

St. Tikhon Annual Meeting

Notes 1/17/2021

Participants-

Ellie and Evan Hubbard
Mary Zacharias
Stephanie Earl
Heather Linke
Shady and Marianne Gergis
Tony and Rebecca Levi
Caleb and Jacki Rexford
Carlen Houck
Curt and Rachel Zacharias
Molly Sissom
Dean and Dottie Arnold
Keith Kettenring
AJ Donahue

1. Financial situation -

- Due to COVID, giving was down overall in 2020 with the church still carrying many of the same expenses. The total profit for 2020 was \$8,000. Current total in the church bank account is \$20,000.
- Our church budget for 2021 is \$5,000 per month (equating to a profit of \$50 per month) based on commitments for giving. This is lower than previous year's budget.
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2. Pastoral report -

- Liturgical life of the church: due to COVID, we were forced to change to virtual services and could not share many celebrations in the spring. In summer, we were able to host small services indoors. In the fall, we started outside services. Our plan is to continue outside services in 2021 with a more robust Lent schedule and an outdoor Pascha celebration.
- Church life and growth: 7 new members joined the church via baptism and chrismation.

- St. Tikhon's currently has 11 catechumens and 13 inquirers. We are averaging below normal rates in Sunday attendance, with about 30 people per service.
- We will restart catechism and inquirer classes this month. The plan is to work with the mission council and members to begin looking at future plans for the growth of our church again.
- The Earl family is moving back to Atlanta, but Father Seth will continue to come up to Chattanooga for services and lead classes via Zoom. Long-term plan is for our Dean David Arnold to assign a full-time priest who lives in Chattanooga to St. Tikhon's, however due to a priest shortage this is not expected to happen in the short-term.
- Mission Council: Dean Arnold and Carien Houck are completing their time on the Mission Council. The remaining existing members Caleb Rexford (President) and Molly Sissom (Secretary) will be joined by the new members Shady Gergis (Treasurer), Zach Zacharias, and Mary Zacharias. We are looking to grow the activities of the Mission Council in 2021. Our parish is very young in terms of the experience in Orthodoxy of most members.
- Parish compliance: One of the goals for 2021 is to do a better job of tracking our members. We will institute a more formal initiation for new members of the church to help the parish get to know them better, and also as a way for them to make a public to our church. If you have started attending our church in the last 6 months, please send Fr. Seth an email and he will organize an official service to welcome new members. Please also continue to make the liturgical life of the church and attendance at services an important part of your life.

3. Closing -

- Please continue to grow in the church, attend services, and serve as an example and love your neighbors to help encourage them to join the faith. *Submitted by Molly Sissom 1/17/2021*