

# St. John in the Wilderness

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday April 11, 2024

Present: Peter Langille, Brian Bradford, Brent Anderson, Susan Halliday, Sandra Fraser, Amanda Longmoore, Mike Moloney, Deb Walker, Leslie Grieve

Regrets: Brenden Fraser, Brian Fogg, Ingrid Schmid,

Scribe: Deb Walker

**Opening** – Amanda opened with a prayer.

**Reviewed previous Minutes,** (no corrections)

**MOTION to accept by Susan seconded by Leslie PASSED.**

**Business arising from the minutes - none**

## **Rector's Report**

Looking back, Holy Week and Easter went well, with attendance up and a kids Easter party. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (at All Saints' Sarnia), and Easter Sunday services were well attended.

Amanda is focused much on pastoral care at present. Amanda presided over Connie Kennedy's funeral last week. Many parishioners know Connie from van Goozen Music.

Amanda attended the induction of the Kevin George as Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Amanda is attending a retreat this coming week from Tuesday to Friday. Monday she has a clergy day in Kitchener.

Sam Thomas is leading the Sunday, April 21 10:30 am service. Amanda will lead the 8:30 am service.

Amanda is training the wardens on maintaining pages on the website – aim is to get some business-type pages in addition to the pages currently in place. Aim is also to have multiple people knowledgeable about our website maintenance. The hope is that we will have several more people volunteer to learn the software and create and maintain select pages.

## **Warden's Report Peter**

**Website:** wardens are working to get financials, Council meeting minutes, and Vestry reports on our website. Financials will be password protected.

**Hall Use:** The prayer shawls were not put up properly after the last baby shower; we will let people know that the prayer shawls are not to be taken down/touched.

## **Property Committee – Brian B.**

The most current Church Property Committee maintenance/project list is posted in the hall by the west wall exit.

Some items of focus include:

- Air conditioners outside will be cleaned in the spring.
- Vent covers have been opened for spring, we have couple of holes in the foundation on the north walls and are mulling how to repair such that animals do not enter.
- Church hall floor was cleaned in February.
- North wall of exterior hall is going to be pressure washed in May.
- Red rug in church will be cleaned this spring.
- Brent had some success cleaning the stains on the new hall entry rug; he used methyl hydrate and a brass brush. He will tackle it again. It was stained with a tarry substance on someone's feet just after we installed it this past winter.
- North sump trench will be rehabilitated in June (grass seed and leveling).
- Windows will be installed/repared on the south side of the building in May.
- South shoulder in front of the church continues to be discussed with city regarding gravel maintenance.
- Jean Dennis will donate some of her garden tools (she moved).
- Electrical in kitchen is complete with Brent completing aesthetics over the next month or so.
- A brace is being placed on the west wall of the hall dehumidifier such that it cannot be moved; the hose kinks if it is moved and it will not empty. Automation of emptying has occurred given it was not sustainable to have volunteers empty it twice daily 6 months of each year. Use of 3 dehumidifiers in our building has helped considerably in elimination of that musty smell we historically have had.
- The speaker from the choir area of the sanctuary was moved today to the back of the church – aim is to enable people at the back of the church to hear people speaking in the sanctuary.

- The front yard has been cleaned up of sticks, leaves, and weeds; we are leaving the rest of the yard until later in May such that we leave the insects alone until it warms up.
- **Lawn Mowing:** We will start in May once the weather warms up. Jim Mayer's grandson has tuned up the lawn mower and Jim will place it at the church again this year (in our new shed).

### **ACW Report**

ACW is a good group; food for funerals is a beloved and significant focus. Will host a gathering for the deanery at St. John in the Wilderness in June.

### **Treasurer's Report**

This Sunday the **wardens will give a financial presentation to the parish**. We improved last year and are striving to continue towards a balanced operating budget in 2025. Deb reviewed with Council a paper version of the presentation which is posted on the bulletin board in the hall. Council members were very supportive of posting monthly updates and quarterly presenting updates at church services.

Given our Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer were not present we did not review the **March income statement** in detail.

### **New Business**

#### **Intern Student Opportunity:**

We have an opportunity to host a supervised parish internship placement. Amanda was contacted by the Diocese with this opportunity. She met with the program coordinator. The candidate is near the end of their masters programme and would be placed here early-September through early-December. They would come with learning goals. They would come into the parish and meet with Amanda every week. This person would do some of Amanda's work. They would be with us each Sunday; they would have one day per week off. There is no cost to the parish and they have local housing already.

The parish would need to create a parish support team of 5 to 7 people who would provide feedback (encouragement and areas to improve etc.). This team would meet with the intern every 2 weeks (without Amanda).

**MOTION was made by Peter that we support having an intern, seconded by Sandra, unanimously PASSED.**

**Saturday Evening AA Group:** will start up again in early May, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

### **Correspondence**

- **Bishop Terry Dance** is coming to Sarnia to do a **3-week bible study** with our Deanery. **April 24, May 1, and May 8.** It will be held at Trinity church from 1 pm to 3 pm each day. Trinity has enough parking to support this event. See the Sunday service bulletin for more details.
- **February Blah Care Packages:** we received a thank you note from Perrin Langille. She also returned some honey jars and said she loved that honey!
- **A memorial donation in memory of Janice and Mike McAlpine** was received from Janice's friend Mitzie.

### **Other Business**

**MOTION to adjourn by Brian B.**

### **Closing**

The meeting was closed with the grace.