

**The Church of St. John the Evangelist
Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis
Vestry Meeting – June 27, 2024**

The vestry of St. John the Evangelist Church met on June 27, 2024, at 7 pm. The Ven. Paul Ranson opened the meeting with prayer. Present were Paul Ranson, Bill MacKenzie, Nancy Stephens, Carol Jones, Jeanne Sayre, Stephen Hart, Michael Clark and Heather Storey. Regrets – Joan Dunphy, Donna Price, Dennis Williams and Ben Mersereau.

Approval of the Agenda – There are no additions. Moved by Steve, seconded by Michael that the agenda be approved. Carried.

Approval of Minutes of the May Meeting – Moved by Nancy, seconded by Jeanne that the minutes be approved as read. Carried.

Correspondence – A request was received from Ability New Brunswick for senior pickup for church, which needs to be scheduled ahead of time. There is a person who has requested this service.

Business Arising

July 7th meeting re Stone Church – Bill, Jeanne and Donna met with Bob Thomas, Clifford Hay, Dick Burgess and Roger Schwarz to see how we could reverse the decision on the Stone Church fund. We also need to reverse the decision to demolish the building. Steve is going to see if he can get a quote on a new roof before the July 7th meeting. If it isn't possible to get a quote before then, we might have to delay the meeting. The decision is whether we borrow money to demolish the building or use the money from the restricted fund to repair the roof. Moved by Paul - whereas the stone building working committee was formed to transfer the property to the Orthodox Church, it is moved that the stone church working group be disbanded as the Orthodox Church is no longer an option now, seconded by Jeanne. Carried.

Update from Parish Advisory Committee – the parish profile has been submitted to the diocese. There are questions from the bishop that need to be answered:

Are we open to conversation concerning an urban church helping a rural parish as a mentorship. Moved by Steve that we are open to the conversation, but we need more details, seconded by Nancy. Carried.

Shawn Branch was asked if it is okay to share the parish profile with our church, and he said it would be ok, but not shared publicly. We could send an email with a url, which is not searchable, to parishioners. It would not be posted on our website.

Report for vestry for parish questionnaire results – see report attached.

Honoraria for David, Bruce and Keith – If doing two services, the amount would be \$150, and the cheque should be given to them on the Sunday they are officiating. They are also on call the week they have a service. Moved by Jeanne that we pay an honorarium for those who are officiating at services in the amount of \$150 per week, seconded by Michael. Carried.

Emmaus Way update – Salem’s husband has been here since March. Both ladies are working, and Salem’s husband is working in construction. Both ladies have their drivers’ licences and have cars. The boys would like to play soccer, but they would need help with paying fees. Esmiret’s sister-in-law is hoping to come to Canada.

Church Visa update – It is now fully functioning. Statements are available online and we can pay by cheque at the bank. This account will be reviewed and paid twice a month to avoid interest rates.

Committee Reports

Finance and Admin – no report

Youth and Seniors – no report

Treasurer’s Report – see Ben’s report, attached. The report will be tabled until the next meeting.

Church Properties – the floor still needs to be stripped, painted and waxed. There is a question as to whether the lines are still needed. We will get quotes.

Willing Wonders – we ordered the round tables, but when they came, we discovered they are not usable and too difficult to assemble. They have been returned. A search is on for replacements.

Worship – Paul has been doing the live streaming at the 8:30 services. Nancy has been coming in and learning how to do this after Paul leaves. Minna will do it when David is doing the services.

We need to train more people to run the projector during the 10:30 services. We will ask Josh to put a notice in the bulletin.

Cemetery – Survey update should be available soon.

Lawn treatment quote – moved by Michael, seconded by Nancy that we pay \$1,200 to Pete Clark for lime and grub control. Carried.

New Business – temperature settings for heat pumps. There have been some complaints that it has been too cool in the hall. We will have the controllers set at a constant temperature.

For Prayer - Our Rector – Paul, Kimberly, Isaac, Colin and Rachel
Our Parish – Darrell, Josh and Paul

Next Regular Vestry Meeting – August 15, 2024, at 7 pm.

Paul closed the meeting with prayer at 9 pm. We have said farewell and thank you to Paul as he moves on to Sussex Corner.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Jones

Carol Jones, Vestry Clerk

Attachments: Parish Profile Questionnaire Summary
Treasurer's Report

Parish Profile Questionnaire – PAC Summary Report for vestry June 27, 2024

Responses:

26 online forms
19 hard copy forms
Total of 45 response forms
Plus 7 spouses also listed
Total of people who responded: 52

Top Priorities:

1. Increasing Sunday School, youth programs and young family membership
2. Increasing our parish's role in the community
3. Increasing personal spirituality (faith development)

Music: Increasing the variety and quality of music also came in as one of the top four priorities and garnered many comments:

- More uplifting spiritual music
- More modern music / more parishioner participants ie guitars etc.
- I know that I have expressed frustration in the past about the music ministry. Right now, I think it's in good hands - except perhaps that the choir could be more considerate about showing up early enough to practise! Music is an essential component of worship, and I am pleased that it is thriving at present. I am also aware that we mustn't take it for granted.
- We need a choir director to help with the music.
- music and youth programs could be developed further
- Music is an important part of our worship, and it would be good to have choir practice at a less rushed time than just before church.
- We need a dedicated person on a stipend to enhance the music ministry with a variety of musical experiences.
- Bring in more younger families and more contemporary music & musicians/ players.
- Music - we are providing music weekly, however, it doesn't seem to have the flow that is used to.
- The music more instruments.
- More modern worship music.
- Apart from vestry, committees such as Worship are needed to gain an understanding of what leads to joyful praise for the entire congregation.
- Nothing drastic, but increasing the variety of music
- more modern music
- Having a choir director and practice for singers.

Please indicate what you like best about our Parish.

The most common response was that we are a friendly and welcoming church.

If you could change two things about our parish, what would they be?

Lots of comments about:

- getting more families and young people
- the future of the Stone church
- music

Some other interesting comments on various topics:

Our Building:

- Highlight long term things like a budget for a new roof and ongoing repairs
- Need to highlight the need for the completion of our new building.
- Have our Sanctuary back so we would not have to change the structure for worship.

Service Times:

- One church service in summer at 10:00
- Both services would be live streamed on Sunday.
- It is probable [sic] time to have only one Sunday morning church service, maybe at 10:00(?)

Small Groups:

- More opportunities to get to know people better. House groups.
- Small groups, for a specified number of weeks, to develop understanding and practice of topics like prayer and the healing ministry, would be helpful.
- have small groups (on Sunday evenings?) where people meet in homes for fellowship, reflection on the Sunday sermon, and prayer."
- I was involved in house groups at another church where people met at houses in their area for bible study. I liked it because you got a sense of community with a small group. I would be interested in that.

Communication:

- Maybe more "push" communication about activities each week via email. Sometimes, it feels like if you miss a Sunday bulletin, you miss a lot. The idea would be to keep the current congregation more informed and engaged. Social media has its place, but direct communication to parishioners is important. Maybe it is just a weekly update?
- We need to be more active on social media.
- I would like to see a visiting or a telephone program for our seniors who use to come to our services but are now unable - just to let them know that are not forgotten.
- More opportunity for intergenerational exchange of ideas. Too often we don't know or understand one another.

Plus: Actually, if I may, I think there's been a lot of change and more likely to come, so I'm not sure I would recommend any additional changes. Folks have been through a

lot in the last few years. I would suggest our role is to be a source of support and comfort...

What do you believe is the biggest problem/challenge facing our parish today?

The main comments were about:

- our aging congregation
- the lack of young families
- the future of the Stone church.

Plus: The biggest challenge is recovering from the effects of the Pandemic. Our church has done so much better than other churches but we need time, space and prayer to help us discern new ways of being and doing ministry in a rapidly changing society. Perhaps we could invite a person or team to help us in this discerning process?

Suggestions:

- Our Stone Church restored, Kneeling benches and communion rail, Old church familiar hymns, Bring back our services that nourish us spiritually
- Have more community events at the church
- Maybe look into a young adult event? I know that's difficult given the lack of younger people, but we have to start somewhere!
- We have a class-A facility amid a growing community. We need to exploit opportunities both on Sunday and through the week. Just an idea: Hosting food truck events in our parking lot (for a recommended "donation").
- More surveys.
- Add an adult Bible study in the evening for those in our congregation who work. It could be patterned after the Wednesday AM one.
- If possible a more private space for the Prayer Ministry on Sundays.
- To build a niche for future grave sites.
- consider more outreach to bring new people into the parish.
- Many people not sure what is meant by the items listed above. Perhaps more opportunity for discussion can follow such an important goal.
- Increase the sense of family among the parishioners. Most of the faces I knew are not with us now and I do not know at least half of the Sunday morning attendees. My social group is fastly shrinking. We get to know each other best when working together, as we did when we hosted suppers or Mom's Apple Pies. I appreciate that we don't have as many volunteers now, but there is room for similar activities.
- Should be brought to congregations attention that things need to be done around the church, planting flowers and weeding, painting and other things that have to be done on a regular basis."
- Helping those who need a helping hand in our community should be a priority, food and housing. Apartments built for seniors close by that are affordable is my vision.

- The astute course of immediate action is to secure the building with a new roof, minimize any further interior degradation, and continue the search for new use. This is a prudent course of action in a tough situation.
- Perhaps there should be one Sunday a month where parishioners are expected to sit in different seats in order to interact with other parishioners. Included in that of course is choice of seating with the snack/coffee share after service. We need more intentional interaction from everyone in our parish and it begins with those occupying the pews, I think that will go a long way to fostering an atmosphere of warmth and welcome.
- As an aside: my extended family and I are very interested in genealogy and NB history and are also currently volunteering at the provincial archives in support of digitizing historical records. We recently came across newspaper clippings from 1922 about how the stone church helped host meetings of the Fredericton YMCA in 1867 while the Charlotte St facility was being built. Clearly there is a long history of local connections and fellowship activities. If NB history / genealogy is of interest to others or has some connection to other activities in support of information sharing on the local scene that would be of broad interest to us.

Negative Comments:

- Our bad publicity in the community about tearing down our Stone Church was unsettling
- Strife and division between members, e.g. our inability to make a decision and implement it re the stone building's years of ongoing conflict between members
- Less dwelling on the past. Less fear about spending money.
- People are tired, over worked and we have not been diligent in supporting and welcoming families into our parish by ensuring there are appropriate supports for kids during worship.
- Gym lacks spiritual connection to God
- Old folk too set in their ways and afraid of progression / change.
- division regarding the fate of the stone building.

Treasurer's Report: St. John's Anglican Church

June 27, 2024

Financial Statements as of May 31, 2024

Balance Sheet

- Bank balance of \$102,505
 - Down \$5,511 from last month; up \$12,191 from last year
 - \$91,487 in special purpose funds
 - \$11,018 excluding special purpose funds
- \$7,200 in HST receivable
- \$1,413 in payables
- \$413 on Visa card
- Interest on Synod investments expected in June

Income Statement

- Revenue
 - \$97,110 in YTD unrestricted offerings
 - Increase of \$19,242 in May
 - Down \$4,427 from May 2023
 - Total revenue \$160,061
 - Adjusted revenue: \$108,969 (excluding Smart bequest)
 - \$77,868 in YTD unrestricted offerings
 - Down \$5,366 from April 2023 (number of Sundays, Easter offering down)
 - Increase of \$17,601 in the month of April 2024 (below average)
 - Total revenue \$160,061
 - Adjusted Revenue: \$108,970 (excluding Smart bequest)

- Expenses
 - \$119,676 year to date expenses
 - Expenses of \$27,316 in the month of May
 - Expenses down \$12,890 from last year
 - Savings in natural gas, insurance, maintenance, snow removal
 - Higher in salaries, office expenses, power bill, travel

- Net Income
 - Adjusted: Deficit of \$10,706 (\$3,835 last month)

Other

- CRA charity return submitted
- Visa issues resolved (online statements now available)

	2024	2023	2022
ASSETS			
Bank	102,505	108,016	90,325
Special Purpose Funds	91,487	96,998	80,296
Excluding Special Purpose Funds	11,018	10,502	11,029
HST Receivable	7,200	0	0
Payables	1,413	2,826	0
Visa Card	413	0	0
Interest on Synod Investments	0	0	0
LIABILITIES			
Revenue	160,061	160,061	160,061
YTD Unrestricted Offerings	97,110	77,868	72,452
Adjusted Revenue	108,969	108,970	108,970
YTD Unrestricted Offerings	77,868	72,452	67,036
Adjusted Revenue	108,970	108,970	108,970
Expenses	119,676	132,566	126,676
Adjusted Expenses	108,970	108,970	108,970
Net Income	(10,706)	(3,835)	(6,609)
Adjusted Net Income	(10,706)	(3,835)	(6,609)
Other	0	0	0
CRA Charity Return	0	0	0
Visa Issues	0	0	0
NET ASSETS			
2024	102,505	108,016	90,325
2023	108,016	90,325	72,452
2022	90,325	72,452	67,036