

# 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
November 12, 2017

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## Today's Agenda

- i. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
  - ii. Establishment of Quorum
  - iii. Minutes of the 2016 Meeting (*see below*)
  - iv. Priest's Report
  - v. Treasurer's Report (*see below*)
  - vi. Review and Approval of the 2018 Budget (*see below*)
  - vii. Election of Officers (Treasurer, Secretary, and Facilities Chair)
  - viii. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."
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## Minutes from the Annual Meeting

November 13, 2016

- I. **Call to Order** — Following the entrance of His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek, the meeting was opened at 12:19 p.m. with the singing of "O Heavenly King."
- II. **Establishment of Quorum** — As 44 registered members signed the attendance sheets, the quorum was established.
- III. **Minutes of the 2015 Meeting** — Upon the motion of Michael Stickles, seconded by Joanne Takarchek, the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were unanimously adopted.
- IV. **Priest's Report** — Due to the absence of Fr. John Reeves due to illness, Deacon Alexander Cadman read the Priest's Report. Following a motion by Brandon Swisher, seconded by Michael Pelikan, the report was accepted unanimously. Thereafter, President Robert Roberts added a few thoughts on the parish's life and work over the past year, emphasizing our growth in terms of new people, a newly opened and consecrated chapel, the ordination of Fr. David, and the completion of the Trinity House Project; he also emphasized the challenges, including Fr. John's illness and witness, and the deeply meaningful unction service, and the service of our supply clergy. He also acknowledged Brian Troyan's work on the facilities and Charles Beechan's work with the finances, as well as Deacon Alex's service during Fr. John's illness. He commended Mark Fedkin and Judy Fryncko for their work on our audit, and indicated that our budget would be a 1.2% increase over that of the previous year.
- V. **Treasurer's Report** — The Treasurer's Report was presented by Charles Beechan. Following a motion by Michael Stickles and a second by Bruce Haupt, it was unanimously accepted.
- VI. **Review and Approval of the 2017 Budget** — The Budget was presented by Charles Beechan. Following a motion by Joanne Takarchek and a second by Michael Pelikan, it was approved unanimously. The Chapel Budget was also presented by Charles Beechan. Following a motion by Matushka Brenda Smith and a second by Margaret Lyter, it was approved unanimously.

- VII. **Election of Officers** — The following slate of officers was presented: Justin Houser, President; Jay Rush, Vice President; Bruce Haupt, Grounds Chair. Following a motion by Mary Lanser and a second by Mary Haupt, the officers were elected unanimously. It was also announced that the Parish Council would recommend the appointment of Samar Al Maalouf to the Rector to fill the remainder of Justin Houser's term as Secretary.
- VIII. **Adjournment** — There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the singing of "It is Truly Meet" at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Justin K. Houser, Secretary

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## Rector's Annual Report

The past twelve months have been a test, to be sure: physically, emotionally, spiritually, and medically. Those who saw me from week to week could remark on the progress I had made in appearance, agility, and vocal strength. Neither they nor I could measure the progress being made against the cancer. In fact, the doctor himself couldn't either. That's because the visible cancer had been removed surgically. The course of treatment only works to strengthen the immune system against recurrence of the malignancy.

So now we wait and watch, with periodic blood work and occasional scans to assess where we are. Will the disease return? The odds are that it will. It hates giving up territory it has held, like sin. So this time of increased vigilance is incredibly important in the fight. I will be hoping and praying for God's will to be done, whatever that may be.

Yet, waiting and watching is also how the Christian is to live in the first place. St. Paul exhorted the churches to be "ever watching," looking for the Second Coming of Christ. In other words, by waiting—patience—and watching—hope for the future, a Christian is called to live, by faith. By faith mountains are moved, kingdoms are overthrown, the mouths of lions closed fast, fires are quenched, and everything else accomplished as enumerated by the writer to the Hebrews.

But this type of waiting and watching is obviously an active one. While I might have thought that this portion of my life might be one of porch-sitting and musing, I rather doubt it now. This waiting and watching business might just prove to be the most active time of my life—and in the parish as well—and that would be quite a way to go, ultimately. This is proving a good time for my soul, and for all of us.

Just like last year, this started out to be my annual rector's report, not a spiritual reflection. Yet, perhaps it is both. The role of any parish priest is to help its people learn how to live together in Christ. Any other purpose or activity pales in comparison. The King of the Ages will have to make the ultimate determination in my regard as to whether or not I have done so.

However, now I sense a new dimension, not really a new purpose, but a continuation of the original. St. Paul said that for him to live is Christ and to die, gain. My prayer is that I continue this ministry to the same end. If we learn to live together in Christ, then whatever happens along the way, including death itself, will not and cannot separate us from His love for us.

— Fr. John Reeves

# Treasurer's Report

<b>Account Balances</b> (as of October 31 each year)				
CATEGORY	2015	2016	2017	% CHG
<b>ACCOUNTS</b>				
Checking Account (Fulton Bank)	\$76,921	\$47,218	<b>\$90,347</b>	91%
Checking Account (National Penn Bank)	\$18,385	—	—	—
Money Market Account (National Penn Bank)	\$29,530	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$124,836</b>	<b>\$47,218</b>	<b>\$90,347</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Fixed Assets				
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Building/Land</i>	153,632	153,632	<b>153,632</b>	0%
<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>	340,000	340,000	<b>340,000</b>	0%
<i>Trinity House—Improvements/Renovations</i>	—	110,521	<b>110,521</b>	0%
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$938,632</b>	<b>\$1,049,153</b>	<b>\$1,049,153</b>	<b>0%</b>
Liquid Assets				
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
<i>All-American Council Reserve</i>	-888	-471	<b>1,833</b>	489%
<i>Bookstore</i>	455	293	<b>320</b>	9%
<i>Building Fund/Trinity House (Phases I &amp; III)</i>	89,157	2,319	<b>2,962</b>	28%
<i>Campus Ministry Foundation</i>	—	1,000	<b>1,000</b>	0%
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Operating Fund</i>	7,454	4,524	<b>13,051</b>	188%
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Building Fund</i>	8,000	2,525	<b>3,945</b>	56%
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Vestment Fund</i>	—	265	—	-100%
<i>Continuing Education—Rector</i>	1,303	393	<b>543</b>	38%
<i>Continuing Education—Assistant Priest</i>	—	50	<b>650</b>	1200%
<i>Discretionary Fund—Rector</i>	-969	-1,267	<b>587</b>	146%
<i>Discretionary Fund—Ministry Director</i>	269	253	<b>89</b>	-65%
<i>Icon Fund</i>	2,780	1,280	<b>1,280</b>	0%
<i>Matthew 25</i>	4,126	1,460	<b>38</b>	-97%
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	1,341	1,341	<b>5,616</b>	319%
<i>Pass Through Account</i>	—	130	<b>-50</b>	138%
<i>Penn State OCF for THON Fund</i>	577	577	—	-100%
<i>Property Reserve/Maintenance</i>	11,173	2,207	<b>10,272</b>	365%
<i>Sabbatical—Rector</i>	-791	—	—	0%
<i>Sunday School Special Event Fund</i>	771	506	<b>856</b>	69%
<i>Trinity House (Phase II)</i>	18,957	27,596	<b>26,744</b>	-3%
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
<i>Operating Cash</i>	-18,879	2,237	<b>20,610</b>	821%
<b>Total Liquid Assets</b>	<b>\$124,836</b>	<b>\$47,218</b>	<b>\$90,347</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,063,467</b>	<b>\$1,096,371</b>	<b>\$1,139,500</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Holy Trinity/Trinity House Mortgage Balance	\$436,402	\$425,597	<b>\$414,291</b>	-3%
Chapel of the Holy Spirit Mortgage Balance	\$75,000	\$72,250	<b>\$69,250</b>	-4%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$511,401</b>	<b>\$497,847</b>	<b>\$483,541</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$552,065</b>	<b>\$598,524</b>	<b>\$655,959</b>	<b>10%</b>

## 2018 Proposed Budgets

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church					
	2016	2017 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2017 BUDGET	2018 PROPOSED	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>					
Stewardship Offerings	\$243,551	\$185,725	<b>\$253,557</b>	<b>\$257,625</b>	1.6%
<i>(Transfer from) Trinity House Phase II<sup>2</sup></i>	10,879	8,483	—	—	0.0%
Parking	6,277	6,664	<b>6,000</b>	<b>7,200</b>	20.0%
Candles and Flowers	3,410	2,273	<b>3,150</b>	<b>2,800</b>	-11.1%
Interest Income	61	—	<b>25</b>	—	-100.0%
Miscellaneous Income	330	621	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$264,458</b>	<b>\$ 203,766</b>	<b>\$262,732</b>	<b>\$267,625</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$67,947</b>	<b>\$ 31,135</b>			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$332,405</b>	<b>\$ 234,901</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Personnel					
<i>Rector</i>	75,490	56,787	<b>75,716</b>	<b>77,232</b>	2.0%
<i>Ministry Director</i>	47,820	35,972	<b>47,963</b>	<b>50,361</b>	5.0%
<i>Custodian</i>	7,350	5,513	<b>7,350</b>	<b>7,500</b>	2.0%
<i>Office Assistant</i>	6,630	4,972	<b>6,630</b>	<b>6,765</b>	2.0%
<i>Campus Missionary</i>	3,000	2,250	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	0.0%
<i>Choir Director</i>	500	100	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	0.0%
<i>Continuing Ed.—Rector Outlay</i>	480	1,440	<b>1,920</b>	<b>1,920</b>	0.0%
<i>Continuing Ed.—Deacons' Expenses</i>	—	—	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	0.0%
<i>Continuing Ed.—Asst. Rector Outlay</i>	600	450	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>	0.0%
<i>Supply Clergy</i>	3,620	250	<b>1,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>	100.0%
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$145,490</b>	<b>\$ 107,734</b>	<b>\$148,879</b>	<b>\$154,578</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
Mortgage Outlay <sup>3</sup>	28,572	21,429	<b>28,572</b>	<b>28,572</b>	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Expenses <sup>4</sup>	20,308	14,915	<b>20,486</b>	<b>23,468</b>	14.6%
Utilities	9,911	9,526	<b>12,700</b>	<b>12,650</b>	-0.4%
Outreach and Fellowship	8,867	8,389	<b>10,250</b>	<b>10,750</b>	4.9%
Physical Plant	7,026	6,856	<b>10,200</b>	<b>10,300</b>	1.0%
Liturgical	5,889	4,914	<b>8,275</b>	<b>7,350</b>	-11.2%
<i>(Transfer to) Property Reserve Fund<sup>5</sup></i>	5,000	3,750	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	0.0%
Office Administration	5,249	2,489	<b>5,350</b>	<b>4,100</b>	-23.4%
Christian Education	2,930	1,781	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>	0.0%
Insurance	2,892	3,339	<b>3,020</b>	<b>3,339</b>	10.6%
Licenses/Fees/Service Charges <sup>6</sup>	2,368	1,159	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,900</b>	20.8%
<i>(Transfer to) Discretionary Funds<sup>7</sup></i>	1,500	1,125	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	0.0%
<i>(Transfer to) All-American Council Fund<sup>8</sup></i>	1,721	750	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	0.0%
Refurnishings	—	354	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	0.0%
Accessibility Improvements	—	1,482	<b>750</b>	<b>750</b>	0.0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	510	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$248,233</b>	<b>\$189,992</b>	<b>\$262,732</b>	<b>\$270,008</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$138,070</b>	<b>\$10,785</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$386,303</b>	<b>\$200,777</b>			

### Footnotes

1. *through September 30, 2017.*
2. *Phase II funds are transferred into the Operating Account to offset mortgage payment.*
3. *includes both interest and principal payments. Principal is now paid from the Trinity House Phase II as of Jan. 1, 2016. The mortgage balance as of Sept. 30 was \$415,270.*
4. *Includes Archdiocesan assessment (\$22,868, an increase of 15% year-over-year) and \$600 in travel to the Archdiocesan Assembly each November.*
5. *indicates contributions to the Property Reserve Fund. As of Sept. 30, 2017, the account balance was \$9,855.*
6. *includes background check fees.*
7. *indicates contributions to the Rector's and Ministry Director's discretionary fund accounts. As of Sept. 30, the account balances were \$503 and \$126, respectively.*
8. *indicates savings towards the triennial Sobor (next held in 2018). As of Sept. 30, the balance was \$1,750.*

# Chapel of the Holy Spirit

	2016	2017 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2017 BUDGET	2018 PROPOSED	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>					
Total Income	\$19,335	\$16,607	\$18,500	\$23,400	26.5%
Total Non-Budgeted Income	\$3,355	\$2,204			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$22,690</b>	<b>\$18,811</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Personnel					
<i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	4,700	4,425	5,900	8,400	42.4%
<i>Supply/Visiting Clergy</i>	2,000	—	1,500	1,500	0.0%
<i>Travel Allowance</i>	420	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$7,120</b>	<b>\$ 4,425</b>	<b>\$7,400</b>	<b>\$9,900</b>	<b>33.8%</b>
Outreach and Fellowship	1,902	1,453	3,000	4,000	33.3%
Property/Mortgage	3,150	2,881	3,500	4,000	14.3%
Operating Expenses <sup>2</sup>	1,169	1,506	2,000	3,000	50.0%
Utilities	1,702	1,325	2,100	2,000	-4.8%
Insurance	367	—	500	500	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments <sup>3</sup>	—	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,408</b>	<b>\$11,591</b>	<b>\$18,500</b>	<b>\$23,400</b>	<b>26.5%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,149</b>	<b>\$269</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$28,557</b>	<b>\$11,860</b>			

## Footnotes

1. *through September 30, 2017.*
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 was in hiatus for 2017.

## **ALTAR SERVERS** (*Darren Torbic*)

The Altar Servers ministry operates under the direction of Darren Torbic, with assistance from Samuel Oleynik. The altar 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 the weekly team assignments by looking in the monthly Trisagion or the weekly “This Week at Holy Trinity” email. We ask parents and their sons to please try to observe the posted schedule so we do not have too many servers on any given Sunday, as we do not turn anyone away.

If you have a son aged eight years or older, encourage him to serve in the altar. It is an honor and privilege to serve our Lord and assist the clergy in the altar. Serving in the altar is a great way for boys and young men to become integrated into the life of the Church at an early age. In addition to assisting during services, the altar servers meet annually for fellowship, to learn fire safety, and rehearse movements.

## **ALTAR SOCIETY** (*Joanne Takarchek*)

The Holy Trinity Altar Society is to serve God through the maintenance and beautification of the church, its vestments, altar covers and baking of prosphora and litiya bread throughout the changing liturgical seasons. We are always looking for more women to join our Society. Please feel free to contact me, Anna Stickle, or any of the women in our Society if you are interested. Take care and God Bless.

## **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 bookstore has undergone a number of changes this year. Two chairs and an end table have been added as have several new shelves for displaying icons and more books. A payment box has been added to accept money when a volunteer is not present. The books have been organized according to subject matter. A CD player has been added to demo music before purchasing. Perhaps most importantly, the bookstore now has a beautiful hand printed sign to increase the bookstore’s visibility.

One of the goals for the coming year is to recruit new volunteers and set up a rotating schedule for volunteering.

## **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 in serving in this capacity, please see Matthew Finke, who has been a blessing to us by stepping up this year and agreeing to serve as our parish *ecclesiarch* (one who studies the rubrics, prepares/copies music for the choir, and takes care of the liturgical books). In 2017, Matthew, on his own initiative, arranged for several cantors to attend training at St. Vladimir’s Seminary. The goal for 2018 is to resume our specialized workshops to improve things like pronunciation, style, and technique, aiming to have workshops once a quarter. We plan to amend the format slightly to allow participants to take turns chanting in a group setting, and then receive feedback and guidance from the rest of the group.

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

**Blessed be the Name of the Lord!** Since this time last year, the Orthodox Chapel of the Holy Spirit (CHS) has experienced what might be termed the ebb and flow of life in a parish. This past summer, within weeks of each other, CHS lost two of her longstanding members to death, Mary Laboda, aged 100 years, and Earl (Noah) Lyter, who was a founding member of the Chapel. In September, we celebrated three baptisms: Evan (John) Kerstetter, his wife, Elya (Irene), and their daughter, Aletheia (Irene). With these, CHS celebrated our first funeral and our first baptisms. The only “first” left for us to experience, someone has quipped, is a wedding. We shall see in God’s own time.

Since September of this year, CHS has expanded our worship services to include weekly Great Vespers so that there is now a full cycle or rhythm of Saturday Vespers/Sunday Divine Liturgy with additional services in conjunction with the Great Feasts as I am able. With that, we have witnessed a small uptick in Saturday night attendance, a real blessing as we continue to establish and secure the missional beachhead in Beavertown with the help of our Lord. We continue to assess what other liturgical services can be offered in light of our mission as the Church, our yearnings to grow by bringing others to know Christ and His Church, and the limitations of a part-time ministry. This expansion in both mission and ministry is exciting and a real joy while, at the same time, there is sadness in it because it means we are slowly severing the apron strings. In a sense, as only Orthodox can know, ours is joyful sorrow. Along with our services, we continue to offer catechesis on Sundays following our fellowship luncheon for all interested persons.

CHS continues to reach out to the community by way of several avenues. These include but are not limited to, the well-established the Selinsgrove Street Fair generally held on the last Saturday of every September at which we freely distribute bottles of water, pens, literature, greetings and smiles. Again, as in years previous, we distributed over 1,000 bottles of water and were completely out by around 1:45 p.m.! This event continues to provide contact with the population on the eastern end of the county. To reach out to

the western end [of Snyder County], we continue to host our CHS Family Fun Night at the MACC once a quarter or thereabouts and have opted to sponsor a table at the weeklong Beaver Community Fair held around the same time as the Selinsgrove Street Fair. This event attracts a large crowd of people, thus providing potentially greater exposure in the community in which we live. The “newly” established ministry of “Knitting/Crocheting Hats & Blankets for Babies” continues to provide monthly opportunity for the ladies of the mission (as well as some of the men) a time for fellowship and conversation and outreach to those who participate not (yet) members while providing a much-needed commodity for several of the local hospitals, including Mt. Nittany!

At the time of this writing, we will have been praying and worshipping in our “new” Temple a little over two years. What’s that old saying? *Tempus fugit!* Visitors continue to remark (thereby re-affirming the beauty of Orthodoxy itself) just how beautiful the Temple is inside. As God blesses, we hope to add to the icons already present as well as a Pantocrator at some time in the future to further glorify God, not to mention adding on one day! We continue to look into and explore other possible avenues for mission and ministry.

May God grant us His grace to remain faithful and obedient servants and children of His Kingdom, always bearing Him witness!

#### **COFFEE HOUR** (*Dn. Alexander Cadman/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 30 families serve on one of 13 teams, which works out well since each team serves coffee and snacks once per quarter. We also have a parish potluck twice a year as well, typically the Sunday or two before a fasting season. Chas Doty has done an excellent job this year returning as Kitchen Supplies Coordinator. This significantly helps us maintain a consistent supply of materials in the kitchen area. You can help this cause by notifying him if you open the last box of something or see anything missing (his phone number is posted in the kitchen). In 2017, we continued to enjoy the extra room we now have in our Parish Hall, as the Bookstore and Kids Corner moved into the areas were the offices once were. This year we followed one of recommendations of the Accessibility Task Force to add standing height tables to facilitate conversation and improve traffic in the Parish Hall. We are always open to suggestions on making the space more inviting.

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.

This year Mka. Jennifer Cadman (aided by Rebekah Cadman) moved from substitute to permanent greeter, thus “freeing up” one of the permanent greeters. This allowed us to implement a new practice idea that came out of our summer planning meeting: the “floating” greeter. On most Sundays we now have a third greeter who is available to help the regular greeter team during the “rush” at the beginning of Liturgy and to give individual attention to visitors or newcomers who may have questions, want assistance in following the Liturgy, etc.

Ongoing goals for the ministry are to make sure that the team’s initial greeting in the Narthex is followed up during coffee hour and to add substitute greeters to our ministry.

#### **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE** (*Bruce Haupt*)

This past year we were able to mulch along the Calder Way side of the church during the annual “spring cleaning.” A.T. Pelikan volunteered to maintain the flowers beds around the church as Brian Straus’ work took him away. There work is very much appreciated as I do not have the talent to choose what plant to put where or when. If there are any others who wish to volunteer to help A.T. next year check with her as I will be following her direction of what, when, and where to plant as asked. Jay Rush, Ravi Patel, and I shared the mowing responsibilities until my son Mike volunteered to mow and weed eating the lawn through next year at the cost of parking space on the gravel lot.

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

*What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. — James 2:14–17*

Housing Transitions 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 Housing Transitions are in majority single mothers and their kids, or people who have problem finding a job. They are our brothers and sisters, 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. The purpose of this ministry is to share a meal and our time with the residents of Housing Transition. 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.

Currently we have 9 groups of volunteers that are able to provide a meal every second Tuesday of the month. This year we were able to cover all 12 months thanks to members who volunteered more than once a year. We also collect quarters to be used by the residents for laundry. However, this past year the collection box was misplaced and no quarters were collected.

Two goals for 2018: First, to **increase the number of volunteers** to at least to 12 groups that can cover all 12 months of the year or allow us to even offer more than one meal per month. Second, **reinstall the quarter collection box**. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer please do not hesitate to contact me ([samaralmaalouf@gmail.com](mailto:samaralmaalouf@gmail.com)).

### **INQUIRER'S CLASS** (*Dn. Alexander Cadman*)

The purpose of this ministry is give non-Orthodox an opportunity to learn about the Orthodox faith. Content for the sessions are based on Fr. Thomas Hopko's "rainbow" series, *The Orthodox Faith* and Fr. Andrew Damick's *Orthodoxy and Heterodoxy*. In 2017, the format of the class changed from a standing date on the calendar (first Wednesdays of other month, e.g.) to one-on-one sessions by appointment. This has worked well, as it has given me the ability to adapt the sessions for the individual interests and needs of the inquirer. This year, six people attended at least two sessions! Next year, I continue to pray that God gives more inquirers, and am thankful to Him that, as Father's schedule allows, some of these inquirers will be able to "graduate" into the catechumenate and **ORTHODOXY 2.0**.

### **JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

JrOYA brings children 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. Regular activities in 2017 have included a number of game nights, mini-golf over the summer, and trips to MACC to attend the CHS "Fun Nights." This ministry entered a hiatus period in fall of 2017 when the current ministry leader took a sabbatical. We are looking for an additional male ministry leader/chaperone (Hannah Oleynik has offered to be our female chaperone). If you have an interest in helping as a leader, please contact Deacon Alexander at [dnalex@holytrinity-oca.org](mailto:dnalex@holytrinity-oca.org).

### **LENDING LIBRARY** (*Anna Stickles*)

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. Many of the books are available to look at and check out in the Trinity House, on the main floor next to the fireplace. Our full

database which includes many additional books can be accessed online at [holytrinity-oca.org/lending-library](http://holytrinity-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 Stickles if you wish to check out a book.

### **MATTHEW 25** (*Melody Thompson*)

The Mt. 25 Ministry reaches out and helps persons in need outside our parish in accordance with the Gospel message "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me." Parish-wide drives occur during August and the Lenten, Thanksgiving, and Christmas seasons. A new focus this last year was on prison ministry, through a Lenten appeal to support the national Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. Mt. 25 also organized activities to meet a wide range of needs for local school children and mental health clients in our community.

Holy Trinity parishioners are unfailingly generous in responding to Mt. 25 appeals. However, the ministry continues to face a challenge in attracting people to actively participate in the planning and implementation of projects. The two goals of the ministry in the coming year are 1) to identify potential new members and to incorporate them into the ministry, and 2) to identify new areas of need that the ministry can serve.

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

Meets every third Saturday of the month in the parish hall for breakfast and fellowship.

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

OYA ministers to high school students (ninth through twelve grades). Our goal for next year is to formally separate OYA from Jr.OYA and have separate, high school age-appropriate activities each month (we could save joint meetings of the two fellowships for special occasions). Like Jr.OYA, this ministry remains in hiatus until a female chaperone is identified. One we resume this ministry, it is our hope to have larger, more involved activities, including overnight trips (i.e., New York City, beach, amusement park) as well as retreats,

### **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** (*Tim Daly*)

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at Penn State has existed for years to provide a refuge for Orthodox students at University Park to grow in their faith and enhance their Orthodox network in a safe and fun environment. This past year, our organization has thrived because of the leadership of Deacon Alex Cadman and our students serving on our executive board to provide students with these enriching opportunities. Weekly Thursday meetings have been the foundation for providing these experiences, but utilization of our wonderful Trinity House Atty Lounge on Mondays has help our group continue to grow and foment spiritual meaning in the lives our Penn State students.



Fostering meaningful relationships and providing educational and spiritual value to our membership was the top priority for the OCF last year and maintains its position as our vision. Through our Monday and Thursday meetings along with regional, district, and Penn State OCF specific retreats we've been able to accomplish this goal.

The collegiate environment continues to be a spiritual battleground for students. That along with packed schedules will be a challenge for our OCF's membership. Finding ways to provide new experiences and add value while fomenting fellowship will be our challenge. However, we are confident that the innovative and strong leadership from Deacon Alex, Father John, and our student executive board will continue moving our organization forward and accomplish our goals, helping us positively impact the lives of these college students.

### **PARISH COUNCIL** (*Justin Houser, President*)

The Parish Council has worked diligently and consistently to ensure that the needs of the parish have been met in 2017. We give thanks to the Lord for the additional souls who have been added to our numbers, both at Holy Trinity as well as at the Chapel. We continue our work to ensure that our facilities as well as our parish vision are prepared to serve God.

Given the challenging 2016 financial situation, much of the Council's work in 2017 was dedicated to ensuring that our parish could continue its ministries while wisely stewarding the financial resources entrusted to it. Many hours have been dedicated to ensuring that the parish was able to meet its financial obligations while simultaneously maintaining our vigorous liturgical schedule and our level of ministry outreach. We are grateful for the generous response of our parishioners and friends to the 2017 budgetary need, which has put us on a firmer footing going into 2018. This year, the Council oversaw various physical improvements and repairs, including repairs to doors, the purchase of a new freezer, improvements to the parking lot, and a new roof for Trinity House (at substantial cost savings due to use of insurance proceeds). We also joyfully received regular reports about the good works being accomplished in our various areas of ministry. At the conclusion of 2017, the Council, together with appointed Pastoral Care Committees for both Holy Trinity and the Chapel, dedicated many hours to prepare a budget which aligned with our vision of serving our Lord and ministering to the souls who are being added daily to our number. The serious illness of our rector was a subject of paramount concern and prayer throughout 2017, and we rejoice that Father John is cancer-free and that his grueling cycle of treatment has ended. We look forward to working together with all of our clergy on a comprehensive strategic visioning process in 2018.

It has been simultaneously a challenging and rewarding year. The Council expresses its appreciation to all who have contributed to our success this year, and particularly to Deacon Alexander Cadman, who supplied us with much administrative support during Father John's illness. Special thanks are also due to our retiring Facilities Chair Brian Troyan, whose term ends this year. Brian put countless

hours into making sure that our facilities are the best that they can be, and did so in a very economical fashion that involved considerable personal effort and hard work. We also sincerely lament the absence from our midst of our long-time dedicated member, Charles Beechan. Chuck served long and faithfully over the years through his various roles on the Parish Council. May his memory be eternal!

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

Rides to church are still available for any service. While college students are using the service less (often relying on each other for rides), others are taking more advantage, including those who cannot drive or may be without transportation every temporarily. Please call or text me at (814) 359-9078 to take advantage of this ministry.

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

The Sunday School's primary objective is to support the parents of students in the upbringing of their children in the Faith. We open Sunday School each week in the parish hall with the singing of "O Heavenly King" followed by the Trisagion prayers before the students are dismissed to their classrooms for approximately forty-five minutes of instruction (September through May). This year there are thirty-eight students (K-12) enrolled in the Sunday School program who are divided into five classes (ranging from four to eleven students per class). Of particular note, our parish has been blessed to have dedicated teachers who taken up the responsibility to instruct and teach the way a child should go (*Ps. 32:8*). All of our current teachers have served our parish for many years in this capacity and have provided a strong and consistent foundation in the teachings of our Church using the Orthodox Christian Education Commission (OCEC) curriculum.

In July, a week-long Vacation Bible School (VBS) was conducted with the theme of "Living in an Orthodox World." Twenty-two students (grades K-6) attended along with over twenty volunteers. Each day began with supper followed by instructional sessions, crafts, music, and games.

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

At the request of the HTOC clergy, TLC provides support to parishioners in times of illness/injury, bereavement, hospitalizations, etc.; we may also reach out and respond to other requests, as needed. Support takes on many different forms, such as home/hospital visits, arranging assistance with projects, providing rides to appointments, sending flowers/cards, and arranging/providing meals. Mark and Leslyn Radomsky coordinate TLC, but every member of the church is an at-large Holy Trinity TLC minister, and perhaps from time to time a TLC recipient. In 2017 we lost two beloved parishioners, Chuck Beechan and Earl Lyter (*Memory Eternal!*). We were blessed to minister to their wives and families. Additionally, we made several visits to homes and hospitals, coordinated meals, sent cards/flowers and reached out to all those who were referred to the ministry.

Our goal and mission for 2018 is to reach out to those in need to visit, support and provide comfort, as needed. 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, food, and food-preparation skills to this worthy ministry. Everyone attending HTOC is encouraged and welcome to participate in the TLC ministry.

Looking to 2018, TLC does have a specific need during several upcoming months to add temporary staff. Please see Mark and Leslyn for details. We thank everyone who participated in TLC outreach/ministry in 2017 and for their support and assistance in the coming year.

### **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 two families in the past year. We anticipate two 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 and professionals. We have regular monthly pot-luck/game nights, usually on Monday evenings, usually with a group of 6-10 either at our house or Trinity house. The events are social with the idea of not putting too much of a financial burden on those involved. We are always open to new members!

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY** (*Mary Lanser*)

The 2016-2017 year for Women's Ministry had fewer highlights than in previous years but a number of events stand out for mention. Last fall, the Women's Ministry sponsored a book study on Bev Cooke's *Royal Monastic* which is a biography of Princess Iliana of Romania. Other useful texts were an autobiography of Princess Iliana entitled *I Live Again*, and a biography of her mother, Queen Marie, entitled *The Last Romantic*. Princess Iliana of Romania is also known to us as Mother Alexandra, the foundress of Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Elwood City, Pennsylvania. Mother Christophora, the current Abbess of Holy Transfiguration and the sisters were also a wonderful resource in sending us beautiful icon cards and issues of their journal, *A Life Transfigured*, about Mother Alexandra, and small reflections on the Our Father by Mother Alexandra to share and to keep in the Holy Trinity library in Trinity House. During the winter of 2017 the Women's Ministry sponsored a bible study on the Old Testament Book of Nehemiah with particular emphasis on an awareness of God's blessings and gratitude, and on the importance of unceasing prayer and liturgical prayer, rite and ritual, and also watchfulness as a part of unceasing prayer.

The standout event for this year, for the Women's Ministry, was a Saturday retreat on prayer on March 11 at Trinity House. Mother Christophora and Mother Seraphima, from Holy Transfiguration Monastery, came to give conferences for the retreat and to break

bread with us at a noon meal. Mother Seraphima gave the morning conference on watchfulness as it is revealed to us in our Bridegroom Matins and other services of Lent and Holy Week. Mother Christophora had intended to talk about Mother Alexandra and indeed brought many things to show us from the time of Mother Alexandra as Abbess, but in the end, she sat with us and addressed the spiritual needs and concerns of young women and mothers in a beautiful free flowing session of questions from the women and responses from Mother. It could not have been any better, more intimate or more spiritually satisfying had it been planned that way.

Finally the Women's Ministry ended the year in October 2017 with the annual Matushki Tea, hosted by Mka. Linda Reeves, Mka. Brenda Smith, Mka. Jennifer Cadman, and Mka. Kelly Oleynik. A special thanks to Mka. Kelly Oleynik for opening her home to the women for this year's tea. Mka. Kelly and Deacon Mark have always been most generous in opening their home to our Holy Trinity family and we are grateful!

Recently the Women's Ministry met to discuss plans for the upcoming year. It was decided this year to try something a bit different. Rather than having a "Women's Night Out," we will be sponsoring a number of Women's Nights In both at Trinity House and in private homes in order for us to get to know one another better and to deepen friendships and make some of our new women feel welcomed by us all. It was also decided to continue the emerging tradition of having an annual women's retreat day. It was also decided, with the help and guidance of Deacon Alexander, that this year's book study was going to be held on-line so that we might include more women than we are able to include when we have day or evening face to face study sessions. We look forward to another productive year for Women's Ministry and hope to begin to look ahead to expanding our activities while retaining and improving the tried and true as well.