

## Church School Faculty Meeting Outcomes

Our faculty met on Monday evening to consider programming through December 2009. Present at the meeting were: Holly Olszewski, DRE and faculty member, Karen Kain, Council President; Nikki Lennox, Rebekah Olechnowicz, Presvytera and Father Iakovos. Considerable discussion was made concerning programmes for our youth, tweeners, and teenagers. New programming for this group will be launched on 1 August. Currently an enrollment student roster is being put together by our faculty. Once this is completed, faculty will be assigned and letters will be sent to parents encouraging them to bring their children. Closer to the date, personal phone calls will be made to parents and students inviting them to participate.

In other news, the group approved the curriculum for our Vacation Church School which will take place from August 3rd through the 7th. Classes will meet from 8 AM to 1 PM each day. On the afternoon of the 5th there will be a special “children’s vespers” to help the children prepare for the Feast of the Transfiguration. On the day of the Feast, the sixth, class will begin with “children’s orthros and Holy Liturgy.” These will be “teaching” services in which Father will stop and engage the children as we move through the different pieces of the services. The last day, the 7th, the school will wind up with prizes, awards and a picnic. Persons interested in serving as faculty or teacher’s aides are asked to contact Fr. Iakovos. In other news, the group has planned a Back-to-School picnic for Sunday, 30 August following the Holy Services. The picnic will take place at Blair Park in Blair Twp. More information on the picnic will be available as it develops. Persons interested in helping out on this project are encouraged to speak with Karen Kain.

Rebekah Olechnowicz will be teaching a once-off seminar scheduled in mid-September entitled ***The Richness of Ancient Byzantine Church Singing***. The course will be a survey of this style of singing and follow the outline of a general music appreciation course. It will provide an understanding of where this singing fits into the history of the Church as well as western music. She has been asked to complete lesson plans and syllabus for review by our next meeting. Additionally, there is consideration being given to a more in-depth course which would focus on reading Byzantine musical notation and developing singing skills with this music which will be offered if there is demonstrated interest from the music appreciation seminar.

Father Iakovos was asked to prepare a Bible study focusing on the 2nd Book of Moses, Exodus. This will be a Saturday morning class to be held some time in the month of October. It is a once-off offering that will provide an historical survey of the book and its importance with respect to the Orthodox Liturgical and Theological traditions. Additionally, Father was asked to generate materials for a Book Discussion Group that would meet several times over the year. Father will be choosing three books for our use this year. The discussion group will launch in September.

Presvytera and Rebekah Olechnowicz are working on the generation of laminated cards for placement in the backs of our chairs. These cards will include translations of: The Trisagion Prayers, The Lord’s Prayer, The Symbol of Faith, The Prayer Before Communion, and Prayers of Thanksgiving After Communion. They have also been charged with putting together a new pew book that has the music integrated into the text as well as other pieces that are missing from the Takis book. The laminated cards should be completed in a week’s time; the pew book by the end of July.