

Parish Council Reorganizes for 2009. Our parish council held their first meeting of the new year and held the election of officers as part of that meeting. Elected to the offices were: Karen Kain–president; vice president–Stephanie Long; treasurer–Doug Partlo and secretary–Judy Weston. Installed to the following portfolios for the year were: Doug Partlo and John Batsakis–Physical Plant, Building and Grounds; Stephanie Long (assisted by Holly Olszewski) Strategic Planning; Karen Kain–Public Relations; Angie and Roger Dunlap–Bookstore Management; Holly Olszewski–Director of Religious Education; Ray Ealy (assisted by Doug Partlo) Finance and Accounting; and Helen Dalbo (assisted by Donna Psaros) Stewardship and Membership.

In other news, the council approved the establishment of a “crisis fund” to be administered by Fr. Iakovos. These funds will be used to assist persons known to him with various financial needs and their identities held in strict confidence. Father informed the council that he has spent several thousand dollars of his own money on rent rescues, auto repairs, clothing, utilities and various other things for people in need. In order to insure the anonymity of people that receive aid, Father will be the sole administrator of this account. Parishioners that know of persons in serious financial difficulty are encouraged to speak with Father to see if there are ways in which they may be assisted.

Financial reports for year-end 2008 were read and approved. It was reported that the gross revenues of the congregation were \$149,786.09. Our accountant also reported that we have a surplus of \$8,492.49 on the year. Ray Ealy was asked to meet with our accountant to ensure that coding and allocation of expenditures was done to proper accounts. There was particular attention paid to the use of capital funds for all of the improvements we have had done to our chapel.

The stewardship committee reported that a total of \$108,246 was collected against pledges of \$106,350 for 2008. Our bookstore reported 2008 total sales of \$3,584.14. We are happy to see such a successful year for our bookstore. Congratulations and thanks to Angie and Roger for doing such a great job. The web site continues to be a wonderful addition to the ministry of our parish. Recently we posted a video clip of Father Iakovos blessing the West arm of the Grand Traverse Bay. The video was shot by Roger Dunlap of our parish. It is just amazing what technology has allowed us to do–check us out.

The Building and Grounds committee has entered into negotiations with our landlord for an additional amount of space to enable us to expand our community center and add some classrooms for our educational offerings. All totaled we should have approximately 3,000 square feet in the Hastings Street facility. Get ready to grow with us!