

MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL PARISH MEETING- March 31, 2014
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

Father Brooks Ledford opened the meeting with prayer. He welcomed the people and thanked them for attending.

Call to order: Donna Dimitri, Noon.

Minutes of the Fall 2012 Meeting: were presented by Linda Kosta and approved. The motion to accept was made by Dorothy Tomassini and seconded by Ilirjan Papa. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Michele Anderson.

- As mentioned at the Fall 2013 meeting, \$25,000 was transferred from checking to the investment fund where it can earn some interest.
- Stewardship: \$14,000 has been pledged for the Icon Sale, and our Pledge Goal is \$62,000. To date, \$32,555 has been pledged.
- A motion to approve the Treasure's Report was made by Stephanie Kosta and seconded by Dorothy Tomassini. All were in favor.

Pastor's Report: Father Brooks

- Seven months have passed since his return to St. John's and it has been a learning experience.
- Home Blessings are taking much longer then he originally estimated. However, he is taking time to get to know the parishioners.
- Parish Ministry Teams: Several will be developed: Outreach/ Evangelism. Youth, Young Adults (20-40), etc. More information will be in the May Newsletter.
- Father Brooks is considering hosting a retreat at St. John's, perhaps one in the spring and one in the fall. A possible speaker could be Kyriake Fitzgerald.
- Odds and Ends: Father recently visited with Rosemary Notskas and Lefteria Dhimitri. The March/April newsletter will be out soon.
- Father spoke to us on the issue of Church growing liturgically. We should work on being on time. He only has 9-10 people when the service begins and on a recent feast day he only had 7 people out of 183 families. We all need to make a commitment to attend and to be on time. We need to pray about it.

Chairman's Report: Donna Dimitri

- Donna reminded us that at the October Parish meeting, we will be having elections. It is crucial that we get some new faces and ideas on the Council and the Auxiliary Council.
- She thanked Bill Bortner for his help with greeting every Sunday.
- Sunday School flooding issues have been resolved. We will receive a check for \$7000 from our insurance.

- There are several large capitol expenses coming up. One is the large front window, but there are others.
- Sound System has been ordered. It will be installed all over the Church including the foyer and the Sunday School so that the priest may be heard through the Church.

Vice- Chair's Report: Peter Ghicondey (www.stjohnsphila.org)

- Pete said it has been 6 months since our new site had been launched. We have about 17 visitors a day.
- He encouraged any new ideas and suggestions for the site.
- He thanked Tish Klus for all her creative help with the site.
- The website is also available in a mobile version.
- Since our website is available all over the world, no personal information is included.
- The cost is only \$25 a month to the Church.
- Donna has taken the challenging task of adding about 1700 photos to the site.

Stewardship: Linda Biando

- Linda thanked everyone who have already made a pledge for 2014 and encouraged those who have not yet, to pledge. It is not necessary to pay the whole thing at once. You may also pay through "PayPal" on our website.
- Pledges are a little short of this time last year. Please pledge to the best of your ability.
- A couple of questions were answered about our expenses. It was noted that our utilities were \$10,286 in 2013. That is what it costs just to heat, cool, and light this building. In 2013, about \$11,000 was spent on Building and Maintenance which includes cleaning.
- As part of our stewardship commitment and Christian charity, we support two outside fundraisers which are of interest to our parishioners: Race for the Cure on Mothers 'Day and The Buddy Walk which is also on May 11 this year.

Ladies Club and Choir: Linda Notskas reported that the Ladies Club is still on a break until we get some younger women. She also encouraged more of the children to come and sing with the Choir. Donna thanked Linda for stepping up to lead the Choir in Diane Lescas' absence.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi:

- We have about 30-35 active Sunday School members this year. Average attendance is 16-17.
- Over 60 people attended the ice skating outing.
- The Lazarus Saturday Sunday School Retreat is planned for Saturday, April 12th from 10AM to about 3PM. The day will begin with Liturgy and an explanation of

what goes on behind the Holy Doors for the children. The day will also include Mesh making, arts and crafts, and lunch. There will also confession for the children who want to take this sacrament.

- Sunday School will end for the summer on June 8th. A social event will follow the commencement.
- Later in the summer, there may be a baseball event such as a trip to see the Riversharks in Camden.

Annual Assembly Meeting – September 26th – 28, 2014 – Donna Dimitri – We need three delegates: Bill Bortner was nominated by Dorothy Tomassini and seconded by Linda Kosta. All were in favor. Linda Biando was nominated by Dorothy and seconded by Michele Anderson. Linda Kosta will be the alternate. Donna will attend as St. John's Chairperson and a member of the Executive Committee. Fr. Brooks will also attend. The assembly is close by this year at Sts. Peter and Paul.

Old Business:

- Rug/Floor Project: The council is looking into alternative flooring for the behind the altar.

New Business:

- Elevator – David Biando will look into it again. Technology has improved since Ladies Club looked into one a few years ago. Diane L. will be on the committee.
- Mary Louise Notskas expressed her happiness at having Fr. Brooks as our full time priest. She also expressed her thanks to the people, particularly the Council, for holding things together during our recent difficult period. Father has brought the joy back to St. John's. You can feel it when you walk in the door.
- Donna thanked the parishioners for attending Church and this meeting.
- Father Brooks also expressed his thanks to the Council for getting along and working hard to make the transition go very well.

At 12:50 PM, as there was no other business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Anderson and seconded by Chris Manosis. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
By: Linda M. Kosta
Secretary