

Subject: July 11, 2009 St. Joseph Church Men's Group Meeting

Tom Bennett hosted the meeting of St. Joseph Men's Group held Saturday, July 11, 2009. The following men were present: Tom Bennett, Blair Birthisel, Bob Born, Terry Buford, Justin Clark, Shannon Clark, Jim Coody, David Driver, Michael Fulton, Michael Kendall, Rick Krill, Gary Lear, Lewis Luckenbach, and Fr. Matthew MacKay,

The meeting was convened with a prayer by Fr. Matthew followed by a business meeting.

Items discussed were:

- A summary of projects completed in the last few months by men in the Church such as sprucing up of the Church grounds before Pascha, painting of the Church chapel, helping in the move of the Church Bookstore, and cleaning and sealing the Altar steps.
- Having men 'pair up' as hosts for future meetings: Michael Kendall and Terry Buford agreed to host a social get-together on August 22, and Gary Lear and Blair Birthisel(?) agreed to lead a Church work project on September 19.
- It was reported that about twenty small trees on the front side of the Church still need to be mulched. It was agreed that individuals on their own initiative would work at getting those trees mulched, and they all don't get mulched, the remainder will be taken care of on our September work day.
- A retirement plan for Fr. Matthew: Roger Conner will be contacted for advice as to how this might be implemented
- Keeping the area in back of the Parish Hall mowed on a regular basis: Jim Coody will talk to Nouhad Bassila about getting this done and the cost involved.
- Selling tickets for the Mexico Concert fundraiser: Blair Birthisel has taking the lead in organizing St. Joseph men in ticket selling efforts. Volunteers are selling tickets after Liturgy each Sunday and several men will be visiting other Orthodox Churches in order to solicit ticket purchases.
- Visiting the Monastery at Kendalia: Shannon Clark is going to explore the possibility of teaming up with Michael Craney in hosting our Saturday, October 24 meeting which would be a day visit to the Monastery. Fr. Matthew will also be checking with the Monastery to confirm the feasibility of the date. It may be possible that Fr. Matthew could accompany the group and Fr. James could conduct the Vespers service that evening in his absence.
- Church picnic: As we didn't have our annual picnic in June as we have in past years, we will attempt to organize a picnic to be held after Liturgy in October or November when the weather cools.

After the business meeting we watched a video regarding the development of Christianity in the geographic area occupied by present day Turkey. The video was followed by lunch and fellowship highlighted by a recounting of his recent trip to Syria by Fr. Matthew and a question and answer session led by Fr. Matthew regarding the current troubled state of affairs of the Archdiocese of North America.