**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for November 22, 2016**

***Present:***

Charlotte Cromarty, Chair April Couzens Lynne Skanes-Bannon

John Dale, Secretary John Coleman Valerie Cuthbert

Mary Ann Millar Anne Taylor Mike Stredwick

Matt Brown Lesley Burland-Prong MaryLynn Forrest

Terry McCoy Connie McCoy

***Regrets***: Nelson Cuthbert, Vivian Harris, Murray Gamble, John Ryrie

***Absent***: Reta Risto, Cheryl Fox, Mary Shaw

**1) Call to Order:** At 7.34 p.m., by Charlotte Cromarty. **Devotions:** MaryLynn Forrest.

**2 Agenda- Additions or Revisions:** Mike Stredwick indicated that, with reference to item 7a, Vestry would be chaired by executive Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs, not Archdeacon Greg Jenkins. Mary Ann Millar asked to add the item ‘Wardens for 2017’ to item 9. **Motion** to accept the Agenda for the November 22nd, 2016 meeting as amended: Proposed, Mary Ann Millar; Seconded, Valerie Cuthbert. **Carried**.

**3. Reading and Acceptance of the October 25th, 2016 Minutes:** Mary Ann Millar requested that item 8 be amended to read “some sad news from St. Andrew’s.” **Motion** to accept the Minutes of the October 25th, 2016 meeting as amended: Proposed, Mary Ann Millar; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**i)** **Livestream Update**. Mary Ann Millar reported that the Livestream broadcast was working. Concern was expressed that the responsibility for operating it fell entirely to Reta Risto. Valerie Cuthbert will ask Nelson to put a notice in the bulletin asking for volunteers to assist Reta.

**ii) Potential Change to Dates for PC Meetings because of conflict with Deanery Meetings**. After Vestry we will decide the dates for the 2017 PC Meetings. On the 4 nights that the meetings conflict with the Deanery meetings, we may have to bump the PC meetings forward a week.

**5. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor presented the financial statements as of the end of October 2016. Anne reported that parishioner donations were yet again down in October, giving a serious year-to-date deficit for this item of approximately $15,000. Pre-authorized giving is also in decline. Anne suggested that a committee be struck to investigate ways to combat this situation and also pointed out that the decline in parishioner donations must be borne in mind during the budgeting process for 2017. **Motion** to accept the October financial statement as presented: Proposed, Anne Taylor; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

**b)** **Outreach.** Mike Stredwick reported that the committee has disbursed all the donations it customarily makes; $2850 in total. Further, it has been decided to continue sponsoring foster children through the current agency (research showed it to be as cost-effective as any other). The Pancake Supper proceeds will be channeled through Outreach to fund the foster children, and Outreach will take responsibility for making up any shortfall in funds. The Community Clothes Closet was highly successful with more attendees than ever before. The Angel Tree recipients will include two families from Westmount Public school as well as families involved with F&CS. St. George’s will cater lunch at St. John’s Kitchen on December 30th. Camp made something of a profit because more government funding was received than expected—the money has been used to pre-purchase items for next summer.

**c) Property.** The Fall Clean-Up has taken place. The next meeting of the committee is 2nd December.

**d) Worship.** It has been decided to add a pot-luck dinner followed by a service on Epiphany (January 6th). Lynne Skanes-Bannon will organize this.

**e) Atmosphere**. The next edition of the Dragon-Flyer will appear shortly.

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. The committee will sponsor coffee at both services Sunday November 27th, and is also designing a flyer highlighting all activities at St. George’s for insertion in the bulletin over the Christmas period, in the hope of interesting and attracting visitors.

**g) Selection Committee**. The Parish Profile is virtually complete, and it is hoped to incorporate the results of the Parish Survey into it very soon.

**6. Old Business:** No discussion**.**

**7. New Business.**

**a) Vestry, January 29th 2017.** Executive Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs will chair Vestry after a 9.00 a.m. service.

**b) Vestry Reports.** Deadline for these to be announced in early December.

**c) Devotions and Refreshments for January PC Meeting**. The wardens will provide Wine and Cheese before the meeting, as is customary. Valerie Cuthbert will undertake devotions.

**d) No Sexton for week of November 28th**. An appeal will be made for volunteers to clean the washrooms during this seek. Terry McCoy volunteered to put out the garbage, recycling etc. on the Sunday and bring the bins in on the Monday.

**e) Office Closed on Monday November 28th.** Noted.

**f) Changes to Curbside Waste Pick-up Effective March 17th.** From this date only 4 bags of garbage will be picked up every two weeks; the church being classified as a residence. Extra bags will require tags, which must be pre-purchased. An effort will be made to divert garbage, as appropriate, to recycling and the green bins. Having green bins in the washrooms for used paper towels is likely to help a great deal.

**g) Foster Children.** Dealt with under 5 (b).

**h) Sharing of events with 4 Kitchener Churches**. A slate of events to which members of all 4 Kitchener churches will be cross-invited has been established. The service of 9 Lessons and Carols at St. Andrew’s Memorial this Sunday (November 27th) is the first such event, and our Epiphany Service (see 5 (d)) will be another.

**8)** --

**9) Other**. Mary Ann Millar reported that the diocese has asked all 4 current wardens to extend their terms by a year. She warned, however, that the search for at least 2 replacement wardens must begin by mid-2017. This will include active approaches to likely candidates.

There was discussion of the need for visitor donation envelopes to be clearly displayed and readily available in pews.

**10. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

**November 24th.** Selection committee Meeting.

**November 26th** **(Saturday)**. Bishop Linda’s Installation at Metropolitan United church, London.

**November 27th** **(Sunday)**. Service of 9 Lessons and Carols at St. Andrew’s Memorial.

**December 10th (Saturday)**. Men’s Breakfast.

**December 18th (Sunday)**. Nine Lessons and Carols at St. George’s.

**December 24th (Sunday—Christmas Eve)**. Services at 4.00, 7.00 and 10.00 p.m.

**December 25th (Monday—Christmas Day)**. Service at 10.00 a.m.

**January 1st 2017 (Sunday)**. One service at 10.00 a.m.

**January 14th (Saturday)**. ASCEND meeting at 8.30 a.m.

**January 29th (Sunday)**. Vestry after 9.00 a.m. service. Chair Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs.

**11. Next PC Meeting**. January 24th 2017 (Tuesday)—no meeting in December. Wine and Cheese provided by Wardens at 6.30 p.m. followed by Meeting. Chair, Mike Stredwick; Minutes, John Dale; Devotions, Valerie Cuthbert.

**12. Vestry**. Dealt with above.

**13. Adjournment.** Proposed 8.55 p.m. by Anne Taylor. **Carried.**