

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
November 18, 2012

Agenda

- i. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
 - ii. Minutes of the 2011 Meeting (*see below*)
 - iii. Priest's Report (*see below*)
 - iv. Treasurer's Report (*see below*)
 - v. Review and Approval of 2013 Budget (*see below*)
 - vi. Election of Officers (President, Vice President—Grounds, and Assistant Treasurer)
 - vii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."
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Minutes from the Annual Meeting

November 13, 2011

- I. The meeting was called to order with "O Heavenly King..." at 12 noon.
 - a. Establishment of quorum.

*Sam Leathers moved that quorum be established based upon those parishioners in attendance.
Judy Fryncko seconded.
Motion approved unanimously.*
 - b. Approval of the 2010 Meeting Minutes

*The misspelling of several names was noted and corrected.
Joanne Takarchek moved approval of the corrected minutes.
Karen Cattell seconded.
Motion approved unanimously.*
- II. Priest's Report (Fr. John Reeves)
 - a. Fr. John offered five-year attendance projections according to Natural Church Development.
 - b. Answered two questions from the report.
 - c. Indicated Holy Trinity membership stands at 128 members and 70 children.
- III. Treasurer's Report (Michael Stickles)
 - a. Holy Trinity currently has approximately \$95,000 in assets, of which \$12,000 is reserved for CHS.
 - b. We are slightly behind budget (\$300 below). Because of this, a conservative budget will be presented.
 - c. Holy Trinity will have a lower rate on its mortgage and utilities for 2013.

*Mark Radomsky asked a question regarding mortgage principal.
Chuck Beechan responded.*

IV. 2012 Proposed Holy Trinity Budget

- a. No major changes in budget categories.
- b. Mortgage budget line item.
Mark Radomsky asked if it was possible to invest mortgage savings or pay down the mortgage.
- c. All American Council budget line item.
Dn. Mark Oleynik asked why money was allocated for 2012.
Answer: Holy Trinity will set aside a third of the expenses each year before each triennial council.
- d. Sweep account.
- e. Approval of the 2012 Holy Trinity Budget.
David Swisher moved approval of the 2012 Holy Trinity Budget.
Megan Leathers seconded.
Motion approved unanimously.

V. 2012 Proposed Chapel of the Holy Spirit Budget

- a. Supply priest for Chapel.
Dea Biberdorf moves \$250 per supply event for a total of \$500 per year in "Personnel" category.
Joanne Takarchek seconds.
Discussion on the motion: Dn. Mark Oleynik remarks \$500 per year is too little.
Melody Thompson moves to amend the resolution to \$1,000 per year for supply clergy.
Sam Leathers seconds.
Amended motion approved unanimously.
- b. Travel allowance.
Melody Thompson moves priest's travel allowance be set at \$600.
Dea Biberdorf seconds.
Motion approved unanimously.
- c. Total expenses.
David Smith moves to change CHS total budgeted expenses to \$17,200 to reflect above changes.
Micah Cattell seconds.
Motion approved unanimously.
- d. Approval of 2012 Budget.
Mark Radomsky moved approval of the 2012 Chapel of the Holy Spirit Budget
Bruce Haupt seconds.
Motion approved unanimously.

VI. Election of Officers

- a. Ed Miranda, Vice President—Building
- b. Michael Pelikan, Secretary
- c. Michael Stickle, Treasurer
David Smith moved approval of the election slate.
Mark Radomsky seconded
Slate approved unanimously.

VII. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..." sung at 1:05 p.m.

Priest's Report

Brethren: Holy Trinity has much to celebrate over the year past and has several opportunities in 2013 to further our mission of building up the Church beyond our parish.

First, let me highlight a number of unqualified successes. [*Sections with asterisks (*) have their own reports and I refer you to them for greater details.*]

Celebration

A prime example of building up the Church beyond our parish is the **Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)*** which actively ministers to students who participate on campus and in our parish in activities led by Deacon Alex Cadman. Over the years by means of campus ministry, Holy Trinity has been formative in the vocations of priests, deacons and monastics who now serve the Church. In addition to our own Dn. Alex, these are Fr. Hector Firoglanis, Fr. Gheevarghees John, Fr. John Diamantis, Sister Helene (Krenitsky) and Sister Margarete (Roeber).

Additionally, Alexey Petrides and Ryan Stingle are now completing Master of Divinity degrees at Holy Cross Seminary in anticipation of future church service, and Jabra Tannous has begun studies at St. Vladimir's. Maria Roeber is finishing her two year appointment as a missionary to Tanzania. This is not to mention the numerous Penn State alumni now serving as lay leaders and simply good Orthodox Christians in so many parishes and careers in various parts of the country who credit **OCF** with providing them with a spiritual base and formation during their university years.

Sunday School/VBS* have seen consistent growth and excellence under the capable direction of Deacon Mark Oleynik. With five classes now in session on Sunday mornings, we now face the joyous challenge to find more room to accommodate more students. (*Don't forget that in Deacon Mark's previous assignment at St. Mark's, Bethesda, the Sunday School tripled in size and the parish was "forced" to build a Christian Education wing to accommodate the growth. It's easy to see why.*)

Matthew 25* provides all of us with regular opportunities to impact the lives of Christ in the poor and the homeless in our community through its considerable work and partnership with Strawberry Fields and Housing Transitions.

Men's Fellowship sent a team of ten on a short-term construction mission to Marshall, Alaska. This marks the first time that a group of adults from Holy Trinity have done mission work, although we have helped to send many students on short-term missions throughout the world over the years. Upon return, the men have decided to support an Alaskan seminarian, Deacon Jason Isaac, in his studies at St. Herman's Seminary, Kodiak. Dn. Jason is from Marshall. We appreciate the support which others have committed to this effort as well.

Opportunity

Our Strategic Growth Team (**SGT**) is actively engaged with charting our course over the next several years. As I noted at last year's meeting, we have a five-year window to do the following:

- a. *Build a chapel for our parochial mission, **Chapel of the Holy Spirit (CHS)***, Beavertown.*
- b. *Come to a decision about our own building/expansion/relocation options in State College.*
- c. *Continue to expand and develop ministry at Holy Trinity in the meanwhile.*

This year, it is a joy to refer you to Fr. Basil's report and the considerable progress which is being made to build that chapel in Beavertown. Barring unforeseen complications, it is anticipated, and quite possible, to clear all the hurdles, dot all the *i*'s and cross all the *t*'s and break ground for **CHS** in 2013.

SGT has been at work over the past six months trouble-hoarding several options for the parish to consider for addressing our need for more space for future ministry. As these are further refined by staff and council, the parish as a whole will have ample opportunity over several months to assess these options, comment upon them, and help us reach consensus on a prudent way forward which is faithful to our mission—to build up the Church beyond the parish—and our core values of worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry and stewardship.

These options include, but are not limited to, the following: purchasing additional property in the neighborhood, specifically the American Cancer Society next door; purchasing property elsewhere in State College to build a larger, new temple and facilities; remaining on-site with no additional capital expansion, but the possible addition of two liturgies on Sundays; developing a second mission in this area to accommodate growth; or perhaps some combination of the options above. God will guide and God will provide both the direction and the means to do his will.

Seminarian Internship—Fr. Basil and I are exploring the possibility of a seminarian internship at Holy Trinity/Holy Spirit for this coming summer to develop the choirs and singers for both State College and Beavertown. Much technical knowledge is needed to conduct and sing Orthodox services well. This is something we have come to expect in our liturgical experience in our parish. The intern would possess considerable seminary and musical training in order to expand upon the dedicated work of Dr. Bob Roberts, Karen Cattell and our many church singers. It is envisioned that the intern would spend most Sundays in Beaver Town, while workshopping and developing voice and conducting techniques in State College during the week.

The proposed cost noted in the two budgets (HTOC and CHS: \$4,000) would be raised apart from general offerings through grants and appeals. Besides providing a seminarian with parish experience in anticipation of future ministry in the church, it would also offset a portion of his or her educational expenses for the ensuing school year.

Seminary faculty from St. Vladimir's Seminary is involved in developing criteria for participation as well as vetting possible candidates for this program. The term would last 8-10 weeks.

Everything outlined above is faithful to our mission and based upon our core values, building up the Church beyond our parish by means of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry.

Now for the stewardship: When I first cast vision for my pastorate in State College (1995!), I told mission leaders at that time that under my leadership it would be a pastorate whose ministry was based upon sacrificial, proportionate giving for the work of the Church. The mission community was already in agreement that Holy Trinity would never charge "dues" because it never wanted to become a religious club but a church in the fullest sense of that term.

I promised that God would bless us if we honored him with a tithe, something which Scripture indicates and which I practice. I also promised to lead them and the future parish in scripturally based financial support (*cf. Malachi 3:8ff*).

Over the years our financial stewardship has grown and our blessings have been multiplied. Currently our sixty families and supporting units provide not only the bulk of the parish budget through weekly offerings but mission and outreach appeals above budget, as well. Total giving as noted in the financial reports from both State College and Beavertown is now approximately \$250,000 per year. That's an average of more than \$3,500 per family. And that is a blessing! But now, we called to be blessed more by increasing support sacrificially to meet the opportunities God has in store for us in 2013.

Chiefly, the majority of the increase is to provide adequate compensation in terms of pension and health care for Deacon Alexander. In addition to being on campus, he serves as parish ministry coordinator. As a full-time church worker, he is entitled to the benefits which most of the rest of us already enjoy. The Pastoral Care Committee is to be commended for its diligence in applying the Clergy Compensation Guidelines of the OCA in order to propose the increase in Deacon's Alex total support.

It might be tempting to say, "let's just have every family increase giving" by 1/60th of the total increase needed. In other words, a \$12,000 increase divided by 60 families: that would work out to approximately \$200 per family, or \$17 per month, or \$4 per week. And that certainly would be one way to do it, if everyone responded equally. But would it be the right way?

Have we ever noticed that things we are tempted to do are never really God's way to do anything? Now, I'm not saying that everyone increasing his pledge by \$4 per week is an evil thing to do! But what I am saying is that Scripture teaches us to give in proportion to how God has blessed us. For some, \$17 per month might be the cost of a latte a week at Starbucks. For others, it might be the cost of a medical prescription. So while leveling the field might sound good, it actually might hurt some of our brethren.

In other words, to those to whom much has been given, is much more required. So, I lay this before you as an opportunity to increase your giving and then increase your joy in proportion to God's blessings, in your lives personally and in our parish's life corporately. Take a fixed percentage of your income blessing and thank God for it by returning it to him, weekly or monthly, and put him to test, as he indicates to us:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 8:10-12)

Then let's see what God will give us to celebrate next year, and how many more opportunities he will give us to continue building up the Church beyond the parish through worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and stewardship.

— Fr. John

Treasurer's Report

ACCOUNT BALANCES (as of October 31)

CATEGORY	2011	2012	% CHG.
ACCOUNTS	\$94,939	\$102,692	8.2%
Checking Account (Nittany Bank)	\$18,239	\$20,553	12.7%
Money Market Account (Nittany Bank)	76,700	82,139	7.1%
ASSETS	\$94,939	\$110,028	15.9%
Committed Assets	\$12,334	\$26,302	113.2%
Chapel of the Holy Spirit Funds	12,334	26,302	113.2%
Liquid Assets	\$82,605	\$76,391	-7.5%
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$80,658	\$67,396	-16.4%
Building Fund	56,691	48,151	-15.1%
Property Reserve	6,706	6,406	-4.5%
Cupola Fund (<i>see detail below</i>)	4,147	400	-90.4%
Icon Fund	3,201	1,480	-53.8%
Matthew 25	3,162	3,155	-0.2%
Continuing Education—Rector	2,138	—	-100.0%
Memorial	1,942	3,300	69.9%
Continuing Education—Assistant Rector	1,042	2,500	139.9%
Sunday School	1,001	—	-100.0%
Bookstore	628	734	16.9%
Deacon Isaac Fund	—	270	—
All American Council Reserve	—	1,000	—
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS	\$1,947	\$8,995	362.0%
Operating Cash	1,947	8,995	362.0%
Receivables	—	\$7,335	—
Sabbatical Reimbursement Pending	N/A	5,111	—
Alaska Mission Trip Reimbursement	—	2,224	—
LIABILITIES	\$224,735	\$218,132	-2.9%
Mortgage Balance	\$224,735	\$218,132	-2.9%

CUPOLA FUND (All dates through October 31, 2012)

Income	\$11,650
Expenses	-\$25,566
Architect	-700
Fiberglass	-10,970
Installation	-9,896
Original Contract (<i>Figula</i>)	-4,000
Transfer from Building Fund	\$14,316
ENDING BALANCE	\$400

2012 Proposed Budget – Holy Trinity Campus

INCOME

CATEGORY	2012 ACTUAL *	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	% CHANGE
Stewardship Offerings	\$147,623	\$182,064	\$191,682	5.3%
Deacon Support Appeal	\$3,955	\$5,000	\$5,000	0.0%
Parking	\$2,902	\$2,000	\$3,500	75.0%
Missions Appeal	\$1,260	\$2,000	\$3,000	50.0%
Candles/Flowers	\$2,648	\$2,600	\$2,600	0.0%
OCF Funding Appeal	\$1,200	\$2,000	\$2,000	0.0%
Choir Internship	—	—	\$2,000	—
Discretionary Fund Donations	—	\$500	\$500	0.0%
Interest	\$323	\$500	\$361	-27.8%
Gertrude Hawke Candy	—	\$700	—	-100.0%
Other Income	\$198	—	—	—
Total	\$160,109	\$197,364	\$210,643	6.7%

EXPENSES

CATEGORY	2012 ACTUAL *	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	% CHANGE
Personnel	\$100,856	\$120,004	\$129,720	8.1%
Rector's Stipend/Housing	58,960	70,752	72,875	3.0%
Ministry Director's Stipend/Housing	27,970	33,564	40,618	21.0%
Office Assistant	5,210	6,252	6,565	5.0%
Custodian	3,780	4,536	4,763	5.0%
Continuing Education—Rector	2,400	2,400	2,400	0.0%
Continuing Education—Other Clergy	1,250	1,250	1,250	0.0%
Supply Clergy	1,286	1,250	1,250	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments	\$14,267	\$17,891	\$20,856	16.6%
Mortgage Outlay	\$16,559	\$19,444	\$17,315	-10.9%
Outreach & Fellowship	\$6,804	\$7,250	\$8,250	13.8%
Liturgical	\$4,354	\$4,675	\$6,675	42.8%
Utilities	\$5,056	\$6,485	\$6,535	0.8%
Physical Plant	\$2,940	\$4,050	\$4,050	0.0%
Office Administration	\$3,011	\$3,350	\$3,850	14.9%
Christian Education	\$2,204	\$3,900	\$3,200	-17.9%
Missionary/Seminaries	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	0.0%
Coffee Hour	\$1,622	\$2,000	\$2,000	0.0%
Insurance	\$1,611	\$1,815	\$1,692	-6.8%
Discretionary Fund	\$2,147	\$1,500	\$1,500	0.0%
All-American Council (Sobor)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	0.0%
Refurnishings	\$891	\$750	\$750	0.0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$568	\$250	\$250	0.0%
Total	\$166,388	\$197,364	\$210,643	6.7%

* through October 31, 2012

2012 Proposed Budget – Chapel of the Holy Spirit Campus

INCOME

CATEGORY	2012 ACTUAL*	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	% CHANGE
Stewardship Offerings	\$24,383	\$28,200	\$32,510	15.3%
Chapel Building Fund	\$580	—	—	0.0%
Special Appeals	\$610	—	—	0.0%
Total	\$25,573	\$28,200	\$32,510	15.3%

EXPENSES

CATEGORY	2012 ACTUAL*	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	% CHANGE
Personnel	\$12,344	\$15,400	\$15,400	0.0%
Pastor's Housing Allowance	10,000	12,000	12,000	0.0%
Pastor's Allowance**	1,500	1,800	1,800	0.0%
Supply/Visiting Clergy	504	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Travel Allowance	340	600	600	0.0%
Outreach & Fellowship	\$1,432	\$1,625	\$1,625	0.0%
Advertising	274	500	500	0.0%
Chapel Events	260	500	500	0.0%
Pastor's Discretionary Funds	230	300	300	0.0%
Coffee Hour	—	250	250	0.0%
Website	58	75	75	0.0%
Special Appeals	610	—	—	0.0%
Property	\$484	\$580	\$820	41.4%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments***	—	—	—	0.0%
Office Administration	\$55	\$345	\$295	-14.5%
Liturgical****	\$906	\$240	\$280	16.7%
Furnishings	\$228	\$510	\$250	-51.0%
Christian Education	\$114	\$200	\$200	0.0%
Utilities	—	\$100	\$100	0.0%
Transfer to Savings	—	\$9,200	\$13,540	47.2%
Total	\$15,563	\$28,200	\$32,510	15.3%

* through October 31, 2011

** Pastor's Allowance approved by Parish Council on May 9, 2012 retroactive to January 1, 2012

*** Holy Trinity subsidizes Archdiocesan/OCA assessments for parishioners who regularly attend the Chapel campus (\$166 x 14 = \$2,324).

**** includes Altar Boy robes (\$435).

Ministry Reports

ADULT STUDY GROUP (*Fr. John Reeves*)

No report submitted.

ALTAR SERVERS (*Dn. Alexander Cadman*)

The Altar Servers ministry continues to expand under the direction of Darren Torbic, who replaced Micah Cattell as our parish's sacristan after Micah departed for college (*we miss you, Micah!*). At this time, we have over a dozen regular servers on our list and are always looking for more (no prior experience is necessary). I am grateful to Darren and all the boys who serve. They all do a great job and it is an honor and privilege to serve with them.

We have divided our servers into two teams that serve on alternating Sundays (everyone is invited to serve on Pascha and Feast Days.) Parents can determine what team their child(ren) are on by looking in the monthly *Trisagion* or the weekly *This Week* email. Let me know if you are not receiving either one and would like to. If you have a boy aged eight and over, please encourage him to join our team. We meet annually for fellowship, to learn fire safety, and rehearse all our movements.

Our only challenge is managing the growth of this ministry. There is a possibility we may have to add a "Team C" in 2013, even though it means our servers must go three weeks.

ALTAR SOCIETY (*Joanne Takarchek*)

The Holy Trinity Altar Society is to serve God through the maintenance and beautification of the church, its vestments, altar cloths and baking of prosphora throughout the changing liturgical seasons. We can always use more women to help us. We thank you all for your help.

BOOKSTORE (*Matthew Finke*)

The bookstore strives to be a source of edification for the faithful of Holy Trinity and a helpful resource for those in the surrounding community who wish to learn more about the Orthodox faith. The bookstore is open regularly on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy and by special appointment as needed. The earnings are used to purchase more inventory and broaden the selection that is available. One challenge we have faced in the past year is having enough volunteers to staff the bookstore after the Divine Liturgy.

CANTORS/READERS (*Dn. Alexander Cadman*)

Holy Trinity continues to be blessed to have talented men and women that assist the Choir in chanting our Divine services. We are always looking to train more people for this important ministry. If you are interested, please plan to attend our specialized workshops with Fr. John Reeves before Great Vespers on the second Saturday of alternating months to improve things like pronunciation, style, and technique.

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (*Fr. Basil Biberdorf*)

Since the completion of the purchase of a half-acre lot in August 2011, the faithful of the Chapel have focused on three primary tasks: the regular work of pursuing the Christian life, the proclamation of the Gospel in Snyder County, and development of vision and plans for using our lot.

On the first point, the Chapel has continued her worship cycle of three weekends per month, plus a number of special days. Our regular classes have presented an overview of the Scriptures and, right now, an in-depth discussion of the preparation and prayers before and after receiving Holy Communion. Our choir is rehearsing more often, meeting an additional hour each week in order to continue enriching our worship. Three of our younger members who are scouts have completed the requirements for their St George award, an Orthodox religious badge.

Our proclamation of the Gospel has continued as well. Once again, we operated booths at the Selinsgrove Market Street Festival and the Beaver Springs Oktoberfest, handing out free bottles of water, pens, and literature. Selinsgrove was a particular success this year; we handed out more water (750+ bottles) in less time (3.5 hours) than ever before. For the first time, we celebrated the outdoor blessing of water at Theophany, in Beaver Springs, which was followed by an article and photographs in the Lewistown Sentinel newspaper. Fellowship, of course, continues as a Chapel strength, featuring a number of special coffee hours, such as our annual picnic at Tall Timbers state park, cheesecakes, grilling, and our newly-famous chicken and waffles. The atmosphere is warm and inviting.

Finally and likely of greatest interest, we've been working on a vision for our lot. We've identified our core values (Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Witness) and prepared a timeline of key events as we think they should occur. We have developed an "ideal" floor plan for a possible church in support of those values, and have received cost estimates from two builders. We are now developing a consensus of how to proceed based on our goals, the cost, and our financial ability. If we choose to proceed with construction in 2013, the long work of finalizing details, gaining approvals, and gathering spiritual and financial support (including yours!) will begin.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

CHOIR (*Dr. Robert Roberts*)

No report submitted.

COFFEE HOUR (*Jean Miranda*)

No report submitted.

GREETERS (*Melody Thompson*)

The purpose of the Greeters Ministry is to welcome all those who come into our church, including current members and visitors, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox. For those seeking information about Orthodoxy we also facilitate connection to multiple resources: the faithful in our parish, clergy, appropriate publications, etc. Greeters work as a group during the Pascha services, greeting those attending the service and “transforming” the church during the procession between the services.

An ongoing challenge is finding new members. Although our parish continues to grow, the number of people willing and able to be “tied down” to a scheduled ministry has not grown apace. A second challenge is ensuring that our greeters continue their ministry beyond the initial greeting in the Narthex, giving newcomers and visitors appropriate attention during coffee hour.

The goals of the ministry for the coming year are 1) to explore church-based educational opportunities for enhancing our effectiveness; 2) to expand the number of participants in the Greeters Ministry; and 3) to implement better follow-up procedures with visitors.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (*Shane Stevens*)

No report submitted.

HOMELESS SHELTER MINISTRY (*Diana Van Duin*)

For the past three years people from our parish volunteered once a month to provide dinner for the residents at Centre House. As a volunteer you would need to buy the ingredients, bring them to Centre House and prepare the meal there together with the residents. After meal preparation, the volunteers generally share the dinner with the residents. Currently our parish is volunteering once a month, but we can increase the frequency if more people are volunteering. If transportation or finances ever are an issue please let us know and we are able to help. Currently we have nine groups of volunteers who help preparing these meals.

We also continued collecting quarters throughout the year (\$400 this year) and gift cards. All these activities are currently on-going in our church. On November 10, six parishioners participated in the “Run for Shelter” walk/run fund raising event organized by Housing Transitions.

In case you have further questions, please contact Diana van Duin at 814-861-3627 or via e-mail at dmv11@psu.edu.

JR. ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOC. (JOYA) (*Fr. Basil B.*)

Jr. OYA continues as an effort to bring our members in 5th through 8th grades (roughly ages 10-13) together for fun and fellowship while working to establish them in faith. Activities this past year have included playing games, bowling, Frisbee golf, water balloon volleyball, a photo scavenger hunt, crafts, eating ice cream/Rita's/popcorn, and simply getting to know each other better. Spiritual topics have included prayer and confession.

As in the last three years, we will be attending the St Herman's Middle School Youth Retreat at Antiochian Village in December (14th through 16th this year). (This year's topic: reading Scripture, plus making s'mores, playing foursquare and AV ball, crafts, and other fun and near-mayhem.)

If you have an interest in helping (particularly as a craft or activity leader) or filling in as an alternate leader, please contact Laura Rush or Fr. Basil.

LENDING LIBRARY (*Anna Stickle*)

The books and resources available in the lending library are comprised of some books owned by the parish, and others owned by members of the parish who are willing to loan out their resources as a way of helping people grow in the knowledge and practice of the Orthodox faith. We have had a small but steady use of the library. This past year we have added a number of new books to the library, and also each book now has its own information page where a fuller description is available for most of them. For next year we are thinking of adding some search features if this is possible with the set up we have. Also, the current descriptions were downloaded off the internet automatically and for the coming year I hope to fill in descriptions for books that don't have them, and check the descriptions that exist. Feedback on mistakes people find or suggestions for improvement are appreciated.

MATTHEW 25 (*Drives Individually Coordinated*)

Since last year's annual meeting, Matthew 25 reorganized to better execute our donation drives and serve our community. Each of Matthew 25's main drives (Back to School, Thanks-giving, St. Nicholas Tree, etc.) now have their own director (Dn. Alexander still acts as a coordinator), with the entire group meeting three times a year to plan, brainstorm, and support each other. A big “thank you” goes to all of our volunteers that ensure each drive runs smoothly, but especially thanks go to everyone who gives their donations of time, money, and resources so we can continue to help the underprivileged in our area. Even though Matthew 25 is no longer part of our operating budget, and has helped more people this year through drives, disaster relief, and individual assistance, (gas/grocery cards), Matthew 25's account balance remains consistent.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (*Fr. John Reeves*)

See **Priest's Report** (above).

ORTHODOXY 101 (*Dn. Alexander Cadman*)

Orthodoxy 101 is our biweekly class for inquirers looking for basic knowledge about Orthodoxy in a friendly, informal setting. We began this year studying *The Orthodoxy Way* by Metropolitan Kallistos (Timothy) Ware and ended the year examining the classic catechetical book *The Faith of our Fathers*.

I am very pleased with the faithful and consistent attendance Orthodoxy 101 continues to receive. Our biggest challenge is

because we only meet twice monthly on Tuesdays, our meeting rhythm can easily be broken when Feast Days fall on the next day. It is also sometimes difficult for participants to remember if it's the first or third Tuesday. The biggest joy of this ministry is seeing our regulars "graduate" to Orthodoxy 2.0 and enter the catechumenate. Please pray for the success of this ministry that it may continue to serve as an entry point for inquirers into the Faith.

ORTHODOXY 2.0 (*Fr. John Reeves*)

Orthodoxy 2.0 meets during Lent to prepare catechumens for baptism at Pascha. Topics include both the rites and the theology of Baptism, Chrismation and the Eucharist.

ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOC. (OYA) (*Dn. Alexander C.*)

Orthodox Youth Association meets on the second Sunday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall, but we routinely travel to the bowling alley, mini golf places, go-kart tracks, restaurants, and other gathering spots. I am extremely grateful to Patty and Chas Doty and Becky Oliver for co-leading this ministry with me. This summer, we bid a fond farewell to a fine group of young men who until then comprised the core of our high school group.

OYA is currently going through a period of transition as we try to find the right mix of activities and meeting times and locations to minister to a new "generation" of youth. With Dn. Mark's and Gary Cattell's permission, I plan to visit the high school Sunday School class in the near future and poll our students to determine their interests and ensure the sustainability of this ministry.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (*Rebecca Oliver*)

Purpose of OCF: To foster a strong, lifelong commitment to Christ among students through a supportive community that witnesses the Gospel to the campus.

Accomplishments of 2012: 1.) Active Participation in THON. OCF was a registered organization according to the THON office and overall committee. From September 2011 to February 2012, Penn State OCF raised \$6,090. All money raised profited the Four Diamonds Fund, which supports families of Hershey Medical Center financially and emotionally. Penn State OCF raised enough money to be eligible for dancers and participated in the dancer lottery. Many members attended the THON weekend. Events associated with THON that received participation included Spaghetti Fundraising Luncheon at Holy Trinity, canning trips, sending appeal letters to family, friends, and parishioners (THONvelopes) and the THON 5K.; 2.) Participation at Young Adult Retreat in Mechanicsburg, PA.; 3.) Participation at "Stump The Priest" Nights. Several students attended meetings and asked thoughtful questions about the Orthodox Faith.; 4.) Outing with Bishop Melchisedek. OCF members enjoyed an evening with His Grace during the traditional "A Night Out On the Town.;" 5.) Participation in various fellowship events: PSU Suppers, Welcome BBQ, End of semester dinners, Fall Hayride, and Game nights.

Goals for 2013: Our overall goal is reflected in the purpose of OCF. We strive to create a group where students can come together and

learn and grow in the Orthodox Faith. Likewise, we continue to support one another as we share the common beliefs of our faith. Fellowship and service are also important to us. We hope to create a close group of friends that can be a support system to one another. We also have as a goal to have active participation in THON and potentially receive a dancer pair. We recognize that Holy Trinity is our family and largest support when fundraising for THON. We would like to include parishioners in all THON related events. We invite parishioners of all ages to join us THON weekend and create an OCF section. Shirts will be available for order so parishioners can join us in the fight and celebration of the weekend. Likewise, they will be able to see their contributions in action. — *Fr. John Reeves*

Other goals include increasing fellowship events to tighten the group; having a balance between fellowship, education, worship, and service; to be inclusive and not make people feel intimidated by the group or church; increase attendance at weekly meetings; have a stress-free environment within OCF; and grow in friendship and faith.

Challenges: We continue to struggle with weekly attendance to Thursday night dinners. Also, we have a hard time determining attendance for the night and knowing how much food to purchase. Students also must balance OCF with other activities.

RAISING ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN KIDS (*Dee Patel*)

The ROCK play group "Thursdays in the Park" is a community outreach ministry which provides an ~~open and welcoming~~ *open and welcoming* gathering for moms and kids to enjoy area parks, visit, and meet new friends. The play group had a steady turn-out all season long with many new members, leading to new friendships and networking.

For the upcoming year, I am considering teaming with Deacon Mark to expand the ROCK ministry to, along with the community play group, include a forum (possibly on-line using a wikispace) for church families to discuss ideas and parenting challenges/strategies unique to Orthodox families, thereby allowing this ministry to live up to its name!

RIDES TO CHURCH (*Mka. Jennifer Cadman*)

Rides to church is a great opportunity to help students and other parishioners have easier access to services. I am thankful that in addition to me being a contact person through phone or text, the best part about the ministry is that the college kids typically end up taking over the rides and helping each other out. In that way, I am very pleased with the ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL / VBS (*Dn. Mark Oleyunik*)

The primary objective of our parish Sunday school is to provide weekly instruction in the teachings of Christ and of His Church. Our program supplements that same work which is to be carried out by the parents of the students on a daily basis. Together, the foundation for the future of the Church is being built along the path of His salvation.

(continued)

The crucial element of any educational program is the classroom teacher and our Sunday school is no different. For the current school year ten of our parishioners have made a weekly commitment to pray, study, prepare, and deliver creative and stimulating lessons to their students. Simply, our parish has been blessed by these teachers.

Once again this year, a variety of “extra” learning activities were conducted. Some of these activities include a retreat for the youngest students, “*Ready... Set... Lent!*”, a charity luncheon (SOUPer Sunday) for the benefit of the homeless of our community, a Pascha workshop, Egg hunt, and a banner-making workshop. A highlight of the summer season was the annual Vacation Bible School, “From Heaven to Bethlehem” which had tremendous participation and incredible support from the parents.

In the coming year it is hoped that our program will continue to grow and offer learning opportunities for both students and parents such that we may all grow in our faith and our love for Him.

TLC (*Mark and Leslyn Radomsky*)

TLC provides support to parishioners in times of illness, injury, or bereavement, as requested by the HTOC clergy. Support has taken on many different forms, such as home/hospital visits, arranging assistance with projects, providing rides to appointments, sending flowers/cards, or arranging for meals. Mark and Leslyn Radomsky coordinate TLC, but every member of the church is a Holy Trinity TLC minister, and perhaps from time to time a TLC recipient.

Our goal and mission for 2013 is to support and comfort parishioners in a timely manner. We do not hold fund raisers for our work, but rather, rely on a small operating budget and the charitable nature of our parishioners who often donate their time, talents and food preparation skills to this worthy cause. We invite all who can, to participate in TLC.

TLC-2 (*Corene Swisher*)

TLC-2 continued this year to provide meals to new moms in the first few weeks post-partum. We supported two families the last year and we anticipate the addition of at least one more newborn this coming year! As always, we welcome new members.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY (*Mka. Kelly Oleynik*)

The Women’s Ministry holds an annual coffee/tea social for all the ladies in the parish, typically in November. This year we had about 30 women and girls attend. In December, we will again host a cookie exchange and Lenten potluck luncheon on Friday, December 21 in the Hall (we will exchange with each other and make a donation of cookies for Housing Transitions). Holy Trinity’s newest tradition, Holy Supper, will also take place in the Parish Hall on Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. (immediately before the Nativity Vigil).

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP (*Megan Leathers*)

Holy Trinity’s Young Adult ministry is a social ministry for young adults above the undergraduate level (with and without children). This year’s events have included Corner Room dinner, Way Fruit Farm Trip, cookout, Mt. Nittany Hike, movie night, and game night. Each event has had around five to ten people (usually a different mix each time). The events are social with the idea of not putting too much of a financial burden on those involved which is why we have requested a slight increase in our proposed budget for this year. The ministry is not having any events during the Nativity Fast, but will resume in January.