

Ss. Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church

Ministry Group Reports 2023

September 16, 2023

Bookstore Report - Donna Wentzel

The bookstore carries books, crosses, 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, Marilyn Spurgeon

Youth Choir - Kh. Claire

Glory to God for all things! Youth choir is going well. We have finished our second year and are now entering our third. We sang, in addition to our monthly goal of just singing a song or a part, many liturgies from beginning to end. We have been focusing on blending and learning to read music. This coming year we are focusing on learning more than just a single melody (adding ison, alto, tenor, etc.), a new Troparion to Saints Peter and Paul, and singing the whole liturgy every 1st Sunday of the month. Please keep us all in your prayers.

-Kh. Claire

Fellowship Hall Report - Donna Wentzel

1. Arrange supplies to be kept stocked for kitchen and hall used by various ministries and general use.
2. 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 stream line 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

Youth Group Report - Christina Salibi

Youth group this year has been packed with lots of adventures bringing on lots of growth. Our big trips this year were the annual rafting and camping trip and a trip to Holy Assumption Monastery. The Holy Friday Vigil was big this year as some St. Lawrence teens joined us. There have also been fun outings and game nights sprinkled in. The teens are taking more ownership in what the group does and how things get planned. We've also seen some new leaders jumping into the group and lots of parent support. Thank you all!

Up next is some deeper conversations around our faith, more collaboration with other local youth groups, and maybe even a Project Mexico trip! If you want to help out in any way with youth group or the smaller girls/boys groups please reach out. We love having cameos from new faces!

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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 Aldridge, 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

Parish Council Chairman Report 2023

Thanks so much for the leadership and ministry of Fr. Christopher and Kh. Clair, another great year! Thanks to Fr. George, his continued ministry and work has been invaluable.

This has been a wonderful Parish Council! Victor Albers, Keith Evans, Frank Hagg, Jonathan Plueger, Mark Sacoolus, Philip Salibi, Ellen Steiger, and Donna Wentzel. Special thanks to Leanne Albers, who has done the Secretary position this year and at the annual meetings. Outgoing members are: Donna, Keith, and myself.

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Currently, we are considering the direction for the Narthex door covering. We are working on a permanent wood structure idea. Or we could purchase an awning.

We purchased a sit-down lawn mower for the church which will arrive this week. Dave Matthews is taking over the landscape maintenance for the church.

Last December we passed the county inspection for the Narthex. Thanks to Bill Young and all who worked for this completion.

Fr. Christopher and the Future Planning Ministry developed our Mission Statement this year!

And there is still a lot to do on our property, buildings, and future development and direction. Thanks for your continued work and prayers!

Maintenance/Property Ministry Report - Gerry Elwell

Projects: Accomplished:

1. Parsonage Door and sweep replacement. Jonathan Plueger
2. Mold inspection and report for Parsonage and Church office. Marc Sacoolus.
3. Mold removed from front bathroom in Parsonage. Andrew Beck
4. Dave Matthews is our property manager. He is taking over landscaping ground maintenance.
5. Tree removal and ditch cleared out at back property line. Fr. George
6. Smart programmable thermostats installed in Nave, Sanctuary and Parsonage. Fr. Christopher

Projects to do:

1. Bailie's rental sky light needs water proofing repair.
2. Painting and panels put back up in Fellowship Hall.
3. Church sign on Hwy 9 repair so we can use it
4. Repair road between buildings and South Parking lot
5. Fence repair/replace around Parsonage and on Brown Gables Rd.
6. Fire alarms
7. Repair floor in Barn for Library use
8. Automatic watering system
9. Install ceiling fans in Fellowship Hall

Holy Bread Baking Ministry - Linda Young

The Bread Bakers provide liturgically-appropriate bread for all the Divine Liturgies and Litia services. Currently there are five parishioners in this ministry. Contact Fr. Christopher if you are interested in this ministry.

Coordinator: Linda Young

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Church Website Ministry - Linda Young

The Website Ministry is responsible for updating and maintaining the church website (powered by Orthodox Web Solutions): www.sspeterandpaulorthodox.org to communicate, educate and inform parishioners and visitors about our church and orthodoxy in general. Contact Fr. Christopher if you are interested in this ministry. Coordinator:
Linda Young

Choir Report - Darlene Johnson

God has blessed the choir this year with three new choir members. Mike Burke, our tenor, reposed in March. We miss Mike and are thankful for the many years of service he gave to the sacred music ministry that he loved.

We sang the Lenten Divine Liturgies of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts, several services during Holy Week, and the services of Resurrection Sunday and the Paschal season. We sang a baptism. We sang the special music of the Nativity fast and feast, Theophany, and the other major feasts of the liturgical year.

You sent me to the Sacred Music Institute at Antiochian Village in Pennsylvania in July. I appreciated the opportunity to gather with other church musicians, study, learn, and sing new music, reconnect with old friends, and get to know like-minded people within the Antiochian Archdiocese. I also got to meet Patriarch John X and our new Metropolitan Saba. Thank you very much for this opportunity!

Leanne Albers, Alicia Rogers, Sarah Steiger, and Kh. Claire worked together and conducted and pitched the choir in my absences. Elias Salibi and Michael Samawi have sung the Communion hymn in Arabic. Reader Nikodemos has sung chant verses to the antiphons and Communion hymns. I am very grateful for their service to our church in this way. We are blessed to have the talents of all the sacred musicians at Ss Peter & Paul.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Sue Johnson
Choir Director

Calendar Ministry - 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. Contact Fr. Christopher if you are interested in this ministry.

Calendars are printed/formatted by: Linda Young

Antiochian Women's Group - Sarah Steiger

The Antiochian Women's group 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

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[events for our group, please contact Sarah Steiger at steiger2008@gmail.com.](#)

Book Studies:

Fall/Winter: "Welcoming Gifts - Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life" by Right Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy Davis

Spring/Summer: Wounded by Love, the Life and Wisdom of St. Porphyrios

Social Activities:

An Evening Talk: Travel and Pilgrimage to Greece

"Embracing the Nativity Fast" Recipe Exchange

Guest Speaker: Michelle Auldridge, Pregnancy Resource Center Counselor Christmas Cards and Crafts

Potluck Brunch and Meeting

Summer Craft Night

Retreats and Conferences: Annual

Fall Gathering Annunciation

Retreat and Tea

Annual Antiochian Women's Spiritual Retreat

Parish Life Conference, Irvine

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>

Greeting Ministry - John Ivancovich

Regarding our greeting Ministry, this is an activity in which every member of our church should participate. Specifically, whenever we see a new person in our church or someone who has come a few times, each of us can and should greet that person, welcoming them as appropriate. If we can reflect on the first time when we entered an Orthodox Church, then we can understand what it takes to support inquirers. A friendly "Hello my name is..." followed by a welcoming message to the person is most important. So, please be friendly to all visitors, whether they are Orthodox or inquirers and do your part in encouraging them to return and consider learning about our Faith. Particularly, introduce them to others and to our priests.

Thank you for doing so.

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Feast Day Ministry - Leanne Albers

This ministry organizes and coordinates Feast Day meals and events to ensure appropriate celebrations. The members generally work in teams of 2 to work on planning and preparing meals, communication 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. John and Jan Ivancovich, Amy Nicholas, Christina Salibi, Sarah Steiger, Kh. Ellen Steiger, Amy Swaggerty, and Linda Matthews for being committed members!

Community Dinner - Keidi Lewis

We are feeding people monthly! Our rotating teams who spearhead the dinners have shrunk, so any new interest in serving meals is most encouraged! Thanks to Maya Otte for baking desserts at home and having them ready for the last three Community Dinners, Seraphim McGann for publicizing, and Kurt, Monica and Jack, Dcn. Dave and Karla, Marc Sacoolas, John and Jan Ivancovich, and Amy Zweers for being committed members!

Sunday School - Keidi Lewis

The kids of Ss Peter and Paul love Sunday School, and I encourage parents to get them to church so they can participate! We're using the archdiocese's curriculum for the book of Romans to start out this year. There is always a need for people willing to substitute/be a guest teacher if a Sunday School teacher needs to miss a Sunday, so please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you to our beloved teachers: Monica Zweers, Michael Ann Jacobson, Andrew Beck, Frank Hagg, Donna Wentzel, Victor Albers, and Dn. Antonio.

Church Camp - Keidi Lewis

We had a wonderful four-day camp, with more than thirty campers and older helpers. Our theme was "Tend the Garden of Your Heart". Parents of little kids who hung around to help their children participate got to connect and build community with each other, which was a blessing for all as well. Each kid had positive interactions with Fr. Christopher and being in church. Sarah, Amy, Janelle and I got to work as a team and see each other's gifts shine in new ways. We look forward to having a date that is planned early and lots of help from new people!

Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals

We have had some initial meetings to take stock of past practices and to look at the literature and guidelines we have in place. We have gathered information about what other churches are doing, and will continue to work to delineate how Ss Peter and Paul can support people for these sacred events.

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