**St George’s of Forest Hill**

**Parish Council Minutes, March 28, 2023**

Attendance:

Fr Stephen Valerie Clarke MaryLynn Forrest John Shaw

Nelson Cuthbert Ann-Marie Shaw Ericka Babb Catherine Carlson

Murray Gamble Cindy Kellett Susan Hipperson Morley King

Absent: Deb Barclay, Dulcie Tapp, John Dale, Tim Goodison, Adriana Cronin

1. Stephen opened the meeting with a prayer. Stephen received 4 responses from council for the Vision document request. This discussion was postponed to next month. There is a growing concern in the congregation about lower numbers at church. How do we respond as a council? People go to other services, not always the same one. Livestream has a following of approximately 66 computers each week. We don’t know who is watching, only numbers can be tracked. Nelson will draft an announcement with Livestream numbers and some explanation as to where the people that others are missing may have gone. Our totals have not changed a lot, just shifted. We will draft a comparison of numbers from 2018,2019 and 2023. We need to remind people of all the positive experiences at St George’s.
2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda as presented:

moved: Cindy Kellett seconded: Morley King Carried

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from February 28, 2023 as presented:

moved: Catherine Carlson seconded: Nelson Cuthbert Carried

1. Financial Report: The financial report was sent to council ahead of the meeting. Givings for March 2023: $3220, 2576, 1510, 2810 for a total of $10116 from envelopes. The auto-debit contributions were $10318. Anne had pointed out a large increase in Hydro this year over last year. Nelson will do some research to find out why. Insurance costs are up significantly. The Diocese is working to find alternatives. There is only 1 company willing to insure Anglican churches right now.

Motion to approve report as presented:

moved: Sue Hipperson seconded: John Shaw Carried

1. Rector’s Report:
   1. Canon Pratt will preside at the Holy Saturday Vigil. Easter Sunday there is no nursery or Sunday school and that will be a family service. St George’s will host the Deanery Blessing of the Oils service on Maundy Thursday at noon.
   2. Easter letters were mailed March 28 along with special invitational letters to the recent baptismal families.
   3. We are waiting for music for all the Easter services. (some received now)
   4. We are looking for readers, servers, intercessors, greeters, Sunday school teachers, nursery supervisors. Stephen asked council and will also ask the congregation.
   5. Stephen will ask for feedback about Easter services at the next council meeting.
2. Wardens’ Report:
   1. Ann-Marie told us the Purdy’s Chocolate orders have arrived and will be distributed. We earned approximately $480 on that fundraiser. A survey is being prepared to ask the congregation about their strengths, gifts, interests, etc. for Stewardship. April 17 is the next Stewardship meeting. There is thought of perhaps hosting a Chili/silent auction event.
   2. Cindy spoke about Evangelism. Their 1st meeting is Friday, March 31. The hope is to enhance involvement in the church and community. The focus will be on the “woman at the well” scripture. Jesus meets people where they are and invites them to grow.
   3. Catherine mentioned that the Easter Dragon Flyer will go out on Friday, March 31 with 8 full-colour pages. TickTok is getting responses from the 30’s age range. Cindy is working on the website. Thank you for joining that team. The next Dragon Flyer will go out in June. It was suggested that we have an article in the Dragon Flyer about our TikTok and Facebook activity. It was also suggested that we have an article about how churches reach people today verses how that happened a few decades ago. Technology has changed a lot in a short time. Communications committee would like to have postcards next year at the bazaar to announce Christmas services and at the pancake supper to announce Easter services.
   4. The AV task team has not met yet. Sue Hipperson suggested that Johnathan Malton at St John the Evangelist might be a good resource.

1. Committee Reports

Building and Property: Specifications for the rear entrance repairs are being investigated. The driveway has potholes and will need repair as funds allow. Perhaps we will create a drop-off spot there when that happens. The narthex lighting will need to be replaced in the next while.

Livestream: Nelson reported average numbers of 66-70 for March.

Facebook/ website: A new Easter video will be on the website this week.

Outreach: The Stew lunch raised $485 for PWRDF. Funds from the Ploughman’s lunch in April will go to our sister Diocese in Amazonia. We will collect for Innisfree Hospice in June. The Synod Deacons’ collection after Easter will be socks, underwear, etc. Ann-Marie has delivered 185lbs of potatoes and 64 lbs of carrots, plus chocolate to St John’s Kitchen from our Easter Campaign.

Social Committee: Bagel Sundays continue. May 6 is the International Labyrinth Event, May 10 is the Ladies’ Potluck Dinner with guest speaker Archdeacon Megan Collings-Moore.

Deanery Report: May 18 St George’s is hosting an Evensong for the Deanery. The Deanery Refugee Committee has welcomed a new family recently. They are settling in here.

Diocesan Report: The Diocese is working on better insurance rates and will help any parish struggling to pay that bill. Synod is May 28-29. Stephen will be recognized as a new Canon at that service.

New Business:

Spring clean-up will be May 13 or possibly May 29. A dumpster will be rented and inside the church cleaned out as well as tidying the outside. Announcements in April will ask committees to clean out their area and anything else will go.

1. Next Parish Council meeting April 25 2023 7:30 pm
2. Closing Prayer and adjournment at 9:20 pm

Future Parish Council Meetings

April 25

May 23

June 27