

Annual Report of the Senior Warden

As I prepare my first annual report as senior warden, I look back on the accomplishments, big and small, of the past year. The highlights of the Parish Council's activities follow:

- We conducted a Parish Council retreat in March where we took a candid look at the job we were doing, we envisioned where we want to be as a Parish Council and as a Parish and how we could make improvements. Of the 6 major decisions that were made during the retreat all have been implemented or are in the process of being implementing, for example lightening Father's "load".
- As a follow-up to the retreat, we selected 20 tasks / projects from the strategic plan to focus on. Most of these are in progress and will be completed in the next several months. Among these projects are developing welcome materials for visitors and orientation materials for new families and including the children in the choir.
- We are committed to building an active Youth Group, slowly but surely. We are planning to have a youth activity every month.
- We have been working to acquire property for the future needs of the Parish. At times the pace has been frustrating, but we are being diligent in handling the acquisitions in the best interest of the Parish, which sometimes means just waiting with patience.
- We have focused on responding to the financial issues of the Parish. With several years of deficits we have been working to find solutions to meet our modest operating budget. Financial education materials were developed and distributed in effort to educate the Parish members about the Parish's expenses and to increase giving on a long-term permanent basis. We remain hopeful that little by little, family by family, we see permanent increases in giving that will allow us to worry less about finances and paying our bills and more on meaningful issues and programs.
- We made Father Joe's compensation a priority. It has been an issue that was long over due. In fact it is part of the strategic plan, which was developed four years ago. The 2005 budget calls for Father finally getting the raise, which he deserves. Equally important the raise will positively affect the amount of Father's pension for when he retires and will put us in a better position to be able to adequately retain and compensate a new Priest upon Father's retirement. More on this issue and the 2005 budget will be available at church for the two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Last, but certainly not least, the Orthodox Food Festival was an enormous success. The hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that were displayed during the weekend was amazing. It truly was a Parish-wide event, not to mention a FUN one. We learned that we are capable of big, complex things when we all work together. Let's try to keep that enthusiasm and energy going throughout the year. If we put that much effort into

everything related to our Parish there is no telling what great things we can accomplish.
Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the Food Festival.

Finally, I would like to thank Daraoh for his many years of leadership and his continued role as a Diocesan Council member. Special thanks to Mike Rogozik who is spending much of his “retirement” time tending the property needs of the Parish. This has allowed the Council to focus on “real” issues at our meetings rather than maintenance issues.

In order for the Parish Council to be successful in leading the Parish and implementing our goals we continue to need to rely on the time, talents and the financial generosity of each and every Parish member. We are looking forward to an exciting 2005 and building on the successes of 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Busken
Senior Warden