

Annual Meeting: A Time to Look Back; A Time to Look Forward

by Fr. John Reeves

Annual Meetings allow us to look back over the past year to count the many ways God has blessed our parish. It is also an opportunity to look forward to new blessings which await us. This year the Annual Meeting will be held November 10 following the Divine Liturgy. It is very important that all members in good standing attend. Ministry reports will be received, the financial state of the parish reviewed and the new budget for 2014 will be presented for adoption.

As well, the proposed revisions to the Parish Bylaws will be put up to a vote for a second time. (You might remember that this action failed last spring because of lack of quorum.) The revisions reflect the changes that the parish have undergone since the bylaws were originally adopted in 1995.

Some of these changes allow for greater flexibility in the duties of Parish Council members and the possibility for an Annual Meeting to expand the number of council positions, if warranted, without needing to change the bylaws.

The amendments would also allow regular business meetings to take place with a quorum of a third of the voting members as opposed to the 50% now required. Encumbering or sale of property would still require the current 50% quorum. (Based on Holy Trinity’s 2014 census of 132 adult members, quorum is now defined as 66 parishioners.)

Meeting Information

Holy Trinity will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 10 following the Divine Liturgy. Voting on the proposed changes to the Parish Bylaws will begin immediately after the dismissal. Ballots will be tabulated during Coffee Hour before the assembly proceeds with the rest of the agenda.

Any agenda items must be submitted in writing to the Parish Council for review by November 6.
Nothing will be considered from the floor.

Nominations are open for Council positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President—Building.

Parishioners in good standing who were registered with the parish as members at the end of the previous calendar year and who have fulfilled their Lenten obligations of Confession and Communion may and should attend.

Agenda

i.

Opening Prayer: “O Heavenly King...”

ii.

Establishment of Quorum

iii.

Vote on the Proposed Changes to the Parish Bylaws (*see page 3*)

iv.

Minutes of the 2012 Meeting

v.

Priest’s Report

vi.

Treasurer’s Report

vii.

Review and Approval of the 2014 Budget (*see page 2*)

viii.

Election of Officers

ix.

Closing Prayer: “It is truly meet...”

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

119 S. Sparks Street

State College, PA 16801

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Schedules

	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Tellers	Servers**
November 3	L. Rush and D. Van Duin	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	M. Fedkin and R. Patel	Team B
November 10	E. Files and M. & V. Anthony	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	R. Patel and B. Haupt	Team A
November 17	J. Vaughan and B. Roberts*	L. Radomsky and M. Radomsky	S. Stevens and G. Cattell	Team B
November 24	K. Cattell and K. Oleynik*	M. Thompson and M. Fedkin	M. Stevens and L. Rush	Team A
December 1	Russian Ladies*	M. Leathers and D. Swisher	B. Haupt and M. Fedkin	Team B
December 8	E. George and M. Stevens*	B. Roberts and E. Miranda	G. Cattell and R. Patel	Team A
* Denotes Fast ** Team A: M. Doty, A. Miranda, N. Pelikan, S. Oleynik, D. Stickles, Jo. Stickles, J. Torbic, and J. Swisher Team B: J. Cadman, P. Doty, N. McFarland, B. Oleynik, S. Patel, L. Torbic, and Je. Stickles.				

Holy Trinity Income				
Category	2013 YTD*	2013 Budget	2014 Budget	% Chg
Stewardship Offerings	\$150,417	\$191,682	\$207,372	8.2%
Deacon Support Appeal	4,190	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Parking	2,970	3,500	3,500	0.0%
Candles and Flowers	2,617	2,600	2,600	0.0%
OCF Funding Appeal	2,235	2,000	2,500	25.0%
Choir Internship Appeal	860	2,000	1,000	-50.0%
Missions Appeal	500	3,000	1,000	-66.7%
Discretionary Fund	100	500	500	0.0%
Interest Income	338	362	301	-16.9%
Total Income	\$164,227	\$210,644	\$223,773	6.2%
Holy Trinity Expenses				
Personnel	\$109,168	\$129,721	\$134,085	3.4%
Archdiocese	16,626	20,856	22,116	6.0%
Mortgage	14,430	17,315	17,315	0.0%
Outreach & Fellowship	7,109	8,250	7,750	-6.1%
Liturgical	7,051	6,675	7,675	15.0%
Utilities	4,711	6,535	6,035	-7.7%
Office Administration	3,169	3,850	5,100	32.5%
Physical Plant	2,197	4,050	4,800	18.5%
Christian Education	3,377	3,200	4,100	28.1%
Missionary/Seminaries	2,500	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Coffee Hour	1,538	2,000	2,000	0.0%
Insurance	1,553	1,692	1,777	5.0%
Discretionary Fund	1,228	1,500	1,000	-33.0%
All-American Council	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%
Furnishings	1,398	750	750	0.0%
Miscellaneous	109	250	270	8.0%
(Transfer to Property Fund)			5,000	—
Total Expenses	\$177,164	\$210,644	\$223,773	6.2%
Chapel of the Holy Spirit Income				
Total Income**	\$30,566	\$32,510	\$33,732	3.8%
Chapel of the Holy Spirit Expenses				
Personnel	\$11,750	\$15,400	\$17,200	11.7%
Property	569	820	9,800	1095.1%
Utilities	—	100	2,435	2335.0%
Outreach & Fellowship	932	1,625	1,625	0.0%
Furnishings	542	250	1,300	420.0%
Liturgical	414	280	575	105.3%
Office Administration	60	295	295	0.0%
Christian Education	—	200	200	0.0%
(Transfer to Savings)	16,299	13,540	302	-97.8%
Total Expenses**	\$30,566	\$32,510	\$33,732	3.8%

* through Oct. 31, 2013 ** as presented by CHS; to be adopted at November Parish Council Meeting.

A Time to Look Back and a Time to Look Forward (from page 1)

Other revisions detail the relationship of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit with the parish. These would specifically allow the Chapel:

- to have both voice and vote on the Council;
- to vote on specified parish matters by ballot from Snyder County;
- a mechanism to attain free-standing status as a mission or parish in the future.

As in the past when voting on specific measures, the Annual Meeting will be called to order immediately at the close of the Liturgy. This will enable voting on the Bylaw Revision to begin at the dismissal. All members present and voting at this time will be included as part of the quorum. The results will be canvassed and delivered at the remainder of the meeting, following coffee hour.

Copies of the proposed Parish Bylaws are available in the Narthex along with copies of the proposed budget. Both documents can be accessed online at holytrinity-oca.org.

If you are 18 years of age and fulfilled your Lenten obligation of Confession and Holy Communion in this parish, your presence and your vote are important on Sunday, November 10.

Please make every effort to attend and to vote. Remember, the quorum is 66 adult members. ■



■ CZESTOCHOWA ICON VISIT
Hundreds of area Christians venerate the “Black Madonna” replica icon of the Mother of God, which visited Holy Trinity on October 23 as part of a world tour for the defense of life.

Most-Holy Theotokos, Save Us! by Fr. Basil Biberdorf

“Our most gracious Queen, our hope, O Theotokos, who receivest the orphaned and art the intercessor for the stranger; the joy of those in sorrow, protectress of the wronged, see our distress, see our affliction!”

What occurred to me as I stood in front of the icon during the service is the limited role we make for the Theotokos’s intercessions in our pro-life efforts. The women facing the difficult circumstances of an unplanned pregnancy find themselves full of competing emotions: fear, confusion, and sadness, and even an occasional glimpse of joy. The lives of the smallest of human beings, each one bearing the image of their Creator hang in the balance, rest upon the decisions of mothers offered a “choice” presented as the easy solution to their problems.

What these women need is not more marches, bumper stickers, or billboards. What they need is our love, material care, and prayers. More than that, they need the intercessions of the Theotokos, the joy of those in sorrow and the protectress of the wronged. They need her motherly cares and special intercession, to speak without words to their hearts to convince them that their children deserve to live. Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Konevets Quartet to Perform

The Konevets Quartet will sing a repertoire of sacred music on Sunday, November 17 at 7 p.m. The performance is free of charge; an offering will be accepted to support the 600-year-old monastery from which the group takes its name. The quartet will also sing responses at Liturgy that morning.

Help Matthew 25 Help Others

Matthew 25’s Thanksgiving food drive is now in full swing, and in December, the ever-popular St. Nicholas Tree will make its annual appearance. Learn how you can get involved in these important drives through the bulletin, Web site, and announcements following Divine Liturgy.

Register Your Preteens Today

Parents of area middle school students are strongly encouraged to register through our parish for the 2013 St. Herman of Alaska Retreat December 13-15 at Antiochian Village. Holy Trinity’s Sunday School will once again sponsor tuition and transportation. The weekend schedule includes games, fellowship, worship, and great food. Registration and release forms are available online at holytrinity-oca.org and due Sunday, November 10.

We Have a Mother to Mentor!

Holy Trinity’s new partner ministry assisting single women, *Bridge of Hope*, will conduct a final training session in the Parish Hall on November 19 at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served. More volunteers are needed.

For the Record

BAPTISM

➤ *Maria Ileene Berezina, daughter of Igor Berezin and Anna Perederine, baptized October 12, sponsored by Elen Thatcher and Alexey Tomin.*

➤ *Cora Alexandra Sullivan, daughter of Neil and Varvara Sullivan baptized October 26, sponsored by Ksenia Lvova and Aleksei Bashushrov.*

■ ORTHODOX SPIRITUALITY

On Thanksgiving

by Fr. Stephen Freeman (via glory2godforallthings.com)

God is good.

I struggled with this for many years. I believed that God was sovereign; I believed that He was the Creator of heaven and earth; I believed that He sent His only Son to die for me. But despite a host of doctrines to which I gave some form of consent, not included (and this was a matter of my heart) was the simple, straight-forward consent that God is good... Over the years I came to realize that until and unless I believed that God is good, I would never be able to truly give thanks. I could thank God when things went well, but not otherwise.

This simple point was hammered into me weekly, even daily, after I became Orthodox. There is hardly a service of the Orthodox Church that does not end its blessing with: “For He is a good God and loves mankind.”

God’s will for me is good.

My father-in-law had a favorite Bible story (among several): the story of Joseph and his brothers. In the final disclosure in Egypt, when Joseph reveals himself to his brothers – those who had sold him into slavery – Joseph says, “You meant it to me for evil, but the Lord meant it to me for good.”

It is an Old Testament confession of Romans 8:28. The world may give us many situations, and the situations on their surface may indeed be evil. But our God is a good God and He means all things for our good. I may confess His goodness at all times.

The goodness of God is without limit.

I did not know this for many years and only came upon it as I spent a period of a month studying the meaning of “envy.” In much of our world (and definitely in the non Judaeo-Christian world of antiquity) people believe that good is limited. If you are enjoying good, then it is possibly at my expense.

Such thought is the breeding ground of envy... [F]requently on some deep level, we believe that someone else’s good will somehow lessen our own. Within this the worm of jealousy, anger and envy devours us. The good which someone else enjoys is not at my expense.

To bless God for His goodness we also need to bless God for His goodness towards everyone and to know that He is the giver of every good and perfect gift—and that His goodness is without limit.

Know His goodness on a deep, personal level.

God has manifested His goodness to us in the revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ. In Christ, we see the fullness of the goodness of God. The goodness of God goes to the Cross for us. The goodness of God searches for us in hell and brings us forth victorious. The goodness of God will not cease in His efforts to reconcile us to the Father.

I saw my father-in-law survive a terrible automobile accident, and the whole family watched his slow and losing battle with lymphoma in his last three years. But none of us ever saw him do otherwise than give thanks to God and to delight in extolling the Lord’s goodness.

I recall how he ended [theological] arguments: “Mark the manner of my death.” It was his last word in the matter. There was nothing to be said against such a statement. And he made that statement non-verbally with the last years of his life. I did mark the manner of his death and could only confess: “God is good! His mercy endures forever!” For no matter the difficulties this dear Christian man faced, nevertheless, no moment was anything less than an occasion for thanksgiving. I have seen the goodness of God in the land of the living. ■

Summary of Proposed

Bylaw Changes and Additions

ARTICLE III: THE PARISH MEETING

- *Annual Meeting: An annual meeting of the voting members of the Parish shall be held on the second Sunday in the eleventh month of every year...* [§1-A]
- *Notice of the Annual and any Special Parish Meeting shall be given by the Rector from the ambo, or the Council President...The exact procedure shall be determined by the Parish Council prior to the vote.* [§1-D]*
- *The quorum for Parish Meetings shall be 33% of voting members ...* [§2-A]
- *In the event the Parish shall seek to sell or purchase property or encumber the same, a 50% quorum of voting members shall be required.* [§2-B]
- *There shall be no voting by proxy.* [§3-C]
- *The Annual Parish Meeting may expand the number of members of the Parish Council by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting should cause warrant.* [§5-A]
- *The Annual Parish Meeting may subsequently reduce the number of members of the Parish Council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, provided: there are at no time less than six members, in addition to members representing parochial missions, and that an interval of two (2) years shall have elapsed between the addition of Council members before the number may be reduced.* [§5-B]
- *All items for consideration at an Annual Parish Meeting shall be submitted in writing to the Parish Council for discussion in advance of the Annual Parish Meeting by members of the Parish in good standing. If the Parish Council deems the matter not within the competence of the Annual Parish Meeting, it shall not be brought forward for consideration, the reasons for such being duly recorded in the Parish Council Minutes by the Secretary.* [§5-C]
- *No items may be introduced from the floor.* [§5-D]

ARTICLE IV: THE PARISH COUNCIL

- *[O]ther clergy assigned or attached to the Parish, and their wives, shall be ineligible to serve on the Parish Council. [Q]ualifications for members of the Parish Council shall be the same as those specified in the Normal Statute of the Orthodox Church in America for any elective or appointive office.* [§1-C-iii,iv]

- *Half of the Trustees shall be elected for a term of two years at each Annual Meeting...* [§2-A]
- *Composition: The Parish Council shall consist of the President, who will serve as Warden; the Vice-President, who will serve as Assistant Warden; the Secretary, and the Treasurer, plus at least two additional members, for a minimum of six.* [§3]
- *The Rector shall preside at all meetings of the Parish Council. He may appoint the Council President to chair meetings with him or in his stead* [§7-B]
- *Other Members: The duties of additional members shall be determined by the Parish Council, annually, as needs warrant.* [§8-E]
- *Parochial Mission Representative(s): At the Annual Parish Meeting, each parochial mission (chapel) of the Parish shall present for ratification the name of one of its membership to serve on the Parish Council with voice and vote for the upcoming year; with concurrence of its Priest-in-charge; in addition to the six members specified above.* [§8-F]

ARTICLE VI: PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

- *All parochial missions (chapels) shall operate under this article.* [§2-A]
- *In the event that a parochial mission shall have attained sufficient development and financial security to warrant its becoming a free-standing mission or parish of the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America, to the satisfaction of the Archdiocesan authority, it may petition the Archdiocese for reception as the same on the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of its particular membership, with concurrence of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at a parish meeting.* [§2-B]*
- *Upon confirmation by the Archdiocesan authority of such a request: the new mission or parish shall incorporate under Pennsylvania state law as a not-for-profit corporation and adopt Bylaws to the satisfaction of the Archdiocesan authority; and the Parish Council shall then begin to devolve and divest all real and liquid property held for the parochial mission to the new free-standing mission or parish within thirty (30) days of its incorporation to the satisfaction of the Archdiocesan authority.* [§2-C]

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

- *In these Bylaws the word “State” shall refer to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.* [§4-B]

* this section now contains different text from the proposed bylaws that were presented for consideration at the Parish Special Meeting on March 24, 2013.