

# 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
November 9, 2014

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## Please Note...

The agenda is restricted by the bylaws to items outlined below. No new items may be introduced from the floor. Items involving personnel, ecclesiastical discipline, and liturgical matters are not within the competence of the Annual Meeting [*cf. Art. IV, Section 7 (j)*].

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## Today's Agenda

- i. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
  - ii. Establishment of Quorum
  - iii. Minutes of the 2013 Meeting (*see below*)
  - iv. Priest's Report
  - v. Treasurer's Report (*see below*)
  - vi. Review and Approval of the 2015 Budget (*see below*)
  - vii. Election of Officers (President, Vice President, and Grounds Chair)
  - viii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."
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## Minutes from the Annual Meeting

November 10, 2013

- I. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..." — 12:25 p.m.
- II. Establishment of Quorum — 76 registered members signed the attendance sheets, therefore quorum is established.
- III. Vote on the Proposed Changes to Parish Bylaws — 76 votes in favor, none (0) opposed, therefore the proposed changes to the Parish Bylaws pass.
- IV. Minutes of the 2012 Meeting – Accepted without objection.
- V. Priest's Report.
- VI. Treasurer's Report.
- VII. Review and Approval of 2014 Budget.
  - a. *The Motion to adopt the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church was moved by Bob Roberts, seconded by Brandon Swisher. Budget approved by unanimous voice vote)*
  - b. *The Chapel of the Holy Spirit Budget was moved by Matushka Linda Reeves, seconded by Megan Leathers. Budget approved by unanimous voice vote.*

VIII. Election of Officers.

- a. *The following slate of officers was presented—Secretary: Michael P. Pelikan; Treasurer: Michael Stickle; and Vice President—Building: Ed Miranda.*
- b. *The Motion to adopt the slate of officer candidates was moved by Melody Thompson, seconded by David Swisher. Slate approved by unanimous voice vote.*
- c. *There was a nomination of Vince Mazeski to serve as the Chapel of the Holy Spirit's representative on the Council per the newly adopted bylaws. Motion to accept the nomination was moved by Karen Cattell, Seconded by Matushka Dea Bieberdorf. Approved by unanimous voice vote.*

ix. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..." — 1:05 p.m.

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## Rector's Annual Report

### Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

November 9, 2014

2014 is a year of challenges and opportunities, the most obvious of which for Holy Trinity has been the forthcoming purchase of the American Cancer Society building next door at 123 S. Sparks St. The possibility of buying was in the back of our mind for nigh on to 20 years. But its being listed for sale this past summer forced us to come to terms with reality. Should we purchase or not, now? And if so, why? And if not, what next?

It was not an easy decision and I full well appreciate the differences expressed on the matter in the parish. As we move forward however, we can anticipate expanding Christian education, administration, and campus ministry next door at our newly christened Trinity House while utilizing space in the existing hall for additional seating, a nursery for mothers during church, and more room for the bookstore.

Closing is expected before Thanksgiving and occupancy by February.

Our *Forward, Together, in Faith* Capital Campaign has been a confirmation of the wisdom of our move. As of this weekend, our total in cash and pledges exceeds \$95,000, enabling us to reduce the amount financed substantially, plus allowing us to afford more than basic upgrades and refurbishment. Additionally, a parking plan is being developed to present to the Borough in order to pave the lot next door as time, funds and weather permits.

An open house for the neighborhood is being planned after Pascha in order to showcase this new addition to our facilities. A hearty round of thanks is due to all who have been or will be supporting this endeavor.

The main challenge for the Chapel of the Holy Spirit has been adjusting to the transfer of the priest-in-charge while continuing the building program. For the first time, the Chapel has both an enrolled catechumen and an earnest inquirer in addition. The Chapel budget reflects both the challenge and the opportunity for further growth.

As well, the Chapel will be relocating to a commercial rental for services until the building is constructed in order to free up the demands on the Smith family and its household. The builder hopes to begin construction by late March with completion due by September 2015. The Archdiocese is providing the financing on the project in an amount of up to \$160,000 as approved by the parish in June.

A continuing goal for this coming year is expanding on our core value of sacrificial stewardship. Our proposed parish budget is slightly under \$250,000, including the additional monthly costs attributed to our purchase of Trinity House. That works out to approximately \$42.00/week per adult if we were to apportion costs per capita, which we do not. Many give substantially more than while others simply cannot. What is important is that we give to the best of our ability, that we give generously, with our goal being the scriptural standard of the tithe, and that we give with joy. Sacrificial stewardship has enabled us to grow greatly over the past and will continue to be the means of blessing our ministry in the years to come.

Finally, as God adds to the church daily such as should be saved, for which we pray and labor, we must prepare ourselves for additional growing pains, not the least of which has been the decision to purchase Trinity House and expand our work in State College.

Yet, as more and more people come into the life of the parish, we have to learn to be more adaptable, more flexible in order to meet newcomers and incorporate them into the life of the parish. Part of this will be the addition of new ministries and activities, but part of this will come from our increased willingness to seek out newcomers, welcome them to church, and invite them to our homes. They have names and faces, stories and lives. Make the effort to get to know them for God has sent them to us. They have not arrived accidentally.

Truly, to paraphrase St Paul, some have planted, others have watered, but God is giving the increase. To Him alone be glory. Amen.

# Treasurer's Report

<b>Account Balances</b> (as of October 31, 2014)				
CATEGORY	2012	2013	2014	% CHG
<b>ACCOUNTS</b>				
Checking Account (National Penn Bank)	\$20,553	\$10,727	\$67,035	525%
Money Market Account (National Penn Bank)	82,139	121,901	104,351	-14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$102,692</b>	<b>\$132,628</b>	<b>\$171,386</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Committed Assets				
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit Funds</i>	26,302	46,522	52,162	12%
<b>Total Committed Assets</b>	<b>\$26,302</b>	<b>\$46,522</b>	<b>\$52,162</b>	<b>12%</b>
Liquid Assets				
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
<i>All-American Council Reserve</i>	1,000	2,000	2,833	42%
<i>Altar Boy Robes</i>	—	285	—	-100%
<i>Bookstore</i>	734	1,257	1,260	0%
<i>Building Fund</i>	48,151	51,438	94,096	83%
<i>Continuing Education—Reector</i>	—	—	160	—
<i>Continuing Education—Assistant Priest</i>	2,500	3,507	325	-91%
<i>Cupola Fund</i>	400	4,200	6,090	45%
<i>Deacon Isaac Fund</i>	270	110	227	106%
<i>Icon Fund</i>	1,480	1,480	2,780	88%
<i>Matthew 25</i>	3,155	2,012	3,288	63%
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	3,300	3,025	2,378	-21%
<i>Property Reserve/Maintenance</i>	6,406	406	6,173	1420%
<i>Sunday School</i>	—	966	683	-29%
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS				
<i>Operating Cash</i>	8,995	15,420	-1,069	-107%
<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>	<b>76,391</b>	<b>86,106</b>	<b>119,224</b>	<b>38%</b>
Receivables				
<i>Alaska Mission Trip Reimbursements</i>	2,224	507	317	-37%
<i>Altar Boy Robes</i>	—	—	290	—
<i>Sabbatical Reimbursement</i>	5,111	2,711	1,271	-53%
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>7,335</b>	<b>3,217</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>-42%</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$110,028</b>	<b>\$135,845</b>	<b>\$173,264</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Mortgage Balance	218,132	210,669	203,829	-3%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$218,132</b>	<b>\$210,669</b>	<b>\$203,829</b>	<b>-3%</b>

# 2015 Proposed Budgets

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church						
CATEGORY	2014 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	TRINITY HOUSE EXPENSES	GRAND TOTAL	TOTAL % CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>						
Stewardship Offerings	\$164,705	\$207,372	\$209,823	21,461	<b>\$231,284</b>	12%
Deacon Support Appeal	4,405	5,000	6,000	—	<b>6,000</b>	20%
Parking	1,255	3,500	4,500	—	<b>4,500</b>	29%
Candles and Flowers	2,962	2,600	2,600	—	<b>2,600</b>	—
OCF Funding Appeal	780	2,500	1,500	—	<b>1,500</b>	-40%
Mission Appeal	60	1,000	500	—	<b>500</b>	-50%
Interest Income	166	302	100	—	<b>100</b>	-67%
Choir Internship Appeal <sup>2</sup>	560	1,000	—	—	—	-100%
Discretionary Fund Appeal <sup>3</sup>	1,000	500	—	—	—	-100%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$175,893</b>	<b>\$223,774</b>	<b>\$225,023</b>	<b>\$21,461</b>	<b>\$246,484</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Personnel						
<i>Rector</i>	61,662	74,000	74,740	—	<b>74,740</b>	1%
<i>Ministry Director</i>	35,543	42,650	43,930	—	<b>43,930</b>	3%
<i>Custodian</i>	4,084	4,900	4,900	2,450	<b>7,350</b>	50%
<i>Office Assistant</i>	5,472	6,565	6,630	—	<b>6,630</b>	1%
<i>Campus Missionary</i>	2,500	3,000	3,000	—	<b>3,000</b>	0%
<i>Choir Director</i> <sup>2</sup>	—	—	3,000	—	<b>3,000</b>	0%
<i>Continuing Education—Rector</i>	2,560	1,920	1,920	—	<b>1,920</b>	0%
<i>Continuing Education—Deacons</i>	888	1,800	1,800	—	<b>1,800</b>	0%
<i>Continuing Education—Asst. Priest</i>	584	1,000	—	—	—	-100%
<i>Supply Clergy</i>	250	1,250	2,000	—	<b>2,000</b>	60%
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$113,543</b>	<b>\$137,085</b>	<b>\$141,920</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>\$144,370</b>	<b>5%</b>
Mortgage	14,430	17,316	17,316	11,257	<b>28,573</b>	65%
Archdiocese	18,471	22,116	21,530	—	<b>21,530</b>	-3%
Utilities	5,221	6,035	6,035	4,311	<b>10,346</b>	71%
Outreach and Fellowship	7,197	7,750	7,750	—	<b>7,750</b>	—
Physical Plant	5,987	4,800	4,800	2,200	<b>7,000</b>	46%
Office Administration	7,232	5,100	5,100	—	<b>5,100</b>	—
Liturgical <sup>2</sup>	9,066	7,675	4,675	—	<b>4,675</b>	-39%
Christian Education	2,659	4,100	4,100	—	<b>4,100</b>	—
Insurance	1,778	1,777	1,777	1,243	<b>3,020</b>	70%
Coffee Hour	2,108	2,000	2,000	—	<b>2,000</b>	—
Discretionary Fund <sup>3</sup>	2,534	1,000	1,000	—	<b>1,000</b>	—
All-American Council	833	1,000	1,000	—	<b>1,000</b>	—
Refurnishings	—	750	750	—	<b>750</b>	—
Legal/Professional Fees	265	270	270	—	<b>270</b>	—
<i>(Transfer to Property Fund)</i>	4,167	5,000	5,000	—	<b>5,000</b>	—
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>195,491</b>	<b>\$223,774</b>	<b>\$225,023</b>	<b>\$21,461</b>	<b>\$246,484</b>	<b>10%</b>

## Footnotes

1. *through Oct. 31, 2014.*
2. *The \$3,000 per year stipend for the Choir Director has been moved from "Liturgical" to "Personnel" for 2015.*
3. *The rector's discretionary fund will become an off-budget subaccount in 2015. Holy Trinity will contribute \$1,000 per year to it.*

# Chapel of the Holy Spirit

CATEGORY	2014 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$31,108</b>	<b>\$33,732</b>	<b>\$20,239</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Personnel				
<i>Pastor's Housing Allowance</i>	7,500	15,000	—	-100%
<i>Deacon's Housing Allowance</i>	1,000	1,200	1,200	0%
<i>Supply/Visiting Clergy</i>	3,491	1,000	3,000	200%
<i>Travel Allowance</i>	1,432	—	3,500	—
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$13,423</b>	<b>\$17,200</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	<b>-55%</b>
Property	10,211	690	4,400	538%
Outreach and Fellowship	2,974	1,525	1,625	7%
Liturgical	973	575	575	—
Furnishings	127	500	500	—
Office Administration	—	150	295	97%
Christian Education	387	150	200	33%
Utilities	—	100	200	100%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	—
<i>(Transfer to Savings)</i>	3,013	12,842	4,744	-63%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$28,095</b>	<b>\$33,732</b>	<b>\$20,239</b>	<b>-40%</b>

## Footnotes

1. *through Oct. 31, 2014.*
2. *Holy Trinity subsidizes Archdiocesan/OCA assessments for parishioners who regularly attend the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.*

# Ministry Reports

## ADULT STUDY GROUP (*Fr. John Reeves*)

The Adult Study Group meets on alternating Thursdays, September through May, in the Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m. This year's study is Fr Lawrence Farley's book *The Epistle to the Hebrews: High Priest in Heaven*.

## ALTAR SERVERS (*Dn. Alexander Cadman*)

The Altar Servers ministry operates under the direction of Darren Torbic. Josiah Stickles and Konstantin Kucheryavy regularly act as assistant sacristans. I am grateful to God for all who volunteer. They all do a great job and it is an honor and privilege to serve with them.

Our servers are divided into two teams that serve on alternating Sundays (everyone is invited to serve on Pascha, Pentecost, 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 son 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 the future, but this would mean servers might have to go two weeks between serving opportunities.

## 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 who are interested in helping with the beautification. Thank you all for your help.

## BOOKSTORE (*Matthew Finke*)

The Holy Trinity Bookstore strives to be a source of edification for the parishioners of Holy Trinity and the surrounding Orthodox churches as well as those seeking to learn more about the Orthodox faith.

The most significant obstacle that we are facing is the lack of volunteers to help take money for books after the Liturgy.

Once we begin moving into the Trinity House, and the bookstore moves into the (current) church office, our old challenge of lack of shelf space should be solved. It would be helpful to have bookshelves mounted on the walls as well as counter space, display cases, and perhaps a comfortable reading chair.

## 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 to improve things like pronunciation, style, and technique. We aim to have workshops once a quarter. Dates of sessions vary. See the printed calendar in the *Trisagion* or the online calendar at [holyltrinity-oca.org](http://holyltrinity-oca.org) for meeting times.

## CHAPEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (*Dn. David Smith*)

Glory to Jesus Christ! Since its inception in 2008, CHS has gradually evolved to include weekly celebrations of the Holy Eucharist with either Vespers or Great Vespers being served twice monthly, as is our current schedule. To this "ordinary" schedule we have added other services appropriate to the season or occasion as well as Bible studies.

In regards to community outreach and evangelism, CHS continues to participate in the annual Street Fair in Selinsgrove, PA, distributing bottled water to fairgoers at this all day event with which we have become identified by the "regular" attendees, and chatting with curious passers-by. We have seen over the years a slow but steady increase of expressed curiosity and interest, built upon, in part, by our annual presence at this major community event. Furthermore, we continue to sponsor the CHS Family Night at the Middlecreek Area Community Center located in Beaver Springs by extending the open hours of the Center on a Sunday evening for the community to take advantage of at their leisure. Originally envisioned once a quarter, this community outreach is being more closely coordinated with the colder seasons when we're not competing with the nicer weather and outdoor activities. Here, again, we have witnessed a slow but steady interest from the surrounding community so that at our last Family Night we had four community families visit us, three of which was their first encounter with CHS! It may not sound like much, but given our circumstances and location, this is significant! In the meantime, God has blessed us with the enrollment of our first catechumen a couple of months ago and a sustained conversation with a highly interested and motivated inquirer!

In regards to our future Temple, a Cross planting was celebrated on Memorial Saturday of Pentecost, 8 June 2014, at the site of our proposed new Temple and plans for its construction have been moving along about as "quickly" as governmental oversight will allow the builder. Since that time CHS has secured financing from the Archdiocese in the form of a 20-year loan with the first five years being interest free! Additionally, we have begun looking for an alternative site to gather for prayer and worship since we have outlived the use of our home. Though a challenge, it is anticipated that by doing so will make CHS more inviting to

those curious inquirers who have not been able to surmount the psychological barrier of worshipping in a home setting and signal a positive shift towards the future. In this, as in all things, CHS continues to relish as well as enjoy a close and collaborative relationship with our mother church.

Finally, in June I was appointed as temporary administrator of the Chapel.

### **CHOIR** (*Dr. Robert F. Roberts*)

The primary purpose of the Choir as a ministry is to prepare for and sing the responses for the Divine services. Secondary purposes include providing an opportunity for learning how to read the rubrics, how to serve as a reader in the Church and to provide music for other events. This year, the choir was able to benefit from Mr. Zach Mandel's service as the first Choir Intern/Director. Under Zach's leadership the choir did an excellent job. The choir as a group and I personally miss having Zach as a member, as a director and as a friend. We wish him "Many Years" as he pursues a Ph.D. and look forward to welcoming him back for a visit.

Recently, the choir has been rehearsing regularly, learning some new settings (The group particularly likes the new setting of "Praise the Lord from the Heavens"!) and is working through space issues as a result of a growing membership (a good thing). A potential solution being investigated is use of choir risers. Other mechanism for enhancing space utilization are also being considered.

Our goals for the next year are to continue to provide consistent, high quality and prayerful responses for the services, strengthen each of the "sections" of the choir, resolve the space issue, and continue to expand our repertoire. Please join me in thanking all the members of the choir for their consistent and ongoing work.

### **COFFEE HOUR** (*Jean Miranda*)

The reason for coffee hour is to bring our church members and visitors together. I would like to add that it is beautiful to see our church grow.

Without a doubt. I am concerned with the number of people attending Coffee Hour and the cost. With more and more people attending, that's more the hostesses have to spend. Along with that statement, we have the same people participating every week and less who want to participate. So we have more people attending and less people who want to help out. The people who are helping, I'm afraid they might not be able to afford to buy for Coffee Hour.

To help keep the cost down, we are experimenting with monthly potluck on the first Sunday of every month. The goal is that more people participate and it keeps the cost down. There will be a survey in the narthex beginning next week asking for your comments and suggestions on the

potlucks. If there is a favorable response, we will continue them in 2015. If you have any questions, please see me or email me at [nytopa817@comcast.net](mailto:nytopa817@comcast.net). Have a great day.

### **GREETERS** (*Dn. Alexander Cadman*)

The purpose of the Greeters Ministry is to welcome all those who come into our church, current members and visitors, Orthodox and non-Orthodox. We also facilitate connection to multiple resources about Orthodoxy. Greeters work as a group during the Pascha services, welcoming 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, with follow up during coffee hour. We addressed these challenges in a training meeting this fall and are committed to increased efforts in these areas.

I would like to thank Melody Thompson for her many years of service leading this one of most important ministries of our church. While she will continue to serve on the team, she is currently taking a sabbatical from leading the Greeters for a while. I am in the process of recruiting a new ministry head for 2015 and there has been interest. If you are interested in joining our Greeters in their service to God and our parish, please see me or email [dnalex@holyltrinity-oca.org](mailto:dnalex@holyltrinity-oca.org).

### **HOMELESS SHELTER MINISTRY** (*Diana Van Duin*)

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in"* (Matthew 25:35).

The purpose of this ministry is to share family-like time with the residents of Housing Transition. Housing Transition is a non-profit organization that provides housing, food, clothes and various other services to the people in need in Centre County. Every second Tuesday of the month, volunteers from our church visit the residents (217 East Nittany Avenue, State College), cook and eat dinner with them. Students who wish to participate are usually paired with a non-Student volunteer. The non-student volunteer takes charge of the financial expenses (purchasing food items), while the student volunteers his/her time and cooking skills.

I took charge of this ministry last January. In the past year, we had four new volunteers (three of them students) who participated in the ministry for the first time. Currently we have 8 groups of volunteers. We also continue our quarter collection throughout the year.

Thanks to the volunteers we had this year, there were no issues in scheduling. However, few have expressed concerns about the

time commitment. Our goal for 2015 is to improve the advertising of this ministry in order to increase the number of volunteers and lessen the burden of time commitment for those who are concerned.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer do not hesitate to contact me at [samaralmaalouf@gmail.com](mailto:samaralmaalouf@gmail.com).

## **JR. ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOCIATION (JOYA)**

*(Laura Rush)*

JrOYA continues as an effort to bring our members in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades (roughly ages 10-13) together for fun and fellowship while working to establish them in faith. Our regular activities have included a number of games that emphasize cooperation and learning more about each other, in addition to simple fun. The most recent activity, getting lost in the corn maze at Ard's Market, included OYA. Spiritual topics are introduced seasonally as appropriate. Once again, we will be taking a group to the St Herman's Middle School Youth Retreat at Antiochian Village, on December 14-16 this year.

One change we may implement in the course of 2015 is for parents to help with snacks on a rotating basis. Further, if you have an interest in helping as a craft or activity leader, or in filling in as an alternate leader, please contact Dn. Mark or me at [office@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:office@holytrinity-oca.org).

## **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. There is now a small shelf containing a subset of the library books in the parish hall. The online catalog of all the library books, showing which books are checked in and giving a description of each book, can be accessed through the parish website. Hopefully with more room available in the coming year a larger shelf with more books can be set up.

## **MATTHEW 25** *(Drives Individually Coordinated)*

Matthew 25 continues to execute our donation drives and serve our community. Each of Matthew 25's main drives (Back to School, Thanksgiving, St. Nicholas Tree, etc.) has its own director (with Dn. Alexander acting as a coordinator). The entire group meets 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. Matthew 25 is not a part of our operating budget, so please remember this ministry throughout the year as we often help individuals who come to our doors seeking assistance in the forms of utility payments and gas and food gift cards.

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

Meets every third Saturday of the month in the parish hall for breakfast and fellowship. Our current ministry project is to help senior parishioners with household repairs and yard work.

## **ORTHODOXY 101** *(Dn. Alexander Cadman)*

Although the Orthodoxy 101 ministry is not currently holding classes, this ministry continues to serve newcomers and inquirers through frequent one-on-one church tours and meetings. We are currently in the early stages of planning for a comprehensive four-part series that will be led by Fr. John. It is tentatively entitled "The Jesus You Never Knew" and will have these four sessions: The History of Salvation: Genesis to Revelation; Doctrine of the Early Church; Early Christian Worship (in the First Century); and Spirituality: What Must I Do to Be Saved? Refreshments will be served. If you are interested in attending, or know someone who is, please email [info@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:info@holytrinity-oca.org).

## **ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOC. (OYA)** *(Dn. Alex C.)*

After a brief hiatus last year, the Orthodox Youth Association now meets about four times annually. Our ongoing goal is to have larger, more involved activities, including overnight trips (i.e., New York City, beach, amusement park) as well as retreats. However, finding dates that work for everyone's schedules proves challenging. We plan to use collaborative, online resources to help with scheduling in the future.

## **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** *(Evan Bittner)*

The purpose of OCF is to foster a strong, lifelong commitment to Christ among students through a supportive community that witnesses the Gospel to the campus. We had many accomplishments this past school year (2013-2014): 1.) Participation in various PSU fellowship events: Dinner and Discussions, Stump the Priest Nights, Prayer Nights, Welcome BBQ, Fall Cabin Retreat, Spring Service Trip, and Game nights. 2.) Participation in regional and national OCF events: 10 students attended the Mid-Atlantic OCF Retreat to see the myrrh-streaming icon of the Theotokos in Taylor, PA with a visit to nearby Holy Protection Monastery. 3 students attended College Conference East over winter break. 3) OCF raised almost \$6,000 for THON to support the Four Diamonds Fund and had a dancer pair for the first time. Fundraising events included a Spaghetti Fundraising Luncheon at Holy Trinity, canning trips, sending appeal letters to family, friends, and parishioners (THONvelopes) and the THON 5K. Our overall goal for 2014-15 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. We will seek to accomplish this by having a balance between fellowship, education, worship, and service activities. We hope to create a close group of friends that can be a support system to one another in an open and nonjudgmental environment. As attendance has significantly increased, it has become more difficult to determine how much food to purchase. It is also a challenge to get some students who attend OCF to attend church regularly.

## RAISING ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN KIDS

*(Dee Patel/Maria Stevens)*

Raising Orthodox Christian Kids is a ministry, which seeks to support parents who are raising children in our church. Our one regular activity is "Thursdays in a Park," a playgroup which meets at local parks from May to September. This playgroup has several goals: to encourage fellowship of our parents of young children and the relationship of our children with each other. It is also a community outreach ministry, which welcomes all parents and kids of the community to enjoy the meeting of friends and the fun and healthy interaction of all who join us in the park!

Dee Patel will now be handing the ministry over to new leadership. Maria Stevens will be taking over the coordination of "Thursdays in the Park," a role which includes planning the park locations, times, and dates, and managing the Facebook group site. She will encourage our fellow church families with young children to attend, and continue to welcome new community members to our outings. We gladly welcome Maria as leader of this ministry and look forward to another fun season of Thursdays in the Park next year!

## RIDES TO CHURCH *(Mka. Jennifer Cadman)*

Rides available to college students rides to church on Sundays and any other time desired that is able to be accommodated. Several students take advantage of this opportunity on and off. Many times the students connect with other OCF students and they eventually take care of helping each other to and from church. It's a great ministry for the other college students as well and builds relationships. This is a wonderful way for Holy Trinity to serve our students.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL / VBS *(Dn. Mark Oleynik)*

During the past year, the Sunday School has continued to conduct religious education classes each week teaching the basic tenets of Orthodox Christianity through biblical, history, tradition, doctrine, and liturgical study. Additionally, there were many extra-curricular activities conducted including a Pascha workshop, SOUPer Sunday luncheon, egg hunt, parents meetings, and a Vacation Bible School (VBS). The theme for this year's VBS was "Entering Namia". As always, the Sunday school program should be viewed as a supplement to the parental role and responsibility of being the primary religious education teacher.

The staff has consists of dedicated teachers who share teaching responsibilities on a rotating basis within their assigned classes. We are thankful to these teachers for sharing their time and talent with the children of our parish.

Our classroom "areas" present some on-going challenges due their temporary nature (noise level, outside activity during class time, limited work/display areas, etc.). Most, if not all, of these problems will be solved when we move to Trinity House in 2015. The Sunday School is planning to make use of the whole house each week with classes spread throughout all three floors, with the lower level being our primary meeting area.

## 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 2015 is to support and comfort parishioners in a timely manner. We do not hold fundraisers 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 operates as a ministry to new moms within the parish by providing meals postpartum. The group provided 14 meals each to two families in the past year. We anticipate two to four families receiving our meals in the next year.

## YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP *(Megan Leathers)*

Holy Trinity's Young Adult ministry is a social ministry for young adults (with and without children). Our kick-off event was a social potluck. Our next event is a Corner Room dinner. The events are social with the idea of not putting too much of a financial burden on those involved. Starting in 2015 we will be having monthly social get together as it seems those are the most popular events for people to attend. I am always open to suggestions for new events though and of course we are always open to new members! The purpose of this women's ministry is devoted to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship: studying Scripture and the lives of the Saints.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY *(Mka. Linda Reeves and Laura Rush)*

The New Women's Ministry began on July 17, 2014 with a Picnic at the Rectory. This was a well-attended event with 36 women and young ladies present. The second fellowship function was Women's Night Out at Hoss's. Twenty-two women enjoyed sharing the good food and companionship of others. Adding to the spirit of the evening, door prizes were awarded. The Annual Matushki Coffee will take place on Nov. 1 at Matushka Kelly Oleynik's house. Finally, The Women's Brunch for the Monday of Bright week will take place after Liturgy.

The study group for Elisabeth the Grand Duchess, led by Mka Linda, began on Sept. 9 at the Rectory. There has been a steady attendance and equal sharing of the readings. Opportunity for fellowship and enjoying baked goods is also part of the group's activities. The final session is Nov. 18th. Laura Rush will lead a Women's Bible Study beginning in January.

The only obstacles we see at present are trying to plan activities at a time that women can attend events during the year given their busy schedules and other commitments.