

ST. JOHN'S PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – April 13, 2023

Present: Rev. Noel, Andrew Hobbis, Heather Rule, Vicki Gilmour, Cathy Seymour, Holly Adam, Martha Silmsler.

Regrets: Larry Langdon

The meeting opened with prayer by Rev. Noel.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting was made by Heather, seconded by Cathy, Carried.

Treasurer's Report: (see attached) given by Andrew. There was a discussion about givings being down, but there have been parishioners who have passed away and some who have moved. The amount that is paid to the Diocese this month is steep compared to what was received but the dollar amount of this money is always based on two years previous. We have been significantly paying down the debt to the Diocese because our payments are being matched, so the debt is being lowered considerably. Andrew also advised of his estimates given by two companies who look after the garbage dumpsters in this area. He will contact one more company to see if they compare and a decision will be made. There was also a discussion about switching our internet company from Cogeco to Bell Fibe. Most aspects were in favor of Bell but the e-mail address used would have to be changed. That would represent a huge amount of work, so it was decided to stay with Cogeco.

Clergy Report: Given by Rev. Noel (see attached). Even with six sick days, much was accomplished, and many hours were spent at St. John's.

Cemetery Report: Heather reported that she bought back a niche and was able to then sell it again at a higher price. There are only a few niches and plots left and a discussion continued with how to proceed in the future once those are sold. Campbells Monuments has increased their cost for engraving. Heather will check on costs of plots/niches in surrounding cemeteries.

Maintenance Report: Given by Cathy for Larry. All inspections have been done and everything is in order.

Hall Report: Given by Martha. The hall is routinely quite busy with only Wednesdays with available time to be rented. We are now booking for some events into the fall.

Other Business:

- A) The service given by Rod & Lisa Brant-Francis was well attended. Great questions were raised and there may be some interest in having a less formal community get together with them.

- B) Our next initiative will be Feeding the Bees. Melissa suggested rain barrels to catch water for the plants instead of paying increased water bills. Wildflower seeds will be purchased with outreach money. The seeds will then be packaged and give to parishioners and distributed to the wider community, showing that St. John's is indeed interested in being good stewards to God's earth.
- C) Mother's Day mums will be ordered for the 14th of May service. A discussion followed regarding Father's Day, but a suitable idea for a token gift could not be found. It was decided to table this for another year.
- D) There will be no need for the church to work on a community garden as there is another one in the works for Bath.
- E) The church website needs some updating and Rev. Noel is still trying to get his personal Facebook account working following being hacked and suspended.
- F) Cathy is asking for a cleaning team to be organized to give the Church a thorough cleaning.
- G) April 29/23 is the date for the Electoral Synod vote for a new Bishop upon Bishop Michael's retirement. Cathy and Maureen Hobbs will be in attendance.
- H) Service of Pentecost will be on May 28/23 at St. George's Cathedral, there will be no service at St. John's. Parishioners will be notified.

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace together.

Next meeting is set for May 11/23 at noon in the Hall.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Silmsen