

PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Bishop Reed Hall
MINUTES

In attendance: John Hancock, Joan Hounsell, Cynthia Greer, Pauline Adams, Joy Bowerman, Georgia Roberts, Carolyn Findlay, Gillian Morris, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Bill Barber, Rev. Julian Campbell

Regrets

Suzanne Bisson, Joan Grayer

Opening the Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Father Julian Campbell offered prayer.

Approval of the Agenda

Approval was moved by Pauline Adams and seconded by Joy Bowerman *CARRIED*

Business Arising From Previous Meeting

1. Keys and locking up issues: New procedures for using the alarm system were sent out by Joy Bowerman to those who open and close the church on Sundays etc. and Penny Miller sent out the instructions to the regular renters.
2. Lenten Outreach 2024: Council members were asked to recommend and approve the 2024 Lenten Outreach. BELONG OTTAWA which helps support the day programs of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa is one and the other is The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem Advent Appeal. These two choices will be shared at Vestry and printed in the newsletter. The following motion was made: "It is moved that Belong Ottawa and The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem Advent Appeal be our Lenten Outreach for 2024."
Moved by Joy Bowerman and seconded by Cynthia Greer *CARRIED*

Approval of the Minutes from the January 16, 2024 meeting

Approval of the minutes was moved by Joan Hounsell and seconded by Gillian Morris *CARRIED*

Regular Reports

Rector's Report

Rector's Report
13th February 2024

1. Chris and Lisa's wedding was held Saturday 27th January 2024 at 11am. The 8 and 10 am parishioners gave overwhelming support to them.
2. BHM 2024 has begun. So far, we have had Paul Mugarua and The Rev Dr. Anthony Bailey who both did a fantastic job. We look forward to the other activities during the course of the month. The next two Sundays our speakers will be Yolande Parsons and High Commissioner V. Alfred Gray respectively.

3. We are grateful to all those persons who supported BHM's activities on the past weekend which were joint efforts by St. Mark's and St. Thomas' Church. First there was the fashion show at St. Thomas and the panel discussion at St. Mark's which were well received.
 4. 75th Anniversary Committee is headed by Georgia Roberts. The kick off service will be 21st April which will also be observed as St. Mark's Patronal Festival.
 5. I'm currently on call at the Ottawa Hospital on the following dates: Feb. 26-March 3 and March 25-31, 2024.
 6. Check-out the new Clergy Development Check-in! The process to develop this form begins January 2024. Our Deanery is being used as a starter deanery. My appointment with the new archdeacon is February 23rd.
 7. Baptism will be held April 7th. So far there are 3 candidates: the daughter of Sophia and Nnamdi and 2 toddlers associated with Ann Matthew.
 8. The Ojo family welcomed their twins (boy and girl) on 12th February. A Naming Ceremony will be held days after the birth. It's a Nigerian cultural tradition so I will need training from them.
 9. The Induction Service for The Rev Monique Stone was held on Wednesday, February 7th at 7pm. It was followed by a reception in Foundation Hall.
 10. The following is a note from Archdeacon Linda Hill: "I am happy to announce two in-person training dates for churchwardens, treasurers, and clergy. The first will be held on Saturday, April 13: 'Property & Finance'. It will be held at Christ Church Bells Corners. We will gather at 9 am for coffee and then start at 9:30 am, finishing before lunch."
- The second training session was held on Saturday, May 4: 'Governance & Human Resources'. It will be held at St. Aidan's Ottawa. Again, we will gather at 9 am for coffee and then start at 9:30 am, finishing before lunch.
11. With understanding and support, Bishop Shane has accepted the resignation of the Reverend Kerri Brennan as the Incumbent of St. James Manotick, effective June 9, 2024. Kerri remains a priest in good standing under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Ottawa and will continue to chair our Parish Development Subcommittee.
 12. Advent Devotions were held via Zoom @ 6: 30 pm on Sundays for the first 3 Sundays of Advent. They were facilitated by Fr. Julian (Hope and Peace), Keith Wilkins (Joy) and Michael Perkin (Love).

Rectors Warden Report

Rector's Warden Report

February 13, 2024

The Guidelines for a Harmonious and Respectful Environment were shared with council members for review and comments. Joy Bowerman felt that something stronger regarding email was required as the message appeared somewhat hidden. This should be included in the guidelines. It was also felt that it needed to be posted at the church in a prominent place.

St. Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church Guidelines for a Harmonious and Respectful Environment

These Guidelines are based on the Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy. For the purpose of the policy, workplace violence and harassment can occur anywhere where church business and related activities occur. This includes in the church or on church property, at church related social functions, on social media, emails, telephone conversations related to church business and outside church property in the course of church business.

We need to recognize that some situations are not considered harassment including, venting feelings of minor discontent, disagreements or interpersonal conflicts, foolish words where the harm is fleeting.

GUIDELINES

1. Treat others with kindness and respect in a manner free of derogatory or degrading remarks or gestures
2. Be aware that non-verbal communication such as body language can be intimidating
3. Do not engage in sexist, racist, ethnic, gender, ageist, and other jokes that may cause embarrassment
3. Empathize with others and recognize their contributions
4. Be courteous and listen to what others are saying
5. Treat everyone fairly and equitably
6. Apologize willingly and sincerely to people you may have offended
7. Recognize and value diversity in the workplace
8. Remember that everyone's opinion is important
9. Positive communication and collaborative working relationships are encouraged
10. Practice politeness and professionalism

Property Report

Property Report February 2024

The new keypad lock has been installed on the Link door. It is probably advisable to have demonstrations on how to unlock the crash bar for those who open and close the church for different activities. When unlocked the door stays open. A message will be put in the newsletter inviting those who would like to see a demonstration. It was noted that one-time renters would not be given the code to unlock the door.

John Hancock

Treasurer's Report

January 2024 Financial Summary Notes

I have to admit I am rather baffled as to what to say about the January finances.

In the almost 25 years, I have been associated with the finances, I have never seen a January like this one. If you have not looked at the reports yet, let me assure you that this is not bad news.

The offerings income in January was almost \$2,000 higher than both last year and this year's budget and we ended the month with our income exceeding our expenses by almost \$4,000.

In the past few years, there have been several people who have chosen to contribute their entire yearly offering in January, which is traditionally a low month for income and a high month for expenses.

As well this year, we had several donations which were not received by December 31.

We also received the CTF dividends from last year.

The budget comparison for January is always a little odd since it is only for one month. Often, the budgeted amounts for some of the expenses can be quite accurate since I have already seen the bills before the budget is entered.

As lovely as this positive balance is, it is not a trend I expect to continue, and we will continue to watch the finances carefully.

Joy Bowerman

Following the report: Although January is a short report they will get longer as the year goes by. The numbers from the Diocese change over the year. Our Proportional Parish Share (formerly Fair Share) is going down by \$5,000.00. The 2024 CTF Dividend will give a rate of return of 1.02% per unit.

Black History Month 2024 is receiving donations that will offset some of the expenditures. This is partly due to Fr. Julian's announcement and the practice of putting out a basket at Coffee Hour for free will donations.

Membership Report

Membership February 2024

The last 2 Sundays have been much busier in the service, and last week was busy in coffee hour.

The visitors are mainly related to Black history month, but they have their own home church mainly.

While changes are slow, if you hadn't been to St Mark's since before Covid, you would find quite a difference, and some of the 'old' regulars' would not be found. Some of our newest are now 'regulars' and come into coffee and obviously feel at home.

Cynthia Greer

Stewardship Report

February 2024

As we can see from the Financial Report that Joy has distributed, we have realized an increase in general revenue. Joy provides some insights into those increases including those resulting from increased PAR giving and Financial Stewardship donations received after December 31st. Once again, we give thanks to all who participated and another big thanks to those who participated in the delivery of the Stewardship Campaign.

With Lent just around the corner I will be preparing a Stewardship message for the weekly newsletter about sacrificial giving and including the Lent Offering groups we will decide upon at vestry. In addition, I will be posting on Facebook the daily Lent Madness offering. Each day two different saintly persons will be highlighted with interesting biographical aspects, significant contributions, and various other interesting aspects of their lives. Each day we get to vote on different pairs with a winner announced the next day. I have included on separate sheet a score card for those who wish to keep track of their scores. For more information or to subscribe please use the following link.

<https://www.lentmadness.org/>

Outreach Report

Outreach February 2024

1) One delivery from the blue bin of food and toiletries was made to DDFH this past month. I hope to start a Spring Campaign after Vestry.

2) In January I received a letter (through Suzanne Bisson) from Bill Woodley who is the volunteer co-ordinator of the Oxfam Stamp Program. He wrote to thank St Mark's for the very large and useful donations that we make ...thank you Mani Mani.

Bill and I met in person at The Nepean Sportsplex on Jan 26 when I dropped off a large box of stamps (thank you Mani and Joy Bowerman.) Bill took the time to explain the program to me and to give me handouts for anyone interested in learning about the stamp program.

Bill also offered to come to speak to Parish Council at any time.

Nothing else to report at this time.

Joan Hounsell,
Outreach Co-ordinator.

Coffee, Company and, Conversation

February 2024

"-Coffee, Company and Conversation has been steadily growing this year which has been very gratifying.. The number of attendees ranges from low to high 30s.

-For Retired Bishop Coffin's presentation in January, there were 45 people who enjoyed a wonderful morning. I was a highlight at CCC this winter season.

-News of CCC at St. Mark's has spread, not only by word of mouth, but also in Crosstalk, the Council of Aging's weekly newsletter, and now NROCRC's weekly emailed list of community activities. CCC's program in these communications, has brought in a number of new people.

- Coming in late February and March, there will a folk song morning, an Irish Ceildh with dancing, and a gardening talk on eco gardening and the importance of bees in our environment.

- The spring program will be coming out in April in Crosstalk and on posters.

- The CCC team of Suzanne, Georgia, Penny, Gillian and Laurie are grateful for all the support that St. Mark's members provide in order to make this Community Outreach a success. "

Laurie Slaughter (screen shot of an email)

Choir Report

Choir February 2024

We are continuing well, considering. We have been very flexible so far and are very much hoping for a more permanent situation next Fall. Glenn is being very relaxed and trying not to stress us. However, I told him that I'm used to being stressed in choir. Lack of stress makes me think I'm missing something somewhere!
We are enjoying some slight differences in the service music for black history month.
Ash Wednesday on the 14th of February might cause some changes, if only in the lack of Hallelujahs.
Cynthia Greer

New Business

Signage

Bill Barber let council know that there is a need for more letters in red to use in our sign which faces both Fisher and Normandy. He will look at purchasing more.

Pancake Supper

Bill Barber asked if there was ever going to be another Pancake Supper for St. Mark's. It was noted that the manpower needed to accomplish this was lacking at the moment.

Nominations Committee

The present nominations committee reviewed the composition of committee members and have recommended that it be reduced to 4 members. A motion will be brought to Vestry 2024.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be Tuesday, March 13th at 7 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am with the saying of the Grace.

Respectfully submitted by Janis Perkin