

St. Barbara Monastery – 15799 Ojai Road – Santa Paula, CA 93060
(805) 921-1563 – www.stbarbaramonastery.org

The January Gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery

Sunday, January 25th, 2015

4:00 pm: Presentation

GREAT LENT: Entering into the Wisdom of Christ

Speaker: V. Rev. Paul Waisanen

Pastor of St. Herman Church, Oxnard, CA

5:00 pm Vespers

6:00 pm Potluck

DIRECTIONS TO THE MONASTERY

From Highway 101 – Exit Hwy 126 East at Ventura.

Travel 11 miles east along Hwy 126 and exit 10th St/Hwy 150 at Santa Paula.

Turn left from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.

Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.

Travel about five miles (1/4 mile past Thomas Aquinas College) to 15799 Ojai Road.

The monastery driveway is on the right just past our mailbox at Highway Marker 2830.

Drive across the bridge and follow the signs to the parking area.

From Highway 5 – Exit Hwy 126 West at Santa Clarita.

Travel 27 miles to Santa Paula, and exit at 10th St/Hwy 150.

Turn right from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.

Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.

Continue as directed above.



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

At long last, we have had some rain, the creek on our property has begun to flow a little and the mountain meadows all around us have turned bright green. We are still officially in a drought and the new growth is two months behind, but Heaven has not forgotten us!

Just as, prompted by the rain, we were reflecting on the blessings of God pouring down on us, we learned of a significant donation being made toward the building of our chapel. Because this donation is a matching funds grant, it is intended to generate even more of the funds needed for this purpose. We should have particulars for you and a progress report regarding both the chapel construction and the fundraising by the time of our next newsletter.

Meanwhile, as we mentioned, we have been reflecting on the many blessings (because they are too many to “count”) we have received in the form of “helpers.” People have appeared seemingly out of nowhere to help us with the work of harvesting and processing our lavender crop, assisting with the casket building, putting out our monthly Newsletter and setting up the tents, tables and chairs for the Friends’ gatherings. Our *Friend* Doug Jones from Ojai is ever ready to come by and fix some broken light switch or appliance. Our neighbor Tom Paroski has been known to arrive with his tractor to jockey a trailer into place and even rescued us on New Year’s Day (!) when our kitchen sink clogged up. Glenn Ritsema from Santa Barbara has come on numerous occasions to coax our ailing computers back into operation. We miss Phoebe Lenhart, who used to come faithfully every month to help us with the mailing of our Newsletter until she moved to northern California last summer. Meanwhile, James Mahlke never fails to drive all the way from Camarillo to spend the day before a Friends’ gathering or other event working with Mother Nina to prepare all that is needed. Then there are the church sponsored work parties—especially from St. Luke’s in Garden Grove, St. Barnabas Church in Costa Mesa, St. Timothy’s in Lompoc, and St. Innocent’s in Tarzana.

We thank the Lord for providing us with such an array of *Friends*. And we regard you as even more; you are our extended family, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Abbess Victoria
and the community of
St. Barbara Monastery

FELICE STEWART, OCMC MISSIONARY

Felice Stewart is an R.N. and mission specialist with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), who has been a long-term missionary in Tanzania, where she worked with Maria Roeber, sister of our own Sister Margarete of the Calistoga community. She has also worked as a short-term mission specialist for substance and alcohol abuse in Uganda and Romania. At present, Felice is in the U. S. awaiting assignment, and we are honored that she has chosen to spend some of her time at St. Barbara Monastery. She is with us as this newsletter goes to press and expects to be with us on January 25th when the next Friends gathering is scheduled. We hope that especially anyone considering participating in a tour of duty with OCMC will come and avail themselves of the opportunity to speak with a seasoned veteran from the field.



EXTRA! EXTRA! HEAR ALL ABOUT IT!

Pictured below is our very own project manager and casket builder Mitch Denny setting out from St. Barbara Monastery on his great adventure and pilgrimage to Romania and Mount Athos. With our *Friend* Bogdan Popescu as guide and a number of others, Mitch flew from LAX to Bucharest on December 26th (think low airfare) only to arrive there in a blinding blizzard. Although the group had to scratch plans to visit several Romanian monasteries during the first few days, Bogdan was able to find spur of the moment accommodations for everyone among his many friends in Bucharest. The following week they were able to continue on to Mount Athos, where they hoped to visit the Russian Skete of St. Elias as well as several Romanian sketes. We have received no details of their adventures yet as Mitch has been without internet access. But he is due back home on January 24th, just in time for the Friends gathering on the 25th. Do come to the Friends gathering and *hear all about it!*



The Yale Russian Male Chorus

conducted by Mark Bailey, Artistic Director



in concert

Friday, March 13, 2015

St. Athanasius Orthodox Church

300 Sumida Gardens Lane

Santa Barbara, CA 93111

(facing Hollister between Patterson and Ward)

Tickets: \$15 at the door only

\$10 Students & Seniors OPEN SEATING

**Proceeds will benefit the Chapel Building Fund of
St. Barbara Monastery in Santa Paula, CA**

Founded in 1953, the YRC served as a powerful force toward the preservation of Russian choral music during the Cold War era. It is now recognized as one of the world's most important performance ensembles of Slavic music. The YRC's repertoire, which spans from the 12th to the 21st centuries, includes a variety of sacred and secular music, including ancient chant, cultural songs, and major choral works by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakoff, and Rachmaninoff.

For more information, go to: www.stathanasius.org or call 805-685-5400