



# COME AND SEE...

The Happenings at our Diakonia Retreat Center



March 2012

My dearly beloved in the Lord:

**“Come, Let us go up to the mountains of the Lord ... that He may teach us His ways, that we may walk in His paths.” (Isaiah 2:3)**

Winter is a quiet time in the Blue Ridge Mountains, but already, as we begin Great and Holy Lent, there are signs of spring at our Diakonia Retreat Center. With the coming of spring, the season of hope and renewal, we realize even more how God is blessing us at this special place. So many of our dreams have come true in just a short time.

Yet though we see much good fruit as the result of the support of our entire Metropolis of Atlanta family, there is of course much left to do. Various facilities need expansion and improvement; we have the blueprints for a beautiful chapel

and plans to make our Diakonia Retreat Center truly a sanctuary for Orthodox Christians of all ages.

That is why I celebrate all the we have already accomplished in His Holy Name, and ask for your continued support for the special work being done to His Glory.

I remain, with prayers for a blessed and spiritually uplifting Great Lent,

+ALEXIOS

Metropolitan of Atlanta



## THE IMPACT

Meet the faithful who benefit from your gifts!



**Our Metropolis Philoptochos retreat happened at our DRC in January 2012—listen to these inspiring thoughts from our faithful!**

“I was a lot happier and enthusiastic about being a supporter of the camp after spending a wonderfully unique weekend there. I understand His Eminence’s vision so much better now and am glad to be able to be part of it.”

“The days were so relaxing, and the church services were cozy and meaningful.”

“Every time I go to the DRC I am amazed at the upkeep, the additions, the wonderful staff and delicious food, and the overall experience of being there. This spiritually uplifting weekend inspired us to sense the presence of God in our lives in order to find peace, joy, love, contentment, and strength through intimacy with the Holy Spirit and with God.”



## WHAT'S NEW? Here's how your gift helps...

There are always lots of exciting new developments to our DRC, not the least of which is the growth of our menagerie. In addition to chickens, goats, a donkey, a horse, sheep (and now little lambs), we also have some new puppies! The best news: the pups are currently up for adoption! As a thank you to you for your generous and faithful support of our DRC, you get first dibs on these gentle shepherd puppies. For more information, please call 864.944.6788.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

Join us! Here's what's coming up...



Next up at our DRC, Presbytera Vassi Haros is organizing the annual Lenten retreat for the GOYA of our Metropolis. Our youth will enjoy a weekend of fasting, prayer, and fellowship that prepares them for the journey of Great Lent. Don't miss out!

Also, we've added an extra week of St. Stephen's camp! It will be held the last week of June, and it is for our rising seniors and soon-to-be college freshman.

Join us by clicking here: [http://atlanta.goarch.org/index.php?pr=St.\\_Stephens\\_Camp](http://atlanta.goarch.org/index.php?pr=St._Stephens_Camp)

**For information on how to book an event, visit our website.**



## FROM OUR OFFICE:...

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to our Charleston Ladies' Philoptochos Society for their generous gift of \$5,000 for the beautiful barn that is the new home for our goats, sheep, the donkey, Jack, and our lovely horse, Sophia.

We offer a special thank you to all of our faithful Guardian Angels. Your support makes our life-changing ministries possible! Welcome to our new Guardian Angels from 2011, and keep your ears peeled for a special invitation to an exclusive retreat especially for our Guardian Angels as a thank you for your generous support.



## OUR DIAKONIA RETREAT CENTER

[www.diakoniareretreatcenter.org](http://www.diakoniareretreatcenter.org)

For more information on how you can contribute, please call:  
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