

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting - July 6, 2015**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council**

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the monthly meeting at 7:15 P.M. Fr. Brooks Ledford led the meeting in prayer. Donna thanked everyone for attending.

**Roll Call - Linda Biando: Council Members Present:** Linda Biando, Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Michele Anderson, Michele Lorimer, Elvira Gusho. **Auxiliary Members Present:** Dorothy Tomassini, Linda Notskas. **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi. **Sunday School Assistant Director:** Bill Bortner. **Clergy:** Father Brooks. **Absent:** Nilda Salavachi, Linda Kosta.

**Secretary's Report:** The June 2015 minutes were presented by Michele Lorimer. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Michele Anderson and seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Michele Anderson. Michele reported that one new pledge came in. Also, a \$3,000.00 Friends Donation was received. Under the Donation Expense, \$1,250.00 went out to the donations that were approved by Parish Council. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Linda Biando and seconded by Michele Lorimer. All were in favor.

**Pastor Report:** Father Brooks

- 1) Fr. Brooks gave an update on the Parish Ministry Teams:
  - a) **Stewardship Committee** met on May 27th and will meet again July 15th. They are working on coming up with a Mission Statement, discuss percentage giving, and thinking of ways to get parishioners more involved in the parish.
  - b) **Outreach Committee** met in June and will meet again July 22nd. They discussed putting together a parish pamphlet. Dean will bring in a pamphlet from his parish in Pittsburgh to show as an example. Their goals are to come up with a Mission Statement, have Greeters set up by September, and to work on a strategy dealing with Evangelism and Church Growth.
  - c) **Charity and Benevolence Committee** will meet in July and will discuss the scope of the committee and raising funds and activities to assist in the charitable work.
  - d) **YAL Group** - Marinela will be joining Fr. Brooks in leading the group come September.  
They will meet this summer to discuss their lesson plan.
  - e) **Sunday School** - Steve Coraluzzi and Fr. Brooks will meet in July to discuss the

program. A teacher's workshop will take place prior to the start of the Sunday School year.

- 2) Feedback regarding the Summer Newsletter has been very positive. Fr. thanked Florina Bacuta who formatted it for us. The next Newsletter will come out in September.
- 3) There were two baptisms in June: Ermalinda Kosova and Landon Gabriel Kemp.
- 4) Home visitations are still continuing.
- 5) Fr. Brooks appointed Chris Manosis as Sacristan and Bill Bortner as Assistant Sacristan. They will be in charge of the altar items and the altar servers. They both have been doing an excellent job and Fr. is very thankful to have them.
- 6) Fr. is hoping to have Chris Manosis tonsured as an Official Reader in the Orthodox Church and will speak to Archbishop Nikon about this when he visits us in November.
- 7) The John Jay Institute wants to have a new class visit our church this fall.
- 8) A group from the Catholic Church would like to use our parish for a presentation on Fri. September 25, 2015. Fr. Brooks has spoken with Fr. Gill about this. Fr. Brooks will be away during this time so we will have to enlist one or two people to open and close the church for them.
- 9) St. John's will be closed on Sunday, September 27th due to the Pope's visit to Philadelphia. Our parishioners will be encouraged to go to SS Peter and Paul or to a church near their area.
- 10) Wednesday, August 5th, The Feast of the Transfiguration will be celebrated at 7:00 P.M. It will be a Vespers Liturgy, followed by a potluck meal. Saturday, August 15th, The Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M.
- 11) We welcome two new parishioners to our church family: Merna Mikail and Vitale Dedkov.

**Vice Chairman's Report:** Peter Ghicondey

- 1) Peter will be reinstating the Fantasy Football Draft.

**Chairman's Report:** Donna Dimitri

- 1) Miranda Lakuriqi will be cleaning the church but will not be able to clean the church hall on Sundays after coffee hour. We are looking for someone who can fill this paying position.
- 2) Donations were sent to Donna Bacon and Fr. Dennis. Also, donations will be sent monthly beginning this month to: Broad Street Ministry and Project Home.
- 3) July 20-24 is the 18th All American Council in Atlanta, Georgia. Fr. Brooks will not be attending nor will any other members from St. John's.
- 4) We received a check for \$119,892.00 for the Nick Naum Scholarship Fund.

**Sunday School:** Steve Coraluzzi

- 1) Last day of Sunday School was June 14th. There were about 24 children who attended the graduation. It was a very successful year with a total of 32 children enrolled this past year.
- 2) Sunday School clean-up day will be sometime in August.
- 3) Bill Bortner will be assisting Steve with the Sunday School program.

**Icon Committee:** Linda Notskas and Bill Bortner

- 1) Looking into a few companies to purchase icons from. Fr. Brooks and Bill Bortner will get together in August and decide which company to go with.

**Building Maintenance**

- 1) A new window will be installed in the conference room.
- 2) Work will begin on the altar and the solea.
- 3) Waiting to hear back from Tommy Highland regarding new cabinetry for the kitchen.
- 4) Fr. Brooks will paint the conference room after the window work is finished.

**Old Business**

- 1) September 24-26 is the Archdiocesan Assembly in Worcester, MA. Attended from our parish will be: Fr. Brooks, Donna Dimitri, Elvira Gusho, Michele Anderson, Bill Bortner, Linda Biando, and Linda Notskas.

**New Business**

- 1) Linda Biando did an excellent presentation of St. John's Parish Survey 2015. The survey came from Fr. Luke Veronis. There was a total of seventeen survey responses.
- 2) Council discussed the survey as to whether or not it be presented to our parishioners again. It was agreed that the survey be minimized and that maybe then more people will take the time to read and fill them out. Another possibility discussed was to offer the survey via email.
- 3) Overall it was agreed that the survey would be a good way to get feedback from our parishioners.
- 4) Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 7 PM.

Michele Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M. Linda Biando seconded the motion. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Lorimer  
Secretary