



ST. ATHANASIUS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Ministry Team Reports

All-parish Meeting September 2019

ALL-PARISH MEETING

September 29, 2019

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Review of Agenda Kristi King, President
2. How our Mission, Vision & 5 Goals are already influencing our priorities and choices Fr. Nicholas Speier, Pastor
3. Some good news about Golf Member of the Golf Tournament Team
4. What's happening with the Tot Lot? Richard Ballew
5. How St. Brigid is changing lives – both ours and theirs! (Some personal testimonies)
6. Result of the parish poll regarding the Building Project Long-range Plan, Addressing some of the concerns Dn. Scott Jacobs



**St. Athanasius Ministry Leaders
September 2018**

Pastor's Report

Fr. Nicholas Speier

Beloved Parishioners,

I am blessed and grateful to be pastoring a wonderful congregation that has stepped up and met every challenge that has been set before us. From building the church, to establishing and running our ministries and caring for our parishioners and our local community, our efforts and the grace and mercy of God have enabled us to accomplish wonderful things.

You all made a wonderful effort to establish FIVE MAJOR GOALS that will set a positive course for the parish over the next 3 to 5 years.

I look forward to working together towards the following as we step onto the path of accomplishing these goals:

- *Establishing more daily services to meet the needs and requests of our community.*
- *Growing in our spiritual lives through bonding, learning and mentoring.*
- *Loving one another through participation in the life of the Church.*
- *Shining the light of Christ on our community with love and good works.*
- *Developing and executing a financial plan to insure a good future for the parish.*

These can all be accomplished by prayer, the Grace of God, and our consistent effort.

May it be so!

In Christ,

Fr. Nicholas



Row 2 L to R: Dn. Gary Braun, Dn. Scott Jacobs, Subdn. Stephen Butler, Dn. John Young, Subdn. Michael Easbey
Row 1 L to R: Fr. Jon Braun, Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges, Fr. Nicholas Speier, Fr. John Carrillo
(Not pictured: Fr. John Finley)

PARISH COUNCIL

Kristi King, President 805-245-7345, klking5@sbcglobal.net

Fr. Nicholas Speier, Pastor

Dan Braun, Treasurer

Terri Speier, Secretary

WHAT WE DO:

(From our Constitution & By-laws)

The purpose of the Council shall be to deliberate on all administrative aspects and work of the parish, to advise the Pastor about the same, and to assist the Pastor in communicating with the parish. It shall be the continuing duty of the Pastor and Council to seek out, value, and consider the ideas, recommendations, and questions of the parish membership on all administrative aspects of the parish's life and work.

Dear SAOC Family,

This past year has been an exciting and encouraging journey of looking towards the future and finding consensus on our goals for the next 3-5 years! I am so grateful to an amazing Parish Council and for the entire parish for the hard work, openness and honesty as we worked to develop a clear vision of our church and its future. Throughout this past year, the Parish Council has worked diligently to understand the needs and priorities of our parish and to articulate those through the new Five Major Goals.

Throughout the coming year, we, the Parish Council, will be working closely with each ministry to understand and fulfill their needs so that together, we can continue the journey and growth of our beautiful St. Athanasius Church! We invite and encourage you to join any ministry that you feel drawn to! Again, on behalf of the Parish Council, thank you!

Sincerely,

Kristi King, Parish Council President



Dorothy Alexander, Laurie Baker,
Corina Berari, Dan Braun, David Dillon

Mary Gish, Kristi King, Zak Landrum, Terri Speier

REPORT ON FINANCES

DAN BRAUN, TREASURER

Because this is the first formal report this year on finances provided to you, the parishioners of Saint Athanasius Orthodox Church, we will begin with a quick review of how we fared in 2018.

Our goal for tithe collections last year was \$455,955. Through your generosity we exceeded that goal, receiving tithes of \$467,130.

On the expense side our budget was \$513,355 and actual disbursements of \$492,397 were about \$21,000 beneath that. The expense budget is higher than the tithe goal because we have a few income sources besides tithes as shown on the Profit & Loss statements and budgets provided following this report.

At the end of 2018, receipts exceeded disbursements yielding a surplus for the year of \$31,267.

Turning to a look at 2019 through August 31, tithes of \$291,222 are running well behind the goal to date of \$318,000. At the same time, expenses of \$339,168 have held a bit below the \$356,427 budget. As of August 31 we are in a deficit of \$15,725.

The deficit in tithe collections this year certainly raises concern, but some encouragement is the fact that this year's pace is only slightly behind last year's receipts of \$291,589 at the same point in time.

A bright spot this year is that due to the drop in interest rates and an offer by our lender, American Riviera Bank, to refinance our current debt we were able to advantageously rearrange our mortgage structure, obtaining a new loan in early September. The former loan was at a rate of 5.25% and was due in full with a large balloon payment five years from now. The new loan carries a rate of 4.74% fixed and is fully amortized over twenty years. Payments on the new loan are nearly \$8,000 less per year than the old mortgage.

In closing we should all be thankful to be part of a parish whose members give faithfully and generously, enabling Saint Athanasius to carry out its ministry so effectively. Looking forward, it's important to acknowledge the reality that the departure from this life of many of our stalwart longtime donors over the past few years, along with normal life events that often reduce what a person is able to give and even lead to relocation (such as retirement) are impacting the parish finances to a degree. Therefore, I would end by encouraging us all to keep that in mind as we consider our pledges and offerings in order that Saint Athanasius may continue to effectively perform the important work that Christ has put before us.

Respectfully,

Daniel Braun
dbraun@storewithus.com

St. Athanasius Orthodox Church
General Op Profit/Loss Budget Performance
August 2019

	A	B	C	D
1				ANNUAL
2			Jan - Aug 19	BUDGET
3	Income			
4		Gen - Tithes	291,222.38	477,000.00
5		General Income (candles, Coffee Hour, general donations)	8,372.77	6,850.00
6		Pasado House Rental Income	33,272.73	50,000.00
7		Interest Income	352.27	
8	Total Income		333,220.15	533,850.00
9	Expense			
10		Mortgage Contribution (monthly contribution from General Operating	56,000.00	84,000.00
11		Tithe Expense (our 10% tithe to the Archdiocese, paid monthly)	29,123.24	47,000.00
12		Archdiocese/Diocese (dues, conferences, special collections)	5,580.46	
13		Labor (Priest - incl. housing/auto, Admin./Music, Teen Program Coord.	140,485.31	208,603.00
14		Young Adult Coordinator, Catechesis Coordinator, Health Ins., Payroll taxes		
15		Education/Youth (Catechesis, Youth and Young Adult activity expenses)	8,190.41	15,900.00
16		Fellowship of St. Brigid (Monday night dinner and Showers of Blessing)	2,573.40	5,000.00
17		Festal Decorating	2,109.79	2,775.00
18		Landscape Maintenance weekly service, plant replacements & irrigation repair	9,739.96	17,933.00
19		Hospitality	825.54	500.00
20		Insurance - Church liability, Workman's Comp	5,375.78	7,054.00
21		Missions (O.C.M.C. and Project Mexico)	3,200.00	4,100.00
22		Office Expense (Bookkeeper, Bookkeeping Assistant, equipment,	18,424.57	28,177.00
23		paper, supplies, postage, software and tech support)		
24		Bank Charges	2,313.52	4,200.00
25		Outreach/Evangelism	1,393.39	6,880.00
26		Pasado House Expense	12,492.67	29,211.00
27		Temple Maintenance (including weekly cleaning company, HVAC maintenance,	12,298.53	23,768.00
28		pest control, fire extinguishers, plumbing, trash service)		
29		Pastor Benevolence (Priest's discretionary fund for charity)	2,400.00	3,600.00
30		Utilities (Gas, electric, phone, internet, water)	10,577.12	22,300.00
31		Sanctuary/Liturgical Expense (candles, wine, other supplies for altar)	2,084.58	3,500.00
32		Social (Parish celebrations)	1,413.26	3,150.00
33		Coffee Hour (reimbursements to hosts and weekly paper supplies, coffee)	2,389.74	3,200.00
34		Music Expense (Music, supplies, payment to substitute directors, conferences)	912.25	3,350.00
35		Miscellaneous One-Time Expense (Resurfacing of parking lot, Strategic Plan)	9,265.16	9,642.00
36	Total Expense		339,168.68	533,843.00
37		Net Ordinary Income	(5,948.53)	7.00

BUILDING FUND (FUNDRAISING TEAM)

TEAM LEADER: Dr. Scott Speier 805-216-7483,
speierscott@gmail.com



TEAM MEMBERS:

Scott Speier, Terri Speier, Jami Stetler, Angel Speier,
Chris Robinson, Jody Wallace

WHAT WE DO:

Our job is to raise money for the Building Fund. There are two parts to this effort. One is encouraging ongoing regular donations for the purpose of covering our debt service. The second is organizing our annual fundraising golf/dinner event, which goes toward current building improvements and future building efforts. Most of the team's energy goes into the annual event.

OUR GOAL FOR THE NEXT 1-3 YEARS:

- To develop clarity in our fundraising plan for the short and long term.

WHAT WE NEED:

1. A person who shares our vision and inspiration to see the church built to God's glory.
2. Broader support from the parish in giving



ADMINISTRATION

Valerie Yova 805-685-5400, valerie@stathanasius.org



This coming January it will be 10 years since I moved to Santa Barbara from San Diego to join the staff at St. Athanasius. It is hard for me to believe it has been a decade! And yet, when I look back at all that has happened, this “season” in the life of the parish has been very full. There has been unexpected loss, as well as unexpected growth, change and joy. We have lost some of the folks many of us looked to for inspiration, encouragement, and as role models. Each loss was a new heartbreak, but as time has passed, we have seen evidence that our beloved have continued to inspire us, guide us and pray for us from the other side of that “thin veil,” as we strive to do God’s will, build up His Kingdom here on earth, and build our new temple.

In 2011, we moved into an interim building for 3 years that we made work quite well as worship space, offices, classrooms and fellowship area, thanks to the hard work and ingenuity of our parishioners. During that time, we inaugurated our first Liturgical Arts Festival, and continued to grow our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Teen programs. In 2014, we moved again, this time into our beautiful new building on Sumida Gardens Lane.

Each move has presented new challenges and required the development of systems and procedures to manage the administration, use, maintenance and security of our buildings and grounds. Much of my time as Parish Administrator from 2010-2016 was focused on doing this work, in addition to the following:

- Increased development and use of website, including Google calendar
- More frequent communication with parishioners through website, emails and bulletin
- Development and support of ministry teams
- Restructuring of bookkeeping staff and procedures
- Printed texts were created for all liturgical services. Booklets for Divine Liturgy, Great Vespers and Daily services were updated and expanded.

For those who may not know, I was hired in 2010 as a full-time staff member with my time to be divided between Administration and Music. How the time is divided differs according to the time/season of the year. During Great Lent, for example, the scale tips a bit more heavily towards music, and summer provides an opportunity to catch up on administrative projects. The official description of the Parish Administrator’s primary function is:

“...to serve as a support for the Senior Pastor and to assist him in facilitating the effective day to day functioning of the church. He/she oversees the office, its activities and staff; coordinates events, facilitates good communication within the parish, and anticipates planning for activities and events with attentiveness to the Master Calendar.”

We do not have a receptionist/secretary at the church office yet. Because of evening rehearsals and meetings, my hours can fluctuate, so we have established general office hours as Tuesday-Friday from Noon to 5:00 p.m. We have an excellent phone system and we listen to the messages in a timely manner, but for now, one cannot drop in at the church any day of the week at any time and find it open with someone in the office. The Parish Council will have to determine if, at some point down the road, the parish requires someone in the building and in the office 40 hours per week.

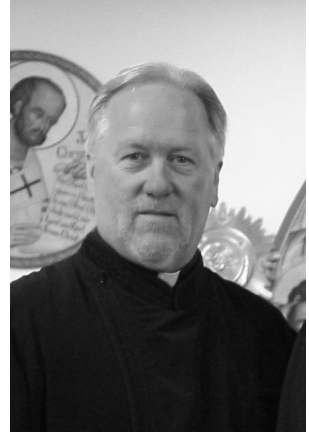
Here are some of the things on my high priority list for the next year:

- Update parish photo directory
- Organize a team from within the parish that will create a plan for Emergency Preparedness.
- Conduct an online parish census to update every member’s information
- Continue to tighten up building security
- Develop an instrument for conducting staff reviews/evaluations that is appropriate for parish ministry workers, both paid staff members and volunteers.
- Continue to find ways to make it easier for our parishioners to stay “in the loop” with regards to services and activities.



BUILDING COMMITTEE

(A Sub-Committee of the Parish Council)



TEAM LEADERS: Dn. Scott Jacobs 805-895-8802, scott@scjacobs.com
Brian Sieck 805-455-4055, BDSbuilders@gmail.com

Serving members:

Fr. Nicholas Speier, Cheryl Lander, Dan Braun, Duane Franzen, Jan Finley, Dr. Scott Speier, Richard Ballew, Chris Robinson, Jenny Speier

Subcommittee heads:

Interior Design: Jenny Speier
Warming Kitchen: Cheryl Lander
Financials: Dan Braun
Fundraising: Dr. Scott Speier
Maintenance: Chris Robinson
Long range planning: Dn. Scott

Top Priority Projects

Patio expansion
Warming kitchen
Overflow parking
Long range planning/10 year plan

WHAT WE DO:

The building committee considers, reviews and makes recommendations to the parish council about long and short-range capital improvements. We make recommendations regarding priorities, design, & budgets. We interview and make recommendations regarding who we might retain as architects and engineers and contractors. We were the church's liaison to the bank and the government entities involved in the entitlements for the planning commission and building permits for the site improvements and the Hall. We solicited and received input from the design committee and others regarding interior design, landscape design, and kitchen design. We develop and refine budgets and monitor billing and payments for these improvements. We also try to do longer-range dreaming and planning and prayer regarding what our needs might be 10 or 20 years down the road (or even longer) and how we might best position ourselves to meet those needs. We pray fervently that God will direct our steps and guide our efforts.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fr. Nicholas Speier, Coordinator

805-685-5495, frnicholas@stathanasius.org

With assistance from:

Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges

Fr. Jon Braun

Fr. John Finley

Valerie Yova, Music Director

Subdn. Stephen Butler

Subdn. Michael Easbey

Rdr. Mark Kern



ADULT CATECHISM/INQUIRERS' CLASS:

Every year in the Autumn we offer a beginning inquirers' class for those new to the Orthodox faith, those who are catechumens, and anyone who wants to review the "basics" of Orthodox theology and practice. The class takes a short break during the Christmas and New Year holidays, and then resumes and continues until the week before Pascha. Fr. Nicholas is the main instructor, but he calls upon others to teach sessions on topics with which they have specific expertise.

PRE-LENTEN SEMINARS:

Just before or right at the beginning of Advent and Great Lent the parish offers seminars on a wide variety of topics, with the goal of preparing us to enter more fully into the fasting season.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

The parish offers other educational opportunities in the summer in the form of shorter series focused on specific topics or books of the Bible, or book studies. We also provide educational opportunities through the Liturgical Arts Festival and other special events.

GOALS for the next 3-5 years:

The education of the faithful is critical in growing in a deeper understanding of the Church's teaching in theology, spirituality, worship and community service. As we embark on this wonderful journey together, may this knowledge inspire our minds and hearts to worship our Lord more intimately and serve one another and our community more vigorously.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION for Youth ages 3-12

Joanne Gish, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Coordinator 805-729-3443, jgish@westmont.edu



Left to right: Joanne Gish, Kate Vander Laan, Carla Harris, Jane Meyer

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Level I (3yrs-Kindergarden)

Catechists - Kate VanderLaan, Carla Harris

Assistant - Jan Speier

Level II (Grades 1-3)

Catechist - Joanne Gish

Assistant - Kristi King

Level III (Grades 4-6)

Catechist - Jane Meyer

Assistant - Dorothy Alexander

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a religious education program for children ages 3-12. Because it is attuned to the developmental and spiritual needs of children, the CGS experience is both religious education and spiritual formation. Our focus is to help each child strengthen his or her personal prayer life, enhance their participation in liturgical worship, and expand their knowledge of the Bible and of God's unfolding salvific work throughout history. This holistic approach to Orthodox catechesis enriches both our children and those who serve them, fostering a culture of continual spiritual growth.

Goals for the coming year:

- Host an **adult** CGS retreat day where we invite a trained CGS formation leader to lead us; perhaps during Advent or Great Lent.
- Host a Level I catechist training session at St Athanasius. This will be open to our parish as well as people throughout the country.
- Train new catechists and assistants in our parish. Our goal is to add a new catechist and assistant in each level.
- The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is experiencing significant growth in the Orthodox churches in the U.S. and Canada! Our catechists traveled to Nashville in 2018 to meet with Orthodox catechists from all over North America. We would like the opportunity to continue to network and, eventually, host this meeting.

How Can You Help?

- **Pray** – Please pray for our team and the children of our parish
- **Observe** – Visit one of the atria on a Sunday morning or Tuesday afternoon.
- **Participate** – Attend our retreat, ask for a tour of one or all of the atria, bring cut flowers to the atria for the children to use, attend a training, offer to help with refreshments during our reconciliation retreat
- **Join Us!** – Do you love children? Do you love our Good Shepherd? That's all you need...the rest is easy. ☺ Reach out to one of the catechists for more information.

TEEN PROGRAM

SUBDN. MICHAEL EASBEY - TEEN PROGRAM COORDINATOR

805-705-6121, measbey@gmail.com

TEAM MEMBERS:

Elleney King (Youth Group Leader)

Craig Speier (High School Religious Education)

Tatiana Speier & Gianni Madrigal (Junior High Religious Education)



WHAT WE DO: We provide a spiritually healthy and safe environment for teenagers to build relationships with one another and grow in their faith in Christ.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- We took 1st place in the Western region Bible Bowl for the second year in a row.
- We had our 1st annual High School Youth Retreat. We visited the incorrupt relics of St John (Maximovich) at Holy Virgin Cathedral in San Francisco, and Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA.
- We met most Thursdays and had a large, consistent teen group.

GOALS:

- Continue to meet each Thursday.
- Plan more group social activities like Miniature Golf, Beach days, Broom Ball, etc.
- Have some community service and outreach opportunities.
- Study the Gospel of St. John and prepare for the Bible Bowl.
- Have a High School and a Junior High retreat.

WHAT WE NEED:

- Your prayers!
- Youth room dinner supplies: paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, paper towels, cups, etc. If you have extras and you want to declutter, we'll take them!
- More prayers!



YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

TEAM LEADER :

Mitchell Denny

951-219-9794, mitchdennyjr@gmail.com



WHAT WE DO:

Our College/Young Adult Ministry exists primarily as a venue for our young adults (college-age through thirty-somethings) to gather and connect with one another, and to assist in helping them plug in to parish life. Our anchor event is Fire on Father which happens every month or two. A meal is provided (by chef Jan), and then Fr. Nicholas leads discussion on whatever topics happen to come up or on something he has prepared. In addition to these times we try to offer fun activities (hikes, movie nights, etc.) as well as opportunities to serve together.

GOALS:

I really see Goal #3 of the parish Five Major Goals (Be a Loving Family where Relationships are Built and Nurtured) as the primary focus point for this ministry in the near future. Because so much of my formation at St. Athanasius was anchored by the loving families and friends who “took me in”, I have a desire to see that same thing happening with our young adults. It really was these interactions outside of church, in people’s homes, that made me see St. Athanasius not just as a community, but as family. I would like to see increased attendance at our ministry opportunities. I think the concept of matching skill sets to needs (from Goal #3) makes me think that more work could be done to find out exactly what needs could specifically be met by our young adult community both for other members of our parish and the community outside.

WHAT WE NEED:

We need host families to host informal dinners for young adults in their homes. It doesn’t have to be the whole group. Consider if you’ve got an extra seat or two at your table sometime during the week and see if you can fill it with a hungry college student or two.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Valerie Yova, Music Director
valerie@stathanasius.org, 805-685-5400



Members of the St. Athanasius Choir – as of September 2019

(*indicates high school student, **indicates college or graduate student)

Sopranos: *Julianna Ballew, *Jessica Berari, Catherine Braun, *Ginny Braun, Fay Young
Altos: Mary Gish, Sydney Hedges, **Isabel Kotic, *Hannah Sieck, Jami Stetler
Tenors: Verne Gish, Doug King, Jan Speier
Basses: Peter Braun, **John Butler (Assistant Director), Mitchell Denny Jr., **Erik Lawrence

WHAT WE DO

- Since I began here as the Music Director in 2010, the choir has slowly but surely learned to sing all of the 12 major feasts, minor feasts and saints days that we celebrate as a parish, in additions to 52 Sunday Divine Liturgies each year. So you will rarely attend a service in which there is not at least a small ensemble leading the responses. Many of our singers have also learned to sing Sunday Matins and Saturday Great Vespers, and we have a core group who are committed to singing those services on a regular basis. The apex of our first 6 years together was probably the recording project we completed in 2016 of the hymns that have blessed us and others in the parish, some from 35 years ago and some newly composed.
- As happens in parishes and in choirs, we have been going through a period of **“rebuilding,”** after having grown a great deal for 7 years. In the past two years, we have lost five adult choir members due to relocation or health issues. Music Ministry is a very unique calling and a demanding ministry, and those who do it must have:
 - The desire to serve
 - The commitment to the liturgical life of the Church
 - The gifting necessary
 - The TIME available to rehearse and sing at services
 - The ability to work well and pray well with the group
 - Some musical training and/or the aptitude to learn the skills required to do the job

I have never been concerned about just increasing the NUMBER of singers in our Music Ministry. It is much more important that the individuals leading the music of our worship truly fit the description above. Thus far, we have been blessed to have a solid core of committed singers, even if we are fewer in numbers right now.

- I have welcomed and encouraged our **teens and college students** who are musically gifted to sing with us on Sunday mornings while also providing more "grace" with regards to their attendance at rehearsals. We are extremely blessed to have four high schoolers, two college students and one graduate student singing with us on a regular basis. **I would welcome a few more teens and college students, ESPECIALLY TENORS AND BASSES!**
- John Butler, who is now a senior at Westmont College, has been my Assistant Director for the past 6 years. I have been greatly blessed to know that the choir is in very competent hands when I am away. I will be training several other assistant directors in the coming year.

- In addition to their rigorous rehearsal and service schedule, the choir members have also participated in outside activities like the Pan-Orthodox Vespers for Sunday or Orthodoxy, public performances at the past 3 Liturgical Arts Festivals, St. Nicholas Family Night every December, the CD recording in 2016, and a **mini-concert at Samarkand Retirement Community this past Christmas**. We hope to do more mini-concerts out in the Goleta/Santa Barbara Community in the coming year.
- Several years ago, we developed a lovely friendship with Nazo Zakkak, an Orthodox musician and composer from San Diego, initially when he came to teach a workshop for our teens. As a result of this friendship, he has written many new liturgical hymns specifically for us or with us in mind. We commissioned him in 2015 to write a Hymn of Kassiane for the Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday. Nazo was the Composer-in-Residence for the Antiochian Archdiocese for 3 years, and during that time he composed a complete Divine Liturgy. We have been singing portions of that liturgy for several years. **Last week and this week, we introduced the complete version of it to our parish.** We look forward to future collaborations with Nazo and other gifted American Orthodox composers in the years to come. In 2020, Nazo will be working on a Divine Liturgy for 2 voice parts, commissioned through the combined fundraising effort of 3 different Antiochian Dioceses women's organizations on the East Coast, in memory of my sister, Kh. Stefanie Yova Yazge. To have a simple, beautiful, 2-part musical setting of the Divine Liturgy will be a HUGE benefit to many parishes in this country, including OURS on those Sundays in the summer when half of the choir is on vacation!
- **On November 8-9, 2019, our choir will participate in a two-day liturgical music workshop** which we are co-sponsoring with 5 other Orthodox parishes in Southern California. Thirteen of us will go down to Garden Grove for two days of instruction in choral singing, taught by Benedict Sheehan, who is the Music Director at St. Tikhon's Seminary and Monastery. The workshop will culminate with the combined choir singing Great Vespers together. We are very excited about this opportunity to increase our knowledge, improve our skills, and to enjoy fellowship with Orthodox singers from many other parishes!

GOALS FOR THE NEXT YEAR:

1. More opportunities for the children to sing both in and outside of services
2. Recruit one new adult singer in each section (soprano, alto, tenor, bass)
3. Train 2 more assistant directors
4. Provide musical leadership and support at Tuesday Daily Vespers
5. More mini-concerts out in the community
6. More family nights to showcase the vast amount of talent in our parish



ST. BRIGID FELLOWSHIP

WHAT WE DO:

St. Brigid Fellowship, a ministry of St. Athanasius Orthodox Church, started almost 30 years ago as an outreach ministry to unsheltered men, women, and children of Isla Vista and surrounding areas.

It has become a unifying force in Isla Vista for the houseless and other people in need. We are a group of people working together to solve houselessness one person at a time. To be houseless is to be nameless, avoided, shunned, blamed, hungry, and exposed to the elements. Each visitor to St. Brigid's Monday dinner and Thursday Showers of Blessing is known by name, has a place to belong, has friends, acceptance, food, and help getting out of situations they wish to leave.

MONDAY NIGHT OUTREACH DINNER IN ISLA VISTA

TEAM LEADERS: Richard & Susan Barre
805-680-6101 sohello123@gmail.com

TEAM MEMBERS:

Fr. Nicholas Speier, Pastor
Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges - Chaplain
Susan & Rich Barre - Meal Coordination

Set-up, clean-up, hospitality:

Duane Franzen, Mark Kern, Cheryl Washburn-Lander,
David Washburn



St. Michael's University Episcopal Church graciously opened its doors to us and has provided a beautiful and peaceful setting for the weekly outreach meal. The Monday dinners are served at 4:30 p.m. during the winter months and at 5:00 p.m. during Daylight Savings at St. Michael's University Episcopal Church, 6586 Picasso, Isla Vista, CA 93117. The food is provided each week in collaboration with a growing number of churches and organizations, including St. Michael's University Church, St. Raphael Catholic Church, Community Affairs Bureau of UCSB (CAB), and Foodbank of Santa Barbara County.

There is a consistent and wonderful team of volunteers from St. Athanasius Orthodox Church as well as other participating churches and organizations from the greater community who show up on Monday nights. They help serve the food when needed, and if they are not needed on the food line, they socialize with our dinner guests. Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges and Fr. Nicholas Speier are present to provide counsel, referrals, and information about various kinds of social services, and Doctors Without Walls comes several times a year to set up a free medical clinic during the meal. St. Athanasius continues to offer a mailing address to houseless individuals who need to receive government-assistance checks and other important mail, and mail is distributed at the Monday night meal and Thursday morning Showers of Blessing. On Christmas morning we offer a beautiful and festive breakfast that has been well attended for many years and well supported by our parishioners and the members of our donating organizations.

If you feel you have a calling to this ministry, whether it is to provide the meal from time to time, or to come out to the dinner and help in some way, let us know. We will find a place for you!

WHAT WE NEED: Someone to help load groceries in our car on Monday mornings around 11:00 a.m. at the Foodbank. Please let Susan Barre know if you can help!

Thursday Morning *Showers of Blessing*

TEAM LEADER: Howard Lange – 805-685-9915, hman3000@verizon.net

TEAM MEMBERS: Fr. Nicholas Speier, Dana Alexander, Lisa Ballew, Tom Ballew, Penny Cocomes, Carla Harris, Jerry Jones, Michael Loulias, Fay Young

WHAT WE DO:

Each Thursday from 10:00am until 1:00pm St. Athanasius Church hosts the Showers of Blessing mobile shower truck in our parking lot. The Showers program offers local unhoused community members a free shower, fresh clothing, laundry services, and various toiletries both to use on site and take with them. Social service professionals have found that the simple lack of access to showers and clean clothing are among the top factors creating distance between the unhoused and other community members. The Showers of Blessing helps restore guests' place in our community, their sense of self-worth, and their basic human dignity.

St. Athanasius Church simply offers our love and hospitality. Our ministry's main goal is to create a peaceful and warm setting where guests will feel comfortable, welcome, and wanted. They are invited to relax, socialize, and enjoy such hospitality as we might be able to provide. We are present first and foremost to interact with the Showers guests, to the extent they wish, and offer the friendship of ourselves individually and our Church collectively.

WHAT WE NEED:

We could use 2-4 new volunteers who would be available part of 10:00am-1:00pm every Thursday, or during those entire three hours every other Thursday. We could also use some help on Mondays at the Foodbank in the late morning.



FESTAL DECORATING

TEAM LEADER:

Lisa Ballew, 805-722-7679,
lisaballew8@gmail.com

TEAM MEMBERS: Kyndal Vogt, Papu Macintyre,
Nataliya Tinyayeva, Delaney Newhouse and
Carla Brunstead



SEASONAL AND SPECIALTY HELPERS: Penny Cocores, Corina Berari, Jessica Berari, Carla Harris, Jane Meyer, Jan Speier, Karen Jacobs, Nataliya Tinyayeva, Nestan Tsiskaridze, Cheryl Washburn-Lander, Timothy Braun, Fay Young, Julianna Ballew and ALL THE MEN who help with Palm Sunday!

WHAT WE DO:

We beautify the Church for feast days with flowers and other decorations, as well as provide plants and arrangements for the Church's special events. We make and deliver nose gays for all Church cemetery visits throughout the year. Festal Decorating is a line-item in the parish General Operating Budget, so all expenses are reimbursed. There is a festal calendar that gives a brief description of what needs to be done for each of the feasts throughout the year and a photo album with pictures of what has been done in the past. Team members can review the calendar and photo album to better help them choose where they would like to help.

THIS PAST YEAR:

It's a joy to report that we've had a great Liturgical year thus far. Papu Macintyre, Delaney Newhouse and Kyndal Vogt have joined the team and have been an all around inspiration and enormous help in our mission- to beautify the Church for the Glory of God.

Thank you to the many volunteers who've jumped in to help during our BIG Feast-Days. These times we've shared amongst friends and flowers have been over-the-top awesome and invigorating.

WHAT WE NEED:

Please contact Lisa Ballew if you'd like to celebrate a loved one's repose or your own Saint's Day with flowers! We'd like to bring a bouquet to make this special event memorable and cherished. If you can make a small donation to the church to cover the cost, great! But it is not required. Contact us either way!

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

TEAM LEADER: Chris Robinson

805-294-0950, willdoitSB@gmail.com

Team members: Duane Franzen, David Dillon

WHAT WE DO:

Building upkeep including general maintenance of the interior and exterior of the building.

GOAL: Keep up with the growing needs for repairs and refreshing of interior paint, as we pass the 6-year mark in our building.

WHAT WE NEED: Members with handyman skills to join our team.



LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

TEAM LEADER: Carla Brunstead, Landscape Liaison

805-570-7760, carla@stathanasius.org

TEAM MEMBERS: Kent Fox, Duane Franzen, Dave Washburn

WHAT WE DO:

The Landscape Liaison works with the Parish Council, the Church Administrator and the companies that do the weekly/monthly maintenance of the landscape, which currently there are two. This person also coordinates with Building Maintenance when concerns or questions come up regarding the landscape. Time commitment is a weekly watering of the potted plants around the building and also a walk around the grounds to check on the landscape. This is usually done on the weekends while attending services so it doesn't add a lot of time to your personal schedule.



If there are any concerns, the team leader contacts either the landscape or pest control companies to set up an appointment to discuss the concern and set up work to remedy the problem. There is an annual budget set up by Parish Council and the committee is authorized to work within that budget.

GOALS:

1. Write up a description of this ministry for the website with pictures. Our landscape was thoughtfully planned out by a local landscape architect to include many Biblical plants. It would be interesting to highlight these plants on the website with their botanical names, Biblical histories and photos.
2. Identify the Biblical plants with markers in the different plant beds.
3. Encourage the team leaders in Festal Decorating, Youth, and Atrium to cut specific flowers and greens from our land to beautify the church for services and/or for lessons within their programs.

WHAT WE NEED: 1-2 people to build a team of 3 that will share in the care of our landscape.

EVANGELISM TEAM

TEAM LEADER: David Washburn 615-428-3427
david.washburn64@gmail.com

TEAM MEMBERS: Fr. Nicholas Speier, Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges, Valerie Yova, Peggy King, Howard Lange



WHAT WE DO:

- Help to lead the church members in sharing Christ and His gospel with our friends and the community through word and deed.
- Encourage the parish to reach out in Christ's love to the community through prayer, leadership, service, charity, activities, fellowship, teaching and preaching.
- **Peggy King coordinates the weekly Ushers and Greeters** – an important first point of contact with visitors and new members!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Sent Outreach Mailer to new Goleta homeowners, and provided these handouts and Church Business Cards to church members to give to friends and interested parties.
- Encouraged church members to invite friends to the Christmas Eve Service and Outdoor Blessing of the Water, and invited the community to these events through ads in the Independent and local newspaper.
- Fr Nicholas conducted many excellent Saturday afternoon lessons for parishioners, friends, and inquirers resulting in 5 people being baptized and/or chrismated last year.
- Our Church participated in the I-Madonnari Festival where hundreds of people watched and met our church members as they created a chalk drawing of St Brigid, and heard about St Athanasius Orthodox Christian Church, possibly for the first time.

GOALS:

1. **Provide educational opportunities** for church members to be spiritually strengthened and more engaged in the Church. (Christ & His Church should be the center of our lives). Personal invitations have been proven to be the best way to introduce people to Christ and His church.

2. **Develop opportunities to invite friends and the community** to be exposed to Christ and His Church such as:

- Once/month Saturday “Bring a Friend to Vespers” outreach, with a teaching, Bible Study or discussion before or after the service and a light supper served after Vespers.
- Guest Speakers on current cultural issues
- I-Madonnari Festival participation
- Liturgical Arts Festival
- Classes open to the general public, like Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Course
- Video clips on Church Website of our ministry teams and activities
- Public Concerts, Family Nights and other activities to which we can invite friends

WHAT WE NEED:

- A few young, energetic new members on our team excited about sharing the Faith.
- More Greeters and Ushers in the rotation. **PLEASE SEE PEGGY KING TO VOLUNTEER!**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY

TEAM LEADERS:

Dorothy Alexander 805-708-0453,
dotalexander@westmont.edu

Fay Young 805-705-0362, fay24ry@yahoo.com

TEAM MEMBERS:

Diane Carrillo, Nadine de Bruin,
Phyllis Morrison, Cheryl Washburn-Lander



WHAT WE DO:

- Meets every Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the chapel at St. Athanasius.
- Pray for ALL of our clergy, ministries and ministry leaders EVERY week.
- Pray for dozens of individuals who are suffering from a wide range of circumstances including illness, loss, depression, tragedy, troubled relationships, to name a few.
- Pray the Akathist to the Mother of God, Nurturer of Children, every week. All of our children, teens and young adults in the parish are mentioned by name.
- We are in the second year of praying the Akathist to our Sweetest Lord Jesus Christ on Fridays in the Westmont College prayer chapel at 5:00 p.m. This is also open to all.

WHAT WE NEED:

- More people to join us in praying
- Your prayer requests (Contact Dorothy or Fay)
- Requests for more venues where we might regularly pray either an Akathist or Canon together

BOOKSTORE



TEAM LEADER: Terri (Gillquist) Speier
805-563-2131, stspeier@cox.net

TEAM MEMBERS: Corina Berari, Sherie Shackelford,
Jody Wallace

WHAT WE DO: Run the parish bookstore - order books, icons, jewelry, and candles, and manage the sale of those items. All proceeds go to the parish Building Fund.

(If you ever see interesting or helpful Orthodox items that our bookstore doesn't have, feel free to send Terri all the information and she will attempt to stock the items.)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Provided Orthodox Items for purchase to parish and visitors.
2. Added more tables to have books displayed at all times in the narthex.
3. Added more signage to make it user friendly.
4. Ability to pay online at SAOC website with earmark "bookstore."
5. Lockbox for cash/check payments mounted to wall by Fr. Nicholas' office.
6. Jewelry kept locked in office and brought out on request.
7. Provided an extended bookstore during Christmas and Lent.

GOALS:

1. Continue to provide Orthodox items for sale at a reasonable price.
2. Provide extended bookstore for any festival or large gathering.
3. Would love to add new shelving to have permanent counters and shelves for display and storage as budget permits.

WHAT WE NEED:

1. Communication. Requests in writing or email.
2. Continue to ask customer to pay at time of purchase.

WEBSITE Design & Maintenance/Photography

www.stathanasius.org

Team members: Hani AbuGhazaleh (Webmaster/Technical Advisor) Ben Hedges (Homily & Audio Recordings), David Dillon (Posting of weekly homilies), Mark Kern (Bible Studies), Valerie Yova (Content/Calendar)

Photographer: Nataliya Tinyayeva

WHAT WE DO:

Our goal is to provide a vibrant, online presence to serve our parishioners and those looking for more information about our parish and faith. We do this by providing resources that provide a deeper understanding of our faith, photos and videos giving insight into the life of our parish, opportunities to donate and contribute to the financial well-being of our church, and information about upcoming events and liturgical services. We also provide secure, members-only content such as contact information for parishioners (as well as a Parish Family Photo Album), Parish Council meeting summaries, and a parishioner business directory).

Challenges:

One of the biggest challenges we face is the limited number of parishioners who are proficient web developers that are able to expand on the functionality that the website offers. If you have expertise in this area, please let the Parish Administrator know.

GOALS:

- Integrate a third-party communication service that will allow us to efficiently communicate with our parishioners in their preferred method, whether it is by email, SMS (text message), or through social networks.
- Restructure the site's design so it is more mobile-friendly.
- Allow parishioners and guests to set up recurring online donations.
- Add videos to the homepage to reflect the many vibrant ministries of the parish.

NOTE: We put quite a bit of time into keeping the church Master Calendar up to date with services and other activities. If you have a Google account, you can sync your own Google calendar to the parish calendar. Regardless, please keep in mind that almost all services and ministry activities are posted to the website calendar.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS & CELEBRATIONS

TEAM LEADER:

Christie Speier Robinson, 805-455-4312
christie.d.robinson@gmail.com



WHAT WE DO:

Organize celebrations and gatherings including:

- Pascha breakfast and picnic
- Meatfare Sunday Barbecue
- Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan-Orthodox Vespers hospitality
- St. Nicholas Night
- Summer Picnics
- Refreshments/meals after week-night feast day Liturgies
- Family Nights
- Other occasions when we offer hospitality to our parish or the local community

WHAT WE NEED: Team members!!

MINISTRIES OF HOSPITALITY

Please let Fr. Nicholas and/or one of the team members know when there is a need!

St. Lucia Visitation Ministry—Visitation of sick and home bound

Kh. Jan Speier 685-5856, jlspeier@gmail.com
Fay Young 705-0362, fay24ry@yahoo.com

“Take-them-a-Meal” Ministry—for mothers with newborns

Margaret Easbey 266-9110, mveasbey@gmail.com

SACRAMENTS

**Fr. Nicholas is the point person for all sacraments.
He will connect you with one of coordinators.**

Wedding Coordinator—Assistance in coordinating details of the service

Penny Brunner 968-0655, bebelady7@aol.com

Funeral Coordinator

June Easbey 705-3668, june1211@msn.com

COFFEE HOUR



TEAM LEADER: Suzi Wiley suziwiley@cox.net, 805-448-2787

TEAM MEMBERS:

Advisors: Laurie Baker, Cheryl Washburn-Lander, Karen Jacobs, Kyndal Vogt

Helpers: Glenn Hoppe, Doug King, Tom Ballew, Chris Seaman

WHAT WE DO:

- Assure that food and beverages are provided after each Liturgy service to encourage fellowship and welcome visitors;
- Coordinate Coffee Hour host sign-up schedule;
- Provide reminders, instructions and assistance to hosts;
- Inventory and purchase supplies;
- Assist with setting up and taking down tables;

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Established a solid support team
- Initiated alphabetical potlucks for host-less Coffee Hour
- Encouraged parish members to team up to host Coffee Hours

WHAT WE NEED:

Our goal is to see each member of the parish contribute to Coffee Hour in some way, either by hosting at least one Coffee Hour per year, or by teaming up with other parish members to jointly host a Coffee Hour. We'd like to see each Ministry choose a Coffee Hour to host, to showcase the Ministry goals and accomplishments.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

TEAM LEADER:

Christie Robinson 805-455-4312,
christie.d.robinson@gmail.com

TEAM MEMBERS:

Liz Hoppe, Karen Jacobs,
Jan Speier, Jody Wallace



WHAT WE DO:

The Women's Fellowship provides opportunities for women of all ages in the parish to enjoy fellowship with each other, to benefit from each others' wisdom and experience, and to encourage each other as we learn and grow in Christ. The Women's Fellowship does not have a regular meeting time at present. Watch the Sunday bulletin and the parish website for our activities.

We host a variety of events including our Annual Christmas Brunch and Outreach project, guest speakers, spiritual teaching and social gatherings. We have also heard the personal testimonies of some of our members about God's faithfulness in their lives, and learned about the lives of women saints of the Church.

Our main event of the year is our annual Annunciation Tea, which takes place on the Saturday closest to March 25th. The program features a guest speaker and special music by some of our women. At this event we raise funds for whatever special charitable cause has been designated for the year by our Metropolitan. Some of the beneficiaries in the past have been Orthodox orphanages and monasteries, and the Clergy Retirement Fund.

We are working with our other ministries to plan the gathering for next year. Stay tuned in the announcements for our next event.

WHAT WE NEED: People to continue coming!!!!

MEN'S MINISTRY

TEAM LEADERS:

Troy Harris 805-569-1335, SAOC@kr1ses.net

Howard Lange 805-685-9915, hman3000@verizon.net



Accomplishments over the last year:

"Sticks" meets regularly, once a month around the backyard firepit at the home of Troy and Carla Harris. What began as a casual social gathering quickly has grown into a place where men informally discuss spiritual and social questions, as well as share personal concerns. A fairly consistent core group attends Sticks, but new faces arrive each month and are most welcome.

Toward fulfilling St. Athanasius Church's five broad goals, Men's Ministry sets these specific goals for the coming year:

- 1) Broaden and deepen the impact of Sticks by involving more men of the parish and nurturing ever closer and deeper connections between those attending.
- 2) Organize routine group service projects, both to help meet the physical needs of parish members and to live our Orthodox Christian Faith in practical ways in the general community.
- 3) Organize occasional social outings (ex: bus trip to sports event, camping trip, concert) and/or ongoing activities (ex: SAOC men's bowling team).

ICON GUILD

TEAM LEADER: Dorothy Alexander 805-708-0453, dotaalexander@westmont.edu

TEAM MEMBERS:

Asia Ballew, Natalia Tinyayeva, Iona West, Heather West, Nestan Tsiskaridze

WHAT WE DO:

- We meet to encourage, educate, and practice drawing and painting icons. There are open sessions once or twice a month with people who paint icons together.
- We hope to work on joint projects together as a ministry to our church.
- There are also regular educational links sent out in emails - please let us know if you want to be added to the email list.
- This year we participated in the “I Madonnari Festival” at the Old Mission Santa Barbara, and created a chalk drawing of a story from the life of St. Brigid.

WHAT WE NEED:

If you have access to donated/free art supplies, let us know! If you are interested in learning how to create icons, speak to Dorothy and she can give you information on available classes and workshops.



ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE (OCL)

TEAM LEADERS:

David Washburn 615-428-3427, david.washburn64@gmail.com

Mark Kern 805-708-5772, mark.kern@cox.net

Orthodox Christians for Life (OCL) is a non-profit religious educational pro-life organization founded in 1986 and has chapters in the United States, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. Orthodox Christians For Life of Goleta (OCL) is a chapter of Orthodox Christians for Life.



WHAT WE DO:

This organization supports the sanctity of life and endorses the fact that human life begins at conception. Its purpose is to support pro-life programs, activities, and local pro-life organizations. We also support the activities and fundraising efforts of our local pro-life agency, Network Medical. Network Medical provides free health care services for pregnant women, including 3D color imaging of the mother's baby.

ACTIVITIES THIS PAST YEAR:

- Fr. Nicholas led two Services (one every 6 months), as the major part of our participation in the International 40 Days for Life prayer vigils held in front of Planned Parenthood facilities around the country and world.
- Several of our members also went down individually or with some friends and prayed in front of Planned Parenthood for those working there, and of course for the females entering and leaving the facility.
- The High School group, led by Fr. Nicholas, also attended the Network Medical annual fund raiser at the Granada Theater. These always have a dramatic impact on everyone that attends. Afterwards, the teenagers go to an ice cream parlor and have a meaningful discussion about the program.

GOALS FOR THE COMING YEAR:

1. Explore the possibility of hosting the first annual "Remembrance Service for Aborted Babies" for the Santa Barbara area Churches. This Remembrance Service was inaugurated world wide 10 years ago, but has never been done in the Santa Barbara area.
2. Someone to take over leadership of this ministry and encourage Pro-Life support and participation by the Church.

www.oclife.org



www.networkmedical.org