

*Holy Apostles Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting
May 15, 2016*

Fr. Thomas started with prayer.

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

Visitors: Nicolas Carmine, Sbdn. Michael Shepherd, Lawrence Gillespie, Olga Solnsteva, Gloria, Michael Hodge,

April minutes emailed for approval.

Treasurer's report:

Clarification of pay for Sbdn. Michael: He is to receive \$200/month from the bookstore plus 10% from the sales. Once he is a deacon he will also receive \$200/month from the church. Dn. Nicholas is retired and does not expect a salary.

Income/Expenses for Month of April:

General Fund: \$20,665 income/(\$17,739) expense

Charity Fund: \$62 income/(\$752) expense

Building Fund: \$194 income/ (\$841) expense

Bookstore: \$513 income/(\$614) expense

Youth: \$130 income/(\$116) expense

Year to date

General Fund: \$78,283 income/(\$64,210) expense

Charity Fund: \$3681 income/(\$5042) expense

Building Fund: \$2444 income/ (\$2731) expense

Bookstore: \$2344income/(\$2750) expense

Youth: \$406 income/(\$116) expense

Warden's Report:

We continue to focus on maintenance issues:

1. Trim, and arches
2. Main Door to hall replaced
3. Metal roof on St. Nicholas - leaks.
4. Bell Tower- coffered ceiling and bell room ceiling.
5. Floor for new book store: We have donated and purchased porcelain. The walls/ceiling need to be done first and then the floor. The current chairs will be thrown out.
6. Need maintenance on AC duct outside.
7. Parking lot needs to be graded and we would like a surface that can absorb water. We need a parking lot plan.
1. Kid's playground: We want to make it wood free/splinter free. Michael H. will do another fund raiser painting class to raise funds to fix up the children's playground.
8. We need a routine maintenance checklist and Greg will put one together. It will include a schedule for maintenance on the heating and air conditioning systems, fire extinguishers, filters and the stocking of things like light bulbs and filters. The list can be reviewed at

the monthly meetings.

Father Thomas Report:

1. Thanks to Michael Hodge for the continuing beautiful Icon project.
2. Vacation May 22-June 7 Fr. David Wooten, Fr. Timothy Yates will fill in.
3. Bishop Alexander will visit June 30-July 3rd. He will visit the monastery on Thursday, Rock Hill on Friday, Hierarchical Liturgy at Holy Apostles on Saturday and N. Augusta on Sat/Sun.
4. Sbdn. Michael will be ordained to the Diaconate on Saturday, July 2nd. Father also hopes to have Tobias Straney and Adam Tesh tonsured as readers. There may be other readers tonsured from neighboring parishes.
5. We will have an intern, Dn. Seth Earl, the week before the Bishop comes. He will help prepare for the visit.
6. July 25-29 DOS Wilmington, NC; Rdr. Greg Hayda is the DOS delegate.
7. September 19-23 Fall Metropolitan Council.
8. More progress has been made on the stove hood, but more work needs to be done to complete it.
9. Computer for office has been purchased.
10. Explanation of current financial relationship with Diocese: Church friendly loans were made to Holy Apostles for building. We have been paying the interest on those two loans. Milos stopped putting our extra payments into mortgage and began a "savings" account for DOS cash flow. At the recent meeting in Dallas that "savings" was restructured toward debt reduction. We should pay off the remainder of those loans, and have them restructured with the DOS.
 - a. It was proposed that we focus on Mortgage debt reduction by paying \$2000 month toward mortgage. **This was approved.** We currently pay \$1600/month toward the mortgage.
11. St. Nicholas funds: IOCC has Orthodox volunteers scheduled to be in Columbia for June 12-18, and July 10-16. IOCC volunteers must pay \$450.00 to volunteer for the week which is difficult for some, especially if they are also missing getting paid from their normal job. **We approved using the St. Nicholas funds to pay the \$450 scholarship funds for those who need this assistance.** The volunteers will be supervised by Tim.
12. Plans for outside of kitchen/children's area: We agreed to no longer use the small area outside of the kitchen as a children's area since most people are not using it for this. There was a suggestion of turning it into an herb garden.
13. Plans for irrigation before summer: Greg said all of the pipes are laid so it is ready for Valarie and Phillip to put in the sprinkler heads and timer. Greg will talk to them. It should cost a few hundred dollars.
14. Father Thomas talked about the discussion at the IOCC conference about parishes needing to evaluate what makes them vulnerable (money boxes, children, health emergencies, bomb threats, and other outside threats) and have safety plans in place. Sbdn. Michael will coordinate putting together a safety plan. Nicholas C. will contact John from the West Columbia police department to come speak with us. Michael H. will make sure our first aid kit is up to date. We approved the purchase of a defibrillator and the estimated cost is around \$1300.
15. The Pascha picnic was successful at Lake Murray. Father thanked Sbdn. Michael for the activities he had the kids do. Sbdn Michael was at Bethel Christian Camp in Gaston recently and said it would be a great place for the picnic next year. We will need to make sure to try to book it early as Easter will be on the same date as the western church, which

is April 16th. We felt that for next year the #1 choice for the picnic location is Bethel Christian Camp, #2 Lake Murray, and #3 Dreher Island.

New Business:

1. Discussed what kind of meal to have when the bishop is here on Sat., July 3rd. Decided to have it in the large St. Nicholas hall, buffet style, and a crawfish meal. There will be a head table for the bishops and hierarchs, and estimated that there will be about 12 of them. Emilia and Frances will coordinate.
2. Discussed the need to have written guidelines for outside groups that use our facility to ensure that they are good stewards of the area that they use, that they know what we expect, and that will protect us in case there is a lawsuit. Charlie and Frances have seen guidelines from other places and they will look into this.
3. We are eventually going to need to replace the benches along the side of the wall in the church because what we currently have belongs to Fr. Marcus's church and they are going to be selling them. We agreed to replace them with benches like we had in our previous church that had cupboards for storage.

Sbdn. Michael Book Store Report: The link between the bank and quick books is now working.

Trail Life: Sbdn. Michael said he learned that we need to have a committee in place and each member of the committee pays the \$25.00 membership fee. Need at least 3 people on the committee and it can be Sbdn. Michael, Emilia as treasurer, and a troop leader. Father said to have Melangell pay the dues for everyone so that we don't lose our membership. Children can be age 4 and up.

Old Business:

1. Nicholas C. will put minutes starting from Jan. 2016 on our website.
2. The plastic chairs in the hall were removed. **We approved Frances purchasing 25 metal chairs.**
3. Drink machine is broken and needs attention from Ken Summers.
4. Philip: Weather vane needs a cupola built
5. Basketball court: Sbdn. Michael said we will need to make the backstop for the basketball court because they no longer make the size for the post that is there.
6. Gate: Fr. Thomas and Greg have a plan for columns and gate.

Closing prayer – Fr. Thomas