

# North Burlington Churches united

“One church body in Christ which ministers to the needs identified by the North Burlington community”

Dec. 4, 2017 Lowville United Church

**Present:** Dale Martin (chair), Heather McGavin (recording secretary), Sue Stephen, Paul Bartu, Janice Martin, Allison Playfair, Gary Goodale, Susan Ward-England, Carol Boyle, Janet Saunders, Ruth Coverdale, Daryl Webber, Barb McKeown, Dale McKeown, Marilyn Martin

**Regrets:** Nancy Knill

Dale called the meeting to order.

Daryl read a devotional message as well as a prayer

Dale lead the group with the NBCu prayer:

- Dear God We, the North Burlington Churches united; joining together in praising your name,  
May our congregations be united in faith and friendship.  
We are “One church body in Christ which ministers to needs identified by the North Burlington Community”  
Give us strength, hope and patience, as we journey together listening to each other and appreciating the many gifts within our faith community.  
Guide us as we jointly grow in visioning our place in your world  
Amen

Motion to accept the Nov minutes – moved by Dale McKeown and seconded by Janet Saunders. Carried

Congregational reports:

Tansley

- 4 directions service was held last Sun night
- They had an interesting and successful fundraiser. Someone came in to do silver and gold fund appraisals and bought the items. The church got the appraised value and the donator got a gift in kind (receipt). They raised \$5,000. Lots of silver plate tea services are going to Iran and Iraq (they love it). If the appraiser gets more for the item when it is sold, the extra amount goes back to the church. It ran for 2 afternoons for 2 hours.
- Susan has the pamphlet if anyone else is interested. David Froom
- Upcoming
  - Christmas musical afternoon the last Mon before Christmas
  - Starting the second phase of Cooking at Tansley in Jan

- Halton Fresh Food Box – have about 40-50 families. They need volunteers once/month. Third Tues of the month
- Looking to continue reconciliation journey. Looking at a reconciliation/educational event to watch Indian Horse
- The Tansley Elf Network – 14 families and 28 kids. They are looking for gift cards and will do food hampers. They are short on gift cards – preferably WalMart. They will do the gifts Dec 14 and food closer to Christmas.
- Artists are coming in to the Single Moms’ group to work with the moms and the children to work on Christmas gifts

#### Lowville

- Daryl reported that they are going to try to gather native art and have a conversation about the art in their book club. If anyone has connections with pieces of art they would welcome copies of them to discuss
- Last Sun night they started their first Lowville Turns In” evening. Kids come in pj’s and someone comes in to read a favourite Christmas story. They also sing the Canadian version of the 12 days of Christmas. Last night a carver (George McNaught) brought in carved mice that the children will sand and then attach eyes. The age range is 6 – 14 along with many adults. This is a good opportunity for neighbours to meet each other. It happens throughout Advent on Sunday nights 7:30-8:15.
- They got toy and food donations at their White Gift Sun that will go to the Wesley Christmas store
- Tomorrow – first day of contemplation and silence. There have 1.5 hours in the morning and in the evening that are silent and with guided prayer. This occurs once / month (first Tues)
- Bible study 101 in Jan – introduction to the scriptures. Starts Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 10:30 - noon
- Feb – grief group starting
- The Welsh Children’s Christmas Dec 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at St. George’s Anglican Church (corner of Derry & Guelph Line)
- Several people went to a farm to gather greens and berries to make an advent wreath. The wreath was made during the church service.
- Daryl reported that a stewardship program will start in Jan. They have enough to keep going until June and a JNAC will be started up as soon as they can get 2 Presbytery clergy reps. There is a lot of transition occurring in Halton right now (close to 2/3 of the churches). Several ministers are retiring and other churches are doing JNACs for various reasons.

#### St. Stephen

- Presbytery has finally approved the sale of the property to the developer. There were several hoops to jump through to gain this approval. Their lawyer had to review the contract and they want to know how the funds will be spent.
- Paul & Heather have met twice with John Taylor (ward councillor) who is

very supportive. Michael Wright from Edge and the developer joined one of those meetings. The developers have had a pre-consultation meeting with the developers. The city wants the church to donate the creek bed and this will require an environmental scan.

- It is a waiting game right now. Zoning changes will require public meetings.
- The Hospice has finally broken ground for their renovations.
- A congregational meeting was held last Sun. Updates were provided and there was discussion about what will be done about worshipping in the future.
- An invitation from Tansley was taken to the congregation and a formal response will be sent. Several congregants have offered to be on a committee for exploratory discussions.
- Burlington Memorial Gardens are planning to build a chapel/reception hall on site in collaboration with Dodsworth and Brown. They are interested in using some of the fixtures from St. Stephen and also having the congregation possibly use the space. Apparently Nelson also heard about the proposed chapel.
- Has the relocation committee looked at chapels in local funeral homes? Apparently more funerals happen on a Sun morning but it is an option worth exploring.
- The Christmas bazaar on Sat was very successful
- Wesley Christmas store will be supported again. There is a special emphasis on food collection this year.
- The community dinner night out is coming up Dec 13<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed
- North Burlington seniors' lunch will be on the third Friday
- Angels Among Us is the Advent theme
- First Sat in Feb - possible date for spaghetti dinner for The Bridge program
- Port Nelson has expressed an interest in having a conversation with St. Stephen. The board chairs and ministers will meet to see if they should move forward with discussions if St Stephen Council approves. The potential exists for this to be a broader conversation with Port Nelson and the NBCu. They are going through a JNAC. Gord Dunbar took a call in Kincardine. Martha Reynolds is on appointment at Port Nelson right now as they go through their JNAC.
- Allison has agreed to co-chair the Presbytery pastoral relations committee.

#### Joint Service

- Allison and Steve and Daryl had a planning meeting about a joint service at Lowville Jan 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. There is a question of having a joint choir since it is a busy season for a joint practice. They plan to ask Michael from Tansley if he would play. Both Tansley and St. Stephen would be closed that day. They want to keep the planning for the service simple. The

theme is Epiphany along with the three wise man as well as the fourth wise man. There have been no discussions with the worship committees yet.

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#### Joint Offsite Retreat

- Jan 20<sup>th</sup>
- No planning has been done to date but it involves a quiet outdoor walk.
- “Knowing our stories and telling our stories for the church to have a future”
- We should let people know what is being planned so they can think about significant events from our lives and our spiritual journeys
- Compare to rings of the tree
- We need a couple of route options. Lowville parks goes over to Walker’s Line but also has shorter trails in the park.
- Given the weather and demographics of our congregations, could there be an option that is not actually a walk in the woods? – have it symbolic rather than literal. Lowville park can give you what you need. Consider letting people do what they feel like and then meet at the church at 11:30. We would gather at the church to begin the event.

Next NBCu meeting January 8, 2018, Tansley.

Motion for adjournment – Gary Goodale

Closing blessing - Go Now in Peace sung