

*Holy Apostles Orthodox Church  
Parish Council Meeting  
July 17, 2016*

**Fr. Thomas started with prayer.**

**Present:** Fr. Thomas Moore , Cindy Buxhoeveden, Emilia Shepherd, Frances Laing, Charlie Walters, Nicholas Hodge, Greg Hayda, Michael Pretash

**Visitors:** Nicolas Carmine, Dn. Michael Shepherd, Lawrence Gillespie, Juianna Gillespie, Gloria Terziyska, Michael Hodge, Chris, Sbdn. John Brown, Sgt. Voit (WCPD)

**June minutes emailed for approval.**

**Treasurer's Report :**

**Income/Expenses for June:**

- Operating fund: \$ 15,559.93 in/ \$20,638.94 out – Balance: \$21,994.61
- Charity fund: \$ 71.00 in/ \$0.00 out – Balance: \$8,461.51
- Building fund: \$0.00 in / \$3,405.38 out – Balance: (\$612.64)
- Philokalia book store: \$173.21 in/ \$430.94 out – Balance: (\$645.18)
- Good Seeds: \$422.82 in /\$0.00 out – Balance: \$2,483.77

**Year to date:**

- Operating fund: \$ 112,636.29 in/ \$103,480.22 out – Balance: \$21,994.61
- Charity fund: \$ 3, 852.45 in/ \$5,080.52 out – Balance: \$8,461.51
- Building fund: \$2,443.94 in / \$8,828.26 out – Balance: (\$612.64)
- Philokalia book store: \$2,718.84 in/ \$3,780.92 out – Balance: (\$645.18)
- Good Seeds: \$828.92 in /\$116.02 out – Balance: \$2,483.77

1. Quick Books is not picking up some of the electronic transfers that have been done. Dn. Michael and Michael P. will work on this.
2. Michael P. reported that June was the first month this year that we spent more than we took in, but we are still ahead for the year. Part of the spending was on preparing for the bishop's visit.
3. Fr. Thomas would like to know how much the disaster relief volunteers have donated versus how much we have spent on electric and gas. Michael P. will work on this.
4. The Servant Keeper software has not been updated for several years and needs to be updated because it can no longer handle additional information being added to it. This is software used by churches to keep track of things like membership, tithes, and IRS paper work. To upgrade to version 7 costs \$199.00. **We approved this purchase.**
5. There will be a special account if people want to donate money instead of attending the playground fund raiser painting session.

**Church Safety and Emergency Procedures:**

1. Sgt Voit of the West Columbia Police Department :
  - a. He was invited to come speak to us about church safety and emergency procedures. The police department wants to form partnerships with houses of worship. He is our contact with the PD and he can get us in touch with others who

can come out to talk to us, such as the fire department or a community action team. The best way to contact him is by email. He will return some Sunday to see how we do things and look for areas where we can improve safety. There are videos that can be viewed on the internet, such as “avoid, deny, defend”. He provided us with a guide from FEMA which we will use to develop procedures for responding to emergencies, such as a child missing, fire, active shooter, extreme weather, etc.

- b. Dn. Michael will organize and head committee to develop our safety procedures and will work with Sgt Voit.
2. First responder’s team:
  - a. Olga and Frances are organizing a team and are creating a list of people who will be a first responder. They must have current CPR training.
  - b. We have a defibrillator kit and we approved that it can be hung above the drink machine.
  - c. We would like to get a hanging first aid kit.
  - d. Children must be attended. When we see unattended children we need to send them back to their parents.

### **Warden’s Report:**

Update on maintenance issues:

1. Trim and arches finished
2. Main door to hall to be replaced
3. Metal roof on St. Nicholas leaks. The shingles may have leaked only during the Oct. floods. Will check on work day.
4. Bell Tower: Almost complete.
5. Floor for new book store: Floor will be completed after the walls and ceiling are refinished. Dn. Michael will come in this week to work on it, and Greg will bring in a crew to finish the walls, ceiling, and floor. We will pay the crew and will be happy to have volunteers.
6. Maintenance on AC is fixed in fellowship hall. When AC is needed in the hall click it to “open”, and when it is needed in the church, click it to “close”. It takes about 5 minutes to notice the change. At the end of the service just need to switch it so it starts to cool the hall. In the office the AC is broken and needs a new compressor. We need to fix that or get a new unit.
7. Greg is formulating a routine annual maintenance checklist.
8. Parking lot plan: Have not developed one yet. Need to way to put down lines. Talked about using railroad ties to mark off areas after the volunteers leave in Nov.
9. Kid’s playground: Michael H. is having a painting fund raiser to raise money to improve the playground.
10. Use of old children’s area: Frances is to talk to Valerie about this.
11. Gate for side walk, trellis: Concrete pillars for a gate rescued from the church in Pittsburgh several years ago.
12. Irrigation system update: We are trying to find someone to come look at it.
13. Fountain area: No update.

### **Father Thomas Report:**

1. Bishop Alexander had wonderful visit. Thanks to all who made it possible.
2. July 25-29 DOS Wilmington, NC; Rdr. Greg Hayda is the DOS delegate.
3. September 19-23 Fall Metropolitan Council.

4. More progress has been made on the stove hood, but more work needs to be done to complete it. Still do not have anybody to work on the stove hood.
5. IOCC finished in Columbia. Not great turnout. Volunteers will not be staying past 11/1. We will reclaim our hall, and hopefully the coffee shop will be ready for St. Nicholas.
6. This week there will be Irish dancing in the St. Nicholas hall.
7. Bethel Christian Camp too expensive for next year's Pascha picnic. Lake Murray reservations are not opened until March 2017. We decided that Fr. should book Dreher island and then we can cancel if we get Lake Murray. Need to call Lake Murray first thing on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
8. Dn. Michael closed the church facebook page and opened a new one for the bookstore with a link to the church.
9. Lawn care: Fr. found someone, Brian, who will do our lawn care for \$150/month and will come twice a month. This is to trim bushes, cut the grass, and push back the woods. We also need to clear out the concrete in back. **We approved hiring Brian.**
10. Outdoor lighting: Would like to light up the sidewalk. Fr. will have someone come out to look at it.
11. Luther Lown has to resign from the Parish Council due to work constraints. According to the by-laws Fr. Thomas is to appoint someone to finish out his term.

#### **New Business:**

1. Proposal for debt reduction: As we move ahead we like to pay off the mortgage and have money to pay the salary for another priest. It was proposed to post a triangle that all can view and people can commit to buying a block on the triangle. We would like to start this on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. It would be nice if the council committed to it, and then it can be presented to the congregation. More to come on this.

#### **Dn. Michael:**

1. Book Store Report: Recently more was spent than brought in, but we are in the rebuilding phase. Overall it is looking good.
2. Trail Life: We are paid up but we will not get the Trail Life charter back to us until the committee is approved. The children that are in the swimming group can be added. The meetings will start again
3. Youth group: Still working on a date to go to Carowinds in Charlotte before school starts in August. They will babysit so the parents can have a night out.

#### **Old Business:**

1. Looking for free pews.
2. Written guidelines for outside groups that use our facility to ensure that they are good stewards of the area that they use:
  - Charlie will contact the NA group.
  - Fr. Thomas has had the Irish dancers sign a policy.
3. 50 new chairs for the fellowship hall have been purchased.
4. Drink machine broken and needs attention from Ken Summers.
5. Philip: Weather vane needs a cupola built
6. Basketball court: Backstop for the basketball court will need to be made because they no longer make the size for the post that is there.
7. Education: Frances is working on lesson plans and include things for every age. Dn. Michael and Dn. Nicholas can assist her.

**Closing prayer – Fr. Thomas**