

St John in the Wilderness Congregational Council Meeting

November 12 2020

The meeting was held by Zoom due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

Present: Janice MacAlpine, Dave Hains, Peter Langille, Shirley MacKenzie, Brian Fogg, Leslie Grieve Deb Walker, Ingrid Schmid, Brian Bradford and Fran Taylor

Regrets: Tim Crossland

The meeting was opened in prayer led by Janice.

She talked about the coming of the Advent season and how much she is looking forward to it.

Minutes of the last meeting

There were no changes from the minutes in June. We have missed several meetings due to the Covid 19 crisis. Peter Janice.

Wardens Report

Peter wondered if we knew of people in the community who were in need of assistance due to the Covid Crisis. We think we have covered the congregation pretty well.

Debbie talked about where we are with church services currently.

We have services planned through to the end of November.

The services are all listed on the last page of the most recent Honey and Locust which is available on the website, on the facebook site and on your email in box. Thank to Deb and Peter for all their hard work.

December's services will follow shortly.

Brian Fogg and Debbie will continue to help organize the 0830 Zoom service.

This Sunday, Paul Wolley is officiating for a Eucharist service at 10:30.

Dave Hewett will be here November 22 at 0830 and 10:30.

For Christmas, Leslie and Debbie are working on a Christmas pageant that will be done by video.

Christmas eve, we are planning a 15 minute outdoor Christmas service respecting social distancing. It is still a work in progress.

Brian Fogg talked about the tree trimming that was done by Guardian. There is more natural light available to the church now. Eaves have been cleaned.

The front entrance railing has been damaged and is need of repair. Quotes have been obtained and we are going to repair this. This should be covered under insurance but it will cost us more to run this through insurance. The contractors suggested it was vandalism.

Debbie talked about the pollinator garden that has been set up at the church. Bruce Grieve has created a beautiful sign.

The bees are in place.

Janice has donated \$200 in memorial for Mike, a redbud plant has been planted in his honour of Mike.

Bob and Susan Halliday have donated a Serviceberry shrub.

Someone has called the bee inspector about our bees, and they came out and thought it was all good. Doug Winch will send the neighbour a note.

Debbie and Ross Leckie have been doing the leaves. Brain Bradford volunteered to help next week.

Treasures Report

Brian Fogg reported our parish contributions are on target for the year despite the pandemic.

Our Revenue are still at target also partly due to the CEWS (Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy), we have received \$9000 towards salaries, and this has largely replaced what the Triathlon would have taken place.

Our total expenses are down because of Covid.

We are still planning to do financial outreach as the year ends.

We are planning to support one family at Christmas this year.

November, you can do gift cards through contacting Sandra Fraser, to support the Fundsript program. We need a good response to get free shipping.

November 22 is the cut off date.

Janice wondered which minister should be in receipt of Christmas gifts this year.

We will get clarification from Kristen on this.

Paul Rathbone might give us a bit more money through the CEWS program due to the lack of Triathlon income.

Dave suggests our apportionment will be higher next year.

Leslie suggested that the executive will decide who to give any extra monies in outreach. Fran/Brian Bradford.

Peter suggested it might go to an incoming to support an incoming Syria family.

Trinity Sarnia will be backstopping the financial requirement to bring the family here.

The Deanery will not collect Deanery fees this year, and will direct the money to the refugee program.

Janice wondered how Vestry will look this year.

It will depend on the state of the pandemic, but probably will be a Zoom meeting.

With no minister in house this year, the Wardens will not change in 2021, the board members can rotate in and out as needed.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

Debbie/Peter.

