

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2012

- Opening Prayer
- Opening statements by Mr. Caldwell
- Treasurer's report
 - Annual budget and council's 2012 budget
 - Karl is still appointed treasurer for life
- Appointment of new parish council members
 - Two spots must be filled this year
 - Nominating committee suggestions:
 - Brian
 - Paul
 - Both suggestions nominated, seconded, and elected with no opposition (but one abstention...)
- Chairman's address
 - This past year (due to a decrease in the mortgage rate and a small decrease in the number of parishioners we had to modify the parish budget half-way through the year)
 - New policy regarding "gifts in kind" and reimbursements
 - Donations in kind can be handled by giving the treasurer a copy of a receipt
 - Reimbursement requires prior approval
 - The council will vote to approve the new procedure in February
 - Most likely the policy will be for the Chairman to approve reimbursements.
 - In general, items purchased for normal occasions (such as coffee hour) should not be reimbursed, and items purchased for special occasions or for the whole of the parish should be reimbursed.
 - The council (mostly the Chair) will further enumerate and discuss the policy in the next few weeks.
 - Doors and the patio were addressed.
 - Outside doors have been replaced.
 - Replacement took nearly six months, but now we have new doors that fit! David probably spent more time getting the project finished than the people who actually did the work.
 - Work done on the patio has been done very well and we are happy with it, as are the cats.
 - Cats: we have cats!

- Parish Council is addressing the issue of creating more space in the worship area.
 - There are several ideas floating around. We will probably add a rail and a new row of chairs, but the other ideas are still up in the air.
 - One small thing that would help would be if parishioners were to consistently hang coats on the coat rack.
 - Flooding during storms has been due to the apartment's leaking next door.
 - Brian has been beginning to build a barrier.
 - The maintenance company has (supposedly) snaked the drain which should (supposedly) fix the problem.
 - Jerry says we've stayed dry during the rain.
 - Book store and Library: they work differently.
 - Tenants—Creative Ways Therapy—are very happy here and have expressed their desire to stay.
 - They have recently expanded and we are increasing their monthly due.
- Earl Harris (neighbor) is trying to sell. There was a deal, but it fell through.
- Community outreach: at the next meeting the council will appoint a new chair for the outreach committee.
 - Evangelism
 - Helping in the community
- Sunday school: Jennifer needs help teaching and we are going to start up again soon.
- Fr. Nicholas's address:
 - There are many “nuts and bolts” type of things that need to be done regularly in addition to spirituality, but there is no distinction between the two because the things that seem mundane are required for us to worship in the correct way.
 - Parish website is under professional revision. We are adding a lot of good new resources.
 - We need to do a better job communicating the way we do things.
 - Being on time for liturgy (meaning the work of the people) is very important.
 - Help people who are new or visiting.
 - Posture, etc. Stand or kneel (don't sit) to pray. Sometimes we need reminders about how and when to bow the head or cross ourselves, but we should all try to participate in mass.
 - Our faith is rich with small physical practices that assist us in our worship.

- State of the Parish:
 - We have added a few new members this year, and unfortunately we have had some parishioners move away or choose a new parish.
 - This is a normal part of parish family life, but it is important for each of us to bring the faith to more people in the community.
 - Fr. Raphael's ordination has been a blessing to the parish.
 - It is important to pray for our parishioners in need
 - Maria and Carol in particular.
 - We have had a fairly good financial year, but there are always more needs:
 - We need to think and pray about the best way to expand the parish.
 - We need to give more both domestically and abroad.
 - We should each offer the time and abilities we have to the needs of the church.
- Start time for mass:
 - For now we will leave it at 9am and 9:30am.
- Closing remarks and closing prayer.