**St. George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes for March 29, 2016**

***Present:***

Charlotte Cromarty, Chair Murray Gamble Cn. Don Davidson

John Dale, Secretary Connie McCoy Wendy Williston

Terry McCoy Mary Shaw Mary Ann Millar

Mike Stredwick Vivian Harris Nelson Cuthbert

Cheryl Fox Reta Risto Valerie Cuthbert

Matt Brown Anne Taylor

***Regrets***: John Ryrie, Lynne Skanes-Bannon, MaryLynn Forrest, April Couzens, Lesley Burland-Prong.

**1. Call to Order:** At 7.30 p.m., by Charlotte Cromarty.

**2. Devotions:** Mary Ann Millar.

**3. Agenda- Additions or Revisions:** **Motion** to accept the Agenda for the March 29, 2016 meeting as presented: Proposed, Terry McCoy; Seconded, Nelson Cuthbert. **Carried**.

**4. Reading and Acceptance of the February 23rd, 2016 Minutes:** Nelson Cuthbert requested that the minutes be amended to clarify the origin of the proceeds from the Auction and Pub night (item 5(a)); the proceeds arising from the event were $4500, in addition, a donation of $500 from FaithLife was received . **Motion** to accept the Minutes of the February 2016 meeting as amended: Proposed, John Dale; Seconded, Mike Stredwick. **Carried**.

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

**a) Fundraising Ideas.** The ‘Elvis Impersonation’ Concert to be given by the Rev. Matt Martin is scheduled for May 20th--the Friday of the May 24 Long Weekend. There has been much interest, and tickets will be available from this Sunday. 200 tickets have been printed; other churches in Kitchener-Waterloo have been informed about the event and 10 tickets will be made available to each of these. Tickets will cost $15 each. Proceeds will be split between CLAY and Camp Little Dragon.

**b) Irish Stew lunch (March 13th) and Ploughman’s lunch (April 24th.**) The former has occurred, the latter is coming up.

**c) Microphones**. Mary Ann Millar reported that, in the end, it had been decided to repair the damaged microphone rather than replace it. Mary Ann again urged all who use the microphones to be careful with them.

**6. Fr. Don’s Report:**

**i)**. Cn. Davidson said that there is currently a good-sized confirmation class of 8-10 teenagers and 2 adults. Confirmation will be at All Saints, Waterloo on Sunday 5th June. There is also a small First Communion class.

**ii).** In response to a question from Nelson Cuthbert, Cn. Davidson described the process which will occur to select a new incumbent for St. George’s in the light of his leaving to become Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, Kingston effective 1st September, 2016. Nothing will occur before 1st. September, but thereafter Bishop Bennett will meet with the Selection Committee (which normally consists of the churchwardens and delegates to synod, but may comprise others as well) and ask them to produce a Parish Profile. At the same time a questionnaire will be sent to all parishioners soliciting their input regarding the new incumbent. Responses to the latter will be summarized by the Selection Committee. A Notice of Vacancy will be sent by the bishop to all clergy in the diocese, and possibly, because of the high profile of St. Georges, to all Anglican clergy nationally. The Parish Profile will be available to applicants on request. The Bishop will consider the responses and send a shortlist of candidates to the Selection Committee, who will be ‘walked through’ this process in advance. The Bishop will brief the committee regarding inadmissible questions (e.g. age), and then committee will evolve a list of questions for candidates. Regular updates will be sent to parishioners, although no names of shortlisted candidates will be given. An interim vicar will be appointed, and given the importance of St. George’s to the diocese, the Bishop will likely wish to be careful and proceed slowly, so it is possible that the interim clergyman may be at St. George’s for up to 2 years, although it is also possible that the stay will be much shorter.

**7. Standing Committee Reports:**

**a) Finance.** Anne Taylor said that it was too early to define financial trends for 2016 (this will be easier after the receipts for Easter week have been evaluated). Parishioner donations (apart from those by direct debit) seem to be a little below budget. YTD revenue at the end of February is over that budgeted, and expenses are below budget, nonetheless expenses exceeded revenue. The fact that the overall financial position is better than that budgeted for the end of February is mainly due to the timing of expenditures—some expenses having been delayed.

**b)** **Outreach.** Reta Risto reported to PC that a Community Clothes Closet will be held on Saturday April 23rd. Donations of clothes for children up to age 17 (and certain adult clothes) are requested. Donations are to be left outside the Fireside Room.

**c) Property.** Murray Gamble indicated that there will be a meeting of the Property Committee next Thursday at which this year’s repair and renovations strategy will be discussed.

**d) Worship**. Wendy Williston reported that the committee’s last meeting had been taken up with planning Easter, and the theme for the next meeting will be the review of the Christmas and Easter arrangements.

**e) Atmosphere**. Mary Ann Millar said that the Food Trucks will be on the property from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. on May 28th. 4 to 6 trucks will attend and they will be parked on the grass. A duty roster (2 hour slots) for duties (e.g. walking billboards, cleaning picnic table surfaces, directing parking) will be coming out soon. There will be an attempt to fully involve Church youth. A Certificate of Insurance will be obtained, but no entertainment, such as a bouncy castle, is planned—the latter being an additional liability and also an expense beyond what the potential profits may sustain. In the event of rain, the downstairs hall is NOT available. If the event is successful, the food trucks may return in the fall. The car rally will be on May 14th 2016, and the Church Picnic at Mannheim on June 12th. The four Kitchener churches have been invited to the latter, and Bishop Linda Nicholls will attend.

**f)** **RENEW/ASCEND**. Valerie Cuthbert reported that there has been no meeting of the committee, but a billboard showing progress on the ASCEND/RENEW project is being prepared for display. The left-hand side will be educational and will describe the various opportunities for volunteering (e.g. Garden Guild, Sunday School). A ‘thermometer’ in the middle will indicate progress achieved so far, and the right-hand side will indicate immediate priorities.

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

**8. Old Business:**

**a) Syrian Refugees.** The first family is here, working on their English and beginning the search for employment. The second family is not yet selected, but funding and an apartment are available for them.

**b) Box Lunches.** This event has occurred.

**c) World Day of Prayer.** This was held at Westheights Brethren in Christ Church on March 4th. Linda Stredwick was Chairperson. About 40 attended, including 8 from St. George’s.

**d) Optimists Spaghetti Supper**. This was held February 26th. and seemed very successful. We do not yet know the size of the donation that the Optimists will be making to St. George‘s. If insufficient funds were forthcoming from the supper, the Optimists will likely top up the amount by holding additional events.

**e) Messy Church March 5th**. Valerie Cuthbert reported that this event was successful; turnout slightly smaller than normal, but still good, and many helpers attended. Next Messy Church will be held May 7th.

**f) CLAY**. Mike Stredwick said that fundraisers in March included the sale of Rheo Thompson candies and a bake sale on March 20th. April events include a BBQ, the Matt Martin concert and a breakfast on May 1st. Details of this last will appear in the bulletin. 9 youths and 3 adults are going to Charlottetown.

**9. New Business.**

**a) Bishop Linda Nicholls installation (April 16th).** The plan to hire a bus to take parishioners to the installation has been abandoned as only 10 were interested; these can be accommodated by car-pooling. There was no response from other churches.

**10. Correspondence.** None.

**11.** **Other:** Reta Risto requested that Cn. Davidson train a group to be proficient in the operation of the Livestream equipment before he departs for Kingston.

**12. Upcoming Dates and Events:**

- April 2nd. (Saturday). Maycourt Night. Tribute to Frank Sinatra. Tickets $35. See Lillian

 Cressman.

- April 16th. Installation of Bishop Linda Nicholls at St. Paul‘s, London.

- April 23rd. Community Clothes Closet. Men‘s Breakfast.

- April 24th. Ploughmen’s Lunch (St. George‘s Day).

- April 26th. 7.30 p.m. Next PC Meeting. Chair Mary Ann Millar; Secretary, John

 Dale; Devotions, not known; Refreshments, Lynne and Reta.

- May 7th. Messy Church.

- May 14th. Outreach meeting.

- May 14th. Car Rally. Start at 2 p.m.

- May 20th. Matt Martin concert.

- May 21st. Men‘s Breakfast.

- May 28th. Food Trucks event.

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

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**13. Adjournment:**

8.16 p.m. Proposed; Mary Ann Millar. **Carried.**