

Notes from Ashton Parish Council, August 27, 2019

Attendance: Bonnie McConnell, Rev. Kerri Brennan, Lois Lohmann, Barclay Frost, Trilly McKenzie, Chris McKenzie, Michelle Kay, Roger O'Connor, Henry Troup

Agenda Note: meeting with Archdeacon Kathryn Otley postponed until after some other discussions. Suggestion that this will be after September 22nd (after the Richmond Fair, September 19-22).

Parish future: Fr. John Bridges will be retiring around May to July of 2020. It seems that the current team arrangements may not be continuing. There was general discussion of options and possible process around the Area Parish of Mississippi Lake. Challenged ourselves to think about the three-year and ten-year visions.

Financial review: Moved by Lois, seconded by Barclay to receive the financial report to the end of July. Status was a net shortfall of \$3,903.86, with Diocesan payments in further arrears of \$8,739.29. Notable positives were the spring concert, May dinner, Plant Sale, and Lent offering. Notable negatives were local offering in general and rectory expenses.

Property/Trust fund: **moved** by Gerd Lohmann, seconded by Roger O'Connor to request \$15,000 from the trust funds for stone work and kitchen renovation.

Prospect campaign to repair stonework on St. Augustine's church has received \$2000 so far. This is being organization by volunteers from the Prospect area and families with a strong connection to Prospect church.

It was suggested that some kind of sign at Prospect would be good. Also that there need to be "Thank You"s to the community volunteers there.

Fall and Advent plans:

- There was consensus towards an Advent Bazaar November 30th. We need someone to lead this effort. We anticipate having the kitchen able to pass inspection by then
- No Fall dinner due to the need for masonry and kitchen work
- **Harvest Thanksgiving:** Altar Guild may not be in a position to decorate in September. There was consensus that most people identify "Thanksgiving" with the October 13th national holiday.
- Newsletter: a newsletter will be ready before Thanksgiving, October 13th, and will include simple financials and outlook for the end of the year.
- **Synod:** October 25/26, Both Rev. Kerri and Michelle Kay will not be able to attend. Henry Troup will. We need one alternate for each day.

175 th Anniversary: possibly a June 2020 event

Cemetery Services:

- Prospect had an issue with musicians not being able to find the location. It is in Google Maps as "261 Richmond Road, Beckwith", not Prospect.

- There was also discussion about the music selections. Some people made a case for “old Sunday School” hymns as most appropriate for a gathering of people who are not generally attending Christ Church Ashton services.
- The cemeteries are in excellent trim, thanks to Lee and Connor Jones
- Ashton’s outdoor service was well-attended with 50 people, and a contribution to the cemetery funds of \$861, more than double last year

Use of church: Gerd asked if Wayne Rostad could use the church during the week as a place to practice. Parish Council agreed.