

St. John in the Wilderness

Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Thursday February 12, 2026

Present: Rev. Sherry De Jonge, Brian Bradford, Sandra Fraser, Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Brian Fogg, Kathy Morris, Mike Moloney, Ingrid Schmid, Sandy Dawson, Gwen McBean, Karen Wilson, Haley Walker

Regrets: Susan Halliday, Aruna Anderson, Brent Anderson

Scribe: Deb Walker

Opening – Rev. Sherry opened with a reflection on baptism given we are baptizing two children this Sunday. She followed with a prayer.

Peter welcomed our new council members.

Reviewed previous Minutes, (no corrections)

MOTION to accept by Kathy seconded by Brian B PASSED by All.

Business arising from the minutes.

None.

Rector's Report

It has been a quiet month. The two services at Afton and Vision Care were cancelled for February due to lockdown, but we did get a Vestry meeting in February 1st!

Coming up this Sunday is a baptism service for Dolly Straatman and her cousin Landyn Dehn, with Shrove Tuesday's Pancake supper on the following Tuesday. Ash Wednesday comes Feb 18 at 11.00 am, to begin Lent. Maundy Thursday is April 2nd at 7.00 pm, followed by Good Friday on April 3rd at 10.00 am.

Wardens' Report

We welcomed Kathy as a new Warden.

Our Parish Executive meetings have been moved to the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm.

Authority to sign bank documents is in the process of being changed from Deb Walker and Aruna Anderson to Kathy Morris and Haley Walker. Other people with signing authority remain the same post-Vestry.

Snowplowing is going well with Lakeshore Lawn and Landscape – piles of snow are being placed to avoid blockage of our sign and enable snow melt run off east and west and into our catch basin just east of the porch.

Property Committee – Brian B./Mike M.

We should get the small electrical upgrades done in April.

We have had some issues with water lines freezing in both bathrooms in very cold windy weather in January and February. Thanks to Mike and Brian B for working through the frozen pipes – using blow dryers, fans, and slowing dripping tap water etc. The northwest bathroom cold water freezes in very cold weather with a northwest or north wind. The northeast bathroom hot water freezes in very cold weather with northeast wind. We are looking at insulating the block underneath the crawl space as well as assessing removing the north siding and installing more insulation.

Front doors for church: We have two quotes and one more to come in to replace the red front doors of the church. The front doors are severely rotted, and we need to replace them before they are no longer functional. We have two memorial donations which will cover the cost of the doors. Bob Clingersmith and Gwen McBean are both donating funds to the glory of God and in loving memory of their spouses Brenda Clingersmith and Jim McBean. Thanks very much Bob and Gwen. God bless Brenda and Jim.

ACW Report

Pancake dinner is organized and ready for this Tuesday evening.

ACW Sunday will be held March 15. Thank you to Sandra Fraser for preaching and leading this service. A “Thank Offering” will be taken and we will forward it to the ACW Diocesan annual meeting.

Soup and sandwich is announced for Palm Sunday, March 29th. Gluten-free options will be available.

Our March meeting has been cancelled.

Treasurer's Report

Our givings are 2.1% behind; we are almost on pace for what we did last year. Total operating expenses were low, mainly due to having an interim Rector. We are monitoring energy costs given our new HVAC system. We have purchased \$420 of cards for the February Blah packages.

Haley has begun her training as Deputy Treasurer. Mike, Haley and Brian F agreed it is time to purchase the on-line Accounts software and switch from our old Sage software per last month’s Parish Council meeting. Mike will proceed with the purchase.

MOTION to accept by Brian F seconded by Sandy PASSED by All.

New Business

Sandra Fraser wanted to understand criteria for February Blah packages as she was asked by a few parishioners at an event. The Parish's "Approach to Outreach" document, created in October of 2022, includes a section on the February Blah packages.

Council agreed to assess and perhaps put criteria for the February Blah packages in the October bulletins. Before the May Parish Council meeting Executive will agree to words and put them before Council.

Correspondence

None

Other Business

Ingrid let new parish council members know that she will be reaching out to them for police checks for the Diocesan Safe Church program. She will also work with other members of the parish on police checks for the Safe Church program.

MOTION to adjourn by Ingrid.

Closing

We closed with The Grace.