

St. Mark's Parish Council

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

7:30 pm, Bishop Reed Hall

Present:

Joy Bowerman, Stephen Coaker, Les Cundell, Allen Deering, Cynthia Greer, Fr. Brian Kauk, Riva Lieflander, Jenny Morpew, Gillian Morris, Janis Perkin

Regrets: Wanda Bowman, Judy Corbishley

Absent: Marilyn Benn

Special Guest: Janice Canning

1. **Call to Order** at 7:35 by Allen

2. In the week after All Saints, holding all who have shown the way in our hearts, the Our Father was said

3. Janice Canning spoke on the Best Start Hub which will operate at St. Mark's

Best Start is a provincial initiative which includes a number of different ventures including full day kindergarten. Its goal is to reach kids early and in a more coordinated way. One of the initiatives is to place a hub in higher risk neighborhoods with a goal of intervening early in a community setting. Research has shown that high risk kids are often behind by the time they reach school and have a difficult time catching up. There are a number of factors which define high risk. Perhaps the most common would be ESL and low income. The hubs are placed in a location easy for families to access and in or near schools. Finding space is an issue. The format which will be operated is a drop-in playgroup with caregivers and children. Outside groups such as public health, dental screening, early learning, first words, South Nepean Health Centre will be able to visit the playgroup. It will give a setting to work on early literacy and numeracy with the preschool children. In this area, sixteen families are waiting for word that the playgroup is operating. The playgroup will operate Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11am. This may shift to slightly earlier depending on St. Rita's start time. There will be ½ hour prep before and ½ cleanup at the end. The only conflict we could see from the church's point of view is funerals. We will try to do funerals on those days in the afternoon. If that is not possible, there may be some flexibility with the playgroup. Dola Wollman is the leader for the playgroup. There will be a dry run on November 11 with the anticipated start date being November 16.

4. **Reflection**

Brian offered the reflection based on Dr. Nicolosi, a speaker at the clergy conference. This month we looked at the Cultural mandate. The millennial generation follows gen-x. The cultural mandate looks at bridging the gap between sacred and secular, institutional vs individual, etc. It is looking for an open church with a passion for Jesus. A sheet was circulated showing aspects of an open church: open baptism, open communion, open marriage, open hearts, open minds, open doors. Believing might follow belonging. In baptism, there might be post-catechuminal education, ie. baptize and then study. An open church is about accepting people where they are. How can we faithfully engage with the current culture?

5. **Approval of Agenda**

Cynthia will add memorials in with membership.

Agenda approved (Riva, Janis)

4. Approval of previous minutes.

Under 12a. 3 abstentions, 1 opposed
Eliminate 12c since it duplicates 12 b
Approved as amended. (Gillian, Les)

5. Business arising from previous minutes

- a. Cynthia will reexamine whether Large print versions are actually needed.
- b. Open Table - Despite the motion being passed, corporation did not feel that there was general support for the idea. We will not sign the sponsorship at this time. We feel it would be better to allow some more time to examine the issue. Brian will invite Andrew Stephens-Rennie to preach in the new year and let us know more about it. Andrew is youth ministry development officer for the diocese.

6. Rector's Report

There is no rector's report at this time.

7. Warden's report

- a. Plans are being made for the finance committee to discuss the budget.
- b. Snow removal contract. There is an increase of approx \$65 per month this year, the total would \$2,011.40. Some of the increase is due HST Motion: Accept the contract as proposed. Motion carried (Les, Cynthia)

8. Treasurer's Report

- a. Although the financial picture is not rosy, we did make up a little ground last month. Although our bottom line looks about the same we are actually about \$2,000 better off than we were at the end of last month. The givings for October actually exceeded the budgeted amount so we made up a little bit of ground although the givings are still behind by about \$10,000.
- b. On the balance sheet, the Bell account is no longer there. Donations came in during October which were used to clear the bell account.

9. Property Report

- a. Dan Terriah, a master electrician, came and changed the spotlight bulb in the Sanctuary. Vaughn, Allen, and Lorne helped. He admired our ladder and commented that they do not make them as sturdy as that now. The techniques we used are standard and he had no trouble using our equipment and our methods. He did not charge us and told Lorne to call him when he had some real electrical work to do. We had a master electrician do what a helper should do. Paul Greer has offered to change the bulbs in the future. Dan suggested that we go to Westburne and check out what they have for our replacement bulbs
- b. Lorne noticed that we really need to wear safety helmets when we are holding the ladder for someone doing work overhead. Lorne has bought two for the Church and he will bring his own up and leave it at the Church.
- c. It has been a steady month of odd jobs. Connie cleaned up the outside flower beds with some help from Joyce Dunn on the Navy Lady roses. The work crew, with help from Vaughn, put away the hoses and chairs, swept outside, and picked up leftovers strewn on the lawn. A major clean-up was done downstairs after the Bazaar. The chairs were restacked

downstairs to make more room. Lorne will resort them and throw out any that have major problems.

- d. Lorne with the help of Paul Greer are in the process of making dollies for the plastic chairs. The plastic chairs were used for the Café at the Bazaar and they worked out well.

10. Membership

- a. Cynthia felt more volunteered were needed so she asked if she could speak to the congregation and ask for volunteers. As a result they have developed a brochure to let people know what kind of help they can offer. A copy was circulated. While the brochure gives people the information, we need to be specific and invite people to help. They also have sign up sheets which will be on 2 tables for a few Sundays.
- b. On the nursery front, our older young ones now go into church school which takes some of the pressure off the nursery.
- c. Thanks to Penny Miller, a winter decoration has been put in the upturned bell. Lorne will make benches in the spring. There is a plaque on the wall for the memorial garden.

11. Choir

The Evensong held on October 24 well attended. Advent Carol Service coming up on November 28. Word of mouth advertising is encouraged.

12. Outreach

There is no report at this time.

13. Unfinished business

- a. Vestry 2011. There seems to be no objection to consolidating to one vestry meeting. Motion: Council recommends that all business including all elections be presented at the February vestry. Motion passed (Riva, Jenny)

14. New Business

- a. The bazaar went very well. The total funds raised at this time is just over \$5,100. The mini-bazaar will be held on November 28.
- b. November 28 is also the Sunday for the Silent Night project. This is a similar project the the Amazing Grace project from last year.
- c. Seniors' Residence Exploratory Committee. There have been 3 resignations. It is now a very small committee. There is a concern about loss of continuity since there is nobody from initial committee. John McFarland apparently has new information. The goal of the committee is to clarify the idea and put it before the congregation. The committee will continue. Stephen Coaker volunteered to be on the committee to represent the 8 o'clock congregation.

- 15. Next meeting Tuesday, December 14. Members may bring potluck goodies.

- 16. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 with the Grace. Approved (Les, Steve)
Submitted by Joy Bowerman

