

Committee Reports:

Altar Servers – Art Schwaninger

I am extremely proud of the way the Altar Boys conduct themselves during services. Perhaps we should call them "Altar Young Men". I try to impress upon them the importance their conduct makes to the quality of the liturgy, e.g., no unnecessary distraction. I always welcome those who wish to serve and thank those that do. I'd like to think that if I were not there, my "regulars" would do the job and the congregation would not know the difference. I'm looking at you, Gabriel and Gregory! If I had one favor to ask, it would be for the altar boys to get to church a little earlier. I recognize that they can't do it themselves: they need their parents to take care of that. As they gain experience I try to expand their responsibilities, commensurate with their age, of course.

CARE Ministry – Mary Kay Smith

The CARE Ministry team is undergoing a year long training program sponsored by Hospice of Dayton and led by experts in the field of caring ministries (facilitators from Duke University and Project Compassion) around the life stages of illness, death, and grief. The program explores ideas and specific tools to use in shaping a caring ministry plan for congregations to move from a crisis-response approach to a proactive and organized approach to care for their sick, dying, and grieving members. The CARE ministry members, currently consisting of Mary Schwaninger, Erik Young, Becky Coons, Fr. Ted, and Mary Kay Smith are working towards creating and implementing a sustainable plan that will incorporate practical, social, and spiritual opportunities of outreach and allow for the participation of many members of our community with varied skills and interests. We are working in partnership with Sandy Pacak and her "Blankets of Blessings" project. Look for updates in the near future.

Church School – Kerrie Wiese

The church school/youth group program has 46 students enrolled for 2015-2016. This is a slight increase over the enrollment for 2014-2015. Over ¼ of the student enrollment is in the Pre-K to K classroom which emphasizes the current demographics of the St. Paul parish. Each year the church school/youth group sponsors the annual angel tree and at least one other service project. During 2014, we raised \$471 and collected wish-list items to support the Blue Star Mothers of Miami Valley. All teachers completed Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training in the spring of 2015 as mandated by the OCA. The church school is still in need of one adult member to help teach in the 1st-2nd grade classroom, and is always looking for members to sit as chaperones. Please see Kerrie Wiese if you are interested in helping.

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Facilities Committee – John Brausch

The facilities committee is responsible for maintenance, capital improvement and beautification of St. Paul's building and grounds. In addition to executing these efforts, the committee formulates an annual capital improvement and maintenance plan that is presented to the Parish Council for planning and budgeting. Current committee members included: John Brausch, Jeff Weise, Mark Caldwell, Les Homan, Dominic Barone and George Friesel.

The facilities committee completed the following facilities upgrades and maintenance tasks during 2015:

- Parking lot repair, resurfacing and lining
- Installation of speaker system in the Sanctuary
- Waxing fellowship hall floor (Thanks to Dave and Tammy Abshear)
- Plaster repair in the Sanctuary
- Fountain repair, stain and seal
- Cupola cross repair and tree trimming (Thanks to Mark Caldwell)
- Concrete patio pressure washing (Thanks to David Short)
- Installation of interior and exterior security cameras (Thanks again to David Short)

Thanks to the committee members for all of their hard work. A special thanks to Les Homan for his continued and dedicated maintenance and beautification of the church grounds. His efforts are exhaustive and will be enjoyed by the congregation for many years to come.

Facility maintenance priorities for 2016 include painting of the Narthex and the restrooms in addition to replacement of the exterior security lights. If you wish to participate on the committee or identify a maintenance need please contact John Brausch at jcbrausch@gmail.com or contact one of the Parish Council members.

Mission Program – David Short

This year we sent our second team to help out with Project Mexico. The team was composed of Tammy Abshear, Amanda Abshear, Maria Brausch, and Christina Brausch. Please ask them about Project Mexico and what it was like to build a home for a family in one week. The mission program has been working with the missionaries in Mongolia for the last few years in an attempt to send a team there. Due to changes in the ministry team there we will not be able to send a team for some time. We are in the process of exploring another opportunity for 2016 and it is beginning to look like we might have an opportunity to participate in. We will keep you posted.

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Risk Committee – Jeff Wiese

The committee was formed three years ago with the responsibility of identifying and mitigating threats to the safety and security of the congregation, facility, and grounds. In 2015 the Parish Council approved our recommendations and purchased a video security system and AED (Defibrillator). We reviewed the OCA's latest sexual misconduct prevention policies and recommended local background check procedures. We also reviewed the St Paul Policies and Procedures Manual and are recommending areas to update. Our next topics are disaster response and first aid response. The current members are Jeff Wiese, David Short, Susan Ruh, Tammy Abshear, and Matt Newton.

Youth Group – David Short and Tammy Abshear

The St. Paul's youth group is available to High School and College aged young adults. Tammy Abshear, Fr. Dn. Steve Gresh, and David Short are teaming together to teach and direct these spectacular members of our parish. Last year we covered these topics: **Searching for the Truth**, which taught what the different world religions teach, **What's Love Got to do with It**, which focused on relationships and love, **Great Lent**, where we went through Father Schmemmann's book, and various other current event topics. Our objective in our Sunday class is to teach our youth to be able to think for themselves and apply their Orthodox faith in their everyday lives. We also hosted our first annual Mystery Dinner, which was a huge success. This year we will be focusing on teaching about fundamental Orthodox practices and applications to current events. We will also be adding some social and service events to our calendars...stay tuned.

St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

2016 Pledge Drive

This commitment I make in remembrance of Christ:

1. To pray daily.
2. To receive Holy Communion frequently.
3. To come to Holy Confession at least once a year.
4. To return to God the first fruits of the gifts He has bestowed on me.
5. To assist in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in Dayton/Richmond and beyond.
6. To live out my personal commitment to Christ through loving service to others.
7. To support my parish, my diocese and national church of which I am an essential part.

To My Co-Workers in Christ and Fellow Members of St. Paul Church I pledge to give in support of the Parish General Fund:

\$ _____

_____ per week

_____ per month

_____ per year

Please Print Your Name (s): _____

Signature (s) _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____

Notes :

1. If you are currently unable to make a financial pledge, but still wish to be a member, please contact Fr. Ted.
2. For every pledging member, the first \$200 you give to the parish merely covers the assessment given to the diocese and national church as our fair share in support of their ministries.

For example: If a husband and wife pledge \$1000/year to the church, both are counted as members and therefore the first \$400.00 of the pledge goes to the diocese leaving only \$600/year for the Parish.

Please return this form to Fr. Ted or Mary Kay Smith by December 13th.