

St. James Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 6th, 2005

Present: Rev. Dr. John Stephenson, Deirdre Fowler, Dee McEnaney, Elizabeth Morton, Gordon Morton, Bruce Neville, Cobina Price-Jones (Chair), Heather Sabbagh (Secretary), Peter Sabbagh, Alan Whike.

John Stephenson opened the meeting with prayer at 7:35 PM.

Minutes of the November 7, 2005 Meeting

. Dee McEnaney moved acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Bruce Neville.
Carried.

Business Arising

. Gordon pointed out that Bruce worked on the storm windows for the stained glass on the *west* side of the church, not the south side as recorded in the minutes.
. Bruce answered Deirdre's query about the men's breakfast meeting, praising Michael Coren as an engaging speaker. Consideration was given to inviting Mr. Coren to speak at another function that might include the whole parish and people from the wider community.

Incumbent's Report

. John reported that there are all kinds of things happening in this parish!
. The baptism committee has been working hard and will have a report prepared for the upcoming vestry meeting.
. John has been involved in a number of funerals this month, at both St. James and farther afield.
. The 151st Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada was not a particularly divisive one.
. Advent has begun and St. James currently is involved in three outreach projects – the Advent Tree, the Penny Drive and Sleeping Children around the World.
. There will be three Christmas worship services at St. James: a service for young families at 5:30 PM, featuring contemporary music; a 7 PM service for seniors and those who want to have an early night; the traditional First Eucharist of Christmas at 11 PM (preceded by carols in the parish hall at 10:15??). The regular Sunday service (with carols) will be held at 10:00 AM on Christmas Day.
. John responded to Cobina's queries regarding our wedding policy (currently ad hoc) and about the Blue Christmas service to be held at the Nashville Community Church for people currently mourning the loss of a loved one. 600 – 800 people have attended that service in the past.
. There have been approximately twenty children attending Sunday school for the last few weeks, attendance at men's breakfasts also is picking up and Jonathan reports a spike in numbers at youth group meetings and Friday functions.

- . The postponed trip to New York might yet be revived, but the venue might also be changed to Israel in January of 2007.
- . “Jesus, Dan and Leonardo”, a four-week course will be offered during Epiphany.
- . There also will be a re-run of “Lent at the Movies” this year.
- . Two weddings are being planned at St. James next summer.
- . Christmas Communion for shut-ins begins tomorrow (December 7th).
- . Currently we are experiencing a resurgence of visitors. Some families have joined and some have indicated an interest in doing so. We must continue to be vigilant about welcoming new people at coffee hour!
- . The new privacy act of the government will make hospital patient lists inaccessible to John unless patients have indicated they are Anglicans.
- . The Collis Matchoko family hopes to come to Canada in February. Help likely will be required in getting them settled in a house being offered for their use by the parish of St. Olave in Toronto.

Wardens’ Report

- . Karen pointed out that coffee hour is becoming chaotic. It is good that the children are feeling comfortable, but they may be feeling *too* comfortable. The wardens feel that their parents should monitor the children’s behaviour. A video room run by the older Sunday school children was suggested as an aid to keeping kids occupied while their parents enjoy a bit of socialization.
- . Again it was pointed out that we must remember to welcome visitors at coffee hour!
- . Three new sacramental wines are being sampled at this time. Port is popular, but other things to be considered are spoilage and the potential for staining the linens.
- . The budget has not yet been finalized.
- . The Christmas newspaper advertising has been donated.
- . Suggestions for a Deputy People’s Warden are being solicited for February.
- . The Rotary House Tour last weekend involved approximately 250 visitors. The event required much work on the part of the Heritage Committee, so we hope it offered community exposure to St. James and our facilities.
- . Synod is attempting to change the calculation of the allotment to the diocese. Wardens recently met with diocesan officials, because our allotment was to increase threefold. Ministry growth is being encouraged in the Diocese of Toronto; building of rental properties is not. The diocese is moving to a “flat tax” of 23.7%, phased in over three years. The motion got a 72% majority, so did not pass by the required 75%. St. James’ allotment will increase from \$8700.00 to \$13,200.00. We have been paying substantially less than some other parishes showing the same income. The wardens are in agreement that the spirit of the change is lovely, in that ministry expenses are rewarded, while bricks and mortar are not. Still, we must change the way we do our accounting in certain ways. Flower donations, for example, are not included in the allotment payment if they are designated as memorial donations.

Social

- . Dee said twenty turned out to the latest theatre outing. It was a great play.
- . A group may be organizing to support cast members from St. James at theatre performances on the 11th or the 18th of December.

Service

- . Thus far, Alan reported that the campaign for Sleeping Children around the World has raised \$240.00 at St. James.

Administration

- . Diane Allengame-Kuster submitted a written report.
- . Rotary House Tour: Members of the committee served as hosts and guides for this successful day on Saturday, December 3rd. At least 60 people visited the church. Historical highlights, brief explanation of certain things in the church and an outline of our regular and Christmas services was given to all.
- . Cruets were dedicated on Sunday, November 5th. There are no other gifts pending at present, although there is some money left from other gifts to put towards green antependia.
- . The revised Memorial Opportunity pamphlet will be ready for Christmas services.
- . Glass is ready to be installed in the curio cabinet, now placed in the Gathering Space. Paul Kuster will install the glass and make some minor repairs to the wood surface. A light will be installed and the cabinet used to showcase retired memorial items and other items of heritage interest.
- . Work on the reredos has been approved. The wooden shelf, bearing the words "Holy Holy Holy" formerly sat on top of the altar and was used to elevate the Calvary cross and the flower vases. The shelf will be repaired, stained to match the altar and installed below the west window and can be used for various decorative purposes.

Finance

- . Alan reported a drop of \$1,000.00 per month over the past year. St. James lost \$18,000.00 by becoming a single point parish. Year 1 we saved money because we were without a rector. In Year 2 we had the GST rebate. Year 3 we had nothing. Giving plus fundraising must go from \$83,000.00 to \$112,000.00 in order to survive 2006. Beginning the stewardship campaign in January is too late, because we won't see results until March. Even as Alan spoke, we were dealing with a crisis in the physical plant of the rectory, currently without either a working furnace or a water heater. We have no funds to call on in such emergency situations.

Property

- . Gordon reported that the snow removal contract has been awarded to Green Day Landscaping. The response of the daycare has been positive to date, but Gordon will remind them to speak to him rather than to the driver in the event of a problem.
- . The hall is beginning to look shabby. It should be repaired and painted next year.

. Gordon alluded to the problems with the furnace and the water tank at the rectory, despite following a schedule of regular maintenance.

Worship

. Gordon reported that there is a problem with hearing the pre-service announcements for the choir members waiting in the Gathering Space. It was agreed that we should investigate the potential of our sound system to correct the problem.

. There was general agreement that we again are creeping up to *too many announcements*. The congregation is encouraged to read the bulletin if it wants to know what is happening at St. James.

Education

. Deidre reported on a very successful Advent Craft Day, with 13 families (15 adults and 25 children) in attendance.

. Presentations on the Jesse Tree have started.

. The Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday the 18th at 11 AM. The rehearsal is scheduled at 9 AM on Saturday the 17th.

. Deidre is pleased with increasing attendance at and use of the nursery.

Communications

. Cobina reported 900 visits to the website in November.

. There will be advertisements and a flyer for Advent and Christmas activities at St. James.

. Newsletter deadlines still are not being respected and articles are going to be held over for publication in the next newsletter if they do not meet deadline in February.

New Business

. Calendars are for sale at the back of the church.

. The new Sunday coffee hour roster will be out soon.

. Long-term maintenance survival of the cemetery is important. The Innis family is considering ceding to us a ten-foot strip of their land on which we might build a columbarium. A location between the daycare and the church also is being discussed. There will be a few diocesan hoops to navigate. It is a potential source of income (in the form of a small custodial fee) for the church.

John and Peter adjourned to deal with the heating problems at the rectory. The meeting closed with the Grace.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 3, 2006 at 7:30 PM.