

Agenda  
Annual Parish Meeting  
February 5, 2017

- I. Opening
  - a. Divine Liturgy
  - b. Light Luncheon
  - c. Opening Prayer
- II. Roll Call
- III. Reports
  - a. Approval of 2016 Parish Meeting Minutes
  - b. Parish Rector
  - c. Parish Council President
  - d. Treasurer
    - i. Financial Report
    - ii. 2017 Proposed Budget
  - e. Financial Secretary
  - f. Audit Committee
  - g. Building Committee
  - h. Cemetery
  - i. Education
  - j. Investment
  - k. Outreach
  - l. Inter-Church Coordination
  - m. Choir
  - n. Myrrh Bearing Women
  - o. O Club
  - p. Nominating Committee
- IV. Elections
  - a. Parish Council & Officers
  - b. Diocese Council Representatives
  - c. Auditors
  - d. Nominating Committee
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
  - a. Church Activities
    - i. Golf Tournament – June 10, 2017
    - ii. Trivia Night – September 27, 2017
    - iii. Picnic – August, 2017
    - iv. Myrrh Bearing Women Peroghi Sales
    - v. O Club Events
      - 1. Cookie fundraiser
      - 2. Others
- VII. Other
- VIII. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Annual Parish meeting  
Nativity of the Virgin Mary  
February 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Father Nicholas Finley and opened with prayer “O Heavenly King” .

An attendance sheet was signed by parishioners who attended the meeting. Attendance was 41 voting members. (16 was needed for a quorum).

Board roll call was taken. All current board members were present.

Fr. asked if there were any questions on or corrections of the 2015 annual parish meeting minutes. There were none. Steve Rydgig made a motion to approve the minutes; this was seconded by Mike Lojan, voted on and passed.

Fr. Nicholas read his rector’s report.  
Memory eternal was intoned for the memory of Fr. Thomas (Succarotte) who fell asleep in the Lord this past year.

The census report was reviewed (see report) It was said that this report was a form put out by the diocese of the Midwest. It was asked if we might not add the church school attendees number, not just the number enrolled. Fr. Nicholas said he would follow up on this question.

The President’s report was reviewed by Bob Butchko. (report attached). He highlighted some areas. He said that there is no charge for “going to church” or having the sacraments, but he did explain what being in “good financial status “ means. He explained that we collect \$240 per parish member/\$480 per couple per year for our assessments and that we have to pay our assessments whether or not they are paid by the members. We look at assessment and general fund receipts to determine if each parishioner has met this obligation.  
He also said that we decided to raise the price of the large vigil candles from \$4 to \$5, This is the first price increase in 15 years.

He reported that we have been having a “cemetery drive” each year to help with our perpetual care fund and that we brought close to \$6000 in 2015. Currently has been coming out of the general fund.

We have been discussing building up an outreach program, including community needs.

Pete Lecko asked if Father has spoken to any of the neighborhood ministers. Fr. Nicholas said he has spoken to Pastor Aaron at St.James (across the street. He said that most of their parishioners also come from Missouri and areas outside of Madison. He said he has also received contact info for Mt, Nebo church. We want to see if other ministries in the area could be developed.

Bob also reported that we have set up an urgent care fund and people could donate to this fund if they would like to.

Treasurer's report given by Nancy Rydgig

(see written report attached to these minutes)

Nancy also talked about the urgent care fund and explained how we are using it to help those in need and encouraged donations to same.

Compensation is a line item. There was no increase in 2016. There was a small increase in health insurance.

Further breakdown is available if needed per request of members,

There were no questions on treasurer's report at this time.

Thank you to Nancy for all of her hard work.

Bob Butchko then brought up the proposed 2016 budget. (see report in enclosed packet.). He stated that we lost a couple of parish families this past year and this be reflected in our income. He asked parishioners to consider increasing their donations if able.

The urgent care fund is set at \$10,000 per proposed guidelines and the board would come back to the parish for the need of more than that amount.

There were no other questions on the budget at this time; just a comment over how much it had increased in the last several years.

A motion was made by Peter Lecko to accept the budget as proposed; seconded by Wilma Len. Voted on and passed.

Financial secretary report:

Mike Lojan reported and stated that contribution forms are available from him if needed. He stated that about 1 1/2 months ago, we started the process again of counting the offering after liturgy by 2 council members a Sunday and having the deposit made the same day. He said it's an easier process now. All parishioners were invited and encouraged to assist with this counting process. Nancy has donated a laptop computer to the parish for our use and for help with better record keeping.

Audit committee:

Nick Huniak reported that he and Paul Finley reviewed the books and counting sheets. They found no issues or problems and said it appeared all bills were paid in a timely fashion. He commended Nancy and Mike on their work.

Building committee:

Ryan Herman reported on this. He said minor repairs have been made as needed and we will continue working on repairs as indicated if we stay in our current location. (see written report in packet). He asked parishioners to let him know if they know of any building issues. Bob thanked Ryan for filling in this position mid year after it was vacated by Jacob VanSickle moving out of our area.

Church school:

Matushka Larissa reported and thanked all the teachers and parents for their help during the year. She asked if anyone was interested in helping out with the church school program to please let her know. (see written report in packet)

Education:

Fr. Nicholas encouraged parish to help with church school and reported on adult education program. He said that he is holding adult education class one Sunday morning a month and is using the Rainbow series by Fr. Thomas Hopko. currently for the classes

as a baseline. He also reported that the classes are better attended since being held on Sunday mornings.

Fr. also stated that he and Andrew Tedford have discussed starting a book group and hope to have it running by Fall. Possible in 2 locations; one in the southwest area and one in the northeast area of our parish demographics to be able to include as many people as possible.

He says that church growth reports show the need for and benefits of small groups.

Investment committee:

Mike Lojan reported (see written report in packet)

Mike stated that we added \$75,000 to our investments in increments throughout the year this year. Our combined loss for the year was -1/31%, this included expense fees).

Mike recommended that we balance our portfolio when able. (as stock values go back up). He stated that having dividends has helped out.

Pete Lecko voiced a concern that we stay vigilant and not have too heavy of a load in one area, The market is down now but keep in mind that the dividends are reinvested so we have more shares and hopefully will have more value when market comes back up. Julie Noldany asked a question about us investing in index funds vs. Individual active management funds. We are in both.

Matushka Larissa brought up that there might be companies that we might invest in that have similar priorities as us. (ie. companies that help others).

Mike also said that he is looking for volunteers for the investment committee.

Bob added that we could use volunteers for all of our committees.

Choir report:

Karen Butchko reported. (See written report). She said that the small cabinet doors in the choir loft will need replaced.

Ladies sodality:

(see written report) Diana Huniak thanked everyone for their help and invited all ladies in the parish to join in the sodality activities. Our main fund raiser is pierogi making

Terry Wethington reported on getting our dough machine up and running before our next pierogi session on the 15th.

Outreach:

(See written report)

Maggie Fryntzko reported. She said there is a sign up sheet in the back of church to add names of shut ins that might need visits.

Per Janet Finley, the St. Louis Focus group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 9-11:30. They have food and wardrobe needs.

Fr. Nicholas said that he received an email from Mr. Christopolis thanking us for our help with the clean up in the flood area through our IOCC donations. (All Hands group)

Work day is coming up.

Per Janet, the new assistant director at Focus is putting together a "shower truck" that will go to victims of the storms and flooding and homeless to allow them the opportunity to shower. Plan to start this summer.

Sarah Butchko said that they have churches in the area of the school that she works in that help out with the impoverished students. She would be interested in helping lead a group like that in our area to help in the schools here.

O club (see report)

Fr. Nick stated that there is a major youth event for the diocese coming up. We will follow up on this.

Nominating committee:

The slate of officers was presented:

President: Bob Butchko  
Vice President: Andrew Tedford  
Secretary: Diana Huniak  
Treasurer: Ryan Herman  
Financial Secretary: Mike Lojan  
Members at large: Maggie Fryntzko  
Rebecca McKeal

Fr. asked for nominations for other members at large. Nancy Rydgig was nominated and accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Karen Butchko made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented. Seconded by Mary W. Voted on and passed.

Diocesan assembly representative: Lauren Herman volunteered. There were no other volunteers at this time. Lauren will be the representative for this year.

Auditors: Paul Finley and Steve Rydgig nominated and accepted.

Nominating committee: Shaun McKeal accepted this position.

Old Business: Steve brought up that some people wanted to readdress the time of services.

Bob said that this is on the agenda and will be brought up under new business. There was no other old business brought up.

New Business:

Karen Butchko brought up making a survey form to pass out to parishioners that would give them a chance to list what their talents are and in what areas they might be interested in helping out at the church. She said that people might have more interest if they are able to give input where they feel they can best help.

Church activities:

The merger vote will be on Sunday March 6 at the end of church. There will just be ballots issued and the vote taken.

Golf tournament is set for June 11

Trivia night will be Friday, September 30th this year. Eva Pelak reported that it will be at a new location this year. American Legion 581 in Columbia Illinois. There was a substantial price increase at the Collinsville hall we had been using so the committee decided to check out other places and found the best price here. We are planning for 24 tables but can change from 1/2 hall to full hall and pay the difference if we end up with

more tables than that.

Church picnic will be in August. Bob thanked Bev Capek for all of her work on our picnics and says she is stepping down so we will be looking for someone new to chair the picnic. He says we are open to changing the location and type of picnic event that we have. Pete asked if we might have one in area of the church and make it a community outreach day. No volunteers at this time. We will follow up on this.

Sharon Butchko said that our next pierogi session is Feb. 15 and that we will try to meet monthly now. She said that if anyone needs samples to promote sales at work or the like that would be possible.

Andrew Tedford brought up having a joint VBS session with Sts. Cyril and Methody this summer. He says he has been discussing with Chris Peleshenko from their parish and the St. Louis region. He will follow up on this.

O club will have cookie sales again this year.

Divine Liturgy time was discussed. Some members preferred moving services back to the 9:30am time. There was discussion among church school parents and teachers that they prefer to keep services at 10 am so that church school may continue to be held before church and parents can get children here in a timely manner.

After discussing it was asked if we could keep liturgy at 10 am for the school year and move it to 9:30 am over the summer. Pete Lecko made a motion that we follow the church school schedule and have Sunday liturgy at 10:00 from September 1st through Memorial Day and then at 9:30 over the summer. This was seconded by Nick Huniak, voted on and passed.

There was no other new business.

A motion was made by Ryan Herman to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pete Lecko. Meeting adjourned and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Huniak, recording secretary



Father Nicholas Finley, parish priest

## *Annual Rector's Report*

*February 2017*

Reverend Nicholas Finley

Our parish of Nativity of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church continues to glorify and praise God the Father, in His Son, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit through it's 116<sup>th</sup> year. We are grateful to God for His many blessings and for His continual making us worthy to be called His children. We hope to forge ahead, moment-by-moment giving glory to God and fulfilling the Great Commission the Lord imparted to us in Matthew (28:18-20).

We continue to give thanks to God for the life and eternal blessed repose of the Archpriest Thomas, Mary Rydgig, and Mary Casina. We bid temporary good bye to Mary Rydgig and Mary Casina earlier this past year in Spring and Fall of 2016 respectively. May their memory be eternal in God! We also welcome Very Reverend Father John Pawelchak.

A couple of weeks ago, an encyclical by His Grace, Bishop PAUL of Chicago and the Midwest was sent to all parishes in the Midwest Diocese, entitled "On Family Life". This encyclical can be found on the Diocesan Webpage at [www.domoca.org](http://www.domoca.org).

In His Grace's encyclical he is pledging to develop ministries, within the Diocese, including a webpage, within the Parishes and within the homes of the faithful, that will aid in building and supporting the family as the little Church. This goal is significant, because we cannot truly follow the way of Christ unless we practice our faith in the home and as His Grace rightly emphasizes, families with children that want the young members of their households to embrace and keep the faith into adulthood, need to have the foundation laid at home as a continuation of that which is practiced at Church (on Sundays).

As a means to embrace this paradigm even prior to the issuing of the encyclical, our parish has inaugurated a few programs that help with this. First, we began a book study group that provided great opportunity to discuss many different aspects and elements of our Orthodox Christian Faith that challenged us to opening up to experience God as being Everywhere Present. We also have continued to develop and establish the foundations of the Church school program. The change of the start time for weekly Church School lessons before Liturgy continues to be a very helpful aspect to start the Sunday routine when the children are more receptive.

The parish and through the myself and the parish council have continued to foster opportunities for outreach. The outreach committee has been formed and organized a few events throughout the year. Also, I have been making regular weekly tours of the neighborhood with the pastor of our next door neighboring church, Greater St. James COGIC (Church of God in Christ) from across the street. These regular forays into the surrounding neighborhood have provided repeated opportunities for fellowship and prayer with those who live closest to our Church building.

As we meet today and begin the next year of life in our parish, we have much to look forward to. We ask God's continued blessings and assistance. We also look for opportunities to minister to those in need, to those who are the least of the brethren, recognizing of course that this sometimes includes those closest to us. Some of these are those who are in our parish and as well as those who are in our own families.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Nicholas Finley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Reverend Nicholas Finley

**Parish Council President's Report  
February 5, 2017**

This year was another busy year for our Parish. We have accomplished many things important to both our spiritual and personal growth. We came to a resolution on the merger discussion, returned to some pressing Building project needs, especially in security and lighting of the Church, expanded our Outreach Program, assisted several in need through the Urgent Care Fund, learned that the All-American Council for the OCA will be held in St. Louis which we will have a prominent role and finally developed a plan to guide our Parish's future by preparing a Mission and Vision Plan.

We began the year by identifying key areas of responsibility to distribute work assignments within the Parish Council with the assistance of interested parishioners. Responsibilities within the Council were delegated to Committees to address particular needs of the Parish. They are as follows:

Building/Security	Andrew Tedford*, Terry Wethington
Education	Fr. Nicholas*, Matushka Larissa Finley, Andrew Tedford, Lauren Herman
Finance	Ryan Herman*, Nancy Rydgig
Investment	Mike Lojan*, Mike Butchko
Nominating Committee	Nancy Rydgig, Shaun McKeal**
Cemetery	Bob Butchko*, Nick Huniak, Sharon Butchko
Outreach	Maggie Fryntzko*, Rebecca McKeal, Paul Finley, Sarah Butchko
Inter-Church Coordination	Diane Huniak*
Audit	Paul Finley**, Steve Rydgig**

\*Council Member and Chair

\*\*Elected at Annual Parish Meeting

I want to thank all of the Council members and parishioners for their assistance this past year. They all worked hard to complete their assignments and were diligent in participating regularly in monthly meetings and special events/meetings.

We have continued to follow several management systems in place to monitor investments semi-annually as a Council and monthly by the Investment Committee. We monitor our budget and income/expenses against the previous year and cumulatively by reports from the Treasurer.

As with so many other years, financial matters were in the forefront of our attention as a Council this year. The Treasurer's Report will show that we finished the year in the positive, despite many unusual expenses. 2016 was a challenging year in controlling expenses and finding new sources of income. We were fortunate to add a few members and donors this year and were able to maintain a reasonable donation stream

throughout the year that helped maintain a minimal positive balance. As in the past, I ask each of you to evaluate your giving, and if you can, increase as our parish needs increase, remembering that the Church pays assessments for each of you as members, and if financially able, should be donating the \$240 each at a minimum. If there are any questions or financial problems, please contact Fr. Nicholas privately to discuss.

As I mentioned earlier, the Urgent Care Fund was used to assist parishioners and others in the community. As a Council, we felt that we have been blessed to be in the fortuitous financial position we are currently in, and therefore distributed the funds to the needy families. The fund maintains a balance of \$10,000 (refunded annually at the beginning of the fiscal year in the annual budget). This year approximately \$2,500 was used for this purpose.

The Parish Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund continues to grow. The balance now stands at over \$90,000 and this year we collected over \$12,000 from our annual solicitation letter and parishioner donations. There were no major improvements this year, but we do continue to provide lawn care and stone adjustments. Ultimately, a handrail may need to be installed on the steps and roadway re-pavement should occur.

We had two annual parish activities, Trivia Night and the Golf Tournament this year. Thanks to all who assisted in helping to make each of them a success. The two activities raised over \$10,000. 10% of the profits from each activity are designated for a charitable use or donation to an appropriate cause. This coming year each month the collection basket at the end of Church will be designated for a charitable use, such as Urgent Care Fund, Seminaries, etc.

Because of the merger discussions and the uncertainty of the outcome, no major building improvements were made until mid-year. Security lighting was installed on the exterior of the Church and Rectory. Also, the spotlights for the Altar were repaired and bulbs replaced. Water in the basement has been an issue for a long time. Some landscape adjustments along with the downspout extensions appear to have helped some. We will begin to use the sewer valve closings in the Church to avoid the sanitary sewer backups. This should prevent the problem from occurring again. Please look for the OPEN/CLOSED sign before using the restrooms in the Church basement. Andrew Tedford will discuss the list of needs and it will be a discussion item for the membership at the Annual Meeting.

The Outreach Program has become more active this year, reaching out to shut-ins with visits and cards. Also, Father Nicholas has established a strong relationship with the Pastor of the Greater St. James Church across 5<sup>th</sup> Street from our Church. There have been a couple of lunch gatherings between our Parish leadership groups with the hope of continued cooperation between us.

Several months ago, we were informed that the 19<sup>th</sup> All-American Council will be held in St. Louis, MO July 23 thru 27, 2018 with the FOCA Convention held July 22 thru 24, 2018 at the Union Station Hyatt Hotel. Committees are being formed and help is needed to

begin the planning and during the week of the meeting. Please consider being part of this important event in the life of our Church.

Finally, with the Parish's decision not to merge with Sts. Cyril & Methody parish, the Council has set out to plan the future for our Parish, both spiritually and practically. In that spirit, the Council has developed a Mission and Vision Plan as a guide for the future work of our Parish. With the Parish's approval at the Annual Meeting, along with the 2017 Goals and Objectives, the Parish Council has guidance for the work of the Parish in all of the key areas: Worship, Outreach, Education, Fellowship and Stewardship.

Thank you to all who have worked in parish events and functions this past year and thank you to all for the opportunity to serve as your Parish Council President. Thanks to all parishioners for their prayers, participation and love. May God Bless each of you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert G. Butchko".

Robert G. Butchko  
Parish Council President

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary  
Orthodox Church  
Cash Assets  
As of December 31, 2016, With  
2015 Comparison**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
UMB Checking	62,763.47	70,311.07
UMB Savings		
UMB Savings–Non Designated	24,075.00	24,008.87
UMB Saving– Building Fund Designated	19,620.29	22,269.00
UMB Savings–Cemetery Designated/PC	18,445.00	6,972.00
UMB Savings–Urgent Need Fund	<u>10,178.50</u>	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total UMB Savings	72,318.79	63,249.87
Investment Accounts		
TD America–Building Fund	74,302.00	64,539.99
AB Discovery Growth–Building	31,246.00	29,580.63
AB–Hi Inc–Cemetery PC	49,632.00	45,506.02
AB Discovery Value–Cemetery PC	31,246.00	28,397.21
AB–Lg Cap Growth	67,095.00	60,711.87
Oppenheimer 9293	46,583.00	44,043.61
Oppenheimer 2716	<u>29,737.00</u>	<u>27,924.66</u>
Total Investment Accounts	329,841.00	300,703.99
Urgent Need Cash Fund	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total Cash Assets	<u>465,123.26</u>	<u>434,464.93</u>

**Nativity of the Virgin Mary  
Orthodox Church  
Income & Expenses  
January through December 2016  
with Comparison**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Ordinary Income		
Offerings	142,987.17	172,674.95
Investment Inc/Reinvested Div	30,633.00	5,552.20
Scrip Rebate	61.46	126.84
Total Ordinary Income **	<u>173,681.46</u>	<u>178,353.99</u>
Ordinary Expense		
Expense		
Assembly/Convocation	931.22	3,022.48
Assessments	11,116.00	11,967.96
Bank Fees	60.82	216.10
Charitable Organizations	200.00	6,988.00
Charitable Donations–Urgent Needs Fund	2,426.07	11,341.70
Choir Expense	0.00	224.65
Compensation*	83,657.37	86,189.95
Education	373.94	0.00
Flowers Expense	951.15	1,015.85

Gifts	7,000.00	12,500.00
Insurance	6,848.00	6,987.00
Internet	659.89	719.88
Investment Mgt Fees	155.79	1,478.23
Maintenance & Repairs	20,891.76	13,209.07
Postage & Delivery	53.96	169.84
Printing	158.73	326.60
Security	1,242.60	2,758.83
Special Events	342.79	4,162.77
Stipends & Honoraria	200.00	500.00
Supplies	4,101.80	4,761.69
Telephone (Hard Line)	786.49	837.29
Utilities	9,548.74	9,230.32
Website	300.00	300.00
Miscellaneous Expense	507.87	2.91
Total Ordinary Expense	<u>152,514.00</u>	<u>178,911.12</u>
Net Ordinary Income/Loss	21,167.46	-557.13
Other Income		
Fundraiser Income	<u>13,923.00</u>	<u>13,480.00</u>
Total Other Income	0.00	13,480.00
Other Expense		
Casualty Loss-2014*	0.00	2,935.00
Fundraiser Expense	2,268.71	4,278.27
Total Other Expense	<u>2,268.71</u>	<u>7,213.27</u>
Net Other Income	<u>11,654.29</u>	<u>6,266.73</u>
Net Income	<u>32,821.75</u>	<u>5,709.60</u>

NOT

ES:

\* Compensation does not reflect pension and insurance payments made in early January

\*\* Only considering cash, not investments, income was \$2188

<b>2017 Proposed Budget</b>			
	<b><i>2016 Proposed Budget</i></b>	<b><i>2016 Actual Expense</i></b>	<b><i>2017 Proposed Budget</i></b>
Assembly/Convocation	\$1,000	\$931	\$1,000
Assessments	\$11,100	\$11,088	\$11,100
Bank Fees	\$25	\$61	\$50
Charitable Organizations	\$2,000	\$200	\$2,000
Choir	\$200	\$0	\$200
Compensation	\$83,700	\$83,657	\$86,625
Deanery expenses	\$100	\$100	\$100
Education	\$200	\$374	\$400
Flowers	\$1,000	\$951	\$750
Gifts	\$6,500	\$7,000	\$7,000
Insurance	\$8,500	\$6,848	\$8,500
Internet	\$750	\$660	\$750
Investment Fees	\$1,000	\$156	\$1,250
Maintenance & Repairs	\$12,500	\$7,243	\$12,500
Office Equipment	\$200	\$516	\$200
Postage	\$200	\$54	\$200
Printing	\$250	\$159	\$250
Security	\$1,130	\$1,242	\$1,200
Special Events	\$0	\$343	\$350
Stipends & Honoraria	\$500	\$200	\$500
Supplies	\$4,000	\$4,102	\$4,000
Telephone	\$900	\$786	\$900
Utilities	\$9,500	\$9,548	\$9,500
Website	\$300	\$300	\$300
Misc	\$500	\$507	\$500

## FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Nativity of the Virgin total balance Jan 2016 to Dec 2016: \$241,162 to \$259,809 a **Gain of \$18,647**

Jan 2016 to Dec 2016

Alliance funds: Discovery Growth \$29,248 to \$31,246  
**(+7%)** High Income: \$42,933 to \$49,632 **(+16%)**  
Discovery Value \$28,427 to \$35,856  
**(+26%)** Large Cap **Growth \$64,185 to \$67,094 (+4.5%)**

Oppenheimer funds: Global Strategic \$27,638 to  
\$29,396 **(+6.5%)** Global Fund \$46,509 to \$46,583  
**(+.15%)**

note: The Global Fund is up **9%** in just the last 6 months,  
from \$42,720 up to \$46,583

## Maintenance Committee Report 2017

### January 2017:

Being good stewards of the resources given us is always a struggle. The council seeks to be wise stewards in order to free up monies that can be used for ministry and reaching people for the gospel. It is also true that the church building is a holy place and must be treated as such. For this reason, the council has been attempting to prioritize projects in advance and plan the budget accordingly to look after our building and grounds. Sometimes, however, there are items that simply need to be addressed outside of the budget. The following is a list of projects the council felt needed to be addressed this year in order to be faithful stewards of all God has given us.

Projects undertaken in 2016 included:

- Updated outside lighting
- Replaced overhead lighting in liturgical areas
- Replaced door on back of rectory
- A bid on sidewalk replacement around the rectory, which will be completed soon

Parish clean-up day in October included:

- organizing church basement
- cleaning out choir loft
- recaulking driveway and church steps

Future items to be addressed:

- Adding outside cameras for security connected to smart-phones
- Replacing bathroom baseboards
- Replacing floor tiles in basement
- Cleaning out storage areas in church basement

If there are any other items you notice that need to be addressed, then please let the the council know. Again, we wish to be faithful stewards and it is often difficult to discern which projects should be prioritized. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Tedford  
Maintenance Committee

# **Cemetery Committee Report**

**February 5, 2017**

## **Members:**

Bob Butchko, Council Chairman  
Nick Huniak  
Sharon Butchko

## **Activity:**

Cemetery mowed regularly during growing season  
Special cleaning in Spring and Fall  
Corrected several stones that were leaning or undermined at their foundation  
Collected is over \$10,000 from 27 donators; 14 non-parishioners.  
Cemetery Fund over \$90,000 (more specific report from Treasurer)

## **Proposed Future Activity:**

Still need to reset markers for burial zones disrupted from sidewalk construction  
Handrails on steps from driveway

## **Education Committee Report 2017**

### **January 2017:**

#### **Adult Education**

Fall 2016 saw the formation of two adult home group book studies that ran concurrently with each other. The book studied in both groups was "Everywhere Present" by Fr. Stephen Freeman. The groups met in the evenings during the week. One group met in Oakville, MO at Bob and Sharon Butchko's home and the other group met in Maryville, IL at Steve and Nancy Rydgig's home. There were approximately 16 people involved in the study including Fr. Nicholas leading the Illinois group and Andrew Tedford leading the Missouri group. Overall, there was general consensus that the experience was positive and should be continued next year.

The Education Committee is always looking for ways to include more adults in parish educational opportunities. Learning about the Orthodox faith is not only important for those already Orthodox, but also an opportunity for those interested in the faith to learn more about it. Please consider ways to support the mission of Nativity of the Virgin and get more involved in parish education.

#### **Children/Youth Education**

Church School 2016 saw several changes. The year began with monthly joint Sunday school with Ss. Cyril and Methodius. The summer break allowed for a joint VCS program (see attached). Fall 2016 began a new start time of 9:15 giving our children the opportunity to learn liturgical music before breaking into grade-level classrooms. Also, the year ended with the annual Yolka program that the previous year had been done jointly with Ss. Cyril and Methodius.

Regular classroom participation included 8 children for Fall 2016, not including participation in the annual Yolka program. The morning schedule included 15 minutes of liturgical music and prayer followed by two different classroom break-outs, pre-k and 1st through 4th grade. Unfortunately, a classroom for older children was unable to be established. Four classroom teachers took turns with a 6 week session and one teacher took on the music portion of the school. Thank you to Mat. Larissa for developing the music and to Lauren Herman, Maggie Fryntzko, and Diane Huniak for taking turns teaching. New teachers may be needed to develop the program for older children and teenagers in the coming year.

#### **Yolka Program**

The Yolka program took place during Advent this year the Sunday before Christmas. The theme, and title, of the play was "An Advent play- preparing our hearts for the coming King." Twelve children, two teenagers, and one Pete Lecko (type-cast as King Herod) participated in the Yolka program. The children, and volunteers, worked hard beginning in the Advent season before church to prepare and memorize lines. A special thanks to Theresa Billy, Sarah Butchko, Mat. Larissa, Kate Tedford, and Lauren Herman for doing a lot of the behind the scenes work.

We continue to look for ways to improve the children's educational programs by developing Vacation Church School, the Yolka program, and by taking social outings (2016 Fall outing was Relleke Farms). Please consider volunteering to help in any capacity for building up of the Christian faith in our young people.

## **Vacation Church School Committee Report- August 2016**

### **July 11-15:**

The first annual joint vacation church school with Nativity of the Virgin parish and SS. Cyril and Methody parish was held at Saints Cyril and Methody in Granite City Monday, July 11 through Friday July 15 from 9:00 AM to noon. The theme for this year's VCS was "Behold the Light" and revolved around 4 of the feasts of Christ including Nativity of Christ, Presentation in the Temple, Theophany, and Transfiguration.

Sixteen children attended each day ranging from 2 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There were twelve volunteers from both parishes and Fr. Nicholas led prayer at the beginning and end of each daily session. Each day consisted of prayer, music, lesson, craft, snack, and recreation. Tuesday Fr. Nicholas helped the children make prosphora which was used for the Liturgy on Thursday morning.

Thursday the children put together 50 emergency health kits for International Orthodox Christian Charities. Thank you to both parishes for providing and supporting this outreach and especially O Club for paying for the shipping and handling costs associated with the kits.

Feedback from both children and volunteers seemed very positive and there was a general consensus that this program be continued in the future. Thank you to both parishes for the financial support to make this possible.

**Finances:** The cost of VCS was about \$300 total for the program which does not include donations of some snack items. Nativity of Virgin and SS. Cyril and Methody split the cost of the program.

### **Planned Future Activity:**

Themes and dates are already being prepared for next year 2017. T-shirts might be provided to the children, but this would cost extra. If you are interested in being involved in 2017 please let me know.

Thank you so much for your support.

In Christ,

In Christ,

Andrew Tedford  
Education Committee Report

## Investment Report

Nativity of the Virgin total balance Jan 2016 to Dec 2016: \$241,162 to \$259,809 **a Gain of \$18,647**

Jan 2016 to Dec 2016

Alliance funds: Discovery Growth \$29,248 to \$31,246 **(+7%)** High Income: \$42,933 to \$49,632 **(+16%)**  
Discovery Value \$28,427 to \$35,856 **(+26%)** Large Cap **Growth \$64,185 to \$67,094 (+4.5%)**

Oppenheimer funds: Global Strategic \$27,638 to \$29,396 **(+6.5%)** Global Fund \$46,509 to \$46,583 **(+.15%)**

note: The Global Fund is up **9%** in just the last 6 months, from \$42,720 up to \$46,583

Annual Parish Meeting of the Nativity of Virgin Mary Church  
February 5, 2017  
Outreach Committee

I. 2016

A. Christmas baskets were delivered to three families residing in Madison. In addition, our Urgent Care Fund assisted one family with their electric bill. The committee worked with Mrs. Molly Gabel, Social Worker with the Madison School District.

B. Parish children created and signed Christmas cards to our shut-ins.

C. Our parish assisted in the Angel Tree Project. We distributed gifts to children whose parents are incarcerated.

D. Committee members have set bulletins and notes to absent parishoners.

II. Organizations

A. Donations to FOCUS of canned meats are always in need and can be left in the basket in the vestibule.

B. Information on upcoming events and/or opportunities to volunteer can be found on the bulletin boards in the church vestibule and rectory basement. These organizations includes events sponsored by local Orthodox parishes, FOCUS, IOCC, OCMC, the Midwest Diocese, and the OCA.

C. The committee welcomes your suggestions, ideas, and participation from all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maggie Fryntzko  
Rebecca McKeal

## Interchurch coordination

We believe that ministry is best done in cooperation, not isolation. We wish to facilitate relational opportunities, share resources, and offer regular encouragement between local churches. Partnering together for the gospel is one key way we can model Christ like love.

### Goals:

- To develop and maintain communication between area Orthodox parishes and between us and other faith parishes
- To encourage fellowship and mutual support between pastoral and lay persons.
- To plan joint activities

Over the past year, these things have been done:

Vacation church school in conjunction with Sts. Cyril and Methody parish. We are planning another joint VCS session for this summer.

We have met with and discussed having some joint sisterhood events with Sts. Cyril and Methody.

We have had some joint worship services with Sts. Cyril and Methody and look forward to more.

Fr. Nicholas has initiated a relationship with Pastor Aaron at Greater St. James COGIC church (across the street). They have walked the neighborhood to meet and visit with the residents. Their parish has invited us to fellowship with them at their "5th Sunday" luncheons. We hope to plan some other joint activities.

As Great Lent approaches, we have the opportunity to join other parishes in the area for Sunday evening Lenten services. This is a great opportunity to grow together in worship and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Huniak, council representative

St. Romanus



The Sweet Singer

## Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church Annual Meeting – February 5, 2017 Choir Report

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the choir for their dedication and efforts throughout the year. The Choir continued the practice of bringing the message of the Savior's birth to our parishioners in their homes, as well as those who resided in two area assisted living facilities. Hopefully this tradition will continue to grow in 2017 and the coming years.

Weekly choir rehearsals are scheduled to resume on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. We continue to rehearse to improve the music that is sung at Liturgy, Vespers and other services throughout the year, as will begin rehearsing music for Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha.

We continue to utilize the OCA website for music for Troparions and Kontakions for the saints which are celebrated throughout the year, as well as other OCA approved music sources.

Upgrading and updating our music, service books for the feast days and other services are an on-going effort. With continued guidance and input from Fr. Nicholas, we continue to expand our library of service and music. These projects are always time consuming and tedious and we would also like to thank those choir members who have assisted in proofreading, copying and compiling these books.

Thank you to everyone for their support.

Karen Butchko, Choir Director  
Lori Billy, Assistant Choir Director

## Society of the Myrrh Bearing Women

Our society aims to bring the women of our church together for prayer, charitable works, and mutual support of our parish. We strive to fulfill our calling in Christ through serving others.

Our meetings have been random this past year but we look to schedule them regularly this year.

We continue to have a successful pierogi operation. We have had a good turnout of parishioners (and others) to help at our pierogi making sessions and sales have been great. We plan to continue these sessions in the new year. We welcome anyone to join us. It's a good opportunity for fellowship and to help support your parish. A big thank you to Sharon Butchko for chairing this and to everyone who has helped. We also want to thank Terry Wethington for his assistance with equipment repair.

We have discussed doing a sisterhood bazaar again in the future but on a smaller scale. We would appreciate any thoughts and help on this endeavor.

We continue to support charitable organizations as well as supporting our own parish financially. We currently have plans to purchase a new set of vestments for Fr. Nicholas.

We have gotten together with some members of Sts. Cyril and Methody's sisterhood and look forward to planning some joint activities.

We welcome any ladies of the parish to join us for fellowship and service.

"Verily I say unto you, In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me" Matthew 25:40

Respectfully submitted,  
Diana Huniak

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## FOCA (O Club) Report 2017

This past year our club consisted of 21 members.

We did not have a very active year but donated a lot to our regular charities. We gave \$100 to FOCA Gifts of Love for the project to make coloring books in English and Yupik for children in Alaska. One is The Saints of Alaska and the other is The life of Christ.

Thanks to all the pussy willows which are given to church, we can take care of the grave cleanings and placement of palms at each tombstone for Pascha.

We sponsored our usual hole, \$100, for the golf tournament.

Our pretty- regular mid-year project is the Ice Cream Social. We raised \$129.

We gave \$345 to St Andrew's Charity Appeal through member donations. This money goes to missions, seminaries, scholarships, and youth. And as members of Stewards of the O.C.A. we gave \$110.

We donated \$60 for the project our children put together with the children of Sts. Cyril and Methody Church during Vacation Bible School to make emergency kits for I.O.C.C..

We donated \$100 to church for Trivia night, \$250 to F.O.C.A. for gifts for seminarian families at Christmas, and \$50 towards items for the needy baskets.

The Christmas cookie sale, our biggest fundraiser, provides for our giving to the church and church-sponsored charities. We again thank you all for your generosity in our endeavors.

We are gearing up for the 2018 All American Council and F.O.C.A. Convention partnered July 2018. We invite all to plan to participate in our activities which will come before the Council starts.

Andrea Davies  
President