

**Parish of the Northern Lights
Parish Council Meeting
Monday, December 14, 2015**

Teaching

The meeting opened at 7:15PM with a discussion of Matthew 24:15-31 within the context of gospel based discipleship.

The business meeting was chaired by Judy Flax. In attendance were Bill Creaser, Judy Flax, Maureen Hagan, Richard Loken, Joanna Muzyka, LeRoy Overacker, Jodi Pisarewski, Donna Sodergren, Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Joyce Wilson.

Information

1. **Minutes of the Meeting of October 26, 2015:** The minutes were adopted as distributed.

Moved by LeRoy Overacker, Carried.

2. **Reminders:** There were four reminders to pass on to the attendees.

The Parish Council members were reminded that they are expected to bring any news from the parish council meetings back to their congregations.

Lesley asked the members to think about why the parish has web site and then to think about what can be done to make it both more popular and more useful. This led to a long conversation about the website and a suggestion that the secretary should be fired from his day job at Athabasca University for failing to read the company newsletter. It was also agreed that Joanna Muzyka would lead some workshops to teach congregation members how to edit and maintain the parish website.

The members were reminded that the churches in the parish require regular maintenance and especially sidewalk clearing during the anticipated but somewhat tardy winter.

LeRoy told everybody that, as of this very moment, submissions for the parish newsletter must be received by the 25th of each month. This is necessary to allow proper editing and timely distribution of the newsletter.

Discussion

1. **Congregational, Youth, and Clergy Reports:**

St. Thomas, Perryvale: The first parish social event of 2016 will be hosted by St. Thomas on January 6 at 6:00PM at the Perryvale community hall.

St Andrew's/Zion, Colinton: The congregation will be holding their annual Christmas concert in the church on December 21 with a potluck at 6:00PM and the concert at 7:00PM.

St Paul's, Boyle: The congregation has been unable to reach a quorum at their last two vestry meetings so their last successful meeting was in October. St Paul's has a \$6,000.00 deficit with no more reserve funds to draw upon.

Christ Church, Wandering River: The congregation is still holding Monday morning prayer services. Lesley feels a strong sense of community at these meetings.

Youth Group: Joanna tabled the written youth group report which was distributed with the November meeting agenda. Joanna emphasized the importance of having a reasonable amount of money set aside in the parish budget for the youth group, Joanna feels that a thoughtful budget line expresses parish support for the important work of youth ministry - this was also said in the written report.

Joanna reported that the youth group has scheduled their 2016 meetings and are planning to attend the annual YC youth conference in Edmonton on May 27 to 29 with appropriate fund raising to make it possible.

Joanna emphasized the ongoing need for adult volunteers to assist with youth group meetings and activities.

Clergy: Lesley reported that Terry Lear will be here for the fifth Sunday weekend (January 30 and 31) and he would like to hold another workshop.

Bill Creaser reported that he continues to take professional development courses. Bill also reported that he and Cathie are hosting a regular bible study Tuesday evenings and that he has been active in the refugee committee and in the community Santa's Anonymous committee.

2. **Budget:** LeRoy tabled his proposed 2016 parish budget. There was discussion about various line items and then the proposed budget was accepted without change. LeRoy had questions about Anglican church custom and parish policy on the purchase of robes for lay leaders, Lesley will do some research into what policy is in place in other churches in the diocese.
3. **Refugee Sponsorship Update:** Due to the rules governing the various aspects of refugee sponsorship, the application is in the name of St Andrew/Zion but it is very important that all of the parish - and the wider community - be involved in the project. The Diocese of Athabasca has granted the refugee sponsorship fund special status so that none of the collected money will be transferred to the diocese. The refugee sponsorship application has not yet been submitted or completed.
4. **Email Vote:** The stove in the rectory started behaving very badly in early December and it was decided by email to purchase a new one.

Be it resolved that the reverend Lesley Wheeler-Dame be authorized to purchase a new kitchen stove with a cost not to exceed \$800.00.

Moved by Jodi Pisarewski, Seconded by LeRoy Overacker, Carried.
5. **Lesley's Holidays and Winter Break:** Lesley has four days of vacation left and she is entitled to take a winter break between Christmas and Ash Wednesday (February 10, 2016). Lesley will use her vacation days somewhere between December 14 and December 24, she will take her winter break between December 26 and January 2.

Decision

1. **Treasurer's Report:** LeRoy tabled the treasurer's report for January 1 to November 30, 2015. The report was adopted as distributed.

Moved by LeRoy Overacker, Seconded by Joyce Wilson, Carried.

LeRoy says he wants all financial reports in his hands as soon as possible after January 1, 2016 so that he can have his reports and budget completed in time for the parish AGM.

2. **Next Meeting:**
January 18, 2016