

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
**Parish Council Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 11, 2012**

**Call to Order:** President Mark Langford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Father Paul read a beautiful prayer.

**Members Present:** Evan Bundros, Toula Capetanos, John Demos, Jimmy Ellison, John Fakiris, Penny Gallins, Eve Kantner, Jim Klemes, Leon Kythas, Mark Langford, Don McEnteer, Helen Perros.

**Members Absent:** David Ford, Fotis Fotiu, George Pappas.

**Reading of the Minutes:** A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was made by Jim Klemes and seconded by John Demos. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don McEnteer:

- Total revenues for June fell to \$26,065, \$16K below budget. May's were \$27,449. Stewardship was \$11K below budget. Operating expenses were \$43,497, \$1.5K over budget (Sunday Sch. & Grad. gifts). Net loss: (\$17,432).
- YTD rev. at \$232,643 was unfavorable to budget by \$19K, but favorable to 2011 by \$13K.
- YTD expenses at \$261,506 were unfavorable to budget by \$9K (candles, flowers, mulching, Archdiocese, Easter picnic) and to 2011 by \$80K (irreg. priests' salaries till June 2011).
- Net income is unfavorable to budget by \$28K.
- Operating Checking Acct. at \$48,364 lags behind 2011 and is down \$18K from May.
- Capital Campaign Acct. has \$1,588,628 (up \$26K from May); Fest. Acct. is down to \$57,235 (\$11K expenses in June); Prop. & Fac. Maint. Fund has \$12,591; Memorial Fund is down to \$32,971 (Scholarships \$5K).

Don presented 4 cash-flow projections for July-Dec. 2012. In Scenario I (5-yr.avg.), we end with \$15,124; in Scenario II (Middle Ground), with \$2,244; in Scenario III (Worst Case), with (\$10,636); and in Scenario IV (Best Case), with \$67,621. We ended 2011 with \$55,700.

Discussion: Leon Kythas (SEC chair) said it's a good idea to have Scholarships separate from Church accounts. Jim Klemes began a discussion about keeping parishioners informed about where we are, where we need to be with our finances, as before. It was agreed that we should give updates, via Bulletin inserts and online, of daily/monthly costs vs. daily/monthly income. Jim Klemes made a motion, seconded by Eve Kantner, to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Parish Business:**

**a. Stewardship:** John Demos said we should be proud: the pledged amount this year is the highest ever. Every year should set a record. However, contributions need to continue to come in. We are going to mention this and to seek new pledges in the Bulletin. There will be a Stewardship Catch-up in Aug. Also, John has been working with Mark Langford, Penny Gallins, Tamara Costa and Angela Georgallis on an online survey that will help us set the Stewardship message for 2013. Fr. Paul has checked it

to ensure an Orthodox perspective. It will go out on Listserv in the coming weeks and will also be on the candle stand and in the Bulletin. The goal is one per household. Ideally, we would like 100% participation. It will be anonymous. We hope it'll give us a better sense of groups within our parish; how much Stewardship is seen as more than just meeting the budget; the relationship between involvement & Stewardship and between Stewardship & the Capital Campaign etc. Fr. Paul said it is always good to get feedback. Mark asked, is there Parish Council consensus about doing this survey? Response: yes.

**b. Visitors and the role of the PC:** John Demos said this topic came up in Stewardship. We are letting people slip through our hands. Fr. Grigorios used to tell visitors to report back to him if no one talked to them in the Coffee Hour so he could punish us. Fr. Paul has seen people standing alone in the Coffee Hour. The four PC on duty can't, but if you're here, go up to new faces and make them feel welcome. Also, tell them about Grillin' & Chillin' on July 29 at 5pm. It's a fantastic way for newcomers to get to know our community.

**c. Capital Campaign update:** Penny Gallins said the CC committee is continuing to contact as many people as possible about making a pledge. In Aug. we will have a Capital Campaign pledge-card mailing. On Oct. 21, the day after our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, we will have Commitment Sunday when each family will either re-new or make their CC pledge. All pledges must be in by Dec. 31. On Jan. 28, 2013, we will have a special General Assembly to decide on a plan of action based on the results of our Capital Campaign. We've been getting pledges, but we lack the really large donors. We still need one \$1M pledge and several \$500K ones.

**d. Parish Home Update:** Leon Kythas, called "the hero" by Mark, said it's been an odyssey. All the sweat equity that George Kapetanakis and other volunteers put in has paid dividends. The Committee went from a list of some 17 Property managers to the 3 who were interviewed and selected Lisa Holmes of HRW Realty, who anticipated a higher rental income. Two weeks ago, she found us renters: a family of 4 from NJ. They got the keys Monday. The rent is \$1,350 a month. Our income will be \$1,255.50 a month after Lisa gets her 7% mgt. fee. The lease is for 1 year. Expenses since March have been \$233. George Kapetanakis gave the deck a cement footing and the chimney was inspected. Davis Landscape will maintain the grounds. Info about the appliances is in Rhonda's office. John Fakiris said we should change the air filters every 3 months.

**e. New Xerox Copier:** Mark said the lease on our Xerox copier is coming up. Pro Office Solutions suggested we lease a newer model. They showed us two, one very similar to our present copier, the other called ColorQube, has the ink in bricks the size of a chalkboard eraser. The executive com. selected this machine: it's cleaner and sturdier and you can use a little color at the black & white rate. The more color, the higher the charge. The monthly leasing cost is \$17.67 more than the current one, but the meter should cost \$78.97 less a month. Our savings will be \$735 a year, \$3,677 over 5 years. It will be networked to the church's computers. We will not use its fax, since we already have a fax machine.

**f. Repairs/Maintenance:** Jim Klemes said he and Jimmy Ellison were asked to make a list of what needs to be done, but it's important to first establish what's been done in recent years and the cost. He handed the PC a spreadsheet of repairs & renovations done since 2009, the amounts spent, and sources of funds. Also listed are the projects we would like to do in 2012 & 2013, with estimates where we have them. Some

estimates go back to 2010 & 2011: these projects had a lower priority than other ones. When we report back to the Nov. General Assembly, we should mention sweat equity - it's saved us a lot of money. Penny congratulated Jim on the spreadsheet. Mark noted we've spent over \$300,000 over the last four years. A discussion followed about how the improvements would not have been possible without donations, the Festival, and sweat equity. There was agreement that the rust marks should be removed from the entrance wall on Lead Mine & French Dr. prior to the Nov. General Assembly.

**g. Report on Clergy Laity Conference:** Mark handed out his report on the 41st Conference, whose theme was "Chosen and appointed by God to go and bear fruit". He mentioned some proposals that were sent back to committee or didn't pass; the Archdiocese's \$2M surplus in 2011, mostly due to one-time gifts and restricted contributions; the Archons who work with the Ecumenical Patriarchate to promote religious freedom, especially in Turkey; and the 800 or so in Leadership 100 whose \$100K donations to the Archdiocese (given over 10 years) have really helped Holy Cross. In his address, Archbishop Demetrios gave thanks to God for all the wonderful organizations and groups that make up our Church and for its philanthropic outreach, but also he pointed out the challenges we face in order to bear fruit. One is Greek Orthodox falling away: in 1986 we had 7,389 Baptisms, 563 Chrismations, and 5,183 Marriages; in 2010 we had 6,366 Baptisms, 947 Chrismations, and 2,709 Marriages.

#### **Comments: Fr. Paul:**

- It's interesting that Chrismations have almost doubled. People are converting to Greek Orthodoxy.
- Archbishop's Demetrios' Clergy-Laity Address is on the GOARCH website. In it he mentions the Port Authority of NY & NJ's agreement to permit the rebuilding of the church of St. Nicholas at the World Trade Center. The church will be immediately across from the Memorial on Ground Zero, an ideal location for visitors.
- We have a new parishioner, Andrea Marcantoni! Mother and child are both doing well.
- This year's recipients of the Archangel Michael Award have been notified: John Demos and George Kapetanakis. The PC congratulated John: Axios!
- The committee for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Oct. 20 has Meg Economy on board and is continuing to brainstorm. Please see Father if you would like to help. We want the celebration to be memorable and classy, not too expensive, maybe a brunch. We would like a lot of participants. Meg has suggested the History Museum as a venue. Toula made a lot of suggestions and Father said she might want to join the committee.

#### **Old Business:**

- a. Toula is having the consecration kit (trowel, vials of sand & Holy Water) framed, the money coming from the Memorial Fund. An inconclusive discussion followed about where to place it. An Artifacts Room is a future possibility.
- b. Toula mentioned an icon of the Holy Trinity in the storeroom. Fr. Paul said it's controversial: in GO tradition, God the Father is not represented as a man.
- c. Toula in her role as Choir Liaison thanked PC for going to the Paschal concert and for buying the CD. It has sold out and is on order. It will help fund next year's event.

#### **New Business:**

- a. Mark said the parking area should be repaired as soon as estimates come in. It's a safety issue.
- b. Mark said we need a backflow assembly to be installed by city plumbers.
- c. Mark said Besty Higgins has cleaned up the Preschool. The discarded white boards, filing cabinets, chairs etc. need to be removed. Jim Klemes offered to lend a ProShred truck to bring the stuff to the dump on Durant. Also, items left by the side of the road are likely to be taken.
- d. Toula said Philoptochos's Second Annual Health Fair is on Aug. 11, 10-2pm.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Klemes, seconded by John Demos.

**Closing prayer:** Father Paul led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Perros