

St. George Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting
November 12, 2023 - 12:50 pm

Present - Maricia Ibrahim, Kerry San Chirico, Gary Sarkessian, Joseph F. Solomon, Tony Nasr, Michael Solomon, Jerome Burke, Gus Haddad, Emma Ibrahim, Alex Ibrahim, Emma Ibrahim, Karen Burke, Fr. Joel Gillam

I. Call to order and prayer

II. Approval of Minutes– October Minutes still pending

III. Pastor's Report (Fr. Joel Gillam)

- There will be a collection taken for Palestine (Jerusalem Patriarchate)- each Sunday during the month of November
- We are also accepting donations for Thanksgiving Food Boxes (\$40.00) and the Holiday Gift Drive, both for Hope-PHL (formerly PEC) to help needy families in Philadelphia.
- Bishop THOMAS will be visiting December 31 – January 1, 2024.
- Fr. Joel may or will be out of town for Theophany, January 6.- Father George Albert's 40 year ordination anniversary
- Fr Joel asks for volunteers for Nominating Committee for Parish Council - Alex to form Committee
- Status of Fr Joel's and family out of the rectory -pending at this time.

IV. Chairman's Report (Alex Ibrahim)

- Thanks to everyone who helped make the Annual Fall Family Day a success. Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook Off were wonderful
- Thanks to Gary for organizing Clean-Up Day
- We should consider what, if anything, we want to do about the people living in our stoops. This is a delicate situation and one we need to approach with love. Emma Ibrahim suggested fake video surveillance cameras, which would be easy to install and might help, but of course only sends the problem somewhere else.
- Annual Meeting for January 2024

V. Treasurer's Report (Tony Nasr)

- Seminarians Collections \$100 (Minimum offering \$250 to Archdiocese)
- Special Olympics Collections \$ 132

- Have 3% surplus over budgeted expenses year to date

See attached report.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Adult Education (Kerry San Chirico) – Spring retreat to continue on last our last retreats theme- Orthodoxy Worldwide

b. Choir (Karen Burke)

Sunday Choir Rehearsals time change from 12:15 – 1 pm to 12:30-1:15.

Tuesday evening rehearsals to prepare for the Nativity Services

c. Icon Committee (Caroline Becker) – No Report.

d. Long-Term Planning (Joseph Solomon)

1) Bathrooms are done (ok, we have 1 teeny tiny cosmetic fix left). Handicap bars are installed, automatic closers are installed, push/pull levers are installed and the women's handicap stall lock is installed/repaired. All that remains is a cosmetic fix in the women's room to cover up the door where the latch broke off.

2) Parking lot - Upper Darby Township gave us the go-ahead to put plans together for a parking lot in the annex should we decide to do that. The LTP committee will have a final in person meeting in December to deeply discuss the prospects of parking and site improvements

3) Elevator / LULA - we had an elevator company come look at the site. They agreed that the price would be in the 150K ballpark all in, but noted we definitely need a structural engineer involved. Joe Sr is trying to get a work colleague (Bob Linn) to stop by and take a look in the coming days/weeks- The location of the proposed elevator needs to make it accessible on 3 levels- Church, parking lot and great room/kitchen area .

e. Maintenance Committee (Gary Sarkessian)

- Had Church Clean up day on Saturday, November 4 from 9:30 AM to 12 Noon.
 - Thank you Alex I, Joe Solomon Sr., Faris, Ronda and Emma for attending
 - Cleaned up trash outside (Joe S), Organized and cleaned kitchen (Emma, Ronda, Faris)
 - Removed old table that was outside (Alex, Faris)
 - There is still wood outside
- Gary's Meeting announcement ran out for Monday November 6th meeting, so tried to send out one last minute. It was too late and we did not hold it
- Tony finished fixing the lady's room stall lock on 11/5

- Solomons (Joe/Joseph) installed bathroom door closers and locks.
- Need to set the thermostat at the Annex so pipes don't freeze
- Cynthia L. has been cleaning up the outside window wells and grass clippings and other "messes."
- When did we last get billed for having the grass cut? (Answer: September)
- The sump pump in the outside storage area (near the men's room downstairs) probably doesn't work
- Thank you to whoever put in a new light bulb in the downstairs storage area (outside)
 - Should we keep it on all the time so keep the stairs lit in the evening
- What do we need to do to get the light over the church narthex entrance working?
- Jonathan Black did provide some recommendations with respect to electrical upgrades needed for St. George
- PECO/energy updates- pending
- Faris is working on the HVAC balancing calculations.

f. Ministry Team (vacant)

Young Family Ministries (Caitlin Gordon)

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Young Families ministry kick off last week. We're energized by the enthusiasm and looking forward to future gatherings. Attached to this email is a list of upcoming dates for family Vespers and other gatherings so you can add them to your calendar!

To follow up on our conversation at the kick off and to gather input from those who were unable to attend, we have a brief survey we'd like you to fill out. It will help us gauge interest so we can better prioritize which activities to focus on. (Plus, we want to start celebrating birthdays and name days!) :) We're so grateful for the feedback already shared with us, and we'll provide updates on those at our next gathering.

Survey: <https://forms.gle/3v8RXuKjiNXViFAF6>

g. St. Katherine Women (Cynthia Long)

We're working out details for busing for the Dec. 2 Sight & Sound Theatre Trip.

h. Stewardship Committee (Jerome Burke)

1. Stewardship meeting (remote): Tuesday November 14 7 pm
2. Two parishioners; Ben Daniel and Roxy Harne have agreed to serve on committee (with Father Joel's blessing)
3. Stewardship Committee sponsors coffee hour Sunday November 18 (fasting foods). Theme - "Thankfulness for Blessing Received"
4. Anticipate start of a "Capital Improvement" initiative in the coming months to raise funds for needed projects. Await input from Parish Council and Long Range Planning Committee

i. Sunday School (vacant)

j. Teen SOYO (Alex Ibrahim)

- We are assembling Thanksgiving baskets next weekend
- We will put the tree up on December 16
- The Christmas Program will be on December 17, and include putting ornaments on the tree (the "Jesse Tree")

VII. Old Business -- Family Advent Night -- December 16 (Arianne Allan)

Events/Activities: Carol singing, tree trimming and ornament making

Proposed Schedule

5:30 - 6:15: Potluck dinner

6:15 - 7:00 Carol Sing

7:00 - 8:00: Crafting activities (ornaments and tree trimming)

8:00 - 8:30: Cleanup

*Vespers will precede this event from 4:30-5:30pm

Setup/Cleanup: This might expand... but for now the base tree would need to be setup.

Paper/plastic tablecloths for the arts/crafts tables (2). (Already available).

Flyer: Arianne will ask Emma.

Activities:

1. Potluck Supper – Cynthia will set up Sign-Up Genius

2. Caroling: pending - Karen B. unavailable to lead.

3. Tree Trimming:

A. Snowflake Garland: children and adults make paper snowflakes that string together to make a garland like the photo below.



B. Ornament Making: Wooden ornaments with modpodge icons or colored with markers (youngest children). (Similar to previous year).

Supplies: (Cynthia will work with Arianne)

Garland: White and blue paper for the snowflakes; string.

Ornaments: Wood shapes, ribbon, paper icons, modpodge

VIII. New Business

-Gary reviewed possible charities where funds set aside for this purpose can be donated - i.e. local food banks, St Moses the Black as part of our mission

IX. General Business Remarks

Office Administrator

- Reader and a Greeter for December 10.- Alex I reader, Jerry greeter
- If you are Leading an Event and would like a blurb in the Bulletin, it would be helpful if you proactively submitted your preferred wording to the Office, rather than hope that the Admin remembers. Thanks,

X. Adjourn and Closing prayer 1:30