

St. James Advisory Board Meeting
January 12, 2010

Present: Karen Carley, Cobina Price-Jones(chair), The Rev. Wendy Moore, Ruth Sowrey (secretary) Diane Allengame, Heather Sabbagh, Dee McEnaney, Donna Davies.

Wendy opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the November 10, 2009 Meeting

- Dee McEnaney moved acceptance of the minutes.
- 2nd Karen Carley.
- All in favour.

Business Arising

- John Swinden and Neil Price-Jones did a performance statement on the proposed sale of the rectory. They found that over a number of years it was not financially viable. Over time we would be losing money because of the percentage paid to the Diocese of our income and the loss of the deduction for our mortgage payments. The sale is no longer an option.

Incumbent's Report

- Wendy reported on the Advent and Christmas season and asked for comments.
- A Christmas flyer was sent out to the parish and to about 2400 homes in the area. The parish mailing included an invitation to the St. Nicholas Dinner. It was felt this was successful. The mass mailing has no way of tracking its success, but it was felt that it is important to maintain our presence in the community.
- The visibility in the newspapers was good.
- The Advent candles are a problem for the children to light. Something safer is needed. Also a better prayer for the lighting to give greater understanding to the children.
- A church cleanup should be done before Advent so that we are sparkling for Christmas.
- It would be nice to have something for outdoor decoration. Lighting and a crèche were discussed. July/August is when this should be tackled and worked on.
- The St. Nicholas dinner had a good turnout and was well received and enjoyed. Michelle did a great job of organizing and directing the play.
- Lessons & Carols – Reports to Wendy were favourable. We need more choir members. There was only one soprano that day. The Sherry & Shortbread was well received.
- The portable mike is a problem. We can't seem to solve the problem of cutting out. Heather will get in touch with Long & McQuade where it was purchased.
- Candle lighting was handled differently on Christmas Eve. The tea lights were placed in front of the crèche. People appreciated the crèche being raised up where it can be easily seen, but it was felt the candles should be tiered for greater effect.
- At 7:00 there were 118 present and at 11:00, 83.
- The Dickens Café is worth repeating. It was enjoyed.
- Christmas day was the usual low turnout for the service – 12.
- Christmas dinner was enjoyed by our own people. Some disappointment was expressed that we didn't draw on an outside crowd. We should concentrate on our own people, their families, neighbours and friends.
- Memories and Dreams was a low Sunday but well received.
- Wendy would like a Christmas Host or Hostess who will work along with her to make it a warm wonderful time.
- Would we like to present "A Christmas Carol" in conjunction with CBC? Would we do this in cooperation with the Caledon Ministerial? Yes, but do it ourselves. We have a wonderful setting. We don't want to spread ourselves too thin in personnel. Maybe we could pass Lessons & Carols this coming year to concentrate on "A Christmas Carol."
- Back to Church Sunday will be held again this year on September 26. For promotion could we have a booth or presence at Community Fairs? Are there people willing to work on promotion?

Treasurer's Report

- See report submitted by Neil.
- This report is to the end of November. The yearend report will be available next month.
- Karen has the 2009 givings statements ready for pick up and review.

- The Finance committee met last week. We will ask CIBC for a reduction in mortgage payments to reduce the strain.
- Adopt-A-Road has the potential to increase, but there is a problem with finding enough bodies to do the work.

Warden's Report

- The wardens are preparing for Vestry, including finding new deputy wardens.
- We would like to concentrate at vestry on separating the real work of the church from the business end.
- The budget will be presented by power point.
- Ongoing to be considered: bell tower, roof, sprinkler system.
- Cathy Wells has officially retired from the Garden Guild. We have to decide the way forward for the grounds.
- The list of parishioners eligible for voting at Vestry needs to be posted.
- We are looking into a retreat for Wendy and the wardens to discuss the way forward after coming out of Sabbath year.

Ministry Areas

Social

- February 27 is the next Theatre Night.
- February 13 - Murder Mystery.
- February 24 - Skating party.

Communications

- The website had 2400 hits in December! Should we have a special page for Christmas? Desiree took some wonderful pictures at the St. Nicholas dinner that could be used. Releases need to be checked and updated.
- The next newsletter deadline is February 14 for publication the 28th.

Hospitality

- The monthly cakes will continue this year and Mary will be sending the cards.

Christian Education

- Heather and Wendy will discuss the Lenten Study.
- The tract rack has been refilled with a wealth of wonderful material.

Outreach

- Message from Irma: the Advent Tree was very successful and appreciated. Thanks to all for their contribution. The youth at Choices had a wonderful Christmas with 2 of the young people celebrating the joys of the season for the first time. A summary of December donations is outlined in our November report. In the New Year, we will be going forward working as hands and feet of the Lord. Please let us know if you have ideas for ways that we can help individuals or groups.

Bulletin Board

- **January 24 Skating Party**
- **February 13 Murder Mystery**
- **February 14 Newsletter Deadline**
- **February 17 Ash Wednesday**
- **September 26 Back to Church Sunday**

The meeting closed with the Grace at 8:50 pm.
Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 pm.