

PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Bishop Reed Hall
MINUTES

In attendance: John Hancock, Joan Hounsell, Pauline Adams, Joy Bowerman, Carolyn Findlay, Gillian Morris, Janis Perkin, Bill Barber, Rev. Julian Campbell, Mike Duval, Joseph Amuah, Suzanne Bisson, Cynthia Greer

1. Opening the Meeting

- a) The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Joseph Amuah
- b) Father Julian Campbell offered a prayer
- c) Regrets: Georgia Roberts, Michael Perkin
- d) Approval of the Agenda
Approval of the agenda was moved by Janis Perkin and seconded by Michael Duval.
CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of March 12, 2024

Joseph Amuah's last name was misspelt as " Amuan" on Page 2 under Signing Authority.

The minutes were approved by Joy Bowerman and seconded by Pauline Adams. *CARRIED*

3. Business arising from previous meeting (s)

- a) Update on the gardens by Joan Grayer
Since Bill Barber raised the need for more help with the church gardens, Bruce Robertson has volunteered to work on our gardens, bringing with him his experience as a professional landscaper.

Mike Duval has already been busy cutting the grass. He and I will concentrate on the front area of the church for now while Bruce continues with the Link and front area.
- b) Garbage and recycling
This issue has been resolved as the Custodian is regularly putting out the garbage and recycling.

4. Regular Reports

a) Rector's Report

1. The kick-off service for the 75th was held on 21st April which was observed as St. Mark's Patronal Festival. There was a great response for the first event and we look forward to the others.
2. After discussions with Suzanne Bisson and Joseph Amuah, Joseph will officially take over from Suzanne in September 2024 as Rector's Warden.
3. I'm now on call for the following dates: May 20 to May 26, and June 10 to June 16, 2024.
4. The Viewmount home (Sheila Pitt) visit is now scheduled for 27th June 2024.
5. I met with Rose (custodian) to deal with several personal matters. She outlined the horror of residential schools and their impact on her entire family. She is hurt by the microaggression and overt aggression from St. Mark's members, and the diocese's tepid response in taking concrete action for her people. We have set a plan moving forward.
6. The lower hall is being renovated by the Kung Fu group (Dan Walls). As a result, the Corporation has agreed for them to forego rental for a year, retroactive January 2024.
7. To be proactive Corporation has agreed to notify anyone by way of the bulletin who might be uncomfortable being live-streamed to sit at the back of the church.
8. The energy that new members bring to the congregation is commendable.
9. Funeral services have already been planned for a lady from the Caribbean.
10. Janis and Michael's 50th wedding anniversary will be celebrated on June 9th during the 10 am Eucharist service.

Diocese

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. Liana Gallant: Pastoral Associate (diaconal) at St. James Perth, effective May 30, 2024.
Karen McBride: Deacon-in-Charge of the parish of Julian of Norwich, effective May 30, 2024.
The Reverend John Holgate: Incumbent of the parish of St. James Manotick, effective July 30, 2024.
Bishop ShanPe is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Christine Muise as PAssociate Incumbent of the Parish of the Valley, effective September 1, 2024.

13. Clericus is scheduled for May 21st @ St. Stephen's Church. Bishop Shane Parker will be in attendance and will be the guest speaker.
14. Bishop Shane announces the appointment of The Reverend Jonathan Askwith: Interim Associate Incumbent of the Parish of St. Helen's Orleans, effective May 29, 2024. Bishop Shane also announces the appointment of the Reverend Christine Muise as Associate Incumbent of the Parish of the Valley, effective September 1, 2024.
15. The Diocese is about to restructure the youth department. Donna Rourk's tenure ends in June 2024 and will not be renewed. Dean Beth, Christ Church Cathedral, will now spearhead youth activities in the diocese. The Dean advised that the first major activity is scheduled for October 2024.
16. Ascension House is in the process of improving services to the wider diocese, with greater emphasis on prompt response and professionalism in terms of communication.
17. Bishop Shane has advised that he will be responding to the report that was submitted to the diocese a few weeks ago. This came about as a result of an interview that was conducted by Archdeacon Ottley .

b) Rector Warden's Report

- **75th Anniversary**

Sunday, May 26

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of St. Mark's, we will be planting a tree in the front area facing Fisher Avenue, close to where the apple tree was removed. This will take place on May 26 between the two services - approximately 9:00 - 9:15. To date, we have not determined the type of tree, but the one we purchase will be small as we plan to dig the hole manually. The City forestry department advises that when they plant trees manually, they do not have to check for buried utilities. The funding for the tree will come from the 'tree care fund', which has a balance of \$900. Suzanne Bisson, Georgia Roberts with Russel Wilkins' oversight will assist with the selection and planting of the tree. Both local councillors, Sean Devine and Riley Brockington are interested in attending this event.

Strawberry Social on June 22

Mother's Union will be organizing this event. Specifically Janis Perkin and Margaret Lodge will be co-ordinating the food. It has not yet been confirmed as to what we will be charging for the event - this will be a ticketed event and we hope to limit the attendance to 60. Mother's Union will be meeting on May 15 to finalize the plans.

Letters sent at the end of April.

Invitation letters about the 75th anniversary were sent to former priests of St Mark's. As well an informative letter was sent to those stay-at-home parishioners letting them know of the upcoming events.

- **Learning Commons Workshop**

On May 4, Fr. Julian and the Wardens attended a workshop of Governance, Employment Issues and Safe Church.

We reviewed the Canons and ByLaws relating specifically to churchwardens. It was stressed that both churchwardens and the incumbent are deemed to be the trustees of the parish. The two wardens cannot exercise their powers separately, and neither can act without the consent of the other. One of the wardens should always attend Synod.

It was also mentioned that members of Parish Council be involved in all aspects of the parish. Members should be active and look at and make decisions based on the overall vision of the parish.

It was stressed that emails should be used for transactional business or thanking someone for a good job. Do not put sensitive issues in emails, and remember the federal policy on Access to Information (ATIP) so ensure that a specific church email is used for church business. The parish administrator has set up church emails for Corporation, including the deputy wardens. And lastly, if the incumbent is listed in the email, the church wardens should be included and vice versa.

Outstanding Minutes, Vestry Reports and Financial Statements:

We reviewed the guidelines for minute-taking and that all reports distributed at meetings should be included with the minutes. As well, copies of all minutes and supporting documents are to be sent to the diocesan archives. This includes Vestry minutes, our audited financial statements and PC minutes. Corporation has spoken to Dr. Glen Lockwood, the Anglican Diocese Archivist with respect to these documents and it appears that vestry reports and financial statements are missing for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019 up to the present time. These reports were to be sent along with our annual statistical returns. As well, none of our Parish Council minutes were sent to the diocese. Copies of our Church Register are missing except for 2009 and 2015. Corporation has requested the Parish Administrator to follow-up on this and is more than willing to assist with this task.

c) Property Report

Our basement renters offered to tidy the main basement and to paint the floor and walls. This work is in progress and nearing completion.

Two of our parishioners, Mike Duval and Bruce Robertson have offered to work on the gardens around the church property. They have started this activity.

The solar panel suppliers in California have noted a reduction of our solar power output and recommended that we contact our maintenance contractor. I am aware that nine of the inverters are not reporting activity, and will follow up with Execon roofing and Solar.

John Hancock

d) Treasurer's Report

April was not a great month for us. Our collections income was less than projected and is now almost \$6,000 behind what was expected so far this year. Our user fees were up last month, still leaving our general

income about \$4,000 less than expected.

We also had higher than expected expenses due to the blocked drain line. To the end of April, our expenses exceeded are income by \$11,711. Our position is about \$2,000 worse than expected.

For the first time in a number of years, our negative net income has exceeded our accumulated funds leaving our total equity at -\$773. We are now living off of our reserve accounts.

Joy Bowerman

e) Membership

There has been very little change in membership. We removed a few names, or the emails, sometimes of people who are no longer able to receive emails or even calls.

The directory is at last ready. People must send in a request to the office, or sign up on the sheet in the Link, and have their own name in the directory, to receive one. Privacy rules.

I would like to note that it would help both Membership, and the people at the service, if the sidespersons always sit where they can be of use to newcomers, late comers, people with children and so on. Also for someone who may need a glass of water, or be 'lost' in the service. There are always crayons and sheets of paper, extra binders, and children's story books. Please be ready to offer them to parents for their little ones. You don't need to be a sidesperson to offer these things. It's just difficult for me to have to disturb everyone if I come from the choir, though they can likely tell I'm anxiously searching, usually for Gill to give them out.

Cynthia Greer

f) Stewardship Report

I have always enjoyed writing with a fountain pen. It makes me slow down and my usual chicken scrawl becomes somewhat more legible. My recent knee surgery has had the same effect. I have slowed down out of necessity but I have also had to rein in my expectations and recognize my current limitations. Slowing down has also allowed me to reflect on how I might have been taking things somewhat for granted. Although it has been less than a week I have had innumerable offers of assistance, heartfelt gifts of prayer and support which has resulted in an overwhelming sense of being in community.

The love and caring coming out of my St. Mark's community has been awesome. I cannot help but think that we as a community have fully embraced Jesus's great commandment that we love each other as he loved us. Experiencing that love first hand gives me hope and a more optimistic view of what lies before us.

I look forward to producing our next Stewardship thought for the May electronic bulletin. May our Lord continue to nurture our community at St. Mark's and open up new opportunities for us

to be the hands and feet of Chris in our world.

Michael Perkin

g) Outreach Report

1.) St Mark's Spring Campaign is focused on the nutritional health of the children living in the Debra Dynes community. The Family House is currently making lunches daily for 50 plus children and giving out supper to 25 children. I have posted in the link a list of nourishing suggestions that I received from Barbara Carroll.

Over the past month I have delivered food, cash and personal items which were gratefully received. This campaign will continue until May 31.

2) Stamps were dropped off last Thursday to Bob from Oxfam.

Joan Hounsell,
Outreach Co-ordinator.

Coffee, Company & Conversation Update

The spring season of CCC has seen a continued rise in numbers attending. On April 11 for Mark Van Dusen's very popular and humourous, personal presentation, there were 48 people present. He was a big hit. In the following weeks, the numbers have ranged from 33 to 39 depending on weather and activity.

"Show and Share", a new event, on April 25, was fascinating. Various people shared their hobbies or interests with the group. Their talents/skills included soapstone carving, quilting, knitting, porcelain painting, writing, photography, creatively designed handmade cards and notes, flute playing, pets and adult colouring books. There now is a new knowledge about and appreciation for fellow CCC attendees.

On May 16, Meg Stikl, a fitness expert on ageing in a healthy way through nutrition and movement, will present with both a slide presentation and demonstration.

She is a regular on Rogers TV.

Plaid, the lively 5 piece musical group, led by Leslie Worden, well known at St. Mark's, will be entertaining on May 30.

In June, on the 13th, crime writer Brenda Chapman will give a talk. The author of over 20 books, Brenda is a member of Crime Writers of Canada and the Capital Crime Writer organization.

The season will end on the 20th of June with the End of Season Celebration Lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Slaughter for Outreach

h) Choir Report

Things are working out well so far with Elaine Graham. She is a teacher by profession, which is obvious to me, and is very organized. She is a good teacher, and we get through a lot of work each week. At this point we don't have people butting in, and passing unnecessary comments during the practice, so it is working well.

There are a few kinks to work out, because our agreement is for her to have 1 week off a month, and Elaine is trying to ensure that by September this will be sorted out, and she will have the same replacement each time. She prepares things well ahead of time, so we have time to practice, even though we have had a couple of unexpected glitches !!!

We are very happy to have Elaine with us.

Cynthia

5. New Business

There was no new business discussed at this meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be Tuesday, June 11th at 7 pm.

Adjournment

Joy Bowerman moved to adjourn the meeting and Mike Duval seconded it. *CARRIED*

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. with the saying of the Grace.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Grayer