

# **St. John in the Wilderness**

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday September 11, 2025

Present: Rev Sherry DeJonge, Peter Langille, Brian Bradford, Brent Anderson, Deb Walker, Aruna Anderson, Susan Halliday, Ingrid Schmid, Sandy Dawson; Brian Fogg, Kathy Morris, Leslie Grieve

Regrets: Brenden Fraser, Sandra Fraser

Scribe: Mike Moloney

**Opening** – Rev Sherry DeJonge opened with a prayer.

**Reviewed previous Minutes**, (no corrections)

**MOTION to accept by Leslie seconded by Kathy PASSED by All.**

**Business arising from the minutes.**

None.

## **Rector's Report**

July and August were quiet, however, September is now ramping up. Melissa Basso (nee Dally) baptism will happen once travel of family from Western Canada is sorted out.

Bible Study is re-starting on Thursday October 2, 2025, at 10 am.

## **Wardens' Report**

The selection process questionnaires were summarized September 5, 2025, and sent to the selection team a few days later. The next step is to update the Parish Profile.

Deb is currently responding to the Deanery's Turning to Grace questionnaire. This was reviewed during this meeting. (See bottom of minutes for responses.)

The presbyterian church ladies have booked St. John-in-the-Wilderness Hall during the day on Tuesday Sept 23, 2025.

### **Property Committee – Brian B.**

The grass was planted over the new Big-O drain line installed north of the Church and Hall. Garden has been weeded, and trees have been trimmed. NW storage facility is going to have a cold air duct installed to eliminate the musty smell since this room is not ventilated. The two red doors at the front of the church need to be replaced due to their condition. Minor electrical upgrades are going to be booked for the Church and Hall. We have started the installation of the old St Bart's PA system. The speakers have been mounted and some wires pulled. We hope to have the amplifier working by early October.

We are looking at a church cleanup from 1 to 4 pm on Saturday, October 25, 2025, where many volunteers make easy work. Everyone from the parish is welcome to come help (inside and outside the church).

### **ACW Report**

The ACW is having a smoked pulled pork dinner on October 18, 2025. Bruce and Kyle are cooking for this event. A silent auction will follow with a singing session for the finale.

There will be a church Bake Sale between 10am-12pm on Saturday, November 29, 2025. Everyone in the parish is encouraged to bake and buy. Last year many people from the community purchased baking (and some even donated baking). It was a marvelous gathering of community.

On Wednesday December 3rd, 2025, a Christmas ACW dinner will be held at John's restaurant. Other Anglican churches in the Deanery are also welcomed at this event.

We are also planning an ACW Church service and lunch. It will be hosted by St. John-in-the-Wilderness in the first quarter of 2026. Other Anglican churches in the Deanery will be invited.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Brian would like to say thank you parishioners for a great August givings. We are almost at budget with givings.

Our operating costs are lower mostly due to operating with an interim priest.

Our Bank account is healthy, and we are looking at moving some funds to GICs.

An initial cheque of \$20,000 was presented to the church from the proceeds of the 2025 Triathlon.

Deb put a **MOTION** to increase our donation to St. Claire Child and Youth from \$2200 to \$3200 and to give Pathways \$1000.

We will also give our usual \$2200 to each of the following: Inn of the Good Shepherd, Women's Interval Home, and Alzheimer Society Sarnia.

These cheques are planned to be issued in the middle of November 2025.

**MOTION by Deb accepted SECONDED by Brian B. PASSED by All.**

**MOTION to accept report by Brian B. seconded by Ingrid PASSED by All.**

**New Business**

None

**Correspondence**

There was correspondence from our foster child.

**Other Business**

None

**MOTION to adjourn by Sandy.**

**Closing**

Closed with a prayer.

## Turning to Grace: Pillar One — Parish Report Worksheet

September to December 2025

Parish Name: \_\_\_ St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church Bright's Grove \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Deb Walker (for now) \_\_\_\_\_

### 1) Small Group Learning

Does your parish currently have a small group for learning? x Yes ☐ No

If yes, list the study groups (titles or themes) and when/where they meet:

Bible Study: Thursday mornings – starting in September

If no, is your parish interested in joining a study group hosted by another parish?

☐ Yes x No

### 2) Learning Plan

Please list any learning events planned for the next four months (Bible studies, book groups, lecture series, seasonal studies, etc.):

Topic: \_\_\_ Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_

Dates/Times: \_\_\_ Thursday mornings \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_ Church Hall – St. John in the Wilderness, Bright's Grove \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates/Times: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following areas are being covered in these learning events? (check all that apply)

x Spiritual growth & development

x Theology & scripture study

☐ Environmental concerns

☐ Justice issues

Other topics: \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental concerns impacted by the parish/church are discussed at parish council meetings \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Former Bishop Terry Dance has given lecture/study sessions a few weeks at a time (typically related to a season) and invited people from all local Anglican churches. It was hosted at a restaurant and was very successful. This was done on a mid-week evening with the aim to minimize conflicting with family time.

### 3) Workshop on Prayer

Is your parish planning a study or workshop on prayer between now and December? ☐ Yes x ☒ No ☐ Not yet, but considering

If yes:

- Title/Focus: \_\_\_\_\_

- Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

- Location: \_\_\_\_\_

If no, would your parish consider hosting such a workshop if invited? ☐ Yes x ☒ No

### 4) Children and Youth

Please list your parish's programs or events for children and youth in the coming season (e.g., Sunday School, youth group, special events, camps, etc.):

1. We offer Sunday School but have zero to 2 kids on a given Sunday (typically 3 zero Sundays to 1 2-kid Sunday)
2. We make laminated placements the Sunday before Thanksgiving.
3. We have children/teens read at the lessons and carols service (which we hold the Sunday before Christmas...so kids from university are home and other kids are done school.).
4. We have a pajama mass on Christmas eve.
5. We have an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday.
6. VBS – a ½ day in August...up to 14 kids (the number of bee suits we have)...we open up the church beehives with the kids, do an open session bible story and discussion, crafts, sing songs, do outdoor games.

Dates/Times (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be open to inviting children/youth from other parishes? x Yes ☐ No

We would be open to this but may need help/volunteers from the other parishes.

Please return this completed worksheet to Rev. Sean Davidson of Ginny Schleihau for collation and sharing across the deanery.