

**ST MARK THE EVANGELIST
PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of 8 February 2017
7:30 pm, Bishop Reed Hall
DRAFT MINUTES**

In attendance: Penny Miller, Heather Simpson, Gillian Morris, Cynthia Greer, Suzanne Wilkins, Margaret Lodge, Fr. Jim Roberts, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Georgia Roberts, Ray Davidson

1. Opening the meeting

- a. **Call to order** – 7:38 p.m. by Suzanne Wilkins
- b. **Opening Prayer/Reflection-** Fr. Jim Roberts
- c. **Regrets:** Kate Greer-Close, Jenny Morphew, Laurie Slaughter
- d. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by, Gillian Morris seconded by Penny Miller; carried.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting(s)

Motion to approve minutes: moved by Margaret Lodge; seconded by Michael Perkin; approved.

3. Business arising from previous meeting(s)

i) Budget 2017

Parish Council reviewed and had continued discussion of the proposed 2017 budget.

Vestry Sunday- Coffee Hour will be a bit earlier this year and so it was decided to forgo sandwiches and have muffins, cheese and fruit instead provided by members of Parish Council.

We welcomed Georgia Roberts as our new treasurer and she will present the 2017 budget to Vestry with help from Joy Bowerman.

4. Regular Reports

a. Rector's Report

Fr. Jim discussed what would be happening in Lent. There will be an Ash Wednesday service in the evening and was wondering about the morning service. During Lent there will be a Lenten bible study, "Journey to Jerusalem" based on the Gospel of St. Luke. Fr. Jim is also planning a teaching Eucharist during Lent as well.

b. Warden's Report/ Property

Georgia Roberts has accepted the position of treasurer. Corporation is still seeking a warden to replace Sharon Walter.

Property: Corporation is looking at improving the consistency of WIFI in Bishop Reed Hall. This would allow us to use a portable speaker in the hall. Steve Close is doing the research.

The slow leak in the church appears to be from the flat part of the roof, it is thought that if it had more of an angle it might improve. Paul Greer has been removing snow from that part of the roof. Ray Davidson mentioned that the large snow pile at the entrance to the parking lot is causing difficulties in seeing the road and oncoming traffic. This is a safety issue.

It is requested that if one finds a damaged chair in the hall please mark it for repair and set it aside rather than placing it in one of the stacks for storage.

c. Treasurer

2017 Budget- Georgia Roberts reviewed the January 2017 budget figures.

d. Membership/ Vitality

Membership February 2017

Membership

No new members

1 death

Presently have 189 family units

Vitality

We have agreed to help raise \$5000 through social activities again for 2017.

The group met in January to plan programs for 2017.

Definite dates so far:

- March 8 to April 5 – Lenten Study Wednesday 10am – still being planned
- April 23 – St Mark’s patronal feast (25th) parish lunch – still being planned
- April 26 – Card Party - being planned by Carol Russell and Pat Sinclair
- April 30 - Songs 4 the Soul 2 – parish choral workshop with Choir/vitality planning
- June 3 - Big Give in June – this might be part of a weekend Doors Open project
- June 25 – Canada 150 tea and evensong – still being planned

Other possible events not specified yet:

- Garage Sale in May 13/27 ?
- 1 parish supper (fall)
- 1 or 2 non-parish entertainment program (fall). Stairwell Carollers was a big success both in attendance and funds raised. They are being contacted for December 2017.

Parish Events not part of Vitality:

- Feb 28 – Pancake Supper – Kate & Steve Close
- March 12 – Parish Breakfast (also September and November) - Brian Harrison
- April 1 – Art Show – Georgia Roberts / Jackie Sorfleet
- May 7 – Tulipathon – Laurie Slaughter
- June 7 – Seniors’ eucharist & lunch – Georgia Roberts & Wellness
- June 18 – Church picnic – Mothers’ Union (date changed to accommodate Canada 150)
- Sept 10 – Breakfast
- Sept 24 – Church BBQ – Mothers’ Union
- Nov 4 – Bazaar – Joy Bowerman
- Nov 12 – Breakfast
- Nov 15 - Seniors’ eucharist & lunch
- Dec 3 - Advent Carols

Communications:

Mark This Word newsletter – deadline is February 12 for Lent issue

Margaret Lodge

Membership

e. Stewardship

Michael Perkin spoke about the May/June stewardship focus that will be a Sunday presentation.

f. Choir

(Originally an email from Kate Greer-Close- read by Ray Davidson)

There were about 10 Choir and 15 congregation who participated in Service for Christian Unity at Greek Church with our neighbours from Madonna. St Mark's choir helped to lead the singing of the English and even joined in the Italian - thanks to Padre Antonio's teaching at our Thursday choir practice. Next years' service is to be held at St Elias on Riverside.

Gillian has stepped down from president of the choir and Kate has stepped from Vice to Pres to begin her term. Ray will continue to serve as rep to PC as Kate already sits on PC as member at large.

The junior choir continues to grow. We now have 8 children who sing with us. Greta's grand-daughter, Jessica, is our newest member.

g. Children and Youth(Sunday School / Junior choir report)

Sunday school has now chosen where to send the funds from the advent wreaths, as you will notice on our board. We donated to Plan International Canada and World Vision, to projects that the children chose.

The older children have been asking more and more questions and have written some of these down and sent them to Bishop Peter (John) for "answers".

We continue to have about 10 children each week.

Kate

h. Outreach

St. Mark's Parish Council Outreach Report

February 8, 2017

Lenten Outreach

At the request of Parish Council, on January 25, Father Jim and I visited the Ottawa Mission on Daly Avenue, in order to become more familiar with the service provided by the Mission's Hospice for the homeless. Sean Wong, the Director personally gave us a tour of the Mission itself first. Its diverse operations that serve a great many men who have nowhere else to turn, is, to say the least, inspiring. Specifically, the Hospice run by the Health Services team at the Mission meets a very urgent need that, in the true spirit of caring for the terminally ill, provides a "home" at the end of life. The Hospice, unlike the Mission's other services, cares for both men and women. While other hospice facilities, on average, care for someone at the end of life for days or weeks, the average stay at the Mission Hospice is six months. The reason for this is that while most people have a home with family or friends to care for them until they need continuous nursing care, people on the street have no home and no one to care for them in their time of greatest need. On each of three floors in one wing of the Mission, there are seven rooms and each room is a single one with a bathroom between two rooms. Nursing and medical staff are present or on call. It is a very different approach from community hospice care in order to meet the specific needs of clientele who are alone, with love and reassuring care.

The experience was a humbling one. That such a professional organization is caring for terminally ill homeless people in a place of peace and safety with an atmosphere of respect and genuine compassion, is an example of true Christian community action. The Ottawa Mission Hospice needs the financial support of all in our community. It would welcome our 2017 Lenten Outreach donations.

Multifaith Housing Initiative

We already have received information this year about the new housing projects that the MFHI in conjunction with other partners, is building in order to provide safe and affordable housing across our city. The ground has been broken for The Haven in Barrhaven, designed to provide various kinds of housing options surrounded by green space. Plans are underway to build Veterans House on the old Rockcliffe Base for veterans of all ages who need a safe and secure place to live. For the last two years we, as a community church group, have supported these initiatives by walking and donating to the MFHI's annual Tulipathon Walk. Last spring 19 walkers representing St. Mark's raised over \$700.00 for this work and in the process won first prize for our church banner over a number of other banners at the walk. The certificate awarded to our group on National Housing Day this past fall, will be displayed on the wall near our coatroom with other awards and certificates. Thus, soon the call will go out to all our members to consider donating to affordable and much needed housing and also to walking at this spring's fundraising event in order to make St. Mark's presence an even greater one of support.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Slaughter

Other Business

a. Notes for the Bulletin

A Reminder- the Purple Property Binder is hanging in the link. Please note your building concerns about the church in it, be they cobwebs to the carpark. We want to know so that they can be fixed if possible.

b. Next meeting: March 8, 2017 please note time change: 7:30 pm following Corporation meeting at 6:30 pm.

c. Penny Miller thanked Suzanne Wilkins for her service to St. Mark's during her 4 year tenure as Warden.

6. Adjournment

The Agenda being completed the meeting adjourned with the Grace at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Perkin, Parish Council Secretary