

St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: August 13, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

Opening prayer was given by Father John

Council members attending:

Paul Novak - president

Matt Tomac - vice president

Tom Julian – treasurer

Mark Massopust - corresponding secretary (excused)

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

guest: Jeff Zdrale

Minutes from July 9, 2024, parish council meeting were reviewed. Typos were corrected.

Paul made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Father John, approved by all.

Reports / updates / old business:

Priest's report - Father John:

- The liturgical schedule has been sent out for September.
- This past month we celebrated a baptism on the 20th and a wedding on the 28th. All went well.
- We have been continued to be blessed weekly with new people in attendance at Sunday liturgies. Father mentioned about maintaining a list of the catechumens and a digital version of the parish directory.
- August 13th will be the chrismation of Samuel Jasmer.
- On November 10th four people will be received into the church. They are Jim and Jennifer Kribs, William Tabor, and Bret Knutson. This will bring us to 24 new members for the year.
- * Tom asked if Father could prepare a document as to what it means to be a member of our church.

Father relayed that there is an OCA statute addressing this. It includes you must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing, attend services, partake in confession at least once a year and give any amount in financial support. This will be included in the forthcoming newsletter and placed on the bulletin board.

- The updated parish directory is forthcoming. The printed version will not have addresses and will be available for the parish. Father John and Paul have the full version in the parish Google account (smocgwbi).

- The Corpus of Christ icon has discolored over time. Father received a quote of \$5,400 for a hand painted replacement, size 120cm. The same size, printed instead of hand painted, is available from Greece, for \$353 plus shipping. Father was informed that the current one that we have is a print, since it

discolored. The website Nioras.com with the Corpus of Christ from Greece was shared with council for viewing. ("Orthodox canvas Jesus Christ Corpus figure molded on wood: H 120cm"). Close to a thousand dollars had been given to the church in Bonita Zdrale's memorial, and Fr John and Jeff Zdrale spoke and agreed that the purchase of this new Corpus of Christ icon would be a good way to memorialize Bonita.

Paul made a motion to purchase the Corpus of Christ (from this site) using the funds given in Bonita Zdrales memory. Tom seconded the motion, approved by all.

President's report – Paul Novak:

-Mark Massopust is working on the church's biannual newsletter.

-Our microwave broke. Danny Panella and family would like to donate a microwave for the kitchen.

Paul made a motion to accept the donation of a microwave. Father John seconded the motion, approved by all.

Vice President's report – Matt Tomac

Annual church picnic:

This year's only expense is \$200 fee for Bay Beach pavilion. We have plenty of meat: burgers and brats purchased from donated (meat) fund, and hot dogs and buns donated by John and Vera Limberopoulos.

Matt will bring something to take care of the ants. Also, he will bring orange cones for reserving several sparking spots next to the pavilion for handicapped attendees.

Matt and Kaine Bernarde will go ahead of time to cook.

Vera will bring games and balls for the kids.

Greg Kaseno's wife Ann is anticipated to be attending. She has taken our group photo in the past.

Treasurer's report - Tom Julian:

-The CD is maturing this month and will go into the Iconography savings account. Its value will be \$15,425 when the last interest is paid, totaling almost \$42,000 in the Iconography fund. The 13-month CD will mature in December bringing the Iconography Fund over \$56,000 at that time.

-We have \$1,050 in Endowment Fund (in a money market), earmarked for the cross on the other side of the church. This has been put on hold. We will check with the donors to see what to do with the earmarked funds of over \$8,000.

-There is \$6,600 in the chapel account. Some windows had been fixed and more might need repairing. Marc Kotz and Cathy Mangan are letting us know.

-We have \$5,000 in the operating fund to cover the remainder of the monthly bills.

- P42 is doing well. We still owe \$17,447 for the (roof) loan. Once the Iconography has been completed, we will address the loan, so we don't have to refinance it next spring (with the mortgage refinance).

- Cheryl Julian received Father John's approval and purchased a case of study bibles for the bookstore. This temporarily emptied the bookstore account.

-\$3,000 was paid toward the AC, with a balance of \$1,700 due.

- The first half of the bill was paid for maintenance on the furnace. The second half will be paid on the first of next month.

- A few hundred dollars have been paid for expenses for church vacation school, bags for ministry, etc.

New business, other:

1. Sunday school kicks off September 15th. The plan is to have 12 sessions before Christmas and 12 sessions after Christmas. Father met with the curriculum team and needs to see if those who taught last year will be teaching again this year.

2. Fall Festival needs new signage. Paul is looking into it.

3. In winter, Tuesday morning bible study will be replaced with Thursday evening zoom. This will be a class discussion with possibly another book study.

4. Regarding the furniture being stored in the upstairs room. Father John relayed that he has not heard from the owner of these items since May.

5. Cemetery plots: Tom Julian has received checks for payment for 6 plots and 15 plots are spoken for. He is looking to receive the checks by the end of this month so that he can deliver them to Kert Nelson, prior to September 15th. He will be sending an email out to those that expressed interest with the updated information. The plots are \$500 each plus \$50 additional per family to go towards a site marker. The site marker will be discussed later, after the ownership transfers. Kurt will send letters to individuals with plot numbers from the cemetery association.

6. Looking forward, Tom suggested we purchase 3 - 4 round 8 person folding tables for use upstairs. Paul agreed. Father pointed out we are looking towards overflow seating for 32 - 40 for the upstairs room. This is a continuing discussion to have ready prior to Pascha.

7. It was brought up that some new people might not know some Orthodox terms that are used in liturgy etc. Father relayed that some can easily be translated such as Trisagion, while others do not have a good translation such as Prokeimenon; but we should use the terms in English as much as possible.

8. Paul informed Jeff that when the Tomacs cleaned up the music closet, they filled two plastic containers with items currently not being used. The containers are labeled with Jeff's name and are in the front closet for Jeff to decide what to do with the items.

9. Jeff Zdrade has a contact for tree removal, landscaping, and snow removal. Joel and Renee Taylor from Neenah/ Fox Crossing have a business that provides these services.

10. Jeff inquired about the framed memento for Helen Wade, that the church has. He relayed that her daughter Lydia had been a banker in Green Bay and had helped Joy (?) with the church finances (possibly 20 years ago). He thought it might be a nice token to give Lydia this item if we were able to reach her. He does not know Lydia's last name.

Paul made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom, approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05.

Father John gave the closing prayer.