

**St. Vladimir Orthodox Church
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia**

**2017 Annual Parish Meeting
February 11, 2018**

Minutes

- I. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King ..."
- II. Recognition of a quorum
John Hill moved to recognize the quorum, Elizabeth Joyce seconded. Motion passed.
- III. Adoption of the Proposed Agenda
Fr. Moses McPherson moved to accept the agenda, Colin Bower seconded. Motion passed.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Rector's Report.
Fr. Gregory Joyce presented Rector's Report (attached).
John Hill asked about the reasons for the new design of the church. Fr. Gregory answered that the new design is less costly, more expedient.
John Hill moved to accept the Report, Catherine Bower seconded. Motion passed.
 - B. Starosta's Report.
Alexei (Jack) Mitchell presented Starosta's Report (attached).
Colin Bower moved to accept the Report, Marina Edwards seconded. Motion passed.
 - C. Treasurer's Report.
Nathaniel Longan presented Treasurer's Report. Natalia Kondrashova suggested to include more detailed expenses breakdown in the report. Nathaniel agreed. Alexei (Jack) Mitchell moved to accept the Report, Ksenia (Leta) Nikulshina seconded. Motion passed. Original presented report and detailed report are attached.
 - D. Sisterhood Report
Ksenia (Leta) Nikulshina presented the Sisterhood Report (attached).
Alexei (Jack) Mitchell moved to accept the Report, Colin Bower seconded. Motion passed.
 - E. Brotherhood Report
Konstantin Poplavsky presented the Brotherhood Report (attached).
Elizabeth Joyce moved to accept the Report, Catherine Bower seconded. Motion passed.
 - F. Youth Group Report
Fr. Gregory presented the Youth Group Report (attached).
Marina Edwards moved to accept the Report, Colin Bower seconded. Motion passed.
 - G. Church School Report – Alexandra Pyrozhenko presented the Church School Report (attached).
Alexei (Jack) Mitchell moved to accept the Report, Vladimir Makarov seconded. Motion passed.
 - H. Membership Report
Vasily Krivtsov presented the Membership Report (attached).
John Hill moved to accept the Report, Ksenia (Leta) Nikulshina seconded. Motion passed.
 - I. Building Team Report.
Alexei (Jack) Mitchell presented the Building Team Report (attached).
Elizabeth Joyce moved to accept the Report, Catherine Bower seconded. Motion passed.
 - J. IOCC Parish Report
Marina Edwards presented the IOCC Report (attached).
Ioanna Skalitzky moved to accept the Report, Colin Bower seconded. Motion passed.

V. New Business

A. Election of Parish Officers. Counting committee: Elizabeth Joyce, Catherine Bower.

1. Starosta – term runs through 2019
2. Treasurer (1 Year Term) – Mikhail Fisenkov nominated (absent, no vote)
3. Secretary – elected: (1 Year Term) – Alexander Alexandrov
4. Trustees – elected: (2 minimum – 5 maximum) (1 Year Term) Marina Edwards, Dmitry Knysh, Nathaniel Longan, Igor Obertas, Natalia Veniaminova.

Note: All full-time parish clergy are, by nature of their rank, members of the Parish Council if they so desire.

Note: The time commitment for Parish Council members is approximately 4 hours per month (one regularly scheduled meeting of 2 hours and the possibility of a special meeting)

B. Election of Auditing Committee – Three parish members (not Parish Council members) elected to audit all the parish ledgers.

Elected: Alexander Kurochkin

C. Election of Editing Committee – Two parish members elected to aid the Rector and the Secretary in the preparation of the minutes of the Annual Meeting for submission to the diocesan bishop. The minutes must be submitted not more than seven days following the Annual Meeting, that is, by Monday, February 19, 2018. Editing committee: Natalia Kondrashova

D. Election of Representatives to “Russia with Love” – Two parish members to attend monthly meetings in 2018 and provide periodic reports to the Rector of the group’s activities

Elected: Alexander Alexandrov

E. Parish Day School – Fr. Gregory Joyce presented the Parish Day School Update.

John Hill asked if the money from the new church fund will be used to finance the Day School. Fr. Gregory answered these funds will not have to be touched, alternative sources available. The plan is to break ground for the school in 2018 and start classes in the fall of 2019. Discussion followed: selection of best available teachers, teaching standards, gradually expand classes, curriculum and extracurricular activities. Question about the kitchen in the proposed building – no kitchen, parents to provide lunches for students.

Natalia Kondrashova moved to accept the Day School proposal, Konstantin Poplavsky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

F. New Church/Social Space Project – Fr. Gregory Joyce presented the New Church/Social Space Project Update.

Presented renderings. Discussion followed: LEED certification for the new church, geothermal heating, solar power bank (DTE).

VI. Closing Prayer: "It is truly meet..."

**Rector's Report to the 2017 Annual Assembly
Priest Gregory Joyce
February 11, 2018**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Baptisms/Chrismations	14	19	24	17	18	13	14	16	10	17	18	16	9	16
Marriages	2	6	5	5	5	2	4	1	4	3	1	2	1	0
Funerals	1	2	4	3	3	0	4	4	1	3	6	1	1	4
Average Kissing Cross Weekly	71	71	66	73	74	91	91	95	101	117	135	130	136	134
Average Communing Weekly	22	23	19	20	24	32	36	41	48	56	61	67	66	66
Percent Communing	30.99%	32.39%	28.79%	27.40%	32.43%	35.16%	39.56%	43.16%	47.52%	47.74%	44.95%	51.54%	48.53%	49.25%
Number of Divine Liturgies				87	94	81	90	93	94	100	122	115	126	130
Liturgy Every X Days (Lower is more frequent)				4.20	3.88	4.51	4.06	3.92	3.88	3.65	2.99	3.17	2.90	2.82
Membership	44	47	46	59	71	86	95	110	111	129	129	138	156	150

In the documents of the ancient Church we read how **a Christian community is defined as a worshipping Eucharistic community**. The Russian Orthodox Church's concept of Missions also uses this definition. I would suggest that this is a very good designation and one for which we should strive as a parish family. Through our spiritual struggle and God's Grace, a theological cooperation called synergy, we are to be transformed into the true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. If we add to this community effort true Christian Love then the new church and social/educational center we have been preparing to build will be in fact much too small for all those that will be attracted to our parish and our authentic Christian witness.

I would like to make this very clear from the outset: we are not moving towards a new church and educational space so that the same number of parishioners can have more space per person to stand in a spacious new building. Rather, **we are moving towards a new church to bring more – many more – people to the Orthodox faith**. May the merciful Lord grant that we continue to march forward as a parish family in 2018 and beyond with this goal in mind! Later in this meeting we will review the new design of our future parish church that Archbishop Peter has blessed and which has been unanimously approved by our Parish Council. We will also discuss and vote on our new parish day school, which we have been working very hard on for three years already, and the concept of which was blessed by both Patriarch Kyrill and Archbishop Peter. God-willing classes will begin in the fall of 2019.

Let me be very clear what the vision is regarding the new church: to step by step, day by day, prayer by prayer, effort by effort, grow into our new church. We will not take a wild leap in that direction, but build towards it with God's help and our struggle. We will not take out huge construction loans, but raise the funds needed to build the church. We will not build a barn with a cupola plopped on top, but a beautiful yet affordable traditional Orthodox Christian temple for God's glory. The parish council and various subcommittees are working very hard on this project. We do not see this work, but it is happening every day. And we are getting closer and closer every day. Building parking lots and paving them was a logical step in this direction. The cemetery was a logical next step. The school is a logical further step. And so we will travel, with the Lord's help and blessing, on the path that slowly but surely leads us to the new church. Fund raising efforts are going well, but your continued prayers in this regard would be very helpful. As would remembering the parish in your will, or buying life insurance that will benefit the parish. Please contact me or any member of the parish council to

discuss how you can help. Let us begin by remembering first and foremost that this is a SPIRITUAL QUESTION – without the Lord's blessing this will never happen. So let us approach this work prayerfully, lovingly, in a true Orthodox Christian manner. Let us work together, repent together, and forgive each other daily as we, hand in hand as a parish family, move towards a project that will bring many more people to the True Faith!

- Congratulations to all that **our average number of those communing at all Divine Liturgies this year was 49.25%**. This is wonderful – let us keep striving to improve this number! This is a small increase from last year, but that much more impressive in that we also had 3% more Liturgies this year than last.
- **In 2017 the average number of people kissing the cross was essentially flat.** This is a function of the fact that we have essentially reached 100% capacity in our present facility. This is true of the Divine Services, but also for our other ministries such as Church School. Thank God for that, but let us also leverage the reality of this full capacity to work that much harder towards our new parish church. It is nice that we are so “packed” into the church now. This nice closeness will wear off rather quickly though – we must move as quickly and as intentionally as possible as we can towards the new church – and that means we need to challenge ourselves to increase our giving to the building fund in order to be able to start this work as soon as possible.
- **In 2017 we served 130 Divine Liturgies at St. Vladimir’s parish, or one Liturgy every 2.8 days. This is a record number of Liturgies for our parish for the second year in a row!** It is very important that we serve the Divine Services for the glory of God and I thank sincerely everyone who made this possible: from those who served, to those who sang, to those who baked prosphora, to those who cleaned the church, and everyone who participated in the Divine Liturgies through their prayerful presence. May the Lord grant us the zeal to continue to serve the Divine Liturgy as often as possible for His glory and the spiritual health of our parish family!
- In 2017 we continued to serve one liturgical cycle of all-English Divine Services monthly. **This is an important missionary outreach** and to be honest I really enjoy the quiet, prayerful atmosphere these Liturgies afford our parish. And as mentioned above, it is important to serve the Liturgy as often as we can in our parish church! At these Divine Liturgies it is not uncommon for nearly everyone in the church to partake of the Holy Mysteries. **We are purposefully a diverse community: ethnically, nationally, linguistically, and otherwise. Diversity is a HUGE strength of St. Vladimir's and something we need to continue to strive to inculcate.** Yes – occasionally we have a bit of angst that surrounds this diversity. That is normal, and spiritually I would argue that this is even beneficial. If we are never struggling in our faith – if we have no spiritual challenges – we regress. The Lord sends us the appropriate challenges at the appropriate time since He knows what we need for our salvation much better than we do. We intend to continue this ministry into the future and to continue to reach out to those around us – that we might not keep this “pearl of great price” which we have found for ourselves, but that might share it with as many others as we can. Please support us by inviting friends, loved ones, neighbors to these Divine Services and any/all of our other Divine Services and activities.
- We hope, with God’s help, to establish a special needs ministry in our parish in the coming year. Perhaps this will include a monthly Liturgy for those families seeking God, but struggling with a special needs child or adult child in their family. We have heard some speaking poorly of the special Liturgies in our parish and citing an Orthodox “theologian” in this regard. Let us say clearly here: we have Archbishop Peter’s blessing and this is all that matters. His Eminence is aware of this “theologian’s” concerns and considers them to be completely baseless while also being based on ignorance of the meaning of the Great Commission: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto

the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20) If Archbishop Peter blesses this is the end of the discussion.

- **In general we may say that the positive trend in our parish continues:** attendance is strong, the number of communicants is strong and stable, the percentage of those communing is up, membership is strong and stable, and we had the largest number of members in the diocese last year. Likely we will have the largest number this year as well. This is all very exciting, but at the same time potentially dangerous in that it could lead us to complacency. **Christianity is a religion of mission and growth.** This has been the case from the time of the Apostles and must always remain so. **Let us redouble our efforts to spread the Good News of the Gospel to those who have not heard it** – not for the sake of being proud that our parish is growing, but so that we may give a good answer to the Lord when our time comes to do this – that we did our utmost to increase His flock.
- **We want your feedback!** We have placed a Google doc on our home page that allows you to provide feedback anonymously. You can also email us. You can leave us a note on Facebook. You can even talk to us! Please share your thoughts with us – we know you have a lot of value that you can add to your parish family. Please share!
- I would like to thank our Membership Coordinators: Vasiliy Krivtsov, Dmitri Knysh, and Konstantin Poplavksy for their diligent work! Membership is important, and we urge all who are eligible to become members. **This is important to our parish because it is important to our local governments and to our diocese.** This also puts us in a leadership position in our diocese and I feel that this is a good thing in that it does not allow us to rest – we need to keep working hard to bring more people to the faith, which is exactly the charge our Lord gave us when He instructed us in the Great Commission (referenced above). May we continue this work for which we have been blessed by God Himself! **Fr. Paul Karas always said that as a parish we have to either go forward or fall back – we cannot hold ourselves in place without regressing.** I could not agree more!
- Thank you to all who made **our most important missionary effort – our Russian Festival – a huge success** this year! Every year new people join our parish family because of the festival, many people are exposed to Orthodox Christianity and Russian culture in a positive way, and we shine as a parish family! Is this a difficult effort? YES! BUT we know how to do this now and how to do it well. We need more help – we need you! Don Skalitzky and Jack Mitchell are heading up the festival committee again this year. The committee is already meeting. Join us to help make this year’s festival a success!
- This last year we were privileged to have **Fr. Moses McPherson** join us as the Assistant Rector of our parish. Fr. Moses and Matushka Ruth have recently purchased a home here and have become an integral part of our parish family. Thank God for sending Fr. Moses to us! He has been a huge help to me as the Rector and a huge help to our parish family as a whole. Thank you Fr. Moses for your sincere service and to your family who share you with us: Matushka Ruth, Isidore, John, and Joseph. May the Lord reward you all in this life and the next for your service to the Holy Church!
- I would like to thank Deacon Vladimir Pyrozhenko for his service to our parish family! Again this year Fr. Vladimir led us in prayer as our parish Deacon and we are very thankful for his ministry! We also must thank here his family: his wife Alexandra and children Daria, Anthony, Anna, and Alexander for generously sharing their husband and father with our parish family as he leads us in prayer fulfilling his obedience as a Deacon. May the Lord reward them all in this life and the next for their service to the Holy Church!
- **WE NEED MORE CLERGYMEN!** This means you. Men. All of you. If you are canonically eligible to be ordained you should be seriously considering this opportunity for service to our community. If you are not sure if you are eligible please see me!

- I would like to take this opportunity to **urge everyone to prepare as much as possible for their transition to the next life** – whether the actuarial tables make the likelihood of that transition soon or far from now. Most importantly we should prepare spiritually by living a Christian life to the best of our ability. Secondly, **for the sake of our family and their peace of mind we should arrange our affairs so that our wishes will be known through our wills or even better: through a will AND trust.** Please contact me to learn more about this. The Holy Church guides us in this regard – there are practices we follow and those that we do not. It is especially important for those without Orthodox relatives to prepare appropriately so that your wishes are followed after your repose. I am happy to help in this way however I can – but the key is to prepare now so that all flows smoothly when the time comes. In this regard, **we are happy to announce that our cemetery was approved by Lima Township Planning Commission this year.** Thank you to our cemetery working group of Konstantin Poplavsky, Jack Mitchell, and Ksenia Nikulshina! Graves are presently available for purchase, and many people have purchased burial rights already. This will be an important part of planning your final affairs and we encourage all to arrange for burial in the future parish cemetery. In this regard please note: having a parish cemetery means that it will be important for us to serve the Divine Liturgy as often as possible to commemorate the departed resting in the cemetery and our other parish departed. **We hope in the future, once we have moved into our new church, that we would even be able to serve the Divine Liturgy daily and Archbishop Peter has blessed us to strive towards this goal.** But this means we would need adequate clergy and singers to do so, which will mean more resources from the parish. Ideally income from the cemetery and the growth in our parish will cover all this, but I want to share this with the parish now so that everyone understands the vision of the future in this regard.
- Our Choir, Readers, Church School, Youth Group, Greeters, Sisterhood, and Brotherhood continue to provide great value to our parishioners through their service to our community. **Thank you to all who head and participate in these important efforts:** Julia Easson, Ken Doll, Alexandra Pyrozhenko, Ksenia Nikulshina, Konstantin Poplavsky, Christopher Hunter, and all our Youth Group volunteers. **Thank you also to all those who volunteer for the parish in other ways as well. You are too numerous to name, but may God bless you for your work for His Church!**
- I want to thank Subdeacon Dmitry Kashchenko, our web master. We have a wonderful web site and this is the most important way that we reach those outside the parish. In other words, this is an important ministry and we should see it as such.
- Thank you to Dmitry Knysh who has led the pilgrimage efforts in our parish for several years. Pilgrimages to monasteries are an important part of our spiritual lives and Dmitriy's efforts make it possible for our parishioners to go on pilgrimage to Holy Trinity Monastery, Holy Cross Monastery, and other important spiritual centers of the Orthodox Church in North America.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank Subdeacon John Zroika, our Head Altar Server, and **all those who serve in the altar** for their service. They add greatly to the service and make it possible for the parish clergy to pray in the altar without distraction, which is their principle ministry. Thank you all!
- I would also like to thank Albina Serafimovna Poplavskaya for her diligent work heading up our **parish kiosk.** The income from the kiosk is very helpful, to be sure, but even more so is the valuable ministry of greeting those visiting the parish that our kiosk provides. Thank you Albina!
- This year we again held a **Vacation Bible School** and it was again a great success! Our VBS has been centered on the commemoration of the Royal Martyrs over the last year and this will be the case this year as well. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the murder of the Royal Martyrs. Thank you to all who worked so hard on this project in 2017 and all who will do so in 2018!
- I would like to thank those that take pictures of Divine Services and other St. Vladimir's activities for our **on-line photo album.** This is a very important ministry of our parish. **BUT WE NEED**

MORE HELP! We need more people to volunteer to take pictures and especially we need one or two people to take regular videos of services and activities. Please consider if you might be able to fulfill this duty for the good of your fellow parishioners and especially for the good of those who are seeking a church home.

- We have received both Archbishop Peter's and Patriarch Kyrill's blessing on the work we are conducting to found an **Orthodox Day School** here in our parish. The work is hard and there are many temptations. But we see this as a stark sign that we are doing something pleasing to God! This year we continued the moving in this direction via our Steering Committee headed by Maria Ioannides, with much help from Ivanna Iavorska and Gloria (Gordana) Appling. **Ours will be the only Orthodox school in Michigan.** We ask your prayers for our continuing work in this regard, and invite your participation in our efforts! Later in this meeting we will vote on building our new school!
- In place of keeping the parish church open at all times we have installed an icon outside at which those who would like to pray can do so, even if the church is closed. We have also installed a Sky Bell front door system, which will allow anyone, anytime, to reach one of our priests if they come to a closed parish church and need spiritual help.
- As most of our parishioners are aware, I have several responsibilities in addition to being our parish Rector. I am the Dean of the Michigan Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, the Dean of our Diocesan Seminary, and the Secretary of the the Diocesan Council. All these things are getting done, but with some help they could be done much better than they are. I could especially use help with these duties this year – please contact me if you can help. In this regard I too want to say thank you. Sometimes I am not around when you need me to be because of these other duties. That is rare, but still happens sometimes. I appreciate everyone's understanding in this regard and ask your prayers!
- Last, but certainly not least I want to thank our outstanding **Parish Council** and especially Jack Mitchell for his work as Starosta of our parish. Frankly, we have a great team and I am very appreciative of their hard work in leading our parish! Please take a moment to thank our Parish Council for their sincere work for the good of our community the next time you have an opportunity to do so.
- People often have many good things to say about our parish, but the praise should not go to the priest. Rather, it should go to the team – all those I have mentioned here yes – but really to the whole parish. A parish cannot be a vibrant community without the willing and zealous participation of the members of the parish in the spiritual and social activities of the parish family. **You all make this a wonderful, unique, loving, active place and I thank you sincerely for your efforts to make our community one that is reflective of God's love!**

Elizabeth and I continue to consider it a privilege to serve this community. We thank you for your spiritual, moral, and financial support and we look forward to another wonderful year at St. Vladimir's!

Dear Brothers & Sisters

2017 has been a busy year at St. Vladimir and we have accomplished many important projects. This was all possible through all of you participating in the activities and projects during this past year. Some of these are as follows.

1. New Central Air Conditioner and new WiFi controllable thermostat.
2. Bible School & Summer Camp.
3. Successful St. Vladimir's Celebration at church.
4. Successful Russian Festival.
5. Progress towards building new church.
6. Cemetery approved and now selling plots. Will start work in spring to be fully operational by summer.
7. New Natural Gas line installed (Thanks to DTE for a very large discount), and furnances converted over to natural gas.
8. New Water heater installed.
9. New trees planted.
10. Father Moses and his family joined us at St. Vladimir's giving us a second priest.

We have also supported each other in times of need, big and small. Such as helping out financially, helping people move, assisting in home projects, even helping negotiate business deals. We have lived as our lord taught us. By loving others and giving of ourselves in times of need. We have also given people the opportunity to go on pilgrimages to Jordonville and West Virginia.

Thoughts for 2018: Install whole building generator, install cement floor in barn in 4 parts, additional cameras for church and property, landscaping for cemetery, building school for 2019 opening. The last item is the New Church, we have made great progress to make this happen. Archbishop Peter has given his blessing, and we have also studied new building technology that may allow for us to do much of the work.

Please remember none of this is possible without your help, both financially and volunteering.

May God bless us in our work for him.

Subject: Fw: financial report

From: Priest Gregory Joyce (ogrisha@yahoo.com)

To: ogrisha@yahoo.com;

Date: Monday, March 5, 2018 12:56 PM

The summary of 2017:

Festival Income	52,261	
OARS--Regular Collections	114,066	
WIND--Other Income&Collections	102,880	
INCOME		269,207
Building Fund Expenses	-24,681	
COB--Central Operating Bills	-197,335	
Festival Expenses	-28,773	
EXPENSES		-250,789
Debt outstanding to Diocese	-7,000	
OVERALL TOTAL	\$11,418	

All in all this is a good picture. We came out in the black.

Can we shoot for 10% more in OARS?

Here is suggestion for the top-level budget with zero balance.





















Festival Income	60,000	
OARS--Regular Collections	125,000	
WIND--Other Income&Collections	100,000	
INCOME		285,000
Building Fund Expenses	-60,000	
COB--Central Operating Bills	-200,000	
Festival Expenses	-25,000	
EXPENSES		-285,000
OVERALL TOTAL	0	

Date range: Last year ▼

Sort by: Account/Date ▼

Edit ▼

Update to Show ▼

	Date	Account ▼	Amount
- INCOME			301,598.89
+ 		Festival Income	52,260.83
+ 		OARS--Regular Collections	114,065.79
+ 		WIND--Other Income&Collections	135,272.27
- EXPENSES			-277,677.13
+ 		Building Fund Expenses	-24,681.02
- 		COB--Central Operating Bills	-224,222.86
+ 		CORE--Clergy,Outreach,Regulatory&Episcop	-161,707.73
+ 		Kiosk expenses	-2,197.08
+ 		MUD-MaintenanceUtilities&Dwelling	-16,179.16
+ 		Sisterhood Expenses	-4,357.86
- 		SSNAP-ScialSec'Nsrance,Admin&ProfesFees	-37,190.47
+ 		Accounting & Misc. Administration	-2,450.09
+ 		Candles	-4,948.00
+ 		Copies&Office	-438.54
+ 		Insurance	-5,113.71
+ 		Legal	-2,425.00
+ 		SocialSecurityWithholding	-17,655.14
+ 		Supplies, vestments, icons, flowers	-3,780.51
+ 		Other COB--Central Operating Bills:SSNAP-ScialSec'Nsrance,Admin&ProfesFees	-379.48
+ 		Other COB--Central Operating Bills	-2,590.56
+ 		Festival Expenses	-28,773.25
+ TRANSFERS			0.00
OVERALL ...			23,921.76

-

St. Xenia Sisterhood annual meeting – 2018
St. Vladimir's church, Ann Arbor, MI
February 2, 2018 (for year 2017)

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer and word by Father Vladimir Klimzo. Hopefully Fr. Moses will be with us as well.
2. Head Sister's report and discussion as we go
3. Election of officers for 2018
4. Discussion of future plans
5. Closing prayer.

Head Sister's Report

We are a PARISH not just a church.

- Maintenance of the church building –

cleaning continues to be performed by Chwastek's family. Need days of thorough cleaning. Oiling of the candle-stands is done by Pirozhenko. We need help with that. We need better participation from the Sisters at candle-stands cleaning events.

Kitchen needs to be closed from kids. How can we keep it clean? Continued problem, brotherhood will install a new window that we can open. They need to fix the kitchen door and put the lock on it. Somehow we are losing the keys (lost one from nursery)

- Adornment of the church –

Gardens: Svitlana Mitchell is the leader in the garden upkeep.

Indoor holiday beautification: Sveta Sokolova and Lena Mullin have been doing a wonderful job. Do not have a collections for it, but taking money from General account. We need to figure out how to do better in this collection, but not to distract from other collections. Lena Mullin put together a group of some ladies who split the frame decoration between the main holidays.

-Visiting sick -

Helen Gabl has been coordinating parish-wide efforts to visit the sick and the shut-ins. Many are visiting without coordinating. There have been several ongoing opportunities to help provide moral and other kinds of support to our own Sisters in Christ. Matushka Maria Karas didn't have a chance to come up here for a very long time now. Should we order Uber for her to get here, at least for big holidays?

-Education-

Leta Nikulshina finished study in Theological School online for Catechist. We need more women to help with that. Ivanna wants to do this next year. For Leta's practical we had one meeting with Anastasia Klimzo before she left and would like to continue. We need each other support with kids and more. How would you want to do this? We can get together and read and discuss and maybe make couple of things. Ivanna and Maria working very hard on Orthodox School from K-12. We are going to have a fundraising event or two to help to get funds for the building. Not only our church is involved in this!

-Church School-

Church school continues to function well on Saturdays and with additional groups for children. Kaitlyn and Colin Bower joined the teachers this year! John Hill restarted Bellringers group. They participate in many

Church events. Alexandra Pirozhenko became the director after Liia Vershinina left for CA. Vacation Bible School is another way we are fulfilling this duty. Who is doing it this year and what help needed from the Sisterhood? Following Alternative was great! Hope to get more participants and helpers this year. The Yolka went well, but we need a group of people who is responsible for this event, maybe for all Holiday children's events through the year.

-Greeting comity-

Personal attention to those coming to church and to all people. Kindness and friendliness works the best. Need more people, would be helpful if they know some answers on visitor's questions. Scott is doing an amazing job!

-Fundraisers-

Other fundraising activities Christmas Bake Sale. The Nativity Ball is the Sisterhood effort as well. Money from that went to Davidovo (\$2000). We need a separate committee for it. Who is doing it next year? It is 20th Anniversary! Bake Sale - I need help to organize it, we need a lot more Matreshka cookies, they were a huge hit!! Now we have the Build Board sign for it and people see it! After we participated in Quartermania at Dexter, we got a lot of customers.

The Sisterhood played a crucial role in the 5th Annual Russian Festival held by our church in September 2016. This year is the 5th Anniversary for the Russian Festival! Many sisters stepped up and helped with it. Thank you! We have a great opportunity to make money for our church! We should use it! Who wants to be in the committee for the Festival?

The Sisterhood main financial goal is to collect for the construction of a bigger church. Our monthly and most of weekly meals are covering this goal. But we use this money for a lot more than that! Lunch Schedule going ok. Any suggestions... Do not wait for somebody to tell you when you do it, look into schedule and put reminders on your phone calendar! Sometimes sisters contact me or their lunch group and tell what they will cook for it. That is wonderful to see an initiative! Thank you!

-Charity-

This year again the Sisterhood was active in charitable actions (all with both the Sisterhood Council's approval and Father Gregory's blessing):

We can give to Davidovo village Summer camp again this year.

We made money for Chelsy St. Louse Center. This event is another opportunity for us, it happens every Quarter.

IOCC lead by Marina Edwards

Alpha House lead by Addy Lanterman

Zoe for Life. We will have a big opportunity here, because we are working with St. Nicholas Greek Church. We need people participation. Addy Lanterman so far a person who helped a lot with it.

-Prosfora Baking-

The Sisterhood has been providing the Altar with prosphoras. We have 5 sisters now who are baking them. Thank you!

-Having FUN- We need to have fun together! We need to build stronger friendship! We need to have a bigger family!

Election of Sisterhood Officers

Positions:

1. Head Sister - Leta (Xenia) Nikulshina
2. Assistant Head Sister - Zhanna Skalitzky
3. Assistant Head Sister - Natalia Veniaminova
4. Assistant Head Sister - Elizabeth Joyce
5. Treasurer - Marina Edwards
6. Assistant Treasurer - Justina Chwastek
7. Secretary - Tatiana Maxey
8. Kitchen supplier - Oksana (Xenia)Balayeva

Discussion of future plans

How else we can make money for our church?
What other charities we can participate in?
How can we educate ourselves in our Faith?
How to build more participation in our Festival?
To put together manuals for our kitchen.
How to make us even more like a family

Leta (Xenia) Nikulshina

Head Sister

(734)272-3826

Income:		Expenses:		Profit:		Donations:	
Meals:				Lunches/Dinners	\$9,497.98		
<i>Weekly lunch</i>	\$5,649.00	Kitchen supplies	\$623.80			General Church Account	\$10,000.00
<i>Monthly dinner</i>	\$5,037.00	Reimbursement for lunches	\$782.22			Donation for Davidovo	\$2,000.00
<i>St. Vladimir Day</i>	\$218.00					Welcome meal for Fr. Moses's family	\$93.31
Kulich Sale	\$245.00			Kulich Sale	\$245.00	Donation for Svetlana Sokolova	\$1,000.00
Quarter Mania Bake Sale	\$234.00	Donation for St. Louis Center	\$234.00				
Nativity Ball	\$3,717.59	Nativity Ball	\$1,926.70	Nativity Ball	\$1,790.89		
Bake Sale	\$2,839.00	Bake Sale food purchase	\$364.40	Bake Sale	\$2,474.60		
Yolka	\$660.00	Yolka	\$307.23	Yolka	\$352.77		
Church School Registration Fee	\$575	Church School	\$520.08	Church School	\$54.92		
Reimbursement for Walk of Life 2016	\$730.31			Reimbursement for Walk of Life 2016	\$730.31		
Vacation Bible School	\$558.00			Vacation Bible School	\$558.00		
Total income:	\$19,157.59	Total expenses:	\$4,134.63	Total income 2017	\$15,704.47	Total	\$13,093.31
						Bank Account 01/01/2018	\$8,826.97

BROTHERHOOD REPORT

02-11-2018

Membership: 13 members

Budget:

Balance from 2017 \$ 134

2018 \$ 375

Total Cash: \$ 509

Completed Projects:

- Repainted the cross and adjusted lights so it is now better visible from Jackson road.
- Replaced timers for the parking, cupolas and the cross.
- Installed the outdoor kiot at the west wall with lighting, concrete pathway and a step. Working on a special weather resistant new ikon.
- Installed a new security system with remote control.
- Installed the video door bell with remote communication.
- Reorganized our storage facility, removed trash. Got \$8 for scrap metal.
- Created a sport corner for kids with pull bars and goals for soccer.
- Repainted a set of metal armchairs and a bench. They are ready for summer.
- Installed the new air conditioner.
- Converted our church from propane to natural gas heating.
- Installed new natural gas heater.
- Landscaping: 34 evergreens and 8 trees were planted.
- Provided repair and maintenance of our track and tractors on the regular basis. All of them are old, especially track, which almost certainly needs to be replaced before the next winter.
- Brothers provide snow plowing and mowing grass in the summer time.
- Made a new brass pominalnik. This corner become cleaner after the container with a sand was removed.
- Completed renovation of the nursery.
- Installed new coat rack for kids.

In addition brothers actively participated in major projects, such as church cemetery, Russian festival, school and cleaning territory .

Youth Group Report to the 2017 Annual Assembly
Priest Gregory Joyce
February 11, 2018

~~~/~~~/~~~/~~~

Our goal for our Youth Groups has been to **meet at least once per month for spiritually profitable activities that may include both direct acts of service to those in need, but may also include simply strengthening the bonds between our parish youth peers.** Our children will always have friends outside the parish and outside the faith, but it is the friends that share your faith and moral values which are the ones you want to keep close – the friends that will be with you for a lifetime. Thus, we have a two-pronged approach to our youth activities:

1. Allow the young people to interact positively to strengthen their bonds of friendship
2. Allow the young people to actively live their faith

**The need to live one's faith actively rather than just hold it philosophically or abstractly is felt strongly by the youth, and thus we must provide them opportunities to act on their faith, to truly emulate Christ in their lives.**

It is also important that we provide opportunities for our young people to actively engage in their faith as regularly as possible. **Involvement promotes persistence and in this case this means continued participation in spiritual life.** We provide opportunities for our young men to serve in the altar. We provide opportunities for our young ladies to ring the bells, although this has fallen off in the last years and we need to reinvigorate this opportunity. We provide opportunities for those who can sing to participate in the choir, and the youth choir makes such participation even easier for our young singers. ALL of our young people are invited to participate actively and regularly in one of these in-church activities in addition to participating in youth group activities outside the Divine Services. In addition, our teens are welcomed and urged to participate in our Greeter Ministry and they should contact Christopher Hunter to learn more about how they can help with this important outreach.

I would like to thank all those who help with our Youth Group activities and urge you all to help however you can. Please contact me for more information.

Finally, I would like to make it clear that the opportunities the Youth Group provides are not the end, but the beginning of a process. **The Youth Group can build a foundation of faith and action for our young people, but if the parents do not build on that foundation by facilitating their young people's participation in prayer at home, the Divine Services in the Church, and the truly distinguishing characteristic of Orthodox spiritual life: SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE, then the foundation will remain bare, that is, not built upon.** We strongly urge all our parents to see to it that their young people live an active spiritual life so that they will grow up and remain in the Church and become the next generation of leaders of the Church in this world, and with God's help the next generation of saints in the next world. Let us be very clear: **we are striving in this life for transfiguration – for sainthood – allowing our young people (or any of us) to strive for less is wasting the time that the merciful Lord has given us in this life to prepare for the next.** May the Lord guide us and help all us in this important ministry!

Are there any questions?



**Church School Report 2017**  
**Alexandra Pyrozhenko**  
**February 11, 2018**

~~~/~~~/~~~/~~~

St. Vladimir's Church School Mission: "Church school is an integral part of the parish family existing to train the future Saints of the church in their formative years".

Church school objectives on the way to this great goal:

1. Provide the knowledge and foundation of the Christian life
2. Help children find their ministry in church.
3. Parents' support and involvement in church school activities
4. Integrate efforts and resources of church school, parents and parish family to raise with God's help worthy Christians.

5 Classes:

1. 4-6 years old
2. 7-9 English group
3. 7-9 Russian group
4. 10-12
5. 13+

9 Teachers:

1. Svetlana Mitchell and Alexandra Pyrozhenko
2. Olga Agalakova and Cathy Bower
3. Elena Mullin
4. Colin Bower and Kyle Lanterman
5. Father Gregory and Zhanna Skalitsky

New Interactive Teaching sets: (Teacher's Guide and Students' Activity Book) from Orthodox Christians Education Commission.

Improvements:

- Our church school grew from 4 to 5 learning groups
- 3 new dedicated and enthusiastic teachers (Kathy and Colin Bower and Kyle Lanterman)
- New interactive textbooks designed according to students age characteristics.
- More parents' involvement, participation and support in church school activities
- Singing class on Saturdays, teaching by Zhanna

Challenges:

1. Teaching space for 5 learning groups. (Kids' room is still not available. 3 groups are placed inside the church. The noise from other groups speaking two different languages distracts students.)
2. A need for 15+ years old group next year. (It is important for teenagers to be involved in church school education and have opportunity for spiritual discussions and communication with Orthodox peers). Church school will need more space and teachers.

What we did last semester (September- December 2017):

1. Halloween alternative (October, 31)
2. Church school pilgrimage to the Dormition monastery (Dec 2-3 2017)
3. Children's Liturgy and children's performance on St. Nicholas day (Dec19)
4. Gospel discussion in Collegia "Healing in the Pool of Bethesda" (Dec 23)
5. Visiting elderly parishioners with Nativity greetings. (January 3)

Church school plans for the second semester (January- May 2018):

1. Church school Gospel discussion in Collegia "The Parable of Prodigal Son" (Feb 17)
2. 13+ group teaches younger church school group ""(March 24)
3. Children's Liturgy (Bright Saturday, April 14)
4. Paschal children's performance (April 22)
5. Visiting elderly people with Pascha greetings (April)
6. On-line conference of St. Vladimir's youth with students from Russian Orthodox school: Being Orthodox in the US and in Russia (March).
7. Church school classes showcase presentations and end of the year picnic (May12)
8. Meeting Archbishop Peter and children's short performance for Vladyka (May 19-20)

Parent involvement in church school:

1. Help children with church school homework.
2. Pilgrimage to the monastery: children with parents. (We come, work and pray together.)
3. Participation in church school class. (Parents are always welcome to come and contribute to the class: as guest speakers, help to organize classroom discussion, share a story about their way to the Orthodox faith, bring a spiritual story to read, help with craft activity)
4. Church school fun activities together: parents and children (Halloween alternative, outside folk games, decorating church for the Feasts, visiting elderly parishioners, children's performances, church school picnics, etc.)
5. Support children in their church ministry. (Many children found their ministry at St. Vladimir's :every Sunday some are singing in the choir, serving in the altar, others ringing the bells, helping in the kiosk, reading the Life of Saints. Children are responsible and diligent about their duties. Thank you parents and parish family who support our children's ministry and help to find their place in church!)

Children and parents' common activities, interests and spiritual growth unites them around the church. We all learn and grow together.

Are there any questions?

**St. Vladimir Orthodox Church (Ann Arbor, MI)
Membership List**

| # | Name | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|----|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | Adamchak, Julia | | | | v | | v | v |
| 2 | Agalakova, Olga | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 3 | Alexandrov, Alexandre | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| | Apostolou, Amanda | | | | | | | |
| | Apostolou, Dmitry | | | | | | | |
| | Apostolou, Panagioti | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Apostolou, Pat | | v | v | | | | |
| 5 | Aschliman, Daryl | | | | | v | v | v |
| 6 | Ball, Nick | | v | v | | | | |
| 7 | Basinger, Valentina | | | | | v | v | |
| 8 | Blay, Jeffrey | | | | | | | v |
| 9 | Blay, Lolita | | | | | | | v |
| 10 | Boyar, Michael | | | | | | | |
| | Boyar, Sophia | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Boyar, Tatiana | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Bruneau, Natalia | v | | | v | v | v | v |
| 13 | Bugakova, Alexandra | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Cannon, Michael | | v | v | | v | v | v |
| 15 | Cannon, Natalia | | v | v | | v | v | v |
| 16 | Cantrell, Darren (Daniel) | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Cary, George | | | | | | | |
| | Chaffe, Mark | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Chvykov, Vladimir | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Chvykova, Olga | | | | | | | |
| | Chwastek, Justina | | | | | | | |
| | Chwastek, Methodius | | | | | | | |
| 20 | Couch Marina | v | | | v | | v | |
| 21 | Dale, Natalia | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 22 | Davis, Ellen Elizabeth | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Deroo, Sally | | | | | v | v | v |
| | Dolgacheva, Natalia | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Dolgachev, Vladislav | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Doll, Kenneth | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 26 | Ealovega, Zena | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Easson-Meyer, Julia | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 28 | Edmunds, Olga | | | | | | | |
| | Edwards, Marina | | | | | | | |
| 29 | Ehardt, Anthony | | | | v | | | |
| | Ehardt, Jane | | | | | | | |
| | Em, Maxim | | | | | | | |
| 30 | Ermak, Elena | v | v | v | v | v | | v |
| 31 | Feloniuk, John | | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 32 | Feloniuk, Olga | | | v | v | v | v | v |
| 33 | Fisenkov, Maria | | | | | | | |
| 34 | Fisenkov, Michael | | | | | | | |
| 35 | Fomicheva, Ekaterina | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 36 | Gabl, Joanne | | | | | | | |
| | Gabl, Marion | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 37 | Ganago, Alexander | | | | | | | |
| 38 | Gavas, George | | | | | | | v |
| 39 | Golubets, Elena | | | | | | | |
| 40 | Golubets, Vasiliy | | | | | | | |
| 41 | Griffiths, Donald | | | | | v | v | v |
| 42 | Griffiths, Elena | | | | | v | v | v |
| 43 | Gusakov, Scott | | | | | v | v | v |
| 44 | Hill, John | | | | | | | |
| 45 | Hirscht, Lydia | | | | | v | | v |
| 46 | Hogue, Iryna | | | | | | | |
| 47 | Hogue, Michael | | | | | | | |
| 48 | Hovan, Gloria | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| | Iavorska, Ivanna | | | | | | | |
| 49 | Ivanitsky, Alexandra | | | | | | | |
| 50 | Jobst, Joshua | | | | | v | v | |
| 51 | Jobst, Jennifer | | | | | v | v | |
| 52 | Johnson, Curtis | | | | | v | v | v |
| 53 | Johnson, Maria | | | | | | | |
| 54 | Joyce, Elizabeth | | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 55 | Joyce, Katherine | | | | | | | |
| 56 | Joyce, Patrick | | | | | | | |
| 57 | Jurau, Christian | | | | | v | | v |
| | Kachur, Tatiana | | | | | | | |
| 58 | Kalashnikova, Lubov | | | | | | | |
| 59 | Kandikov, Olga | | | | | | | |
| 60 | Kandikov, Sergey | | | | | | | |
| | Kapousta, Dmitri | | | | | | | |
| 61 | Karas, Maria | | | | | v | v | v |
| 62 | Kaschenko, Dmitry | | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 63 | Kaschenko, Elena | | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 64 | Knysh, Dmitri | | | | v | v | v | v |
| 65 | Knysh, Anna | | | | | | | |
| 66 | Kondrashova, Natalia | | | | | | | |
| 67 | Kotov, Alex | | | | | | | |
| | Kotov, Mrs. D | | | | | | | |
| 68 | Krevinko, Jo | | | v | v | v | v | v |
| 69 | Krevinko, Stephen | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 70 | Krivtsov, Ksenia | | | | | | | |
| 71 | Krivtsov, Tatiana | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 72 | Krivtsov, Vasiliy | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 73 | Lambert, Bill | | | | | | | |
| 74 | Lesnykh, Alexander | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Lesnykh, Nina | | | | | | | |
| 76 | Lanterman, Adrial | | | | | | | |
| 77 | Lanterman, Kyle | | | | | | | |
| 78 | Lasinchak, Andrea | | | | | | | |
| 79 | Leibold, Nina | | | | | | | |
| 80 | Levin, Lev | | | | | | | v |
| 81 | Levin, Praskovia | | | | | | | v |
| 82 | Levin, Yan | | | | | | | v |
| 83 | Lohman, Carl (Stephen) | | | | | | | |
| 84 | Lohman, Nadezhda | | | | | v | v | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 85 | Longan, Ludmilla | v | v | v | | | | v |
| 86 | Longan, Nathan | v | v | v | | | | v |
| | Longan, Peter | | | | | | | |
| 87 | Lupov, Olga | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 88 | Makarov, Vladimir | v | v | v | | v | | v |
| 89 | Makovik, Marina | | | | | | | |
| 90 | Martinchek, Molly | | | | | | v | v |
| 91 | Martinchek, Zachary | | | | | | v | v |
| 92 | Maxey, Tatyana | | v | v | v | v | | v |
| 93 | McCulloch, MaryAnn | | | | v | v | v | v |
| 94 | McClellan, Michael | | | | | | | v |
| 95 | McClellan, Tatiana | | | | | | | v |
| 96 | McDona, Olga | | | | | | | v |
| 97 | McHugh, David | v | v | v | | | v | v |
| 98 | Meyer, Karl | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 99 | Mitchel, Jack | | | | | | v | v |
| 100 | Mitchel, Svetlana | | | | | | v | v |
| 101 | Mullin, Elena | | | | | | | |
| 102 | Nesterov, Edgar | | | | | | | |
| 103 | Nikulshina, Leta | | | | | | v | v |
| 104 | Noll, Olga | v | v | | | | v | v |
| 105 | Obertas, Gleb | | | | | | | |
| 106 | Obertas, Igor | v | | v | v | v | v | v |
| 107 | Obertas, Olga A. | | | | | | | |
| 108 | Obertas, Olga N. | v | | v | v | v | v | v |
| | Olsen, Monica | | | | | | | |
| 109 | Owen, Aaron | | | | | | | |
| 110 | Pallas, Marlina | | | | | | v | v |
| 111 | Paramonova, Julia | | | | | | | |
| 112 | Pirozhenko, Alexandra | | | | | | | |
| 113 | Pirozhenko, Vadim | | | | | | | |
| 114 | Petrowsky, George | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| | Pippia, Irakli | | | | | | | |
| 115 | Poplavsky, Albina | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 116 | Poplavsky, Konstantin | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 117 | Poplavsky, Eugene | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| | Radulovic, Milo | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 118 | Radulovic, Olga | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 119 | Race, Lubov | | | | | | | |
| 120 | Real, Tamara | | | | v | v | v | v |
| 121 | Rinne, Carl | | | | v | v | v | v |
| | Rodzianko, Andrew | | | | | | | |
| 122 | Rodzianko, Julia | | | | | | | |
| | Rusakov, Alexander | | | | | | | |
| | Sergeeva, Anna | | | | | | | |
| | Schwengel, Marina | | | | | | | |
| | Schwengel, Sergey | | | | | | | |
| 123 | Skalitzky, Zhanna | | v | | v | | v | v |
| | Sokolova, Svetlana | | | | | | | |
| 124 | Sorel, Snezhanna | | | | | | | v |
| 125 | Srochi, Rafael | v | v | v | | | v | v |
| 126 | Srochi, Tatiana | v | v | v | | | v | v |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 127 | Snovsky, Sergey | v | v | | v | v | v | v |
| 128 | Stepanova, Alla | | | | | v | v | v |
| | Stevens, Kurt (Seraphim) | | | | | | | |
| 129 | Svintsitski, Oleg | v | v | v | | | | v |
| 130 | Dembitskaya, Svetlana | v | v | v | | | | v |
| | Tanner, Oksana | | | | | | | |
| 131 | Tkach-Gabl, Helen | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 132 | Tzelepis, Demetrios | | | | | | | |
| 133 | Tzelepis, Maria | | | | | | | |
| | Verdiyan, Artur | | | | | | | |
| 134 | Verdiyan, Irina | | | | | | | |
| 135 | Vershinina, Lilya | | | | | | v | v |
| 136 | Vershinin, Roman | | | | | | v | v |
| 137 | Volkov, Eduardo | | | | | | | |
| 138 | Wolff, William | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| 139 | Zroika, John | v | v | v | v | v | v | v |
| Total Paid Memberships | | 36 | 42 | 43 | 41 | 54 | 64 | 78 |

If, for some reason, you were not able to pay your dues before the annual meeting PLEASE DO pay them afterwards. visible support for the parish's future - this is VERY IMPORTANT!

If you would like to join St. Vladimir's, or if you name SHOULD be on this list and is not, please see our membership card. Please alert us to spelling errors.

To take part in the Annual Meeting Parish meeting (or any special parish meetings), you need to have paid your membership dues (for those not employed) by the day of the meeting.

Building Team Report

The building team has been working hard to accomplish our goals of providing St. Vladimir Church with projects that improve the church, and needs of our parish members. The following has been the projects focused on for 2017.

1. Cemetery has been approved and we are now selling plots. We will begin excavating in the spring to be fully functional by summer.
2. Natural Gas line for church. The Natural Gas line was installed in December and furnaces converted.
3. School building. We have looked into size, capacity, building plans, cost and location. We are proceeding towards having a building completed for Fall of 2019 opening.
4. New Church. We have studied size, capacity, cost, materials, and building plans. Archbishop Peter has given his blessing.

We will continue in 2018 to complete or move forward with these projects.

**International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Report to
the 2017 Annual Assembly
Marina Edwards, IOCC Parish Liaison
February 11, 2018**

~~~/~~~/~~~/~~~

IOCC's Water Fund has provided clean water to over 30,000 people of rural Tanzania. Whereas mothers and children might have walked miles previously to find water, they now only have to take a few steps.

In Ethiopia, the red clay soil is rich in silica. Chronic exposure to the soil from working barefoot in fields triggers an inflammatory response called podoconiosis (podo) that caused swelling and disfigurement of feet and lower legs. Many Ethiopians rely on agriculture for their livelihood and go barefoot while farming, podo is all too prevalent in the country. Since 2009, IOCC has been working in cooperation with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and medical organizations in an effort to eradicate podo, which impacts an estimated three million people in Ethiopia alone. The program includes prevention activity (including the distribution of shoes to more than 80,000 people annually), treatment of podo patients, and education to raise awareness of the condition's. Also in Ethiopia IOCC is one of the first international organizations in the to train practitioners in wheelchair-service delivery issues.

The village of Mhardeh, Syria, has the highest concentration of Orthodox Christians in the modern-day Middle East. After an increase in violence in March 2017, approximately 10,000 residents — mostly women, children, and elderly people — left the village. An additional 40,000 in the surrounding villages were abruptly displaced. They now live in community shelters or with host families but lack resources to purchase basic items such as food and cooking supplies. To help these communities, IOCC provides hygiene kits, mattresses, and food items. In order to help support the local economy while also helping those displaced to live with greater comfort, all items will be purchased from local vendors and then distributed to those in need.

In Northern California IOCC responded to the wildfires by offering offer emotional and spiritual care and conduct rapid needs assessments.

IOCC Frontliners were the first group to offer emotional and spiritual care at a shelter in downtown Houston and other places during hurricane Harvey.



IOCC working with partners, deliver items worth over \$200,000. Items included clean-up buckets, hygiene kits, dental supplies, mattresses, and bedding.

In 2017 our parish collected 48lb of food and \$275 for Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor on IOCC Soupier Bowl Sunday. During the Great Lent we sent \$475. Also made 30 school kits, which were distributed to children in different countries to help them to attend schools. Our respond to natural disasters in the USA - \$1,192 for hurricane Harvey and \$331 for California wildfires. On IOCC Sunday in November we collected \$320.

There are several ways to participate in IOCC work besides monetary donations.

Orthodox Frontline volunteers are trained professionals who respond to disasters within the United States. These disasters are often natural disasters including tornados, floods, hurricanes, wildfires or earthquakes. However, the Frontline team may also respond to man-made disasters, including acts of terrorism. The Frontline team is focused on providing Emotional and Spiritual Care (ESC) after a disaster; however, they may also find themselves helping to do debris removal or muck-outs.

IOCC's Orthodox Home Build teams support long-term recovery after disasters, because communities affected by these catastrophes often face great need long after the crisis has passed.

As a home build volunteer, you can help families rebuild! Work usually starts 6-12 months after a disaster, and IOCC teams sometimes keep coming back for years, depending on the need.

When a disaster strikes, families often need help removing debris, tearing down water soaked walls, or ripping out buckled floors. In the event of a disaster you could join one of IOCC Emergency Action Teams.

Our other donations in 2017 – Zoe for Life \$1,000 from the festival profit + \$1,331 Sunday collections; Christ the Savior Mission - \$1,000 from the festival profit.