

**St. James Advisory Board Meeting  
January 10, 2006**

**Present:** Bruce Neville, Diane Allengame-Kuster, Rev. Dr. John Stephenson, Kim James (Chair), Elizabeth Morton, Gordon Morton, Cobina Price-Jones, Carl Kinzinger, Alan White, David Finch, Ruth Sowrey (Secretary), Heather Sabbagh, Deirdre Fowler.

John Stephenson opened the meeting with prayer.

**Minutes of the December 6, 2005 Meeting**

- Bruce Neville moved acceptance of the minutes. Gordon Morton 2nd. All in favour.

**Business Arising**

- Carl asked if there was a Christmas Flyer. The answer was yes.
- John reported that the family of Collis Machoko will arrive on January 30. Desiree Neville and Karen Carley will be meeting them in Frankfurt and accompanying them home via Air Canada. We have been requested to provide bedding for a queen size and 2 twin beds.
- John has reduced the announcements and instructed people to read the bulletin, but there are still those who claim not to know what is taking place.

**Incumbent's Report**

**Christmas Services**

- The Advent Candlelight services did not draw great crowds, but were enjoyed by those who were there. The final night was well attended.
- The Advent Carol Service was wonderful all round – music, choir and pageant. There was also a good crowd.
- On Christmas Eve we added a third service. The children's service moved to 5:30 and seemed to be well received at that time. Jonathan did a good job and also the 9:30 band. The crowd of 83 exceeded expectations, even though most of the Sunday School teachers did not attend.
- The new service was at 7:00 pm. About 25 people were expected but 58 attended. The use of the BCP service was appreciated.
- The 11:00 pm. Service was also well attended with many visitors. It was a beautiful service with the addition of brass and Travis Fowler accompanying Silent Night on the guitar. It was felt that good crowds could be partly attributed to the flyer. John also commented that we are a parish, not just a congregation.
- Christmas Day saw 24 attending – more than last year.
- Comparing our attendance: 2005 – 266, 2004 – 216, and 2003 – 208.
- John asked for comments on Christmas. The Advent candlelight services were appreciated. The brass on Christmas Eve was felt to be nice but not necessary. A change to 10 pm for the late service was suggested. The 5:30 service was appreciated. The brass will have to be considered since they offered to come at Easter.

**Education**

- The DaVinci Code discussion group will begin on January 25.

- John is teaching a course at the Oakville campus of Tyndale. It will be audited by 2 of our members.
- We need chairpersons for Chancel Guild, Sidespeople and Outreach.
- There will be a Server's Service soon. The date has not been decided.
- The Stewardship Campaign emphasizing Time, Talent and Treasure will begin January 29.
- The men's breakfast will take place on January 21, with guest speaker Robert Vagacs.
- Youth Group has started up again.
- John's week off will be taken in Jerusalem. There will be an opportunity to do some planning with Geoff Sangwine on the planned joint pilgrimage to the Holy Land with St. Joseph's.
- There are three people to be confirmed at the Cathedral in April.
- Madeline Elms has broken her hip and is very unwell. She is in room 510 at Peel Memorial Hospital.
- An Electoral Synod was held last Saturday. Patrick Yu was elected Diocesan Bishop for York Simcoe.
- Rev. Ralph Ibner died suddenly last night, after meeting with Bishop Poole and clergy from the Deanery.

### **Warden's Report**

- Our finances are continually worrying. The upkeep for our properties – e.g. heating and insurance – are constantly rising. Our dire state was made even worse when the rectory furnace had to be replaced.
- The impassioned plea that Peter Sabbagh made in December was responded to generously and helped us end the year in better shape than was first feared.
- In 2006 we need more people on PAG. The Diocese is making changes and downloading the program to parishes. This will mean more work for Neil Price-Jones.
- Maintenance and upkeep will be a major focus in the upcoming budget.
- The mortgage was renegotiated for the additions we have built. We need the income from Daycare and must take care of their repairs also.

### **Service**

- The parish was very generous with Outreach last year. Givings amounted to \$8500.00. The major needs we responded to were: Tsunami relief, Hurricane Katrina, Rev. Collis Machoko and Sleeping Children Around the World.
- Alan Whike has tendered his resignation as chair of the Outreach Committee.

### **Administration**

- Diane Allengame-Kuster reported that the Heritage Committee held a joint meeting in December with the Cemetery Committee because of their common interests.
- The Memorial Brochure was revised.
- The glass is ready for the curio cabinet but won't be installed until the cabinet is in its final position.
- Cobina will put the memorial brochure on the website.

### **Finance**

- David Finch reported that the Finance Committee will no longer meet monthly. It is felt that quarterly is sufficient.
- They met a number of times before the end of the year to strike the budget. It needs to be reviewed before publishing in a couple of weeks.
- We ended the year better than feared largely because of Peter's speech.
- It was decided not to cut program – givings need to be increased.
- Alan tabled the proposed budget as attached. This is not the final budget.
- John expressed thanks for the hours spent preparing this document.
- Diane moved that the budget be presented to Vestry. Heather 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favour.

### **Property**

- Gordon expressed dissatisfaction with Direct Energy in the dealings at the rectory over the furnace and water heater.
- As a result he contacted a service provider – Circa Heating and Cooling. They have looked over all our facilities. We will undertake a preventive maintenance contract with them. There will be two inspections a year to prepare for the heating and cooling seasons. These people responded very promptly to the gas leak in the church just before Christmas. The serviceman looked at the furnace in the church and said we will have to consider a new furnace in the relatively near future.
- The office computer crashed on Christmas Eve. It is up and running as of today thanks to Travis Fowler.

### **Worship**

- There will be a Worship Committee meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be finalizing plans for Lent and Easter.

### **Education**

- Deirdre requested that her and Cobina's reports be moved forward for the next Advisory Board so that they are not so late in the meeting.
- The Sunday School penny drive amounted to \$126.00. Bolton United seems to have won the challenge, but we did beat Caledon East United.

### **New Business**

- John suggested that New Business move to the first of the meeting.
- Diane moved that this be done and Cobina seconded. Motion carried.
- Bruce moved that we have a 7 p.m. start for the meetings. Alan 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was discussion that some will find it impossible to be here on time, but it was decided to try it.
- We need to know when Vestry Reports are due.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 7**  
**7 P.M.**