

St. Mark's Parish Council

Draft until approved by next meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

7:30 pm, BRH

Present:

Audia Barnett, Joy Bowerman, Les Cundell, Allen Deering, Jane Delroy, Cynthia Greer, Brian Kauk, Penny Miller, Jenny Morphew, Gillian Morris, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Georgia Roberts, Sheila Vaudrey

Regrets: Gale Deering, Pam Rogers

Absent:

1. **Call to Order** at 7:30 by Les.
2. **Opening Reflections:** Audia Barnett - We know all things work together for good to those who love God (Romans 8: 28)
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Add under other business
 Chancel Lights
 Letter from member of congregation
 Emergency Shelter
Move parish nurse under Warden's report
Jane will be doing Property Report
Approved (Jenny, Penny)
4. **Approval of minutes.**
Approved (Georgia, Allen)
5. **Business arising from previous minutes**
Memorial Funds
 - New plastic covers for the hymn books have been installed. If any deteriorated are found, please give to Sidespeople to give to Jenny
 - Hymn board numbers: Jenny continues to investigate several sources. At the moment, the vest option seems to be the purchase of 2 sets of numbers at about \$40 per set. We will revisit this next month to make a decision
 - Conference Room locked storage will also be revisited next month
6. **Rector's Report**
 - a. Staff meetings (Fr Brian, Janet Helmer, Barbara Hallam-Price, Margaret Pirnat) will take place regularly on Tuesday mornings when everyone is available. Staff meetings often around 10. Arising from this week's meeting:
 - Need to re-establish the Health Committee as soon as possible to support the new parish nurse.

- Lighting in the sanctuary came up at Choir Practice as an issue. The lights are too hot. Is there a solution?
- b. Calendar overview and proposed dates**
- Evensong & potluck dinner: Sun, October 14, 4:30pm
 - Bazaar is November 3.
 - TENTATIVE Senior's service & lunch: Wed, November 21, 11am
 - CHANGE Advent Carol Service: Sun, November 25, 4:30pm (this is being reviewed further after discussion at Parish Council)
 - CHANGE Nine Lessons and Carols: Sun, December 16, 4:30pm
 - Ecumenical service at St Mark's on January 20, 2013, 7:30 pm
- c. Coming events**
- Annual Friends of the Bishop Dinner on November 13
 - The Diocesan GIFT Grants Committee deadlines for submissions are September 30 and December 31
 - Many other events are posted on the rector's bulletin board.
- d.** You can visit <http://office.stmarksottawa.ca> at any time to see if space is available for your group or event. Please call the office to arrange a reservation or booking.
- e.** Paul and Kathie Kompass have expressed interest in running a readers workshop for readers and intercessors.

7. Warden's Report

- a.** Margaret Pirnat resumed work on September 3. She will be working 12 hours per week. Her hours will be 9-12 Monday – Thursday.
- b.** The new parish nurse, Janet Helmer, has signed a 16 month contract for 12 hours per week. Office hours will be on Tuesday morning 8:30 – 12.
- c.** Corporation, Lorne and Joy have been working on rentals at St Mark's. New rental guidelines & policies and rates are being written. We are still looking for a rental coordinator. Georgia raised the issue of when the church and hall were available on Sundays. After discussion, it was decided that rentals will not be available until 1 on Sunday.

8. Treasurer's Report

- a.** Our givings are about \$7,000 behind. This is not a huge increase over June but we are falling slightly farther behind every month.
- b.** Our net income to date is more than expected, due partially to a decrease in expenses (heating and the recently filled parish nurse position which was budgeted to be filled in April) and partially to an increase in rental income. The daycamp over the summer and the Coptic church rentals have doubled the expected rental income. Solar income will likely be more than expected since it has been a sunny summer.
- c.** The Lenten Outreach donations have now been paid out.

9. Property

- a.** It has been a hard summer on the lawns and the flower beds. They did survive and are

coming back to their original quality. Many thanks to Connie, Helen, and Joyce Dunn with grunt labour supplied by Les, Allen, and Alex Dee.

- b. We had one month when the solar panels generated \$1400 in revenue. The summer heat cut into production.
- c. Picking up apples every week has kept Les, Allen, and Lorne busy in August and September. We worked about every week keeping the building and grounds in order. We were having problems getting yard waste out to the garbage so Lorne has been coming up Tuesday nights to put it out.
- d. After complaints from a renter, we opened a basement window to let in fresh air. It worked well and it is much fresher downstairs. The window hinges broke and twisted when we opened the window. It is not quite back together yet, but will be in a few weeks. We will look at adding fresh air with an air exchanger.
- e. Many thanks to Paul who came and did a lot of work changing light bulbs.
- f. One major project was the building of the Best Start storage box. It looks great thanks to Russell Wilkins and Trevor Dee. Lorne was allowed to add his bulk to holding things down or in place. Have a look. It is full and then some.
- g. Lorne repaired the closer on the window near the sink in the kitchen. The replacement closer came from a window that was taken out during the 1992 renovations.

10. Membership

Cynthia is making changes to the information on the information pamphlets.

11. Stewardship

S.P.A.C.E program will initiate second stage after the culmination of the active portion of GIFT is completed (30th October 2012). The following areas will be analyzed for next steps in our stewardship efforts;

- a. Community Consultation; identify and engage community leaders, assess what their needs are and where St. Mark's can be an effective player.
 - be a community that (learns to) speaks its faith openly in non-threatening ways
 - loving and supportive community
 - see the church as something other than a place for worship – expand vision of church
 - exploring partnerships beyond our community of St Mark's proclaiming what we believe both within and outside our communities
 - look at alternative ways of being the faithful, alternatives for worship, explore and respect the diversity of the community and other communities/traditions
 - openness to other expressions and traditions
 - finding human commonality, porous community, proclamation through being
 - attraction rather than promotion, community orientation, open to being a community centre, place where people are respected, welcoming to all
 - there is room for where you are
 - Work with other community organizations such as Nepean, Rideau & Osgoode Community Resource Centre and their Community Voice project (see poster)
- b. Work on Christian education opportunities
 - Awakening the scriptures
 - Contemplative Prayer
 - Listening Skills
 - Pastoral Care Workshops
- c. Explore additional greening solutions

d. Being visible in the community

- Make the Church more visible, especially at night, at Christmas - turn the Trinity memorial into a Christmas tree (solar panels?)
- Thought provoking church signs (visible, welcoming) (sign board available)

12. **Choir**

Choir practice started last Friday. New members would be welcome, especially men.

13. **Outreach**

- a. School supplies have been taken down to Debra-Dynes. They are supplying 300 children with school supplies this year. This time of year is also particularly hard on food banks, with the drain on funds for school supplies.
- b. Claudette is teaching children in her area how to knit. Gillian sent her needles and wool.

14. **Other Business**

a. **GIFT**

• **GIFT Fund Discernment Team Recommendations**

- *Expanding Caring Ministries*
 - **\$1,400** for Parish Nursing Training (already completed reimbursement of parish expenditure)
 - **\$4,000** per year for next 4 years to cover increased hours (starting 2013)
 - *Proclaiming the Word in the 21st Century*
 - **\$300** for the review and analysis of our existing communication infrastructure (sound, internet, telephones, audio visual). This will be a contract for services to determine adequacy of our existing equipment to handle future requirements and make recommendations for enhancement for internal (in church) and external communications.
 - *Reaching out into our community*
 - **\$500**, for the production of a storage container for Best Start program (already completed GIFT team & Corporation consulted prior to start)
 - **\$300**, Mother Union Community Outreach contribution match funds raised from September 2012 BBQ up to \$300
 - *Sustainability*
 - **\$800** to be deposited into St. Mark's Capital Reserve Fund.
 - GIFT campaign is still \$60,000 short of meeting our target. There are still visits to be made in Luke and John phase. Of the commitments so far, \$31,000 has been transferred to us.
 - Motion: Parish council approve the recommendations from the GIFT Fund Discernment Team. Approved (Michael, Allen)
 - Celebration Sunday Most of the celebrations will occur during the service. A letter from Bishop will be read as well as a general invitation to St Thomas the Apostle, for the Sept 18 Diocesan celebration. They also plan to recognize the volunteers and sing the Jubilee hymn with GIFT verse. In the Hall afterward, there will be a slide show of GIFT activities and approved disbursements.
- b. Working group for Chancel Lights will be constituted. There are problems with the lighting in chancel; it is either very hot or you can't see. Jane, in consultation with Lorne and Cynthia will come to parish council in October with a list of names for the committee.
 - c. Letter of concern for setting up and taking down tables was read.

- d. There is an after school care program at St Rita's. They require an emergency plan and have requested the use of our space as an emergency shelter between 3 and 6. This would only be used in case of emergency. Permission will be granted.
- e. PWRDF. Information on the famine in West Africa is on the bulletin board in the hall. The government is matching donations at the moment.
- f. Slim & Trim has started.

15. Parish Council Notes:

- a. Proposed evensong on October 14
- b. Men for the choir.
- c. GIFT allocation
- d. Playgroup and GIFT box
- e. Coptic Church St Mark and St Monica are worshiping weekly on Saturday morning in the church and meeting afterward in Bishop Reed Hall. The service is from 9 until 11:30.
- f. Margaret's office hours.
- g. November 3 is the bazaar

16. The next meeting is October 10 in BRH with reflections by Jenny.

17. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 with the Grace. (Allen, Jenny)

Submitted by Joy Bowerman