



St. George's of Forest Hill

Parish Council Minutes of September 22, 2009

Present

Reta Risto, Chair	Valerie Cuthbert	Judy Proctor
Nelson Cuthbert, Secretary	Don Davidson	John Ryrie
Karen Baker	Laura Lightfoot	John Shaw
Susan Butt	Steve Lipkowski	Jim Stirling
Marcia Condon	Ivan Mariapen	Brian Tomka
April Couzens-Brown	Gerry McGregor	

Regrets

Nathan Butt	Jean Horne	John Ryrie
Murray Gamble	Christine Ledbury	
Gladys Grant	Terry McCoy	

1. Call to Order

Reta Risto welcomed all to the September meeting of Council.

2. Regrets

Please see above.

3. Devotions

Laura Lightfoot read from Proverbs 3: 1-12, followed by prayer.

4. Reading and Acceptance of Minutes

Item #6(b) should read "Overall, there is an **increase over 2008 in the** net deficit in the operating budget of \$ 1,302." After noting this change, the minutes were approved as distributed. John Shaw, seconded by Judy Proctor. Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) ***Turkey Supper:*** This agenda item was shifted to agenda item#7 - "New Business".
- b) ***Rally Sunday:*** Jim Stirling thanked all of the volunteers for their work in making our first Sunday back such a success (name tags and welcome table, treats for coffee hour after each service, startup registration for Sunday School, the Rally Sunday service programming, etc.). Well done! Judy Proctor recommended the need for additional coffee urns in the kitchen for these types of occasions. Mention was made that we do have additional large coffee urns; however, they are located in the electrical room. April Couzens-Brown commented positively on the name tag/welcome table (with balloons) and offered the thought that this might be a welcome and permanent item in the Narthex. This will be referred to the Magnetic Church Committee for consideration.

6. Committee Reports (Standing Committees)

- a) Executive Report: (Fr. Don)
 - i) ***Faith Life Financial:*** Cathy Pettit from Faith Life Financial made a presentation to

Executive Committee earlier this month offering a service for our consideration. There is a minimum of five members of St. George's who buy products (insurance, etc.) from Faith Life Financial. This qualifies St. George's to become a Faith Life Financial "Chapter". In doing so, St. George's will receive a startup grant of \$500 as well as an annual opportunity to receive up to a maximum of \$1,500 each year in matching grants for any fundraising opportunity undertaken by our church as long as the request is made for same in timely fashion before October each calendar year. Faith Life Financial will also provide paper products (serviettes, etc.) free upon our request for such events as required. The only caveat is that a Faith Life Representative would like to be present annually to present the cheque to our church at/near the event being supported. Don Davidson would complete the paperwork required as he is one of the five who has purchased product(s) from Faith Life Financial. This opportunity is provided to different faith groups in the community as part of their Charter (to give freely back to the community). Faith Life Financial does not require any further business to be done like selling insurance products, etc. Parish Council was in favour and Don will complete the necessary paperwork.

- ii) *Church Website Training Workshop by Diocese:* This will be held at St. George's on Wed. Oct. 28, 2009 at 7 pm and is open to anyone. Alison Olmsted is our Webmaster and Mike Relf helps.
 - iii) *Adult Book Study:* On Thursdays (7-8pm) beginning sometime in October, Fr. Don will be offering a 12-week adult book study based upon "First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom". More information/advertisement will be provided before it commences as the materials have not arrived.
 - iv) *Visit by Bishop Terry Dance:* Our new bishop will be at St. George's from Thurs. Nov. 12 to Fri. Nov. 13 for the Deanery Confirmation (Thurs. Nov. 12) as well as for a significant visit with various St. George's people/groups on Fri. Nov. 13. We are planning a Church Pork Supper on Fri. Nov.13 with the Bishop as the featured guest.
- b) **Financial Report: (Steve Lipkowski)**
Please see the attached report. Again, wages and benefits are over budget due to higher than normal travelling costs of our clerical team and the stipend for Kyla Wiesner (which is covered through a donation reflected in line item#1 Parishioner Donations). Line item#12 Property-Church is significantly higher than normal as the result of \$ 11,000 spent on new carpet and roof repairs. However, line item#20 adjusts for this as it is linked back to donations already received last year and accounted for. Line item#13 Worship shows a significant increase due to the fact that music is now being purchased again through the auspices of our new Music Director. This was not occurring last year. Line item#17 Renison College: This variance will be in line by year's end. As usual, givings over the summer were down. We continue to pray for a solid fall and Christmas in terms of givings so that we can be positioned well financially heading into 2010. Regular reporting to the Congregation will occur in this regard. Steve Lipkowski, seconded by Valerie Cuthbert.

- c) **Father Don's Report:**
- i) *Confirmation:* 17 candidates from St. George's will be confirmed on Thurs. Nov. 12 with Bishop Terry Dance in attendance. This is a deanery confirmation and will see confirmands from other Parishes in the Deanery in attendance. The Bishop will stay overnight and be with us throughout Fri. Nov. 13 for a very full day. The plan thus far is: visit shut-ins in the morning; lunch with the Magnetic Church Group; meeting with the Long Term Planning Group after lunch; meeting with other groups (like the Youth Group) later in the afternoon; Church Pork Supper with the Bishop as the honoured Guest. More information will come in this regard.
 - ii) *Refugee Sponsorship:* There is an October 1st meeting of the Steering Group. 12 of 14 Parishes have pledged support. We would take the family in highest need. Fr. Don provided details of the Burmese Family. \$14,000 is the total sponsorship commitment with each parish providing about \$1,200 and the Federal Government and PWRDF providing additional funds.
 - iii) *Week of Service (Nov. 15-22):* As announced last Sunday, each church member is encouraged to provide 2 hours of community service throughout the identified week in November. The hours donated will be recognized in the Spring at a church service in the Diocese.
 - iv) *Milk Bag Mats:* Laura Lightfoot reported that this initiative was discontinued due to fire hazards associated with the mats. Instead, another initiative has begun in the making of pneumonia vests for the Canadian Food for Children in Toronto. Lillian Cressman is now collecting yarn. Volunteers are needed.
 - v) *Laura Lightfoot's Placement at St. George's:* Laura reported that her placement has officially started. She will be at St. George's on Tuesdays. Part of her mandate is to attend and observe meetings in action to see how/why they work as they do. This will assist her in getting the details for the bigger picture of how St. George's functions. Laura provided details of an upcoming opportunity for us to attend a public lecture at Huron College on Oct. 14th beginning at 8 pm on "Reasoning and Scripture" which promises to be a great lecture. Laura also asked for feedback on her work as well as informing us that she has a "learning support group" which meets on a regular basis with her for feedback and support.
- d) *Worship Report:* (Nelson Cuthbert)
- There has not been a meeting of the Worship Committee this month. However, Nelson is overseeing the process to hire a replacement for Kyla Wiesner, Youth Support Worker. Advertising for the position has occurred in various venues including the Huron Church News. Interviewing will occur this Saturday morning. Hopefully, we will have a decision soon and a person selected and starting in early October. Valerie Cuthbert noted that Margaret Walker advised of an upcoming worship opportunity: U2CHARIST II – St. Paul's Cathedral in London is hosting this event with guest speaker, Rachel Johnson, RN. Internationally known U2 Tribute Band – Elevation will be featured as well in this lively service of praise. Laura Lightfoot also advertised another opportunity for Youth entitled "Crash the Cathedral" in which young Anglicans celebrate God in a

contemporary style of worship. The dates for this event are: Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18 all beginning at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. It is the hope that our new Youth Ministry Worker will advertise and take interested youth to these events.

e) *Property Report:* (Jim Stirling)

A lot has been done in this area: exterior electrical work; eavestrough work; tree pruning at the front of the church; door painting; wasp control; painting of picnic tables; cleaning/painting HVAC in the sanctuary; floors cleaned and waxed in the basement; new tiles in the kitchen; new chair dolly for Thompson Hall; Canadian Tire donation box in the Narthex. Ivan Mariapen reported that Canadian Tire is about to be approached formally for donations of tools to St. George's. Valerie Cuthbert expressed sincere thanks to the Property Committee, the Garden Guild and the Camp for all of the wonderful work which has occurred over the summer. The Church looks great and the work of all is appreciated! Parish Council agreed wholeheartedly!

f) *Stewardship:* (Fr. Don)

i) *Dragon Flyer:* This is being prepared now and will be available this Sunday (Thanksgiving Issue).

ii) *Magnetic Church Committee:* This committee has been meeting and will give a report at the next Parish Council Meeting. We await further reports anxiously.

iii) *Newcomer Greeters:* Ruth Pearce chairs this group which has been meeting. We have 8 teams of two. Fr. Don reports that this works very well and gives him an opportunity to talk to the newcomers during coffee hour after some time has been invested in welcoming the newcomers by the Newcomer Greeters.

g) *Outreach:* (Reta Risto)

This committee continues to be quite active. The Ice Cream Initiative at St. John's Kitchen has provided ice cream on four separate occasions and continues to be very well-received and appreciated. Further Outreach initiatives planned are as follows: Used winter clothes and boots will be collected starting in late October for donation to the Salvation Army; Donations for "Toonie November" will occur to support "Nutrition for Learning" which provides breakfasts for elementary school students in the area. Discussion occurred about this particular initiative and concerns were expressed. Judy Proctor noted significant support in this area through various service groups and businesses. Brian Tompka wondered about supporting a particular school in our area which offers a breakfast programme. Reta will find out more details and report at the next Parish Council meeting before collections occur for "Toonie November"; the Angel Tree will start in November as usual; St. John's Kitchen needs support in donations (ground beef, spices, etc.) for an upcoming chili dinner planned – more info will be provided; Scouts will be selling popcorn as a fundraiser around Christmas. Jim Stirling inquired as to the planning for the time after Christmas. Fr. Don responded that Outreach usually plans some activity for each month of the year.

7. New Business:

a) Turkey Supper: (Jim Stirling)

Jim thanked volunteers for their work and signups thus far. More signups need to occur for the various tasks. Details were reviewed and advice sought. A motion was put forward (Judy Proctor, seconded by Brian Tompka) that no takeout be offered this year due to the problems encountered last year in this area. After discussion pro and con, Judy and Brian rescinded their motion leaving it to the planners to proceed as they saw fit. More turkeys will be roasted as we ran out of turkey meat last year at this popular event.

b) Clutter:

Reta Risto expressed concerns about the continual need for all of us to be wary of clutter around the Church and to clean it up as we go so that it does not clog hallways, rooms, open areas. Our Church is a very busy place not only from our own programming but also from our outside group usage like AA, Maycourt and Sparks to mention a few which also require storage space. Storage space at St. George's is at a premium at any time. We must be active in clutter removal!

c) Travel Allowance:

Fr. Don asked for \$50/month of travel allowance support (bus ticket) for Laura Lightfoot who travels a significant distance to be with us each week. Since this is an unbudgeted expense, Parish Council approval is required. Approved.

8. Old Business: None

9. Correspondence: None

10. Dates to Remember:

- Next Council Meeting: Tues. Oct. 27 @ 7:30 pm.
 Devotions: *Susan Butt*
 Refreshments: *Murray Gamble*
- Corn Roast at the Home of the Stirlings: Fri. Sept. 25 @ 6 pm;
- Thanksgiving Turkey Supper: Tues. Oct. 6 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm;
- Deconsecration of St. David's, Cambridge: Thurs. Oct. 22 @ 7 pm;
- Installation of Pastor Rob Wiesner at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Belleville: Sun. Oct. 25 @ 6 pm;
- Website Workshop: Wed. Oct. 28 @ 7 pm;
- Confirmation: Thurs. Nov. 12;
- Pork Supper with Bishop Terry Dance: Fri. Nov. 13

Adjournment: John Shaw, seconded by Gerry McGregor @ 9:10 pm