

***Holy Apostles Orthodox Church  
Parish Council Meeting  
June 12, 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, Sbdn. Michael Shepherd, Lawrence Gillespie, Olga Solnsteva, Michael Hodge, Dn. Matthew, Adam Tesh, Melangell,

**April minutes emailed for approval.**

We welcomed Dn. Matthew from Fr. Jackson.

**Income/Expenses for May:**

- Operating fund: \$ 18,793.73 in/ \$18,631.20 out – Balance: \$27,073.62
- Charity fund: \$ 100.00 in/ \$36.00 out – Balance: \$8,390.51
- Building fund: \$0.00 in / \$2,691.96 out – Balance: \$2,792.74
- Philokalia book store: \$201.95 in/ \$600.00 out – Balance: (\$387.45)
- Good Seeds: \$0.00 in /\$0.00 out – Balance: \$2,060.95

**Year to date:**

- Operating fund: \$ 97,076.36 in/ \$82,841.28 out – Balance: \$27,073.62
  - Charity fund: \$ 3,781.45 in/ \$5,080.52 out – Balance: \$8,390.51
  - Building fund: \$2443.94 in / \$5,422.88 out – Balance: \$2,792.74
  - Philokalia book store: \$2,545.63 in/ \$3,349.98 out – Balance: (\$387.45)
  - Good Seeds: \$406.10 in /\$116.02 out – Balance: \$2,060.95
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- Michael P. said that the SCGE bill has really gone up, especially in the St. Nicholas hall, but that space is being used by the flood relief volunteers who are staying there, the Irish dancers, and NA. They donate money to utilize the space and this is offsetting the utility costs. Fr. would like to track how much of the donation assists with the operating fund.
  - Charity: we are giving more out than we are taking in, and this is a good thing.
  - All of our loans have been paid off and only the mortgage payment is left. Currently we are paying \$2000/month (\$1534.24\_towards the mortgage, and \$465.76), in order to pay it off more quickly. \$190,523.74 is left on the mortgage.

**Warden's Report:**

Update maintenance issues:

1. Trim, and arches not 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- coffered ceiling and bell room ceiling. Completed.
5. Floor for new book store: It has been gutted and will be completed after the walls and ceiling are refinished.
6. Bookstore walls: Discussed whether to leave the wood paneled walls as they are, which would be covered by the bookshelves, and sheet rock the rest of the walls versus sheet

rocking over the wood panel. **We approved to sheet rock all of the walls and to paint them a light color, which will give it a cleaner and more modern look. We approved that Sbdn. Michael can move forward with his work of getting the bookstore in place by July.**

7. Coffee shop in bookstore: The future goal is to include coffee and light food, such as bagels, to be offered in the bookstore, and we will need to come up with plans for this. Discussed using the kitchen equipment in the hall as the place to prepare food and clean dishes. Coffee can be prepared in the bookstore. Will discuss with Fr. Alexis as he has worked in coffee shops and is familiar with the church coffee shop model used in Colorado.
8. Maintenance on AC duct outside: Greg had a company come out go through all of the AC units. All 7 units were serviced. Approx. 50' of duct was removed in the fellowship hall, outside duct repaired, eliminated outside filters and retro-fitted return inside for new filters in Nave.
9. Greg is formulating a routine annual maintenance checklist. **We approved at the last meeting to pay Greg once a month to do maintenance work at the church.**
10. Parking lot plan: We eventually want to repave the paved lot and come up with something for the dirt lot. We don't want to pave the dirt lot, but have some kind of ground cover that can absorb water.
11. Kid's playground: **Greg discussed removing the shed and fence and making the whole back area the kid's playground. The ramp needs to be taken down because it gets slippery and is a hazard. Need to move the picnic table under the shade. We approved this.** The basket ball court will remain in its place. Would like a shaded area for the parents, such as a gazebo. Michael H. has a toddler's swing that is ready to be put up. Need to get a new swing set that will not cause splinters or be too hot in the heat. More feedback is needed from parents on what they would like.
12. Landscaping maintenance: Valerie and Phillip no longer have as much time to take care of the landscaping. Discussed hiring someone to do basic work, such as mowing, trimming, and edging, including the parking lot, and we felt we could afford up to \$100/month for this. Also discussed having a committee to oversee gardening, weeding, and pruning which should be done around 3 or 4 times a year. Frances will talk to Valerie about what plans they had for the landscaping and how we should move forward with it.
13. Use of old children's area: Last meeting we said we would like it to be an herb garden and Frances will talk to Valerie about this.
14. Gate for side walk, trellis: Discussed using concrete pillars for a gate rescued from the church in Pittsburgh several years ago.
15. Irrigation system: Our current system is about 85% complete and needs to be finished off. Greg has met with an irrigation contractor and has also contacted another company for a quote.
16. Fountain area: **We approved that we want it to be clear water and the fish will be removed.**
17. Work to be done by July 2<sup>nd</sup>:
  - o Work day on 6/25 for the bishop's visit. Greg to send out a list of what needs to be done with people assigned.
  - o Area left of shed to be cleaned up.
  - o Overhead door prepped and painted.
  - o Trim Narthex door and door to St Nicholas bldg.
  - o Sheet rock bookstore walls. (maybe Narthex also)

## Father Thomas Report:

1. Thanks for the vacation time.
2. Bishop Alexander will visit June 30-July 3<sup>rd</sup>. He will visit the monastery on Thursday, Rock Hill on Friday, Hierarchical Liturgy at Holy Apostles on Saturday, and N. Augusta on Sat/Sun.
  - Hotel: Thursday and Friday night charges Church will pay for.
  - Meal plans- Emilia and Frances are organizing this.
  - Tonsurings: Adam Tesh, and maybe Tobias Straney
  - Ordination: Sbd. Michael to Diaconate
  - Servers: There will be a server rehearsal on Friday night, 7/1. Not sure who will serve yet. There may be 6 or 7 priests and several deacons.
3. We will have an intern, Seth Earl, the week before the Bishop comes. He will help prepare for the visit. Other organizational help may be needed.
4. July 25-29 DOS Wilmington, NC; Rdr. Greg Hayda is the DOS delegate.
5. September 19-23 Fall Metropolitan Council.
6. More progress has been made on the stove hood, but more work needs to be done to complete it.
7. Automatic \$2000 month toward mortgage as long as giving is up. (\$1534.24 + \$465.76)
8. St. Nicholas funds: IOCC has Orthodox volunteers scheduled to be in Columbia for June 12-18, and July 10-16. Volunteers will not be staying past 11/1.
9. Continued discussion on church safety and emergency procedures:
  - First aid kit is up to date and located in kitchen pantry.
  - Defibrillator: **It has been purchased and we approved putting it where the coke machine is.** Will ask Ken what he wants to do with the coke machine.
  - First responder's team: Olga and Frances will organize a team.
10. Pascha picnic: Bethel Christian Camp charges \$600 to rent a space and this is too expensive. Father will look into renting the space at Lake Murray for next year. This needs to be done early because the date will fall on the same day as the western Easter. If that does not work then our next choice is Dreher Island.
11. Internet presence and procedures: **We approved having a facebook page for the bookstore and not for the church as we have no control over comments that are posted.** Sbdn. Michael will close the church facebook page and open a new one for the bookstore with a link to the church.

**New Business:** No new business.

## Sbdn. Michael:

1. Book Store Report: QuickBooks is working well.
2. Trail Life: All of the leaders have paid. Want to focus on the younger children.
3. Youth group: Sbdn. Michael is organizing a day in July at Carowinds in Charlotte. Most likely the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. in July. The age group is 12 – 17. He will be a chaperone and is looking for other chaperones. There will be a background check for the chaperones. Younger children can go as their own group but there will need someone else who is willing to organize this. Will not do the floating on the river trip this year.

## Old Business:

1. Benches for inside the church update: The cost for new benches is \$4000. Need to look for cheaper pews.
2. Written guidelines for outside groups that use our facility to ensure that they are good stewards of the area that they use:
  - Adam explained how having outside groups sign waivers that protect us from law suits if people are injured are not guaranteed to be held up by the courts. If we have a known unsafe condition and we don't do anything about it then we are liable. **We decided to use the guidelines that we currently have and representative of the outside groups sign it.** Charlie will take care of the NA group and Fr. will take care of the Irish dancers group. The AA group is no longer meeting here.
  - We need make sure we enforce our safe sanctuary policy, such as not allowing children in the kitchen and parents supervising their children. We have posters from 2007 posted around the building.
3. Minutes starting from Jan. 2016 on now on our website.
4. The chairs for the fellowship hall have not been purchased yet.
5. Drink machine broken and needs attention from Ken Summers.
6. Philip: Weather vane needs a cupola built
7. 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.
8. Education: Frances has a lesson plan that has not been done yet and there are things in there for every age. Look at OCA children's web site. Dn. Nicholas loves to teach and he will be involved. Sbdn. Michael will help.

**Closing prayer – Fr. Thomas**