

Elders Report - November 2022 Janet Frazier

What a difference a year makes! Our parish has emerged from the trials of Covid stronger than ever. Our parish community is growing with many opportunities for participation for young and old, members and inquirers alike. Some of this past year's accomplishments include:

- * Coffee hours are back after Liturgy
- * Special luncheons and seasonal celebrations are taking place
- * Church school is going strong and finding new ways to include our youth in parish life, e.g., handmaidens. * A picture wall of our parish community has been installed in the hall
- * A successful parish-wide sale was able to raise funds for a parish in Kenya.
- * Parish work groups were established and are up and running. All are welcome to participate and all are encouraged to join in and help. If you want more information, please contact: Charitable Outreach: Cheri Olga
Social/Fellowship: Janet
Spiritual Growth: Father John & Dn. Igor

Worship & Prayer: Father John & Dn. Igor

Christian Education (all ages): Dn. Igor

- * A new sound system has been installed in church to enhance live-streaming capabilities - A special thank you to Bobby Borisov for his expertise with this.
- * New carpeting was installed on the stairs in the hall
- * New furniture was purchased for the upper entryway of the hall.
- * A new concrete retaining wall was built at entrance to upper parking lot and a new safety rail was installed in the lower parking lot - A special thank you to Stilian Hristov and Radoslav Toloiev for their work on this! * Ongoing

improvements to our buildings and grounds, e.g., a new sink for the flower room, ivy removal and landscape enhancements. A big thank you to Kathy Baghdanov for the many hours she donates in these efforts!

In addition to all that has been happening this past year, many exciting things are currently in the works! * The new sacristy project is progressing and soon to be finished. Thank you to all who donated to make this happen, including Jim Thompson and Amy Lines for organizing the task. (In case you didn't know, the beautiful cabinets were designed and built by Bruce Petersen, one of our very talented parishioners!)

* Iconographer Heather MacKean will soon be starting her work on two Archangel frescoes on the walls above the altar area. These were donated in memory of parishioner Christine Knodt.

* We are working on a way to keep our parish directory updated and to include all new members and inquirers (who wish to be included), in a timely fashion. If you would like to be included and are not as of yet, please see me and I'll see that it happens.

* We are looking at ways to enhance our outside seating and socializing spaces for next summer. One idea being pursued is building a patio and fire pit circle on the grassy area on the west side of the hall.

* We still have more than a century of parish records for St. Nicholas which need to be organized and preserved. If this sounds like something you might enjoy, please see Jan Bear to volunteer.

There are so many wonderful things we have all shared this year. The Chrismation of new members this past Paschal season was truly a blessing. The number of visitors and inquirers that we welcome on a weekly basis is continually growing ... and what is even more wonderful is that people are returning week after week. That speaks a lot for our parish community! Unfortunately due to Covid, there are many faces that we have not seen for a while. Hopefully those people will soon be back with us to share in our worship and fellowship. They are missed!

Lastly, I personally feel thankful and blessed to be a part of this parish family. The past few years have been a difficult time for us all and through all of your prayers, support and help we are the loving and worshiping community we have been in the past and are called to be always.

In Christ, Janet Frazier