

# 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
November 8, 2015

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## Today's Agenda

- i. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
  - ii. Establishment of Quorum
  - iii. Minutes of the 2014 Meeting (*see below*)
  - iv. Priest's Report
  - v. Treasurer's Report (*see below*)
  - vi. Review and Approval of the 2016 Budget (*see below*)
  - vii. Election of Officers (Secretary, Treasurer, and Facilities Chair)
  - viii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."
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## Minutes from the Annual Meeting

November 9, 2014

- I. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..." — 12:23 p.m.
  - II. Establishment of Quorum — 39 registered members signed the attendance sheets, quorum is established.
  - III. Minutes of the 2013 Meeting — Joanne Takarchek moved adoption of the minutes, Megan Leathers seconded; motion to adopt passed unanimously.
  - IV. Priest's Report — Fr. John
  - V. Treasurer's Report — Michael Stickles. Bob Roberts moved to accept Treasurer's Report, Anne Swisher seconded; motion passed unanimously.
  - VI. Review and Approval of 2015 Budget.
    - a. Bruce Haupt moved adoption of the 2015 Budget for Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Karen Cattell seconded, the motion to adopt 2015 Budget for Holy Trinity Orthodox Church passed unanimously.
    - b. Mark Radomsky moved adoption of the 2015 Budget for Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Kelly Oleynik seconded, the motion to adopt 2015 Budget for Chapel of the Holy Spirit passed unanimously.
  - VII. Election of Officers.
    - a. The following slate of officers was presented—President: Bob Roberts; Vice-President: Jay Rush; and Grounds Chair: Bruce Haupt.
    - b. Joanne Takarchek moved election of the slate, Jennifer McClure seconded. The slate was elected unanimously.
  - ix. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..." — 12:50 p.m.
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# Rector's Annual Report

## Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

November 8, 2015

Let's look over the past year: It goes without saying that Opening the Doors for worship of our new Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Beavertown on October 31 takes the spotlight. After much hard work, prayer, and perseverance, that such a beautiful building is now "up and running" is a joy to behold.

Running a close second is the much anticipated completion of the Trinity House next to the church. Engaging in one project can be challenging, but our parish has had two racing in tandem toward the finish line. It hasn't been a tie but it has been close.

Trinity House's original opening set for October was postponed because of red tape with certain overseeing agencies. So, it pays to be cautious about setting another "opening day" event. Though, as soon as we have the green light to occupy the building, we will go and pray there and open those doors, too. The opportunities for more ministry abound.

One key to ministry is always the funding necessary for ministry. In the Scriptures, we read about Christ's ministry being supported, in large part it is believed, by a number of pious women from Galilee whom Jesus had healed: Joanna, Susanna, Mary Magdalene, and many others. They followed Christ and ministered to Him "of their substance," that is of their personal wealth (cf. Luke 8:1-3).

In other words, the women's gratitude was expressed not merely in words but in wealth. They just didn't say "thank you." They put their money where their mouths were. In time these women would be known to us as the Holy Myrrhbearers, those who stood before Him at the Cross, who prepared Jesus' body for burial, and who first heard the glad tidings of the Resurrection from the Angel.

They gave both so Christ could minister to others as He had to them, and ultimately they ministered directly to Christ, buying burial ointment and anointing his Body. In fact, it would be precisely because they were busy about their ministry that they would be shown worthy of first hearing the Good News that Christ was risen from the dead.

Through the generosity of many, both the Chapel construction and Trinity House renovation has been made possible. Contributions above giving enabled the Chapel to be built with the Archdiocese loaning the balance: \$115,000 from the Chapel and \$75,000 from the Archdiocese. Likewise, building fund donations and pledges have accounted for almost \$200,000 for Trinity House.

This being said, these buildings are not ministry. They only provide a location, a shelter, a roof. We could rest and be satisfied, but in time we would only have pretty buildings to show for it.

For this coming year, let's look at the example of the Myrrhbearing Women and ask ourselves three questions whether or not our attitude towards giving to Christ's ministry mirrors theirs.

- **First, do we give generously?** The Scriptural measure of generous giving didn't begin until after the required 10% of income was given. In fact, in the Bible this amount, the tithe, was not considered an offering. An offering only began after the tithe was first paid. I would suggest that here is where generous giving begins for us, too. The Women gave of their substance, that is,

their principal, their capital. — *If we talk about after-tax income, the Myrrhbearers were engaged in after-tithe generosity.*

- **Second, do we give cheerfully?** The Scriptures also teach that God loves a cheerful giver: not grudgingly, but joyfully. In fact, the Greek word for this type of giving is “hilarious.” That’s right, giving hilariously. This Greek word is related to the word for the sun “ilios” (ἥλιος). Just as sunlight shines forth naturally from the sun, God wants our giving to well forth from us naturally without compulsion (cf. 2 Cor. 9:7). — *The Myrrhbearers gave hilariously, all the way to the Cross, the Tomb and the Resurrection on the Third Day.*
- **Third, do we give lovingly?** It has been said that we can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving. Jesus sums it up best when He said: “God so loved the world, that He gave his only-begotten Son, that all who believe on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16). — *The Women knew this well. Jesus never asked them for a thing. He simply loved them, healed them and said, “Follow me.” They responded to His love by loving him in return.*

For our parish, there is no difference. We are asked to give to the work of ministry, out of our substance, in gratitude for all that Christ has done in our lives. It is not a question of paying the bills, although bills always have to be paid. Rather it is a concrete act of worship when we follow Christ, to give of our substance. It is an expression that our lives have been healed, our infirmities cured, our demons cast out, such that all we can do is lavish our love on Christ’s Body, his Church.

When we look at the blessings of this parish, its facilities, its people, its ministries, let’s embrace the opportunity to follow Christ, giving like Myrrhbearing Women this coming year: generously, cheerfully, lovingly. The opportunities for more ministry abound, not building more buildings but building up souls for the Kingdom of Heaven.

— Fr. John Reeves

# Treasurer's Report

<b>Account Balances</b> (as of October 31 each year)				
CATEGORY	2013	2014	2015	% CHG
<b>ACCOUNTS</b>				
Checking Account (Fulton Bank)	—	—	<b>\$77,096</b>	—
Checking Account (National Penn Bank)	\$10,727	\$67,035	<b>\$18,332</b>	-73%
Money Market Account (National Penn Bank)	\$121,901	\$104,351	<b>\$29,525</b>	-72%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132,628</b>	<b>\$171,386</b>	<b>\$124,953</b>	-27%
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Fixed Assets				
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Building/Land</i>	40,000	40,000	<b>160,000</b>	300%
<i>Holy Trinity—Building/Land</i>	115,000	115,000	<b>115,000</b>	0%
<i>Holy Trinity—Improvements/Renovations</i>	330,000	330,000	<b>330,000</b>	0%
<i>Trinity House—Building/Land</i>	—	—	<b>340,000</b>	—
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$485,000</b>	<b>\$485,000</b>	<b>\$945,000</b>	94%
Liquid Assets				
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
<i>Alaska Mission Trip</i>	-507	-317	—	100%
<i>All-American Council Reserve</i>	2,000	2,833	<b>467</b>	-84%
<i>Altar Server Robes</i>	285	-290	—	100%
<i>Bookstore</i>	1,257	1,260	<b>455</b>	-64%
<i>Building Fund/Trinity House (Phases I &amp; III)</i>	51,438	94,096	<b>92,403</b>	-2%
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit</i>	46,522	52,162	<b>14,037</b>	-73%
<i>Continuing Education—Rector</i>	—	160	<b>1,578</b>	886%
<i>Continuing Education—Assistant Priest</i>	3,507	325	—	-100%
<i>Cupola Fund<sup>1</sup></i>	4,200	6,090	—	-100%
<i>Deacon Isaac Fund</i>	110	227	—	-100%
<i>Discretionary Fund—Rector</i>	—	—	<b>111</b>	—
<i>Discretionary Fund—Ministry Director</i>	—	—	<b>272</b>	—
<i>Icon Fund</i>	1,480	2,780	<b>2,780</b>	0%
<i>Matthew 25</i>	2,012	3,288	<b>4,126</b>	25%
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	3,025	2,378	<b>1,795</b>	-25%
<i>Penn State OCF for THON Fund</i>	—	—	<b>576</b>	—
<i>Property Reserve/Maintenance</i>	406	6,173	<b>11,173</b>	81%
<i>Sabbatical—Rector</i>	-2,711	-1,271	<b>-791</b>	38%
<i>Sunday School</i>	966	683	<b>1,454</b>	113%
<i>Trinity House (Phase II)</i>	—	—	<b>18,629</b>	—
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS				
<i>Operating Cash</i>	18,638	809	<b>-24,112</b>	-3080%
<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>	<b>\$132,628</b>	<b>\$171,386</b>	<b>\$124,953</b>	-27%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$617,628</b>	<b>\$656,386</b>	<b>\$1,069,953</b>	23%
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Holy Trinity/Trinity House Mortgage Balance	\$218,132	\$210,669	<b>\$436,404</b>	107%
Chapel of the Holy Spirit Mortgage Balance	—	—	<b>\$75,000</b>	—
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$218,132</b>	<b>\$210,669</b>	<b>\$511,404</b>	143%

## Footnotes

1. On September 8, 2015, Council voted to merge the Cupola Fund balance into the Building Fund in order to restore the amounts taken from the Building Fund for the construction and installation of the cupola.

## 2016 Proposed Budgets

<b>Holy Trinity Orthodox Church</b>					
CATEGORY	2014 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2015 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>					
Stewardship Offerings <sup>2</sup>	\$171,510	\$170,084	\$239,284	\$250,494	5%
Candles and Flowers	2,962	2,926	2,600	3,150	21%
Parking	1,255	5,167	4,500	6,000	33%
Interest Income	166	31	100	25	-75%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$175,893</b>	<b>\$178,208</b>	<b>\$246,484</b>	<b>\$259,669</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Personnel</b>					
<i>Rector</i>	61,662	62,283	74,740	75,490	1%
<i>Ministry Director</i>	35,543	36,608	43,930	47,820	9%
<i>Custodian</i>	4,084	4,124	7,350	7,350	0%
<i>Office Assistant</i>	5,472	5,526	6,630	6,630	0%
<i>Campus Missionary</i>	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	0%
<i>Choir Director</i> <sup>2</sup>	—	2,350	3,000	3,000	0%
<i>Continuing Education—Rector</i>	2,560	111	1,920	1,920	0%
<i>Continuing Education—Deacons</i>	888	1,761	1,800	1,200	-33%
<i>Continuing Education—Asst. Priest</i>	584	—	—	600	—
<i>Supply Clergy</i>	250	2,250	2,000	1,750	-13%
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$113,543</b>	<b>\$117,513</b>	<b>\$144,370</b>	<b>\$148,760</b>	<b>3%</b>
Mortgage <sup>3</sup>	14,430	23,810	28,573	28,573	0%
Archdiocese	18,471	17,785	21,530	20,486	-5%
Utilities	5,221	8,185	10,346	11,550	12%
Outreach and Fellowship <sup>4</sup>	9,305	9,960	10,000	10,250	3%
Physical Plant	5,987	9,357	7,000	10,200	46%
Liturgical <sup>2</sup>	9,066	6,800	4,675	8,275	77%
Office Administration	7,232	4,969	5,100	5,600	10%
<i>(Transfer to) Property Reserve Fund</i> <sup>5</sup>	4,167	4,167	5,000	5,000	0%
Christian Education	2,659	2,975	3,600	3,600	0%
Insurance	1,778	2,611	3,020	3,020	0%
<i>(Transfer to) Discretionary Funds</i> <sup>6</sup>	2,534	1,083	1,250	1,500	20%
Licenses/Fees/Service Charges <sup>7</sup>	265	2,136	270	1,105	309%
<i>(Transfer to) All-American Council Fund</i> <sup>8</sup>	833	833	1,000	1,000	0%
Refurnishings	—	—	750	750	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>195,491</b>	<b>\$212,184</b>	<b>\$246,484</b>	<b>\$259,669</b>	<b>5%</b>

### Footnotes

1. through October 31 of each respective year.
2. now includes the income for the former Deacon Support, OCF, and Mission appeals.
3. for budgeting/cash flow purposes, includes both the interest expense and funds going toward principal.
4. now includes Coffee Hour (which was formally its own category).
5. indicates the parish's annual contribution to the Property Reserve Fund.
6. indicates the parish's annual contribution to the Rector's (\$1,000) and Ministry Director's (\$500) discretionary funds.
7. increase reflects additional charges pertaining to new PA background check law.
8. indicates the parish's annual contribution to the Sobor Fund.

# Chapel of the Holy Spirit

CATEGORY	2014 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2015 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$31,108</b>	<b>\$133,075</b>	<b>\$15,495</b>	<b>\$18,300</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Personnel					
<i>Administrator's Housing Allowance</i>	1,000	1,000	1,200	4,700	0%
<i>Priest-in-Charge's Housing Allowance</i>	7,500	—	—	—	0%
<i>Supply/Visiting Clergy</i>	3,491	809	3,000	3,000	0%
<i>Travel Allowance</i>	1,432	5,002	3,500	—	0%
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$13,423</b>	<b>\$6,811</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	<b>\$7,700</b>	<b>0%</b>
Property/Mortgage	10,211	123,494	4,400	3,000	-32%
Operating Expenses <sup>2</sup>	1,487	648	1,570	2,400	75%
Utilities	—	—	200	2,400	1100%
Outreach and Fellowship	2,974	1,972	1,625	1,800	11%
Insurance	—	—	—	1,000	—
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	—	0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$28,095</b>	<b>\$132,925</b>	<b>\$15,495</b>	<b>\$18,300</b>	<b>18%</b>

## Footnotes

1. *through October 31 of each respective year.*
2. *For the sake of year-to-year comparisons, "Operating Expenses" includes the following budget categories: Office Administration, Liturgical, Christian Education, Furnishings, and Snow Removal.*
3. *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 weekly this fall (as opposed to alternating weeks last year) on Tuesdays, in the Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m. This year's study is Archimandrite Tikhon (Shevkunov)'s book *Everyday Saints*.

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

The Altar Servers ministry operates under the direction of Darren Torbic. With the departure of Josiah Stickles and Konstantin Kucheryavyy this year, Samuel Oleynik has taken over the role of assistant sacristan and is doing an excellent job. 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. So far, Darren and Sam do an excellent job making responsibilities are evenly divided among the day's servers. There remains a possibility we may have to considering adding a "Team C" sometime in the future. The main disadvantage to this approach is that our boys 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 *prospora* throughout the changing liturgical seasons. We are also in need of more women interested in learning and helping our group to grow.

## 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.

## 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 see Bob Roberts or

Deacon Alex. The goal for 2016 is to resume our specialized workshops with Fr. John to improve things like pronunciation, style, and technique, aiming to have workshops once a quarter.

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

**Glory to Jesus Christ!** Since its inception in 2008, CHS has increasingly expanded our worship schedule and experience with weekly Eucharist along with either a lay Vespers or Great Vespers served before the first and third Sundays of the month. With the blessing of Archbishop Melchisedek, CHS's current Sunday schedule consists primarily of Obednitsa with Holy Communion (Deacon's Liturgy) with a Divine Liturgy served once per month at which time the Mystery of Reconciliation is offered. On occasion, services are suspended in favor of worshipping together in full body with our mother church. To this "ordinary" schedule we have added other services appropriate to the season or occasion as well as Bible and/or topical studies.

CHS continues to search for ways to be in the community in which we live and serve. One of those ways has been to participate in the annual Street Fair held in Selinsgrove at which we have distributed hundreds of cases of bottled water over the years along with thousands of pens. Through this outreach, we have been blessed to touch a number of lives by the simple giving of water away to the thirsty and have developed "regulars" who have sought us out and who have been following the progress of the Temple. This year was unique in that more literature was actually distributed and more conversation was engaged in with passers-by. Perhaps a growing sign of "comfort" with this phenomenon of Orthodoxy? For us the Selinsgrove Street Fair is a major event since it allows us the most contact with a large body of persons in one shot.

This year we added to our community outreach a more local event in Beaver Springs at which literature was made available and pens and scratch pads were handed out. Although smaller in scale than the Selinsgrove Street Fair, it is nonetheless equally significant since it is the immediate community we live in and serve giving CHS more direct contact with local folks. Additionally, CHS continues to sponsor its "quarterly" Family Fun Night at the MACC (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.

Perhaps the biggest bit of news is the completion of the new Temple. On June 28, 2015 a groundbreaking ceremony was held and by mid-October we were in our new building! An official grand opening was held on 31 October 2015 along with a Service for the Opening of the Doors—a once in a lifetime experience for any parish! That for which we have long dreamed and toiled has now, by the grace and mercy of God, become a reality. May God continue to bless us so that we might be a blessing and a faithful witness to His Kingdom in the place where we have been planted.

### **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.

The choir held a successful workshop with Dr. Nicholas Reeves this summer and looks forward to continued development in 2016. Repurposing the old choir stands at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit has provided some additional room and mechanisms for enhancing storage space and space utilization are 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** (*Dn. Alex/Corene Swisher/Chas Doty*)

Coffee Hour builds up our community by supplying refreshments after the Sunday Divine Liturgy so that parishioners, visitors, and guests can fellowship together. This year, more than 40 families serve on one of 13 teams, which works out well since each team serves coffee and snacks once per quarter. We also plan a parish potluck once a quarter as well, typically the Sunday or two before a fasting season. Some of the recent improvements to Coffee Hour was the appointment of Chas Doty as Kitchen Supplies Coordinator, so if you open the last box of something or see anything missing, please contact him (his phone number is posted in the kitchen). In the near future, we look forward to the extra room we will have in our Parish Hall, as the Bookstore and Kids Corner will move into the offices and the Parish Library moves to Trinity House. To lessen the burden placed on our volunteers, new members to the ministry are always welcome; and if a particular individual or family wishes to participate but finances are a consideration, the ministry is able to reimburse costs as necessary. If you have any questions or would like to join a team, see Deacon Alex (who maintains the schedule).

### **GREETERS** (*Melody Thompson*)

The purpose of the Greeters Ministry is to welcome all those who come into our church, current members/attenders 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.

We were able to meet our goal of growth this year with the addition of Susan and John Pettengill to our ministry. On ongoing challenge is finding substitutes since many in our

parish are already committed to other ministries. A focus for improvement is making sure the initial greeting in the Narthex is followed up during coffee hour, not only for newcomers, but also for regular attenders who might need extra personal attention. We addressed these challenges in a meeting of ministry leaders this summer and are committed to increased efforts in these areas.

The goals of the ministry for the coming year are 1) to expand the number of substitutes in the Greeters Ministry; and 2) to implement more consistent fellowship with all who need it during coffee hour.

### **HOMELESS MINISTRY** (*Samar Al Maalouf*)

Housing Transition is a non-profit organization that provides housing, food, clothes and various other services to the people in need in Centre County. The residents of Centre House are in majority single mothers and their kids, or people who have problem finding a job. They are our brothers, our opportunity to look after the most in need in our **own** community. It is one of the ministries of preaching our faith by **doing** and not only by words. The purpose of this ministry is to share a meal and our time with the residents. 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. We also collect quarters to assist the residents with their laundry charges. The last collection was \$62.50 and was given to the Housing Transition staff last September.

I took charge of this ministry in January of 2014. The first year of my service, we had 8 groups of volunteers and we were able to provide a meal every second Tuesday of the month with no issues of scheduling (Thanks to few membered who volunteered more than once a year). In the past year, 2 members left the ministry, due to relocation outside of the State College area, and we one new family joined as a member. Currently we have 7 groups of volunteers. This year, we went through a few scheduling crises that got resolved thanks to those who stepped up at the last minute to volunteer and cook more than twice or even three times this year.

Last July, in the meeting of the ministry leaders, there were suggestions to improve the advertisement of this ministry (as well as other ministries) in the weekly bulletin or the Trisagion as well as during the parish monthly meals (by inviting volunteers from each ministry to share their experience and how volunteering for this ministry impacted them). The announcement in the Trisagion got some people interested enough to contact me, but we did not have any substantial increase in the number of volunteers.

The main goal for 2016 is to continue to improve the advertisement and increase the number of volunteers to lessen the burden of time commitment for those who volunteer more than once a year. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer, please contact Samar ([samaralmaalouf@gmail.com](mailto:samaralmaalouf@gmail.com)).



### **INQUIRER'S CLASS** (*Fr. John Reeves*)

Orthodoxy 101 was replaced by Inquirer's Class this year. The group meets Sundays at 6:30 p.m., and is currently studying *The Faith We Hold* by Archbishop Paul of Finland. The purpose of this ministry is give non-Orthodox an opportunity to learn about the Orthodox faith.

### **JR. ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOC.** (*Laura Rush*)

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. Our regular activities have included a number of game nights, mini-golf over the summer, and trips to MACC to attend the CHS "Fun Nights." Once again, we will be taking a group to the St. Herman's Middle School Youth Retreat at Antiochian Village, on December 11-13 this year. It's good to watch the kids have fun together as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have an interest in helping as a leader, please contact me at [office@holyltrinity-oca.org](mailto:office@holyltrinity-oca.org).

### **LENDING LIBRARY** (*Anna Stickle*)

The library is here to help people educate themselves about the faith. We have a large selection of books, some owned by the parish and others owned by participating individuals, that may be checked out for a period of 6 weeks at a time.

If you have been thinking about buying a book, borrowing it first is a good way make an initial evaluation. Currently, only a small selection of books is available to look at in the Parish Hall. However, the library will be benefiting from having more shelf space in the Trinity House. The books that the parish owns will be relocated to the Trinity House in order to be more accessible for people to browse through and borrow. We are also thinking about adding more accessible shelves in the parish hall. Our full database can be accessed online at <http://holyltrinity-oca.org/lending-library> (Click "Lending Library" under the "Ministries" tab). You can sort by category or search for author or key words in the title. (It is a simple search mechanism that only accepts single words or exact phrases). Just fill out a card, or email or talk to Anna Stickle if you wish to check out a book.

We are thinking about adding a budget item for buying books for the library. You will notice that there is a survey out to find out more about how people are using the library and what books everyone might like to read.

### **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 coordinator. The entire group meets four 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 remember this ministry throughout the year as we often help individuals who come 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 latest ministry project was to repair the porch and steps of a parishioner's home.

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

OYA ministers to high school students (ninth through twelve grades). In 2015, the ministry grew from meeting just four times a year to meeting every month, thanks to help of Laura Rush. Our goal for next year is to bring on an additional volunteer to help me chaperone events, allowing Jr. OYA and OYA to have separate, age-appropriate activities each month (we would save joint meetings of the two fellowships for special occasions). In 2016 we also plan to have larger, more involved activities, including overnight trips (i.e., New York City, beach, amusement park) as well as retreats.

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

**Accomplishments of 2014-2015:** 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: 12 students attended the Mid-Atlantic OCF Retreat to see the myrrh-streaming icon of the Theotokos in Taylor, PA. Several students attended College Conference East over winter break. 3) OCF raised money for THON to support the Four Diamonds Fund. Fundraising events included a Spaghetti Fundraising Luncheon at Holy Trinity, a canning trip, sending appeal letters to family, friends, and parishioners (THON-velopes) and the THON 5K. 4) Increased attendance at Sunday Liturgy.

**Goals for 2015-2016:** 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. 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.

**Challenges:** OCF has seen a large increase in attendance particularly at the beginning of the academic year but has struggled to keep members throughout the semester. Discussions have been slow to develop lately. It has also been hard to figure out how much food to buy although recently we have done well purchasing the right amount.

### **RAISING ORTH. CHRISTIAN KIDS** (*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!

This year Thursdays in the Park went traveling. A number of new parks were explored, both in State College and Bellefonte, to find which were preferred by members. As the number of members in the Facebook community has grown to over 200, the group us becoming well known among young families. Community members make up the majority of regular attendees, so we hope to see more HTOC families out next summer!

### **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. Many of our students take advantage of this opportunity; however, there are quite a few willing OCF-ers this year helping to provide rides to each other. It's a great ministry for the other college students as well. This ministry is always open for the college students. In fact, due to some limitations Mka. Jennifer had this year, other members of the congregation have filled in from time to time. Thank you to all that helped!

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

A primary objective of our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School (VBS) is to support our parents in the upbringing of their children in the teachings and tenants of the Orthodox faith. To realize this objective, the Sunday school program has offered weekly classes each Sunday (September-May), retreats, charity and outreach activities, fellowship gatherings, and family outings throughout the year. Also, as a vital extension of the School school, our annual VBS theme was held in June with the theme of "The Armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-18). Twenty-one students (K-5) led by over twenty volunteer leaders participated in this week long exploration of how we must prepare daily for spiritual warfare.

Currently, there are forty-six registered students in five classes along with fourteen instructors We look forward to conducting the majority of our classes in Trinity House in the coming years.

### **TLC** (*Mark and Leslyn Radomsky*)

At the request of the HTOC clergy, TLC provides support to parishioners in times of illness/injury, bereavement, and in other times of need. 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/providing 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. During 2015, we made several visits to homes and hospitals, coordinated meals, send cards/flowers and reached out to all those who were referred to the ministry.

Our goal and mission for 2016 is to reach out to those in need and visit, support and comfort them in a timely manner. We do not hold fund raisers to support our work; TLC relies on a small operating budget and the charitable gifts of our parishioners who often donate their time, talents and food preparation skills to this worthy cause. Everyone attending HTOC is encouraged and welcome to participate in the TLC ministry.

Looking to 2016, we do not anticipate any specific challenges to the mission of TLC.

### **TLC-2** (*Corene Swisher*)

TLC-2 operates as a ministry to new moms within the parish by providing meals postpartum. The group provided approximately seven meals each to three families in the past year. We anticipate two to four families receiving our meals in the next year. If you are interested in supporting new families with a meal, please contact Corene Swisher.

### **YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP** (*Megan Leathers*)

Holy Trinity's Young Adult ministry is a fellowship ministry for young adults (both with and without children). We now have regular monthly potlucks, usually on Monday evenings, usually with a group of 6-10. The events are social with the idea of not putting too much of a financial burden on those involved. Starting in 2016 the goal is to have additional activities in addition to the monthly potlucks. I am always open to suggestions for new events and of course we are always open to new members!

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

After a year of its inception the Women's Ministry has strived to accomplished its ministry goals of providing fellowship and teaching with various social activities and opportunities for study of scripture and education about our Orthodox faith.

These experiences were provided through the Women's Bright Monday Brunch, a picnic in July at the home of Leslyn Radomsky, Women's Night Out at Hoss's this September, and the Matushki Tea scheduled for November 14.

Laura Rush conducted a study group on Becoming a Women of Excellence in the spring of 2015 which involved scriptural study and Matushka Linda is currently sponsoring a study group at her home on St. Maria of Paris, *Pearl of Great Price*.

Finally, two surveys were conducted by Laura Rush. The purpose of the first one was to find out how effective the Women's Ministry was and what changes, if any, needed to be made. The second survey was to choose a Patron Saint for the Women's Ministry. The ladies selected The Holy New Martyr Elizabeth, Grand Duchess.

We realize there are obstacles in attendance of events due to busy schedules. We are at present trying to come up with some creative ways and times once the Trinity House is open to accomplish this.