last year would be a lie. However my experience this year was just as good as last years because they are both fulfilling in very different ways. This year I was able to experience the sadness of leavening my family more than last year. I feel as though I was able to connect really well with my family; more so with the woman of my house than the man. I remember when Aleisha and I started talking about hair and how much we both hated the spiders that just hatched on her door frame. Like I said, I felt that this year I was actually able to connect with the people who lived and that house, and was very sad to see them off. I'm very happy, however, that I was able to make such a good connection that when it ended it would leave me upset. Overall this year seems to be my best one yet.

A.J. Tomaszek - This year was my first year at ASP. I definitely want to come back! It was an enjoyable experience. We got to do things I wouldn't expect we could do. Overall, I had a wonderful trip!



Cafeteria Living

Kaitleen Villa - This week was amazing and not what I expected at all. It was way better than what I expected. I enjoyed everything about it. My favorite part was getting to meet new people and spending time with them by playing games or just talking and getting to know them. What touched me most was the family that my crew and I built a porch and fixed the roof for. They were so grateful for all our hard work and they were so generous and kind. I have never looked up at the sky and seen so many bright clear stars until the first night that we spent at the center that we stayed at for the week. It was so incredibly beautiful. This whole week was one of the best experiences I have ever had.

Jacob Villa - This was my first year at ASP but I am absolutely coming back next year. This was such a fun week. I got to try new things I normally wouldn't, for example, I build a porch, made warm and fuzzies, and made friends for the summer. I had so much fun and I will definitely continue doing ASP!



Culture Night



The team was rewarded with an evening at Hershey Park

We're already booked for 2016!

Save the Date!

Orthodox Youth Mission Trip to Appalachia
July 9-17, 2016

If you are a teen or adult interested in joining us,
please attend one of our presentations, or contact:

Susan Sulich ssulich@yahoo.com

Fr. Luke Mihaly padreluke@aol.com

Fr. David Cochran pauldcochran@gmail.com

Fr. Michael Chendorain fathermikec@verizon.net

For more information about our team, visit www.oymt.info,
and for the ASP organization, visit www.asphome.org.

Thank you again for supporting us, and we hope
you will invest in our success again next year.