

## ST. JOHN'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – March 9, 2023

Present: Rev. Noel Henry, Andrew Hobbis, Cathy Seymour, Larry Langdon, Vicki Gilmour, Holly Adam, Heather Rule and Martha Silmser

Regrets: None

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Noel.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting was made by Vicki and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather. Carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Andrew. A question was raised about the Anglican Foundation. It is a foundation which helps new ministries. We have been able to draw on this in the past. The cost is \$90/month. While church giving is down for a variety of reasons, the funds that were given to help with asphalt repair have kept us in good shape. There has been an increase in the cost of the outside garbage bin and since it is rarely filled, ANDREW will look for other companies with a smaller box. ANDREW will also investigate the cost of Vibe internet from Bell vs Cogeco cable.

Clergy Report was given by Rev. Noel. It was suggested that he include his work at the Diocesan level to best keep track of how many hours he puts in elsewhere. The service on April 16, 2023 will be a joint service held at St. Alban's to celebrate Ruah Grace Henry's Baptism. Our next few initiatives were discussed. REV. NOEL will discuss with Joyce the selection of plants and location for our project Bring Back the Bees. LARRY will do a walk about to see where it would be possible to plant some trees that could be used as memorial trees and how many we have room for.

Cemetery Report was given by Heather. A new columbarium may be needed in the future as there are only five plots left. Discussion followed with size and location and price.

Hall Report was given by Martha. Confirmation of one request will mean the hall is booked and being used at least once every day. Some days have been filled with renters. There are several tentative bookings as far ahead as September. Canada Day prep is already in the works.

Maintenance Report was given by Larry. All monthly inspections have been completed. The plastic cover on the light switches for the hall seems to be breaking down and cracking. It has been inspected and there is no problem with wiring, only with the plate. Discussion followed regarding a less expensive way to light the hall (change types of bulbs). ANDREW will examine new bulbs for the outside security lights as well as check to see if there is a more modern switch inside that will automatically adjust during the season changes of the year.

Cathy has kindly suggested hosting a Dessert Bridge as a fundraiser with money going to the church for outreach. A date and more information will follow. She also suggested a new means of communicating the meetings to the parishioners. A bullet form, with only highlights of each meeting, will be prepared by Martha to be distributed right after each meeting to the team and a copy to Deb Noiles to distribute to the parishioners.

Other:

-- Vestry feedback went well.

-- Guest speakers from Tyendinaga will do the sermon on March 26, 2023. The Rev. Rod BrantFrancis and the Rev. Lisa BrantFrancis are from Chapel Royal Christ Church and will share information on the Indigenous issues before us. They will be paid according to the standard guide for visiting priests giving a sermon.

Fundraising:

- Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner proceeds should remain as local outreach, not into the wider world. The money should be put to one of the six goals that were set for the year. Several areas that could be helped were discussed including food at the public school to be available to all children, not just compromised. REV. NOEL will speak to the principal.

-The White Elephant Table usually at the winter Bazaar will be moved to a summer garage sale. Date to follow.

Band Camp:

- We have been approached by Michelle Houser from St. Mary Magdelene in Napanee, to see if our hall could be used for one week possibly in July for a band camp for kids. The camp would be from 8am – 4pm. Instruments and instructions are provided.

Bishop Michael has requested that each parish celebrate the Feast of Pentecost at St. George's Cathedral on May 26, 2023. Rev. Noel will be there by 10:30 and service at St. John's will be cancelled. A memo will be sent to parishioners.

The meeting closed by saying The Grace. Next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023 @ noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Silmser

