

# Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church

## Ministry Group Reports 2024

September 15, 2024

### **YOUTH GROUP REPORT - Christina Salibi**

This year has been a year of growth and responsibility for the teens. They have taken it upon themselves to plan so many wonderful activities. Rafting, movies, sleepovers, bonfires, holy Friday vigil, and lots of good ol' fellowship. Glory to God, these kids are building strong friendships with each other. We have established official roles of president (Dane), vice president (Willie), treasurer (Eliana), and secretary (Adessa). We look forward to doing a snow trip and monastery trip this year and God willing some more opportunities for serving our community.

If you have a teen that isn't involved or you are not getting the emails about events please reach out so we can connect. If you have any ideas for activities or can offer any support for the youth group please reach out to Christina Salibi or Father Christopher.

### **PARISH CALENDAR REPORT - Linda Young**

The Calendar Ministry provides a monthly calendar with the parish's liturgical and social events in order to allow parishioners to fully participate in the life of the church as offered at Ss Peter & Paul. This 4-person ministry consists of the parish priest, the office secretary, Dn Anthony (as coordinator) and a volunteer to print and format.

### **BOOKSTORE REPORT - Donna Wentzel**

The bookstore carries books, calendars, Bibles, and icons. We purchase from two Orthodox publishers—Ancient Faith and St Vladimir's Bookstore. We also stock crosses and chains in sterling silver in many varieties.

Please come by and see the stock of items that we have available.

Donna Wentzel, Kriss Saad, Marlyn Spurgeon

### **PROSPHORA BAKING REPORT - Linda Young**

The bread bakers provide liturgically-appropriate bread for all the Divine Liturgies and Litia services. Currently there are five parishioners who volunteer in this ministry: Sh. Valerie Pflueger, Michele Auldridge, Marius Enache, Kh. Ellen Steiger, Linda Young.

### **PARISH HALL REPORT - Donna Wentzel**

Arrange supplies to be kept stocked for kitchen and hall used by various ministries and general use. Have an account with Coast Paper for delivery of all cleaning and paper products to keep supplies in stock for the various ministries in the church. Work to streamline the quantity of different products and the way things are run, such as consistency in soap, paper towels and cleaning products

### **SANCTUARY CLEANING REPORT - Donna Wentzel**

The sanctuary is cleaned once a month and concentrates on a more thorough cleaning. We vacuum and mop the floors, rugs, clean glass and icons.

Donna Wentzel, Patti Cavelli, Thia Franck, Anne Sprenger

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### **ADULT CHOIR REPORT - Darlene Johnson**

This year the choir helped to lead the congregation in prayer for the services of the Nativity/Theophany cycle, the Lenten Presanctified Divine Liturgies, several services during Holy Week, the services of Resurrection Sunday and the Paschal season, and feast days, pre-Lenten services, and Sunday Divine Liturgies.

We added two new choir members. We sent Kh. Claire to the Winter Sacred Music Institute in Miami. In lieu of my participation at the Summer Sacred Music Institute in Pennsylvania, I decided to grant full scholarships to each choir member to take one of the new online courses offered by the Sacred Music Department of the Antiochian archdiocese. These courses aren't just for seasoned musicians. I urge all of you to peruse the online class offerings for this fall and to check back at the end of the year for the new course offerings. You might see a class you could take to enrich your experience in the life of the Church.

I am grateful for Leanne Albers and Kh. Claire who conducted the choir during my absences, and Elias Salibi and Michael Samawi who continued to chant the communion hymns in Arabic.

Thank you all for your kind words of encouragement throughout the year and your compliments. It is a blessing to serve the Church in song.

Please pray for the choir. If you have an interest in serving the church in sacred music ministry, please contact either me or Fr. Christopher.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene Sue Johnson  
Choir Director

### **CHURCH CAMP REPORT - Keidi Lewis**

We had a fun-filled three-day camp, with a water play fourth day. The old guard welcomed and trained a new team of moms who put it on. Our theme was "Treasure of the Heart" and focused on building heavenly treasures, from Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be, also." Each kid had positive interactions with Fr. Christopher and being in church. Keep your eye out for dates to get next summer's camp on the calendar. Church camp is turning over to the next generation of moms and youth workers. Thanks to Kh. Claire, Monica Drever, Christina Saad, Sarah Steiger, and many teen helpers!

### **YOUTH CHOIR REPORT - Kh. Claire**

We practice the last Sunday of the month and sing the Divine Liturgy the first Sunday of the Month. I am continually blessed and surprised by our amazing youth! Their excitement for singing and participating is amazing. They have requested more than 1x month practices so that they can improve. We are working on singing some 2-part melodies, with possibly trying a 4-part Cherubic Hymn. I'm hoping and encouraging the older youth to join the regular choir.

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### **CHANTING MINISTRY REPORT - Reader Nikodemos Steiger**

The chant ministry has had a good year. Our goal is to prayerfully lead the congregation in prayer through the Psaltic Art of traditional liturgical music.

The chant ministry continues to work hard to improve the chanting for our services. We meet weekly for practice, are involved regularly in taking music lessons from master chanters, and have traveled to music workshops around the country to deepen our understanding of chanting and continue enriching the liturgical music experience at our parish.

Traveling to music workshops is a key part of our ministry learning process: Nalana and I traveled to a chant workshop last fall in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for an intensive study of third mode and Byzantine notation. We were very encouraged by our experience and by now you have heard many of the hymns in third mode we practiced and learned while at the workshop. I will attend the workshop again this fall at the beginning of November.

The chant ministry meets weekly before Vespers on Saturday for practice and chant instruction. We have singers of all different musical abilities, so our practice sessions are focused on learning the music for the regular resurrection services as well as standard hymns, and basic Byzantine notation.

I am very happy that our ministry is continuing to grow. I want to thank all the members, Fr. Christopher, Dn. Anthony, Jeff Auldrige, Louis Busta, Kh. Claire Dillon, Nalana La Framboise, Bill Young, Maria Lindsay, Dane Paquette, Willie Steiger, and Michael Swagerty. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested, please talk to me outside of service.

Please continue to pray for our ministry.

In Christ,  
Reader Nikodemos Steiger  
Head Chanter

### **BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, FUNERALS REPORT - Keidi Lewis**

Fr. Christopher is skilled at guiding people through the steps for baptism and marriage, and organizing funerals, so since we haven't had too many weddings, this ministry hasn't been called upon very much this year. Thank you, Fr. Christopher, for putting your administrative skills to work for our parish, and for shepherding newcomers so well.

Monica Zweers takes contributions for the welcome basket that the parish gives to the newly illumined, things like baskets, homemade jam, an icon, a baked treat, etc. If you're interested in contributing, please let Monica know and she'll give you a call when we have baptisms and fresh Orthodox to welcome and celebrate.

In Christ,  
Keidi

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### **CHURCH WEBSITE REPORT - Linda Young**

The Website Ministry is responsible for updating and maintaining the church website (powered by Orthodox Web Solutions) at [www.sspeterandpaulorthodox.org](http://www.sspeterandpaulorthodox.org) or <https://ssppaoc.org> to communicate, educate and inform parishioners and visitors about our church and orthodoxy in general. Currently Linda Young volunteers for this ministry.

### **SUNDAY TITHE COLLECTION REPORT - Linda Young**

The Tithe Collection Ministry is responsible for collecting, counting and depositing weekly tithes and donations after Sunday Liturgies. A detailed report is immediately submitted to the Church Office each Sunday. Two volunteers work together each week: George Saad & Linda Young as well as Sh. Valerie Pflueger & Amy Swagerty.

### **COFFEE HOUR MINISTR REPORT - Sarah Steiger**

“Love giving hospitality, my child, for it opens to gates of Paradise. In this you also offer hospitality to angels. Entertain strangers so that you won’t be a stranger to God.” ~ St. Amphilochios Makris

The goals of having coffee hour after the Divine Liturgy include providing an opportunity to offer hospitality, building community, welcoming visitors and nourishing our bodies after fasting. Also, it is a great way to get to know church members better while working together on a common task.

This is a parish-wide ministry that everyone can participate in. Some of the many ways to contribute include bringing food, helping set up tables and chairs, and donating funds for supplies. We can all participate in some way. If you are not sure how to help, please let me know, or if you are in a season of life where you can’t participate, also please let me know.

Lastly, I want to say THANK YOU to our coffee hour leaders, all who have helped on Sundays outside of their week, have shopped for supplies, washed towels, cleaned out the refrigerator, cooked food, taken out trash, and have pitched in where it’s needed. You are appreciated!!

Please feel free to call or email me if you have suggestions or concerns at (831) 588-7526.

### **FEAST DAY MINISTRY REPORT - Leanne Albers**

This ministry organizes and coordinates feast day meals and events to ensure appropriate celebrations. The members generally work in teams of two to plan and prepare meals, communicate to ministry members, volunteers, church secretary and Fr. Christopher. Some of the members help with only serving food, setup and/or cleanup. Records of each event, such as specific meals, costs, what worked and what didn’t work are kept for referencing and planning of future events. Please consider joining this enjoyable ministry.

Many thanks to Kh. Claire, John and Jan Ivancovich, Amy Nicholas, Christina Salibi, Sarah Steiger, Kh. Ellen Steiger, Amy Swagerty, and Linda Matthews for being committed members and for Monica Zweers and Karla Newberry for joining the group!

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### **MAINTENANCE/PROPERTY MANAGEMENT REPORT - Gerry Elwell**

- 1) Team members: Andrew Beck, Gerry Elwell, Keith Evans, Dave Matthews, Jonathan Pflueger, Mark Roberts, Philip Salibi, Marc Sacoolus, J.P. Trigg
- 2) Projects completed
  - a) Church lawn maintenance, mowing, fertilizing, watering, air filter changeout, tree trimming: Dave Matthews
  - b) Rectory front door replacement: Jonathan Plueger, contractor
  - c) Church sign and lighting: Keith Evans, Mark Sacoolas
  - d) Narthex porch cover contractor installation: Fr. Christopher, parish council.
  - e) Rectory bathroom wall paneling replacement, and new shower valve: Andrew Beck
  - f) Picket fence repair for rectory: Sat. men's team led by Andrew Beck
  - g) Garden fence installation for rectory/rental: Sat. men's team led by Andrew Beck
  - h) Painting complete in parish hall: Sat. men and women team led by Bill Young
  - i) 2 X 6 railing replacement and repair around parish hall: Andrew Beck
  - j) Water line map drawn out by Andrew Beck
  - k) Fence replacement on north side of rectory yard: Mark Roberts, contractor
  - l) Barn rooms dry wall, flooring, tape and texture, painting, a/c unit installation, lighting installed: Kh. Claire, Sarah Steiger, J.P. Trigg, Andrew Beck, Fr. Christopher
- 3) Projects in progress and to do
  - a) Contract roof replacement for rental unit: Mark Roberts
  - b) Bathroom/laundry room repairs and replacement on rental: Mark Roberts.
  - c) Water pressure valves installation: Dave Matthews
  - d) Fire alarm installations
  - e) Repair floor in barn for church library use
  - f) Install ceiling fans in parish hall
  - g) Contractor fence replacement for north side of rectory: Mark Roberts
  - h) Parish hall ceiling fans

### **COMMUNITY DINNER REPORT - Keidi Lewis**

The Community Dinner Ministry is a great way to serve and build relationships with the community, get to know other parish members in a deeper way, and have fun working as a team to put on a meal for 60 to 80 people. We have recruited new teams who spearhead the dinners, but any new interest in making meals is most encouraged! And there are always plenty of jobs, even if the job is sitting down and eating with our guests. We started having everyone (servers and guests) wear name tags, and it's made connecting with our diners much easier– it feels more like we are building relationships with our friends. It's great to welcome people by name as they walk into the parish hall, and our guests are connecting with each other, as well. We were so happy to add our wonderful new chef teams: Linda Matthews and Amanda Baillie, and Rory and Hayley McCarthy. Thanks to Kriss Saad for publicizing our dinners and Alexander Dillon for calling to invite our guests each month. Through the labors of Linda and Amanda, Rory and Hayley, Monica and Jack, Dn. Dave and Sh. Karla, Marc Sacoolas, John and Jan Ivancovich, Keith Evans, Earlene Perez, Josh and Amy Nicholas, Chris Six, Travis Paxton, Brook Grube and many, many of our parish youth we joyfully prep, cook, serve, engage with the community, and clean up together. It makes for a rewarding and enriching afternoon! Everyone is encouraged to come and check it out.

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### **GREETING MINISTERSY REPORT - John Ivancovich**

This ministry is performed by Gerry Elwell and me, under the guidance of Fr. George.

This past year the narthex greeting was performed by two people each day, usually composed of either Gerry Elwell, Marilyn Spurgeon or Dave Matthews, as the regulars, with me, as backup. Before her surgery, Marilyn Spurgeon was participating regularly. Now that she is returning to apparent good health, I hope that she will be able to rejoin us, at least from time to time.

During Lent, we enjoyed having our teenagers performing the greeting work. It was a different approach that enhanced the nature of the greeting for both regular attendees and visitors. Recently, Oliver Gritton joined in and enjoyed the chance to participate. I believe that we should have our teenagers participate more frequently and suggest that this be considered by our priests and parish council.

For those who might not know, during the reading of the Gospel, we must keep the sanctuary doors closed and have late arrivals wait until the Gospel reading is complete, before allowing entry.

If anyone has suggestions on how to enhance our current narthex greeting approach, please let either Fr. George, Gerry or me know, for our consideration. Thank you, in advance, for any suggestions.

Yours, in Christ,  
John Ivancovich

### **CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT - Keidi Lewis**

Church School is beloved by kids at Ss Peter and Paul. Thank you to parents for getting them to church so they can participate! We're following the archdiocese's curriculum for the books of Luke and Acts to start out. As our culture moves away from Biblical literacy and awareness, it's more important than ever to teach our children the basics of Christianity and the Orthodox Faith. Sunday School classes support the learning that happens at home and create a place for our youth to forge an Orthodox Christian identity with their peers as well. Our program reaches kids at age appropriate levels culminating with Deacon Antonio's teen class which has a devoted following (of our teens!! They want to go!) He has created an atmosphere where kids are able to ask questions and discuss relevant issues with a trusted adult.

There is always a need for people willing to team up for large classes on a busy Sunday or substitute/be a guest teacher if a Church School teacher needs to miss a Sunday, so please let Keidi know if you feel called.

Thank you to our committed, caring teachers and substitutes: Frank Hagg, Donna Wentzel, Victor Albers, Dn. Antonio, Andrew Beck, and Sylvia Hanna.

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### **ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN REPORT - Sarah Steiger**

Annual Report 2023-24

The Antiochian Women stayed active this past year in all areas of our group's mission. If you would like more information or would like to be involved in planning events or for our group, please contact Sarah Steiger at [steiger2008@gmail.com](mailto:steiger2008@gmail.com).

Book Studies:

Fall/Winter: *Pearl of Great Price; The Life of Mother Maria Skobtsova 1891-1945* by Sergei Hackel

Spring/Summer: *Thinking Orthodox; Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Mind* by Dr. Eugenia Constantinou

Fundraising Events:

- Meatfare Luncheon - raised funds for the NAB Project (Widowed Khouria Endowment)
- Cheesefare Bake Sale - raised funds for this year's AW "Act of Mercy" - the Casa Cuna Infant Center at St. Innocent Orphanage in Mexico

Retreats and Conferences:

- Annual Fall Gathering - Modesto, CA
- Annunciation Retreat and Tea - "Far Above Rubies: An Orthodox Understanding of Womanhood" with speakers from St. Emelia Ministries
- Annual Antiochian Women's Lenten Retreat - Camp St. Nicholas, Frazier Park, CA
- Parish Life Conference, Tucson, AZ

The purposes of the Antiochian Women are:

1. To develop among women throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese a spirit of Christian leadership, awareness and commitment as taught in the Holy Orthodox Church.
2. To foster among women throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese a genuine expression of love and service through works of charity, and
3. To instill among women throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese and the community at large a sense of fellowship and a deeper understanding of the heritage and traditions of the Antiochian Archdiocese and the Orthodox Church.

<http://ww1.antiochian.org/women/about>

### **KOFFEE W/KHOURIA REPORT - Kh. Claire**

Meet third Thursday of the month from 10-12.

We have adjusted our gathering together this year. We now begin by praying the "Akathist to Jesus, Light to those in Darkness." We then have coffee and refreshments in the hall. It is a beautiful time to pray together, for those we love, and to then fellowship and grow our bonds together.

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### **ALL ABOUT THE FEASTS REPORT - Kh. Claire**

Before the Great Feasts, either during Orthros @ 5pm or before Vespers for the feast.

This is a time for our children to learn about the church's cycle and to help them live their life around God and His Church. This past year, Michael Anne has been helping me with All About the Feasts. She has been compiling binders of each feast so that it has a more "open and go" format. We are hoping for this to be a program that other parents can help with. Many of the activities we do have traditionally been done in other countries surrounding the Great Feasts.

### **FALL RETREAT (ADVENT RETREAT) - Kh. Claire**

This past year our retreat was centered around the feast of St. Porphyrios. Will Steiger was the main organizer for this retreat. We began Friday evening with Dn. Justin talking about the importance of and why we have vigils. It was followed by a vigil for St Porphyrios. The vigil lasted into the wee hours of the morning. We then came together later in the morning with a discussion with Fr. Seraphim on a writing from St. Porphyrios. After lunch Fr. Nebojsa shared the beauty and structure of Byzantine chant.

This year our fall retreat is November 8-9. Fr. Josiah Trenham, pastor of St. Andrew in Riverside and a dear friend of the Dillons, will be speaking on "White Hairs and White Hearts." We are expecting a large crowd. Any help is appreciated! Please speak to Kh. Claire or Jan Ivancovitch if you would like to help.

Thank you for all of your support in doing this. I look forward to this coming year continuing to serve the church.

In Christ,  
Kh. Claire