**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for February 23, 2016**

***Present:***

Cn. Don Davidson, Chair Murray Gamble Lynne Skanes-Bannon

John Dale, Secretary Connie McCoy Charlotte Cromarty

Terry McCoy Mary Shaw Mary Ann Millar

MaryLynn Forrest April Couzens Vivian Harris

Cheryl Fox Reta Risto

***Regrets***: Wendy Williston, Mike Stredwick, Nelson Cuthbert, Valerie Cuthbert, John Ryrie, Anne Taylor.

***Absent:*** Judy Proctor, Karen Baker, Lesley Burland-Prong, Matt Brown.

New members (Terry and Connie McCoy, Lynne Skanes-Bannon) were welcomed to PC, and it was noted that John Shaw is not a member of this year’s PC.

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.30 p.m., by Cn. Davidson (in place of Wendy Williston, who was sick).

**2. Devotions:** MaryLynn Forrest.

**3. Agenda- Additions or Revisions:** Mary Ann Millar requested that an item (‘Food Trucks’) be added as item 8(g). **Motion** to accept the Agenda as amended: Proposed, Charlotte Cromarty; Seconded, Cheryl Fox. **Carried**.

**4. Reading and Acceptance of the January 19th, 2016 Minutes:** Mary Shawrequested that, in item 7(a), ‘Bettie Eukranitz’ be amended to ‘Betty Ukrainetz’. **Motion** to accept the Minutes of the January 2016 meeting as amended: Proposed, John Dale; Seconded, Mary Ann Millar. **Carried**.

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

**a) Auction and Pub Night January 29th**. Reta Risto reported that this was a successful event, with a good crowd attending, and over $5,000 realized.

**b) Fundraising Ideas**. Cn. Davidson said that he was still negotiating with the Rev. Matt Martin regarding the ‘Elvis Impersonation’ concert, which would likely occur in May. Charlotte Cromarty reported that there will be an Irish Stew lunch on March 13th., and a Ploughmen’s Lunch on April 24th. Cheryl Fox indicated that the Pancake supper went well, with about $1,200 realized (minus expenses). There was some confusion at this event concerning the number of sausages available to each participant (exacerbated by the fact the Teachers’ Choir attended *en masse*), and Charlotte said that next year three small sausages per person will be budgeted for, rather than a smaller number of large sausages (which are rather expensive). Lynne Skanes-Bannon suggested that a sign be prominently displayed at the event indicating exactly how much food was available for each participant. April Couzens asked if a sign suggesting the appropriate amount for a free will offering was displayed, as discussed at January’s PC meeting.

**c) Microphones**. Mary Ann Millar reported that one of wearable microphones for those officiating at services had been broken, and, owing to the high cost of repair, it had been decided to buy a replacement; we have a microphone on loan until the purchase is made. Mary Ann pointed out that parts of the microphones are quite fragile and urged those who wear them to be careful with these devices, particularly as they are being taken on and off.

**d) CLAY 2016**. April Couzens presented a schedule showing the due dates for successive partial payments for travel to, and attendance at, CLAY. So far $4,248 has been raised by various fundraising events, leaving $8,152 outstanding from the total owed. Mary Ann Millar suggested that signage indicating the deadlines and amount owed be placed in a prominent position in the narthex to prompt donations from those parishioners who had indicated they are willing to give, but who have not yet done so. March fundraising will feature the sales of Rheo Thompson candies, a Movie Night on March 4th. (no charge for admission-it is not possible under our diocesan license-but popcorn and drinks will be sold), and a Bake sale on March 20th. April fundraisers will probably include an auction, a BBQ and the Matt Martin Concert. Cn. Davidson added that about two-thirds of the attendees to CLAY from the diocese were from the Waterloo Deanery. There are too many for 1 bus, but not enough to fill two. However, at least two dioceses will likely co-operate on bus costs and a scheme for serial pick-ups. A gathering in the spring is planned for CLAY attendees from the Waterloo Deanery to allow the formation of relationships and to introduce the theme of the CLAY conference—the Right to Water. This will probably be held on the first weekend in May at St. James, Cambridge. Cn Davidson reminded us that funds will likely be made available from the Diocese at Synod to support CLAY attendees.

**e) Messy Church.** The next Messy Church will be held on March 5th. .

**6. Fr. Don’s Report:**

**i)**. Cn. Davidson reported that at a recent Deanery meeting it was revealed that a former priest in the Diocese of Huron has pled guilty to child molestation charges and has been dismissed by Bishop Bennett. Bishop Dance pointed out that this sad event has very disturbing implications, since our insurers, although they have indicated that they are prepared to cover the costs arising from such offenses in the past, have also said that they will be less willing to cover future offenses; the expectations being that the diocese and parishes will prevent these tragedies ever occurring by the use of greater surveillance and police record checks. It is imperative for everyone to be vigilant!

**ii)**. He also reported that the Rt. Rev’d Linda Nicholls (at present Suffragan Bishop of Trent-Durham) has been elected Suffragan Bishop of Norfolk, and that she will become Bishop of Huron when Bishop Bennett retires. At that point it will be decided whether the Diocese can continue to support two Bishops. Cn. Davidson pointed out that Bishop Nicholl’s credentials and her calm presence are both impressive.

**iii)** Cn. Davidson said that he was recently present at a meeting at St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener, with representatives of the Diocese, the purpose being to evolve a plan to recoup the situation of the current four Kitchener parishes. The church buildings of two of these (St. John the Evangelist and St. Andrew’s Memorial) have very severe structural problems, and the congregations of St. Andrew’s Memorial and Holy Trinity are very small. St. Andrew’s has a Sunday attendance of 25-30 (most of whom are very elderly). The Sunday attendance at Holy Trinity is larger (55-60), but the church has almost no funds available. Neither of these parishes have been able to meet their diocesan apportionment obligations for some time. At the meeting it was pointed out that, over all the four Kitchener parishes, average Sunday attendance has fallen from 756 to 509 over the last ten years, and that, while the Waterloo Deanery has achieved much in the way of outreach recently, much more might be possible if the expenses of two buildings in disastrous repair were avoided. It was suggested that these two buildings should be shed, and there seemed to be general acceptance of this at this point. A plan to merge the four parishes into two is evolving; St. Andrew’s would join St. George’s (apparently some people have already transferred and have expressed satisfaction with St. George’s), and Holy Trinity would join St. John’s. Since there is a tendency for Anglicans whose churches are closed to stop attending church at all, this must be done slowly and sensitively. The transference of artefacts from the old to the new churches will be important, and the needs of the clergy who will be displaced (who are quite senior and close to retirement) will have to be considered. It was suggested that ‘familiarization meetings’ between the churches to be merged should take place. Cn. Davidson suggested that the parishioners of St. Andrew’s be invited to attend our Parish Picnic at Mannheim in June. A meeting with diocesan coaches will be held in April with the aim of producing a definite plan.

**7. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor being absent, Cn. Davidson indicated that there was no financial statement available for January 2016 since it was too early in the financial year for significant trends to be apparent.

**b)** **Outreach.** Reta Risto said that the Salvation Army has been provided with 275 pairs of socks for the homeless; the goal being only 200 pairs. Starting this Sunday, the collection of potatoes and desserts for St. John’s Kitchen will begin, and this Friday the Spaghetti Supper with the Optimists takes place. The preliminary arrangements for the 2016 Little Dragon Camp will pick up soon, and Vivian Harris urged anyone who can to provide her with contacts who are able to display notices inviting camp staff applications—she has had very many fewer applications than normal this year (four only), and the application deadline is March 13th. Applicants have to be at least 16 years old.

**c) Property.** Murray Gamble indicated that there has been no meeting of the committee since the last PC meeting.

**d) Worship**. Cn. Davidson said that, at the last meeting of the committee, discussions were totally focused on Easter arrangements. MaryLynn Forrest added that there would be a potluck supper prior to the Maundy Thursday service to encourage attendance; likely at 6.00 p.m.

**e) Atmosphere**. Mary Ann Millar indicated that the next meeting of the committee will be in March. The car rally will be on May 14th 2016, and the Church Picnic at Mannheim on June 12th,

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. No report.

**g) Memorial Garden Committee.** No report.

**8. Old Business:**

**a) Syrian Refugees.** Cn. Davidson said that the arrival of the Deanery’s first Syrian refugee family (a young couple and their 2 small boys, aged 1 and 2) is expected within a few days; the deanery will receive 36 hours’ notice. An apartment, with good access to ESL instruction facilities and a halal store, has been rented and furnished. It has been decided to rent a van with baby seats for the initial journey from Pearson to Kitchener, and one has been reserved. There are enough funds in the refugee account to sponsor a second family (this time of 4-6 members), who will not be from Syria. A second apartment has been rented (available 1st March), and furniture will be moved in when it is possible. In order to avoid the storage problems associated with premature donation of furniture items, it has been decided to call for particular items only when they are needed.

**b) Auction and Pub Night.** Dealt with above.

**c) Box Lunches.** This event raised $170, and will be repeated next year. There are some detailed organizational issues to be dealt with.

**d) Deanery Meeting, e) Socks for Salvation Army, and f) Pancake Supper.** Dealt with above.

**g) Food Truck Event.** Council voted to hold a single event with Food Trucks from 5-8 p.m. on an evening in May or June. Mary Ann Millar pointed out that advertising and appropriate signage would need to be produced and that toilets in the church would need to be open. About 12 volunteers will be needed, working in shifts. This event will involve no outlay on our part, and 10% of the income accrued will come to the church.

**9. New Business.**

**a) New Bishop, and b) CLAY.** Dealt with above.

**10. Correspondence.** None.

**11.** **Other:** None

**12. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

- February 26th. Optimists’ Spaghetti Supper.

- March 4th. World Day of Prayer at Westheights Brethren in Christ Church, 82 Westheights.

CLAY Movie Night.

- March 5th. Messy Church.

- March 13th. Irish Stew Lunch.

- March 20th. CLAY Bake Sale.

- March 24th. Maundy Thursday.

- March 25th. Good Friday.

- March 27th. Easter Sunday.

- March 29th. **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**. Next PC meeting. Chair Charlotte Cromarty; Secretary

John Dale. Devotions? and Refreshments?

- April 24th. Ploughmen’s Lunch.

- May 7th. Messy Church.

- May 14th. Car Rally.

- June 12th. Church Picnic at Mannheim Community Centre.

**13. Adjournment:**

8.35 p.m. Proposed; Cheryl Fox. **Carried.**