

# 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
November 11, 2018

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## Today's Agenda

- i. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
  - ii. Establishment of Quorum
  - iii. Minutes of the 2017 Meeting (*see below*)
  - iv. Priest's Report
  - v. Treasurer's Report (*see below*)
  - vi. Review and Approval of the 2019 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 12, 2017

- I. **Call to Order** — Lead by Fr. John Reeves, the annual parish meeting was opened at 12:22 p.m. with the singing of "O Heavenly King."
- II. **Establishment of Quorum** — As 47 registered members signed the attendance sheets, the quorum was established.
- III. **Minutes of the 2016 Meeting** — Upon the motion of Joanne Takarchek, seconded by Laura Rush, the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were unanimously adopted.
- IV. **Priest's Report** — Fr. John Reeves read the Rector's Annual Report. His report was a reflection on the past year challenges of fighting cancer and the spiritual lessons we can all learn from this experience. As Fr. John recovers, he will slowly resume his duties in the parish.
- V. **Treasurer's Report** — Michael Stickle presented the Treasurer's Report for 2017. In general, all numbers look good and, for the first time in three years, the operating cash exceeds the number that was budgeted thanks to everyone generosity.

To answer Fr. John question about audits, Michael replied that audits are done at the beginning of each year. Last year audits were good and this year audits are scheduled for the beginning of 2018.

Following a motion by Joanne Takarchek and a second by Matushka Linda Reeves, the report was unanimously accepted.

- VI. **Review and Approval of the 2018 Budget** — Michael Stickle also presented the Budget of 2018, which includes the budgets of Holy Trinity and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

The proposed 2018 budget reflected a 1.9% increase over the 2017 budget. The proposed budget also included the new Archdiocesan assessment, which increased by 15% from previous year and resulted in the difference between the proposed and budgeted numbers.

Jill Finke inquired if we will be able to meet the 2017 budgeted goal, and Michael Stickle answered that we are on track to do so.

The Chapel income this year is close to reach the number proposed in the Chapel 2018 budget. This increase in income will fund more activities in the community.

Following a motion by Mary Lanser and a second by Matushka Linda Reeves, the 2018 budget for Holy Trinity and the Chapel were approved unanimously.

- VII. **Election of Officers** — The following slate of officers was presented for election: Michael Stickle, Treasurer; Samar Al Maalouf, Secretary; Brandon Stodart, Facility Chair. Following a motion by Bruce Haupt and a simultaneous second by Mike Pelikan and Matushka Linda, the officers were elected unanimously.
- VIII. **Adjournment** — There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the singing of "It is Truly Meet" at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Samar Al Maalouf, Secretary

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## Rector's Annual Report

We celebrate God's action in our midst. A dream became a vision 25 years ago. There could be an Orthodox Church in Happy Valley. Others embraced that vision as time rolled on. Hard work ensued. The limits of faith were tested. God was faithful to us as we sought to be ever more faithful to him. The vision proved godly as we were blessed in so many ways; He added daily to the Church, such as were being saved (*Acts 2:42*).

This time of transition will be a further test of that vision. Was it built around a man and his personality, or will it endure once he retires? That is a critical issue. Leadership is always being tested. The first test on the horizon will be the adoption of the Parish Council's proposed budget for 2019.

The proposed budget continues the vision: **First**, it funds parish life, campus ministry, a seminarian in training, and it adds a budget category to support the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

**Second**, this budget also calls for an increase in stewardship by parishioners. In past years we have relied on "outside" income from parking lot rentals to fund operations, at total of \$7,200 this year. This is nothing new. We have rented parking spaces to students and others since the beginning.

However, in this budget, council proposes that the income from parking be allocated for capital projects, to begin funding future needs such as paving the parking lot, adding more ADA/accessibility features to the parish, and other major expenditures down the road. Thus, the call for an increase in pledges for 2019.

**Third**, stewardship at Holy Trinity—*sacrificial* stewardship, to quote from our core values—is part of who we are. Our approximately 80 giving units—families and single households—have contributed \$2,358 per unit from January 1 to October 31, 2018.

— Fr. John Reeves

# Treasurer's Report

<b>Account Balances</b> (as of October 31 each year)				
CATEGORY	2016	2017	2018	% CHG
<b>ACCOUNTS</b>				
Checking Account (Fulton Bank)	\$47,218	\$90,347	<b>\$89,415</b>	-1%
<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	110,521	<b>110,521</b>	0%
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,049,153	\$1,049,153	<b>\$1,049,153</b>	0%
Liquid Assets				
RESTRICTED FUNDS				
<i>25 Years of Ministry Fund</i>	—	—	<b>7,795</b>	—
<i>All-American Council Reserve</i>	-471	1,833	<b>-2,605</b>	-242%
<i>Bookstore</i>	293	320	<b>-487</b>	-252%
<i>Building Fund/Trinity House (Phases I &amp; III)</i>	2,319	2,962	<b>4,507</b>	52%
<i>Campus Ministry Foundation</i>	1,000	1,000	<b>1,000</b>	0%
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Operating Fund</i>	4,524	13,051	<b>21,019</b>	61%
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Building Fund</i>	2,525	3,945	<b>4,898</b>	24%
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Memorial Fund</i>	—	—	<b>1,085</b>	—
<i>Chapel of the Holy Spirit—Vestment Fund</i>	265	—	—	0%
<i>Continuing Education—Rector</i>	393	543	<b>1,609</b>	196%
<i>Continuing Education—Assistant Priest</i>	50	650	<b>1,250</b>	92%
<i>Discretionary Fund—Rector</i>	-1,267	587	<b>162</b>	-72%
<i>Discretionary Fund—Ministry Director</i>	253	89	<b>25</b>	-72%
<i>Icon Fund</i>	1,280	1,280	<b>5,200</b>	306%
<i>Matthew 25</i>	1,460	38	<b>-4,491</b>	-11918%
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	1,341	5,616	<b>4,509</b>	-20%
<i>Pass Through Account</i>	130	-50	<b>75</b>	-250%
<i>Penn State OCF for THON Fund</i>	577	—	—	0%
<i>Property Reserve/Maintenance</i>	2,207	10,272	<b>10,368</b>	1%
<i>Sunday School Special Event Fund</i>	506	856	<b>1,178</b>	38%
<i>Trinity House (Phase II)</i>	27,596	26,744	<b>19,845</b>	-26%
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS				
<i>Operating Cash</i>	2,237	20,610	<b>12,473</b>	-39%
Total Liquid Assets	\$47,318	\$90,347	<b>\$89,415</b>	-1%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,096,371</b>	<b>\$1,139,500</b>	<b>\$1,138,568</b>	-0%
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Holy Trinity/Trinity House Mortgage Balance	\$425,597	\$414,291	<b>\$402,512</b>	-3%
Chapel of the Holy Spirit Mortgage Balance	\$72,250	\$69,250	<b>\$66,250</b>	-4%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$497,847</b>	<b>\$483,541</b>	<b>\$468,762</b>	-3%
<b>EQUITY</b>				
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$598,524</b>	<b>\$655,959</b>	<b>\$669,806</b>	2%

# 2019 Proposed Budgets

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church					
	2017	2018 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2018 BUDGET	2019 PROPOSED	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>					
Stewardship Offerings	\$257,017	\$184,581	\$257,625	\$264,640	2.7%
<i>(Transfer from) Trinity House Phase II<sup>2</sup></i>	11,384	9,857	—	10,800	—
Parking	8,099	6,150	7,200	7,200	0.0%
Appeals <i>(e.g., Chapel, Seminarian)</i>	—	2,285	—	5,200	—
Candles and Flowers	3,217	2,323	2,800	2,800	0.0%
Miscellaneous <i>(e.g., Interest, Rewards)</i>	283	1,112	—	550	—
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$280,726</b>	<b>\$206,308</b>	<b>\$267,625</b>	<b>\$291,190</b>	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$38,530</b>	<b>\$42,847</b>			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$319,256</b>	<b>\$249,155</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Personnel					
<i>Rector<sup>3</sup></i>	75,716	65,150	77,232	80,000	3.6%
<i>Ministry Director</i>	47,963	42,218	50,361	52,879	5.0%
<i>Custodian</i>	7,350	6,250	7,500	7,500	0.0%
<i>Office Assistant</i>	6,630	5,638	6,765	6,765	0.0%
<i>Campus Missionary</i>	3,000	2,500	3,000	3,000	0.0%
<i>Choir Director</i>	700	3,100	3,000	3,600	20.0%
<i>Continuing Ed.—Rector Outlay</i>	1,920	1,660	1,920	1,920	0.0%
<i>Continuing Ed.—Deacons' Expenses</i>	—	1,141	1,200	1,200	0.0%
<i>Continuing Ed.—Asst. Rector Outlay</i>	600	500	600	600	0.0%
<i>Supply Clergy</i>	1,250	750	3,000	1,000	-66.7%
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$145,129</b>	<b>\$128,847</b>	<b>\$154,578</b>	<b>\$158,464</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
Mortgage Outlay <sup>4</sup>	28,572	23,810	28,572	28,572	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Expenses <sup>5</sup>	20,147	19,383	23,469	25,399	8.2%
Outreach and Fellowship	11,360	13,370	10,750	18,300	70.2%
Utilities	11,974	10,142	12,650	12,330	-2.5%
Physical Plant	6,899	4,226	10,300	9,000	-12.6%
Liturgical	6,367	7,944	7,350	7,350	0.0%
<i>(Transfer to) Capital Projects Fund</i>	—	—	—	7,200	—
<i>(Transfer to) Property Reserve Fund<sup>6</sup></i>	5,000	3,750	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Office Administration	3,951	5,013	4,100	4,875	18.9%
Insurance	3,339	3,765	3,339	4,200	25.8%
Christian Education	2,897	1,585	3,600	3,250	-9.7%
Licenses/Fees/Service Charges <sup>7</sup>	1,711	1,558	2,900	2,250	-22.4%
<i>(Transfer to) All-American Council Fund<sup>8</sup></i>	1,000	750	1,000	2,000	100.0%
<i>(Transfer to) Discretionary Funds<sup>9</sup></i>	1,500	1,125	1,500	1,500	0.0%
Refurnishings	415	84	750	750	0.0%
Accessibility Improvements	1,482	784	750	750	0.0%
Miscellaneous Expenses	—	30	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$251,743</b>	<b>\$226,165</b>	<b>\$270,608</b>	<b>\$291,190</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,052</b>	<b>\$38,495</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$266,795</b>	<b>\$264,660</b>			

## Footnotes

1. *through October 31, 2018.*
2. *Phase II funds from the Trinity House Capital Campaign are transferred into the Operating Account to offset mortgage payment.*
3. *indicates the total compensation budgeted for a new rector's package (i.e., salary, benefits, relocation expenses, etc.), actual compensation to be determined.*
4. *includes both interest and principal payments (principal is paid from the Trinity House Phase II). The mortgage balance as of October 31 was \$402,512.*
5. *Includes Archdiocesan assessment (\$24,868, an increase of 15% year-over-year) and \$600 in travel to the Archdiocesan Assembly each November.*
6. *indicates contributions to the Property Reserve Fund. As of October 31, 2018, the account balance was \$9,951.*
7. *includes background check fees.*
8. *indicates savings towards the triennial Sobor (next held in 2021). As of October 31, the balance was \$-2,688.*
9. *indicates contributions to the Rector's and Ministry Director's discretionary accounts.*

# Chapel of the Holy Spirit

	2017	2018 YTD <sup>1</sup>	2018 BUDGET	2019 PROPOSED	% CHG.
<b>INCOME</b>					
Stewardship Offerings	23,907	22,970	23,400	28,500	21.8%
Donations from Holy Trinity <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—	3,200	—
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$23,907</b>	<b>\$22,970</b>	<b>\$23,400</b>	<b>\$31,700</b>	<b>35.5%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$2,683</b>	<b>\$1,138</b>			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$26,590</b>	<b>\$24,108</b>			
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Personnel					
<i>Priest-in-Charge</i>	5,900	7,000	8,400	15,600	85.7%
<i>Supply Clergy</i>	250	250	1,500	1,500	0.0%
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$6,150</b>	<b>\$ 7,250</b>	<b>\$9,900</b>	<b>\$17,100</b>	<b>72.7%</b>
Outreach and Fellowship	1,707	1,603	4,000	4,500	12.5%
Property/Mortgage <sup>3</sup>	3,682	3,254	4,000	4,000	0.0%
Operating Expenses <sup>4</sup>	1,970	2,751	3,000	3,500	16.7%
Utilities	1,849	1,526	2,000	2,100	5.0%
Insurance	—	—	500	500	0.0%
Archdiocesan/OCA Assessments <sup>5</sup>	—	—	—	—	0.0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,358</b>	<b>\$16,384</b>	<b>\$23,400</b>	<b>\$31,700</b>	<b>35.5%</b>
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$375</b>	<b>\$240</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$15,733</b>	<b>\$16,624</b>			

## Footnotes

1. *through October 31, 2018*
2. *In 2019, Holy Trinity's operating budget includes \$3,200 of support for the Chapel, which will be offset by a Holy Spirit Day appeal.*
3. *The Chapel's mortgage balance as of October 31, 2018 was \$66,250.*
4. *For the sake of year-to-year comparisons, "Operating Expenses" includes the following budget categories: Office Administration, Liturgical, Christian Education, Furnishings, and Snow Removal.*
5. *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*)  
On hiatus for 2018.

**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 Orthodox Church” email. We ask parents and their sons to please observe the posted schedule.

If you have a son age eight years or older, encourage him to serve in the altar. Penn State students are also welcome to serve. 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. In addition to assisting during services, the altar servers meet annually for fellowship, to learn fire safety, and rehearse movements.

**ALTAR SOCIETY** (*Anna Stickles*)

The Holy Trinity Altar Society serves God through the maintenance and beautification of the church. It involves decoration of the icons and sanctuary, care of the vestments and 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 Joanne Takarchek, Anna Stickles, or any of the women in our Society if you are interested. Take care and God Bless.

**BOOKSTORE** (*Matthew Finke*)

The Holy Trinity Bookstore is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year and continues to support our parish and visitors to our parish with a wide selection of Orthodox books, icons, and music. We are a self-supporting ministry in that all proceeds from purchased items are used to purchase additional inventory. In this way we have grown our inventory considerably since beginning 11 years ago. In the coming year, the Bookstore will attempt to make a more consistent effort at publishing featured books in the *Trisagion*.

**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 me or Evan Ashmore, who has been a blessing to us by stepping up this year and serving as our parish *ecclesiarch* (one who studies the rubrics, prepares/copies music for the choir, and takes care of the liturgical books) while Reader Matthew underwent and recovered from surgeries. The goal for 2019 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!

As of this writing, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit (CHS) has been worshipping now in her new Temple for three years! CHS exists as a missional outreach of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (HTOC), as a daughter to her mother. We operate as a “chapel of ease” which means that we are not encumbered with some of the weightier matters of a full-fledged parish, thus affording us the luxury of focusing on mission and ministry primarily, if not exclusively.

CHS continues to experience interested inquiries, in part, via her outreach events such as the Selinsgrove Street Fair, Richfield Dutch Days, and the MACC Family Fun Night as well as the “Knitting and Crocheting Hats and Blankets for Babies” group, and by way of those persons who pay us a visit for worship. As of this writing, we have two catechumens and have received two into the Faith by way of Holy Baptism (Brad (Andrew)/Melissa (Xenia) Kerstetter.

CHS continues to grow in her worship of God and in service to our neighbor. As a marker of growth, we served for the first time during Holy Week the Holy Triduum, i.e., the services of Great and Holy Thursday, Great and Holy Friday, and Great and Holy Pascha. With the start of a new liturgical year, we are looking to grow more by serving Nativity Eve Vigil (last year we served Great Vespers with Litiya only) as well as looking at adding another Holy Week service and expanding the number of Presanctifieds offered. Of course, along with this comes more choir involvement and so one of the challenges will be to strike a balance so as not to overly tax the choir which has also been trying to expand, not only in number of voices, but in repertoire of music. One of the glorious hallmarks has been (and frequently commented on by others) is that CHS is a singing church, a hallmark I pray we never lose, assisted by the choir in our communal worship. Catechesis continues to be offered on Sundays following our time of fellowship. As a blessing for our life together in worship, we were overjoyed to celebrate the tonsuring of our first Reader, Evan (John) Kerstetter.

In addition to the challenge cited above regarding the choir, we will continue to be faced with the growing needs of the mission as she adds to the Church those who are being saved, especially in the area of worship as we continue to expand our services, and the hard reality of the priest-in-charge engaged in fulltime employment outside the church. It is our hope and prayer that in the future CHS might be able to apply for a church planting

grant. Another challenge will be to assimilate those souls received into the Faith in the life and ministry of the mission, thus realizing the true notion of the Body of Christ as envisioned by St. Paul in Sacred Scripture and by our Lord, Christ the True Vine. This will entail more than simply allowing others to do the work, but a true fleshing out of allowing the church to be the Church. This will mean letting go and letting God.

Henceforth and forevermore!

### **CHOIR** (*Karen Cattell*)

Holy Trinity Choir embraces the church's focus of building up the church outside our parish. How is that possible when the choir only sings services within the church? John 12:32 states, "*And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.*" Christ accomplished this first through His own death and resurrection, but we as the choir do as well when we lift up Christ in every service. Our ministry is one of sharing the truth of the Gospel through the hymns the Church we sing each week and to set the example of how to respond to Christ in worship.

This year has been full of changes for the choir. The baton was passed to a new director, many of the music books were updated or completed redone, the choir closet was completely reorganized, regular rehearsals have been established (and better attended), and outside activities have been initiated to promote cohesiveness within the choir. In addition, the new director and two choir members attended the PaTRAM Institute for Orthodox conductors and singers. Our PaTRAM experiences has helped to spark our vision for the future.

As of now we are continuing to work on our communication skills within the choir and with the clergy, learning new music, using proper vocal techniques for clearer understanding, and learning about each service as it pertains to worship. We are also actively pursuing experts to continue our musical training by way of workshops. One struggle we face is how to create the best space and formation for the choir. Proper sound quality and room for all choir members is an ongoing struggle. And although we have a good number of singers, we are always looking for talented singers with a heart willing to serve. However, we have no clear strategic plan on how to communicate our ongoing need for dedicated choir members to join us. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Fr John for his years of direction and support of this ministry. Thank you, Fr. John!

### **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 2018, we followed one of the recommendations of the Accessibility Task Force to add standing height tables to facilitate conversation and improve traffic in the Parish Hall. We are always exploring ways—and are 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 make all those who come into our church—current members, attenders and visitors, Orthodox and non-Orthodox—feel welcome and included in worship and other activities. We also facilitate connection to multiple resources about Orthodoxy. On most Sundays, a "floating" greeter helps the scheduled greeter team during the "rush" at the beginning of Liturgy and gives individual attention to visitors or newcomers who may have questions, want assistance in following the Liturgy, etc. Greeters work as a group during the Pascha services, welcoming those attending the service and "transforming" the church during the procession between the services. 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 expand participation in the ministry.

### **HATS AND BLANKETS FOR BABIES** (*Fr. David Smith*)

The "Hats and Blankets for Babies" is a ministry of CHS using the gifts and talents of knitters and crocheters to make blankets and hats for newborns. The hats and blankets are distributed to local hospitals or other organizations that service family's with infants. In 2018, our group, consisting of approximately 6-8 women, made approximately 100-150 infant hats and 25-30 blankets, distributed to 4 local hospitals. In September, a new project of making sleeping mats for the homeless was added to our ministry. These mats are made from 500-700 plastic grocery bags that are cut, looped together, and crocheted into a 3' x 6' mat. These mats are used under their sleeping bag or blanket to keep warm and dry.

In 2019, we hope to identify new organizations that may have need for the hats and blankets and can distribute them to those in need. We will also continue to make the mats for the homeless. However, there is a bigger challenge here to identify organizations in our immediate area that could benefit by these mats. There are no doubt homeless in our area, but they remain somewhat hidden.

As always, we are looking for more folks to join our group to share their gifts and talents for those in need. Donations of yarn in soft baby and bright colors are always welcome.

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

Holy Trinity partners with Housing Transition, 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 Transition 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. 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.

Currently we have 9 teams of volunteers (7 individuals, 5 families, and students of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). We had two additional members this year (one new and one returning member).

Activities this year:

1. We were able to cover all 12 months thanks to members who volunteered more than once a year.
2. We collected quarters to be used by the residents for laundry.
3. A representative of Housing Transition is to speak to the OCF students in November about the activities of the institution and how students can get involved as volunteers.

Our goal remains 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.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to volunteer, please do not hesitate to contact Samar by emailing [samaralmaalouf@gmail.com](mailto:samaralmaalouf@gmail.com).

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

"Orthodoxy 101" gives 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 Hetero-doxy*. Last year, 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. In Fall 2018, growth of the ministry resulted in beginning a *weekly* class on Mondays (the final class will meet this Monday and go on hiatus for the Nativity Fast). This year, a dozen people attended at least two sessions! Next year, I continue to pray that God gives more inquirers, and am looking forward to working with the new rector for those inquirers and catechumens who will "graduate" into **ORTHODOXY 2.0**, our class for those specifically preparing for Holy Illumination.

### JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOCIATION

Jr. OYA 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. This ministry entered a hiatus period in fall of 2017 but returned in February under the new leadership of Deacon Mark and Hannah Oleynik. They participated in Olympic type games in our Parish Hall followed by a road trip to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit later in the spring. The Jr. OYA plans to continue to meet monthly to engage in fellowship, learning, and service activities. Their next event will be a trip to the new "GetAir" trampoline park after liturgy next Sunday, November 18.

### LENDING LIBRARY (*Anna Stickles*)

The library is here to help people educate themselves about the faith. We have a large selection of Orthodox 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. The parish 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 [holyltrinity-oca.org](http://holyltrinity-oca.org) (click on "Lending Library" under the "Ministries" tab).

If you are interested in borrowing a book and don't see what you are interested in at the Trinity house, please try searching the online database or emailing Anna Stickles. If there is a book you would like to borrow but that we don't have, or if you are interested in an organized way to make your own books available for others to borrow please contact Anna.

### MATTHEW 25 (*Melody Thompson*)

The *Matthew 25* ministry reaches out to 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 serving the homeless, with donations collected during Lent assisting a local group that provides food and shelter to homeless individuals in the community. *Matthew 25* also organized activities to meet a wide range of needs for local school children, mental health clients, and suicide prevention initiatives in our community.

However, the ministry continues to face a challenge in going beyond successful monetary appeals to parishioners to 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 incorporate new members into the ministry, and 2) to expand activities in the area of homelessness.

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*)

On hiatus in Fall 2018.

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

OYA ministers to high school students (ninth through twelve grades). This year, OYA resumed from hiatus when Holly Torbic agreed to join Laura Rush as a co-chaperone. We have monthly gatherings, but 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** (*Christina Sartalis*)

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at Penn State exists to support the fellowship of Orthodox students at University Park through the means of community life, prayer, and service. Due to the leadership efforts of Deacon Alexander Cadman and the executive board, OCF is growing and flourishing more than ever before. Our weekly Thursday meeting average attendance has gone up by 2.24 people since the spring 2018 semester and we have seen a drastic increase in students attending our events at Trinity House's Atty Lounge. This year we also have more students attending regional OCF retreats and over 15 students from our chapter will be attending College Conference East in December.

The goal of this ministry is to unite students and help them deepen their spiritual life while navigating the challenges of being an Orthodox Christian in a collegiate environment. We provide students with the opportunity to experience the Orthodox Christian Church on campus by hosting Prayer Nights, Service Nights, and faith-based discussions.

While OCF is prospering, there is always room for improvement. Our challenge will be continuously finding new and better ways to promote fellowship and assist our members in practicing the Orthodox Christian faith. Some things we have done this past year to help our organization thrive are hosting a Mid-Atlantic Regional retreat and the addition of a Service Night as one of our Thursday meetings. OCF has been an essential ministry of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church for decades; we strive to constantly improve this wonderful organization in order to provide a refuge for future students the way past students have for us.

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

In 2018 our plate was full. To manage so many complex matters on our own would be impossible, but "with God all things are possible." This year has deepened our quarter-century faith in this promise, and we pray that we continue to follow the Lord's will for us in 2019. Nowhere is this more evident than in our annual budget. Our 2018 parish budget was a step forward in faith and the proposed 2019 budget, we believe, continues our parish's efforts to

witness to the holy Orthodox Christian faith in the Centre Region and beyond.

The parish council addressed numerous "nuts-and-bolts" issues this year in State College and Beavertown. Repairs were made to the ramp area outside the church. We oversaw regular maintenance projects. The council has spent many hours poring over the minutiae of finances, contracts and proposals in an effort to be wise stewards of what our Lord has entrusted to us. Our greatest challenge, no doubt, has been the upcoming retirement of our rector, Fr. John Reeves. The October celebration of our parish's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including Fr. John's years of apostleship to our community, was a fitting opportunity to recognize together what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in Centre and Snyder Counties, and recommit to serving Him. Strengthened by the visioning exercises in which Fr. John has led us, the Parish Council resolves to be a bridge between the operations of the parish and the people of the parish as we engage together on our mission to "build up the Church beyond our parish."

Despite all human efforts to plan for every eventuality, the upcoming time of transition has in store much uncertainty and many unknowns. But our Lord has promised, "Lo, I am with you always," and so, in faith, we continue to follow where He leads us.

### **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 is a teaching arm of the parish so that the children "may hear" and ultimately so that the "may learn". The teachings of the Orthodox Church are presented incrementally and include five major categories: Biblical, Church History and Tradition, Liturgical, Doctrine, and Spiritual/Moral Development.

Currently, there are eleven teachers with thirty-five students in five class groupings (class sizes range from six to nine students). The goal of our classroom coverage is to have a minimum of two teachers in each class.

An extension of the Sunday school is our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) which open to all children in the Centre region. This year the VBS was conducted in June with the theme "What's the Manner?". Through the study of biblical manners and customs, including such things as home life, food, clothing, music, farming, plants, etc., the Scriptures came to life through contextualization of the many ancient and foreign customs. Fifteen students (Pre-K through rising sixth graders) participated supported by a team of approximately 20 adult and teens.

Two goals for the Sunday School in the coming year are 1) more parental involvement in leading and supporting our extracurricular activities and 2) additional teachers to provide classroom help.

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

At the request of the HTOC clergy, TLC provides support to parishioners in times of illness/injury, bereavement, hospitalizations, rehabilitations, 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 a potential at-large Holy Trinity TLC minister, and perhaps from time to time a TLC recipient.

In 2018, TLC's outreach was especially sad and personal as we mourned the loss of Nancy Jane Husted, beloved cousin of Mark and Leslyn Radomsky, and provided support to her family. In addition, our much loved Matushka Linda, and Fr. John were the recipients of TLC's coordinated meal program, and in-home support. We also reached out with cards, visits, and flowers to others who were referred to the ministry.

Our goal and mission for 2019 is to contact those in need and follow up with visits, and the appropriate support, 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 2019, 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 2018 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 several 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 Fellowship is for post-undergrad young adults and professionals. We have regular monthly potluck/game nights, usually on Monday or Tuesday evenings, 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 or time-commitment on those involved. We are always open to new members! There may be a change in the meeting frequency of the fellowship this coming Spring considering four of its regular participating families will be increasing their family size and thus not have as much time as before!

### **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

On hiatus for Fall 2018.