



St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes of August 25, 2009

Present

Jim Stirling, Chair	Valerie Cuthbert	Terry McCoy
Christine Ledbury, Secretary	Don Davidson	Gerry McGregor
Karen Baker	Murray Gamble	Judy Proctor
Susan Butt	Gladys Grant	John Ryrie
Marcia Condon	Jean Horne	Brian Tomka
April Couzens-Brown	Steve Lipkowski	Margaret Walker
Nelson Cuthbert		

Regrets

Nathan Butt	Reta Risto	John Shaw
Ivan Mariapen		

1. Call to Order

On behalf of Council, Jean Horne presented Margaret Walker with a thank you gift for all the work she has done while serving on Council. She will be greatly missed.

2. Regrets

3. Devotions

Margaret Walker led devotions with a reading entitled *The Mayonnaise Jar - and Coffee* followed by prayer.

4. Reading and Acceptance of the Minutes

The minutes of the May 26, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.
Gladys Grant, seconded by John Ryrie. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Marcia Condon asked about the vouchers to be given to newcomers on bagel Sunday. No formal motion had been made over this, but consensus was that it should go ahead and that vouchers would be made available in the office.

6. Committee Reports (Standing Committees)

a) Executive Committee

Jim Stirling reported that the summer had gone well with regard to the one service being held on Sundays. An idea had been discussed among the Executive that low Sundays in the year be held at 9:00 a.m., with the suggestion that December 27 be the first to be held as this is generally a low Sunday. One member said that she did not like the sung version of the Lord's Prayer and would prefer to have it said or chanted as in the past. This led to a discussion on the fact that the children in Sunday School do not recite the Lord's Prayer, but that Alison Olmstead has been made aware of this omission and is prepared to remedy it. Nelson Cuthbert will take Gladys' concern and the following motion to consider one service on low Sundays to the Worship Committee.

Motion: That the Worship Committee consider December 27, 2009 and January 3, 2010 as single service Sundays.

Judy Proctor, seconded Brian Tomka. Carried.

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Jim Stirling reminded members that Thompson Hall and the classrooms will be cleaned and repolished. It was noted that after the installation of the new toilets, there was considerable staining around the bases of the toilets. He asked Council's advice on whether the cleaning company should be asked to clean these areas while doing the rest of the basement floors. The answer was yes.

The Rector reported that Laura Lightfoot was to become our official student as of September 1. In her second semester, she will be working on units of time, and will be doing six days full time each week, which coincides nicely with Marita being away in Jamaica at this time.

b) Finance

Steve Lipkowski reported that regular donations to the parish are down from 2008, but capital donations are up, making total donations from parishioners down by \$1,351 over 2008. Fundraising was up due to the auction. At this time total revenue is up by \$1,884 over 2008.

Wages and benefits are over budget, partly due to an increase in travel expenses and additional staff. The explanation for the higher travel costs was that the Rector wants to share some of his travel times but is no longer able to, and that travel costs for the Youth Minister had not been budgeted for. Worship and Stewardship are in line with budget. There was an increase to the Church expenses in May due to \$9,000 for roof expenses. Overall, there is a net deficit in the operating budget of \$1,302. Steve will check on the roof expenses from last year to find any variance from what is shown in his budget for the period to June 30, 2009.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Brian Tomka, seconded Judy Proctor. Carried.

c) Property

Murray Gamble reported that the HVAC is to be painted at any time. The washroom upgrades are complete. Estimates for a replacement wooden door are being obtained. The volunteer program for lawn cutting it at a bare minimum (two or three people only have kept the lawn cut this summer). Unless more regular volunteers come forward, he would be including an allowance in the budget next year to cover an outside company to do this. Jim Stirling noted that to have both snow removal and grass cutting done, the cost would be around \$8,000/year (it is currently \$5,000 for the snow clearing). Karen Baker noted that if a property is well maintained it is readily noticed by the public; if not, then it is possibly seen as uncared for. Murray said that the parking lot lines/signs would hopefully be painted/installed before the winter months.

d) Outreach

Susan Butt reported that the summer Camp has been doing extremely well this year, with 216 camp spots being filled. On average there have been between 23-31 children attending per week, with 51 full bursaries and 24 partial bursaries being issued. The largest expense for the camp, as expected, has been salaries, plus weekly swimming excursions come with a high cost – this is because of the ages of the children and the number of adults required to attend/help with the children; the ratio per child is very low (2-1). Donations were received from the community and HRDSC, plus parishioners of St. Georges were very generous donating \$10,499.50.

e) Worship

At the last meeting of the Worship Committee, Nelson noted that Rob has been very enthusiastic about the music, and would like to meet with young people during the coffee hour after service to practise music. He is also getting the Praise Band up and running in the fall. September 6 is the last Sunday for the joint 9:00 a.m. service, with September 13 being the first one back at the regular times of 8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Nelson is trying to get something in place for the children on the 6th before the official start of Sunday School. Sunday School is larger than last year. There is a new curriculum which gives each child their own, which stays at the church. Barb Heppler has stepped down as a leader, and a replacement is needed.

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Kyla Weisner has done a wonderful job with the youth of the parish; unfortunately she handed in her notice as of July 2 and will be leaving K-W for Belleville, where her husband, Pastor Rob, will be taking on a new position. Nelson has sent out a new advertisement for this position and is hopeful that a new person will be in place by the end of September. The parish is down to two lay readers and a new co-ordinator is needed to lead this small group in addition to new lay readers. Another intercessor is also needed. Kate Durdan will draw up the schedules for the intercessors. John Ryrice suggested that a page be allocated for insertion in the weekly bulletin, to listing the positions needing to be filled in the various ministries of the church.

The Altar Guild has new red hangings which will be dedicated on Sunday, October 18 (St. Luke's Day).

The new Principal of Renison College will be installed at St. George's on September 12, and on November 13, Terry Dance will be at St. George's officiating at the confirmation service. He is staying overnight in the area and is willing to spend time with St. George's. The Worship Committee are thinking of ways that we can involve him in the parish for that day. The making of prayer quilts is still ongoing. The day camp children were involved in the making of a quilt for a two year old girl with a brain tumour, which they presented personally to her at the church. Intinction is still not permitted during communion and a notice to this effect will be put in the weekly bulletin. ROOF and "Out of the Cold" programs have asked that they might use the milk bag mats that have been made by parishioners and that can no longer be sent overseas. And finally, a communication person will hopefully be in place by the fall.

The Rector added that there are two very special needs children now in the Sunday School, both of whom need people to both stay with them before Sunday School begins and also to work with them on a one-to-one basis.

f) Stewardship

John Ryrice reported that the fix-it campaign now has over \$8,000 in total. Also, the deadline for the next newsletter is September 13.

g) Rector's Report

The Altar Guild has recently been taking meals to Betty Tease, a parishioner with cancer. Betty has now been admitted to Lisaard House in Cambridge, and meals are no longer required to be taken to her home.

7. *New Business*

a) Counter Schedule

John Ryrice is working on a new schedule for counters and overseers.

b) Church Sign

Brian Tomka has obtained information from local companies for a new sign to replace the one that is perpendicular to the church building. Digital signs are very expensive and as one member noted, the message is not always readable while driving past. After discussion, it was decided that this should go back to the Magnetic Church Committee and Brian would then bring a summary back to the next Council meeting. Council should decide on two sample signs which would then go to Vestry for approval. The sign at the back driveway would have to go on the left side of the driveway as you exit (the owner has no objection to this). The owner of the house on the other side of the driveway would not talk with Brian. Nelson and Murray thanked Brian for his hard work on this.

c) Magnetic Church Committee

This Committee met on Monday and looked at signage inside the church. Directional signs are needed for the Fireside Room, Nursery, washrooms, etc. Four new families have shown an interest in joining the

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church with two requesting envelopes. It has been noted that the newcomers to the church have been multicultural which could possibly have something to do with the addition of Marita to the church. And it should be noted that the wall hangings in the church have now been labelled, thanks to Karen Baker.

Jim Stirling read a letter which the Executive had received from a parishioner noting her disappointment in the repainted church doors. Having been told that they would be painted red, and the significance of red doors, she was disappointed on arriving at the church last Sunday morning to find that they were now a rust or orange shade. It was explained that both the paint and the time to paint the doors had been donated. This issue will go back to the Magnetic Church Committee and the doors will be painted the correct shade in the near future.

Motion: That Council have the doors repainted red.
Jean Home, seconded Terry McCoy. Carried.

d) Stop, Start, Continue

Jim Stirling explained his large calendar and had filled in some items that he knew about. A large calendar needs to be displayed in the Narthex so that the congregation can see what is upcoming in the church. He wants to encourage people (Council members) to run with the idea of the calendar and have them take on and contact others to work on specific functions. He asked for ideas for the start-up Sunday on September 13 and suggested it be called Rally Sunday in order to get people enthused about the coming church year.

Planning for the Turkey Supper should be started now and a person is needed to organize it. Reta will be asked if she is willing to help with this. Traditionally the supper has been held the Tuesday of the week before Thanksgiving – this year it would be October 6. Brian Tomka will enquire about health regulations regarding the cooking and serving of turkey at the church (or in people's homes).

e) Rally Sunday, September 13

What do we want to do on this day? What would the Sunday School like to do? This would be a perfect time to have name tags. Susan Butt and April Couzens-Brown offered to take care of the name tag table for 10:00 a.m., and Gerry McGregor and Marcia Condon for the 8:15 a.m. Val Cuthbert offered to organize the coffee and sweets (muffins, coffee cake, etc.). Bagel Sunday will be on September 6.

Members were asked to sign up for a coffee hour before leaving the meeting.

8. Old Business

There was none.

9. Correspondence

Letter read by Jim Stirling under item b) Magnetic Church Committee.

10. Dates to Remember

1. Next meeting of Council - September 22, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
Devotions - Laura Lightfoot
Refreshments - John Ryrie

Motion to adjourn: Karen Baker, Judy Proctor - 9:45 p.m.