

ST. ANDREW'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOBOR PARISH

9831 - 75 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA T6A 2Y8



Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки! Glory to Jesus Christ! His glory forever!

Слава Україні! Героям Слава! Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heros!

October 20, 2024

Dear Honorary Members, Members, Associate Members, and Friends of the Parish,

On behalf of the Board of Management, I greet you with this second letter since the Parish's Annual General Meeting and the election of the new Board of Management. It remains a privilege to share with you this update of our Parish. I hope and pray that you remain in reasonable if not good health and fortune since my last communication with you.

His Eminence +Ilarion, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and our parish priest Fr. Yuriy Sucheivan continue to pray for the safety, health, and well-being of you and your families. It is asked that you pray not only for the safety, health, and well-being of them and their families, but also may God grant them strength and wisdom to guide our UOCC and our Parish.

In this letter we provide information regarding:

1. **The Atrium was VERY Hot in August – Donation Appeal for the Failed HVAC Unit**
2. **A Completed Wi-fi and Security Systems Upgrade – Our Thanks!**
3. **Monthly List of Worship Services at our Parish**
4. **Pastoral Care from Fr. Yuriy**
5. **Our Parish Gardener is “Retiring”; We are Looking for a New Gardener**
6. **Special General Meeting – TBD**
7. **Reminder – Calendar Change**
8. **Update to UCC-APC Support Group – beyond October 31, 2024**
9. **Announcement of UCC-APC English Language classes II – until November 2024**
10. **Use of our Cultural Hall by PLAST**
11. **APC Pictorial Directory Committee – Update**
12. **St. Andrew's Men's Club bingo schedule – please consider volunteering**
13. **Still Looking for a Vice President and a Secretary**
14. **Continued Request for Greeters – an appeal**

The Atrium was VERY Hot in August – Donation Appeal for the Failed HVAC Unit

If you recall, the Atrium was VERY hot in August. Our HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) maintenance contractor determined that the condenser (cooling) portion of the rooftop

unit had developed a fault and consequently was (internally) prohibited from working. As a consequence, we certainly felt the heat – I imagine the plants did, too!

The rooftop unit fortunately will continue to provide heating into the Atrium – a good thing as our winters get cold! It does not rely on the condenser portion for heating,

The Board of Management decided to replace the whole rooftop unit as opposed to only repairing the failed portion because the unit is old (installed when the Atrium was constructed in the 1990s), obsolete, uses environmentally UNFRIENDLY refrigerant, and spare parts are not easy to come by. A new unit is not obsolete, uses environmentally FRIENDLY refrigerant, has spare parts readily available, and will be more efficient than the existing unit.

Replacement of the unit is not critical, as some would argue that cooling is not absolutely necessary. However, we feel that with a unit this old, it is only a matter of time before further failures within the unit occur, potentially rendering the heating portion of the unit to also not work – not a great thing in our winters.

This unit is not inexpensive – costing more than \$40,000 plus GST. We have applied to the Province's CFEP (Community Facility Enhancement Program), St. John's Legacy Foundation, and Alberta Ukrainian Self Reliance League for donations to help fund the project, but do not expect full funding to be received to cover all expenses expected.

We appeal to you to make a special donation toward the replacement of this unit. Simply write on your donation envelop and your cheque a note indicating "ATRIUM HVAC REPLACEMENT" and all monies received will go specifically toward the replacement of the rooftop unit.

We thank you in advance for your donations toward this necessary project.

Something to keep in mind, there is a larger rooftop HVAC unit that cools the remainder of the facility that is the same age as the failed unit. This age begs the question – when will this unit fail?

A Completed Wi-fi and Security Systems Upgrade – Our Thanks



With the help of the very generous financial assistance by the St. John's Legacy Foundation and donations from some of our members who donated monies directly toward the completion of this special project, we are pleased to announce the completion of the upgrades to the Wi-fi System and the Security Systems. The project was undertaken in order to improve upon the quality of our Parish's Wi-fi system allowing the instructors, leaders, students and participants of the Ukrainian Language Class for Adults, English Language Classes for newly arrived Ukrainians, and Support Group for newly arrived Ukrainians and indeed all attenders into our facility better access to the internet. The project also installed or replaced necessary security sensors to help keep our facility secure.

Again, we thank you and the St. John's Legacy Foundation for the financial assistance provided. Without this assistance, these projects would've been delayed.

Monthly List of Worship Services at our Parish

On a monthly basis, Fr. Yuriy publishes a list of worship services that will occur on each particular month. Usually that list is made available to me electronically by email before the end of the previous month. In turn, it is usually sent out via email within a few days to all those for whom we have an email address. It is also printed out on paper and placed on a table in the Atrium or the Narthex before the next Sunday Divine Liturgy for those wanting a hard copy.

We also update the Parish website with this information. The list is available for download by clicking on the appropriate link On the "Home" page and is also listed in the "Events" page.

At times, it is late to you, and I apologize if it is me that is responsible for it being late.

If you have any questions regarding the services, please call Fr. Yuriy directly on his mobile – 780-885-8143.

Reminder – Calendar Change

As a reminder, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and St. Andrew's UO Sobor Parish adopted the Revised Julian Calendar as of December 20, 2023. December 2024 marks the second time that our church and Parish will have different dates than most of us are accustomed to surrounding the celebration of feast days fixed to the calendar.

Upcoming Holy days like our Patron Saint's Day will be celebrated in early December, Christmas Eve will be celebrated on December 24, Christmas Day will be celebrated on December 25, Theophany Eve Service, Great Blessing of water, will be celebrated on January 5, and all other Holy days fixed to the calendar will occur on the same day as those of the Gregorian Calendar.

Easter celebrations are not fixed to a calendar and will continue to be celebrated according to the Revised Julian Calendar, which is often different, but sometimes the same as those who use the Gregorian calendar. Indeed, this coming Easter (2025) on the Revised Julian Calendar and on the Gregorian Calendar are coincident with each other.

Please look out for the monthly listing of worship services mentioned earlier in this letter for specific dates of celebrations.

Pastoral Care from Fr. Yuriy

Due to its importance, this topic is repeated from last letter to the membership:

In the past number of months I have found out about some of our members being hospitalized or some falling asleep in the Lord. My sincere condolences to those experiencing these situations.

Unfortunately, Fr. Yuriy does not always get notification of the need to provide Pastoral care in these circumstances.

As a consequence of the unfortunate isolation due to COVID, I think society may have forgotten how and when to speak of sensitive, emotional, and difficult topics, especially of those expressing the need of help. As a result, I do not think we are communicating enough about our own and each other's Pastoral Care needs.

I encourage each and everyone of you to call Fr. Yuriy and request this Pastoral Care if it is needed by you, by a friend, or by a Parish member. Simply ask families of your friends and acquaintances if they would like to receive a call from Fr. Yuriy to come and visit and say a prayer. You will never know if Pastoral Care is desired or needed by others unless you ask them.

Fr. Yuriy's mobile is (780) 885-8143 and his email address is ysuchevan@gmail.com. He will welcome your contact.

Our Parish Gardener is "Retiring"; We are Looking for a New Gardener

Iris Blower is hanging up her gardening apron and garden shovel. For a number of years, Iris has been tending to the flowerbed on the west side of the Parish complex – nurturing it from black dirt every spring to a full flowering garden every summer! In the fall, wilting flowers and plants need to be removed and trimmed back. Iris took responsibility for it all.

We thank Iris for tending our flower garden over the past number of years! Please thank her when you see her next.

Now it is someone else's turn to step forward and take care of the garden and the Parish asks you to volunteer to complete this task that really beautifies our facility exterior and gives it a "lived in" look from those passing by or stopping in.

If you are interested in helping us in this regard, please contact the office.

Special General Meeting – TBD

It has been sometime since a Special General Meeting has occurred and the Board will likely set a date for this meeting to occur toward the end of November. Please be on the lookout for the notice of meeting time and date.

Update to UCC-APC Support Group – beyond October 31, 2024

It was reported previously that the Support Group for newly arrived Ukrainians offered in conjunction with the UCC-APC at our Parish is proceeding until the end of October. We think that they will be continuing beyond this date, but specific details are not known at this time regarding how long these sessions will continue. We will advise as we determine more details.

We are pleased that our facility is being used in support to newly arrived Ukrainians.

Announcement of UCC-APC English Language classes II – until November 2024

Due to demand, a second session of English Language Classes for newly arrived Ukrainians began October 1 and runs until November 21. Classes occur twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the class is full.

A third session may be offered, but it depends on demand from students and availability of an instructor who is provided by UCC-APC. We will continue to have conversations with UCC-APC to see if there is appetite for carrying on with these classes.

We are pleased that our facility is being used in support to newly arrived Ukrainians.

Use of our Cultural Hall by PLAST

Representatives from PLAST recently called and are now renting the Cultural Hall weekly between 1:15 to 2:45pm on Saturday afternoons. I understand that due to the number of newly arrived Ukrainians wanting to enroll their children in PLAST, their facility is too small to accommodate all that are interested. Since we are the closest Ukrainian church to their facility, they now have the first class for 4-5 year olds within our facility.

In January 2025 (similar to January 2024) PLAST will use the Tillie Kurys Hall for their “Світочка” event.

We are pleased that our facility is being used in support of PLAST and indirectly in support to newly arrived Ukrainians.

APC Pictorial Directory Committee – Update

The Board is pleased to announce that Kathy Buchanan volunteered to chair the Pictorial Directory Committee. She will need assistance and ask that you consider volunteering in this regard.

As a reminder, every 5 years or so at our Parish’s request, the company APC has published a pictorial directory of the Parish membership. Published years include: 1998, 2003, 2008, 2014, and 2019. We will be asking APC to publish the directory again, but it likely will not occur until early 2025.

We are looking for volunteers to join Kathy and sit on the Pictorial Directory Committee to manage all aspects of this project.

Please consider volunteering to fill a position on this Committee. To volunteer, please contact the office.

St. Andrew's Mens Club bingo schedule – please consider volunteering

On behalf of the St. Andrew's Men's Club, Gordon Ostapchuk requests assistance from Parish members or their friends or family by volunteering to work at bingos for this 2024-25 season. Proceeds from the bingos are earned by the volunteers and are given to the Men's Club. It's from those monies that the Men's Club donates to our Parish. The Men's Club has been a significant donor to our Parish in the past. The volunteer work is easy, will be explained to you, and quickly comprehended. You will not be given hard tasks!

A partial schedule of Bingo dates is shown on the Parish website "Home" page and is displayed at the Parish bulletin boards.

Please consider volunteering – please contact Gordon Ostapchuk @ 780-463-0454. Your assistance is appreciated, and your efforts go toward our Parish.

Still Looking for a Vice President and a Secretary

Together with our Parish Priest, Fr. Yuriy, the Board of Management administers all aspects of the Parish. Usually, the Parish Priest handles all religious aspects of the Parish and the Board of Management handles the secular aspects. It is the ideas and skills of the Parish Priest and the individuals of the Board of Management that make or break a Parish. Whether the Parish is a warm and welcoming place, a cold and dysfunctional place, or somehow in between depends on the people involved in its running.

The fact that we do not have a full Board of Management is of concern to me and, in my opinion, it should be of concern to you, too. The existing Board of Management personnel only have a limited number of talents and amount of energy. Fresh ideas and energy are always necessary to improve our Parish's environment for worship.

Role of the Vice President:

The role of the Vice-President (VP) is to assist the President in leading the Board of Management in the responsible stewardship of the Parish and its resources. On the occasion when the President cannot attend a meeting, the VP would chair the meeting. If there is a need for a special project, perhaps the VP may volunteer to lead it. For example, when COVID was becoming serious enough and causing restrictions to facility's use were being mandated, the VP at the time volunteered to develop what procedures were necessary for the Parish so the congregation could continue worshipping in our Parish while following Provincial mandates and restrictions.

Unofficially, the expectations of the VP are to acquaint oneself with the practice of the Board as it administers the Parish; to get used to how the Board functions; to develop a sense of history of

Board issues; and to allow one to see how the role of the President manages every day aspects of the Board.

It is an expectation that the VP will assume the role of the President. So, perhaps the void in VP indicates a hesitation to step into the role of President in the next year or two. I suspect that people may think that the role of President is a fair amount of work – and it is. But, it is extremely rewarding, also. To know that you've helped your Parish in a leading fashion and assisted the Parish Priest in the entire functioning of the Parish is extremely rewarding! So, the role of Vice President is indirectly rewarding also.

Role of the Secretary:

The position of secretary is one of the easiest roles on the Board, in my opinion. The Secretary keeps record of all decisions made at each of the meetings and prepares the resulting meeting minutes. Being acquainted with Microsoft Word is certainly an asset (and Adobe Acrobat or equivalent also helps) as the agenda and minutes are typed in Word.

There are 11-12 monthly Board meeting a year, about 3 Special General Meetings, the Annual General meeting, and maybe 3 special and specific Board meetings. Each meeting is on average 2-3 hours long. Minutes are required for approximately 15 meetings per year; may not be required for the Specific Board meetings.

If you are interested in finding out more about these individual positions, or attending a Board meeting to see how it functions and to see how the acting Secretary (Dr. Ernest Skakun) and the President complete their respective tasks, please contact Michael Zukiwsky (either by email or by mobile – contact information is below) or any other Board member for more information.

I encourage you to help our Parish become better by volunteering to be on the Board of Management. Is there work and personal sacrifice involved? Absolutely, but you will have helped!

Continued Request for Greeters – an appeal

The New Church Year began in September, and we should strive to be an even more welcoming Parish. There are many things that can be done; one of these is having Greeters for every Sunday Divine Liturgy. This has slipped off the radar in spite of numerous requests for volunteers. It is essential that the practice of having greeters at Divine Liturgies served on Sundays be restored, especially now that Newly Arrived Ukrainians are attending services. The goal is to create a roster of greeters and to have two greeters for each Sunday, one of the greeters to be fluent in Ukrainian. If you are able to serve as a greeter, please contact either Vivian or Ernie Skakun by telephone at 780-434-0543 or by email at BLUEMALVA@shaw.ca. Vivian and Ernie will follow-up on this request by telephone.

The purpose of the Greeters is to meet and greet the worshippers when they come in, have them sign the guest book if they are newcomers or attending the service for the first time, and ask for their mailing address, telephone, and email, which the Parish will use to inform them of services and events happening in the Parish. If they are not willing to share this information, do not insist on it.

Help them to a pew, introduce them to other Parish members, and invite them to join fellowship after the Divine Liturgy.

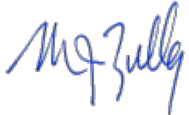
Conclusion

In this letter to you there are several appeals to volunteer and help us with your place of worship. Every week the petition from the Divine Liturgy is prayed, "... we pray for those who ... do good works in this holy temple...". When you assist, you will be prayed for by all attending the Divine Liturgy! Also, as the cliché states, "many hands make light work!" If interested in volunteering, please contact Fr. Yuriy, any member of the Board of Management, or the office.

If you have any questions regarding this update or otherwise, please call me on my cell (780) 660-0789 or email me at mjz@telus.net or call and leave a message on the office line (780) 469-1729 or send an email to info@uocc-standrew.ca.

Yours truly,

Board of Management President, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Zukiwsky".

Michael Zukiwsky