

Worship Committee Report 2007 Submitted by Connie Kendrick

The Worship Committee is responsible for worship and worship related functions within our church.

This committee maintains a vision of spiritual growth for the congregation that is consistent with the rector's plans throughout the church year. This includes our regular worship services, the church's seasonal programs, special occasional services and parishioners' religious services such as baptisms, weddings and funeral/memorial services.

The committee chairperson provides direction for the Worship guilds of the church – Acolytes, Altar Guild, Heavenly Bread Bakers, Lay Chalice Bearers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Children's Chapel, Festival Flowers, Lay Worship Readers or Lectors, and Ushers. These guilds function for all of our services.

Our congregation has grown during the past year and as we now have used our new chapel the guilds have remained well organized and consistent in their duties. Training of the new member is done as needed and written guild material is available for everybody. Volunteers are recruited on an as needed basis and with the growth of our congregation the guilds must be always ready to serve everyone at anytime.

Acolytes – The acolytes are functioning well with one server at Sunday services and extra people are called upon for larger special services. As we start our new church year and have less youth available to be servers the use of adults to serve at the services may be tried.

Altar Guild – 16 very dedicated ladies serve on a rotating basis with a partner. We are always recruiting for new members. The Altar Guild is responsible for having the correct seasonal paraments on the altar and in *sanctuary*, setting the altar for all services, keeping all linens and implements and chapel cleaned, and ordering our supplies for the services.

Heavenly Bread Bakers - Behind the scenes are several persons faithfully baking the loaves of bread for the 9:00 service.

Chalice Bearers – The women and men of this guild administer the wine chalice during the receiving of communion.

Children's Chapel – This program gives the young children a Sunday service at their level and functions extremely well during the adult lessons and sermon portion of their church service.

Festival Flowers – This group designs and arranges the flowers for all the services, trying when possible to fit into the theme of the service.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers – This guild ministers to parishioners who are not able to attend church services. The LEM's bring communion and a message of the day to those wishing it after Sunday services.

Lectors – These persons read the lessons of the service and the Prayers of the People during a Eucharist service.

Ushers – The ushers consist of 50 parishioners who serve at the various services. The growth of parishioners attending and the large worship space has led to forming teams of ushers and assistant ushers.

Special services during the past year that involved our guilds –

- Bishop Buchanan's visit for confirmation and rededication of the Parish House
- Food for the Poor Preacher
- Diocesan Chrism Mass/Renewal of Ordinal Vows

- Blessing of the Clowns
- Blessing of the Animals
- Weddings – 2
- Funeral/Memorial Services – 5
- Baptisms – 3

Planned for the new Church year –

Youth – Eucharist on Sunday nights at 7:00 pm designed primarily for our youth, but open to anyone.
Resumption of the Healing Service - laying on of hands during the receiving of communion by the congregation.

I am very grateful to have served on the vestry. The dedication and reliability of everyone serving on the worship committee is appreciated far more than you will ever know. Thank you for enabling us to have the wonderful worship services we have each time we gather together.

Pastoral Care Ministry Report 2007 Submitted by Sue Dugan

I would like to say that the time I have been on the Vestry has been such a wonderful experience and seems to have just flown by. I have learned so much and have enjoyed the camaraderie of the other Vestry members. The Pastoral Care team that I was blessed with made my job easier and you can see by the following report they have been very busy. These ministries, which are always looking for new members, are personally rewarding and also bring you closer to members in our church community.

Emergency Meals (Shirley Forde): Provide simple meals (either homemade or purchased) to those individuals needing temporary assistance due to illness or any family crisis. *There have been 55 meals delivered to 16 families this year.*

Prayer Chain (Ann Sloan): A group of 51 people who promise to pray daily for those that request prayers. *There have been over 300 prayer requests this year including prayers of Thanksgiving as well.*

Special Deliveries -New Mom's Ministry (Christine Hanlon): Provide simple meals (either homemade or purchased) and support to new moms, dads and families. *There have been 11 meals delivered to two new Moms and families.*

Singles Foyer (Sue Dugan): We had our first meeting on Mar 2nd by having dinner at Sal's, which was very successful. Over the year we met for dinner at Hog Wild and then attend Game Night at HNC and we also went bowling one night. To begin our second Singles Foyer year, we met at the California Tortilla restaurant in New Town. *Watch the E-Pistle and the newsletter for our next event.*

Prayer Shawl Ministry: A group of 23 members meet bi-monthly and/or knit at home. In its first year they have delivered 28 shawls to those in need of comfort, celebration or a gift of love from our church.

Parish Life Annual Report 2007 submitted by Lynn Geddy

It was a busy year, with lots of fun events. Thank you to all who make these events so successful in so many ways.

We hosted the diocesan pre-council meeting of the Jamestown Convocation on January 24th. Over 100 people attended from 14 area parishes.

Our hard working chefs prepared sausage and pancakes galore for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Feb. 20. We borrowed tables for the Norge Community Club and had our first all congregation dinner in the new chapel. Dorothy Kirk's blueberry syrup was enjoyed by all. Kelsey Luksovsky and Jean Jundt were crowned our new royalty.

April 7th we gathered to stuff and hide Easter eggs, but the ground was covered with snow. Surprise! Surprise! We opted to hide the eggs upstairs in the Sunday School rooms. The children found the eggs in record time and had a great time doing it. We served coffee and cake in the narthex for the non-egg seekers and cake and lemonade in the parish house for the children and families.

April 14th with many helping hands we served buffet style lunch after the Chrism Mass Service, where dozens of clergy from across the diocese gathered to renew their ordination vows before Bishop Buchanan.

May 5th the men prepared and served a hardy all congregation brunch for Father Michael's sabbatical send off. They prepared bacon, sausage, pancakes, eggs, fried potatoes, biscuits, and fried apples.

On August 12th, between the 9:00 and 11:15 services we enjoyed cake and punch as we welcomed Father Michael back from sabbatical. Later that day we had our Parish Picnic. Everybody brought a huge variety of delicious food. Denise Deal entertained the children with sack races, musical chairs and other fun activities.

August 18th we hosted a pool party and cookout in appreciation of all our coffee hour providers and parish life helpers.

The Men's Breakfast was well attended Sept. 15th with good food and a most interesting speaker, Colonel (Retired) David Elberly, a pilot who was shot down and taken prisoner during the First Gulf War with Iraq. He shared how his faith in God saw him through that difficult time.

On November 4th, the 9:00 and 11:15 services were combined for one grand gathering. We celebrated the presence of our Bishop, who confirmed four adult and four youth parishioners, along with the naming and re-dedication of the Wilkinson Christian Leadership Center.

Throughout the year, we have supported our dedicated Buildings and Grounds committee by providing lunch on their work days.

November 26th we serve lunch for the diocesan nominating committee, which met at HNC to provide a slate for elections at the February Council.

Mary Jo Smith, Betty Somloi, and Shirley Forde have been busy making foyer assignments. They have gotten very creative. We now have family foyers, evening foyers, daytime foyers and singles foyer.

We have assisted with joyous celebrations of baptisms and sad gatherings for the passing of some of our faithful friends.

I set up group e-mails for the coffee hour hosts and hostesses and parish life committee. This has been most helpful.

If anyone is looking for a fun ministry to join - please let me know.

Outreach Annual Report 2007 submitted by Chuck Jundt

Hickory Neck's Parish Visioning Process indicated a strong desire on the part of the congregation to be a city on the hill shining forth the light of Christ. A major way to do this is by being active in meeting the needs of the community. The Outreach Council guides us in fulfilling these desires, but it is the many parishioners who participate in these programs who make the light shine brightly.

In 2007 Hickory Neck strengthened its commitment in several areas we support.

Vibrant Life Ministries went through a major change in its ability to care for the homeless in the area. Earlier in the year it appeared that VLM would be able to house homeless men at Camp Mericle in Charles City County. Hickory Neck aided VLM with funds, drivers to transport men to their jobs and individuals who helped with the management of the program. However, as has happened many times before, the people in the area did not want such a facility in their neighborhood, despite the fact there had been absolutely no trouble from the clients the camp was closed.

To avoid any such problem in the future Vibrant Life Ministries purchased four houses to serve as transitional homes. One of the houses is for a family and there are groups of three men in each of the other three homes. Hickory Neck has furnished and equipped one of the homes for the men, and Hickory Neck in conjunction with Bruton Parish and St. Martins believes the three churches can pay the mortgage on the house.

In 2007 VLM was given \$5,000 for 2008 The Outreach Council is allocating \$450 per month. (\$5,400)

Angels of Mercy is striving to achieve both growth and stability. They have established an advisory board that is attempting to improve their management and business practices. A Hickory Neck parishioner, Rick Garfield, is a member of this board. They also have a paid office manager. Angels of Mercy has also doubled their floor space by adding adjacent offices and hired a part-time Nurse Practitioner to increase the number of patients they can serve. Last year Hickory Neck donated \$4,000 to AOM; this year we will give \$450 per month for a total of \$5,400.

Williamsburg Faith in Action is an established charity that helps people who need help remaining in their homes. Williamsburg Faith In Action coordinates volunteers who provide transportation, help with chores or respite to those who are homebound or care for homebound. A member of our congregation is the Executive Director of Williamsburg Faith in Action. Last year Hickory Neck donated \$1,000 and for this coming year we will be giving \$175 per month (\$2,100).

Grove Christian Outreach Center provides food, clothes, school supplies and support in many forms to the people in the Grove area. Last year we provided \$500 which enabled them to purchase over 200 pairs of gloves to be included in Christmas gift boxes for children.

Eastern State Hospital was given \$500 toward the establishment of a chapel/meditation room in the new Eastern State facility.

PIPEs is a program conceived by LHT (Leadership Historic Triangle) class of 2007. The goal is to provide indoor plumbing to the over 80 homes in the area lacking such facilities. Hickory Neck donated \$250 to the project.

The funding for the above programs comes from the profits from the Hickory Neck Fall Festival. Saturday, September 29th was a beautiful day in so many ways; that day our gross income was \$20,098.19 and our expenses were \$5,403.98 for a net of \$14,694.21 to be given to local charities in the coming year. Thank you Lauris Zeni and Mark Kintner, co-chairs for the 7th annual Hickory Neck Fall Festival, and the more than 100 fellow parishioners who made our light shine a little brighter. (See attachment)

From His Hands is a new program this year that provides meals to the unfortunate in the Grove area. Using a canteen truck provided by The Salvation Army, churches and charitable groups provide hot meals at The Grove Christian Outreach Center. Our first night in action was November 8th. Using the kitchen facilities at St. Martin's, people from Hickory Neck prepared and delivered over 100 meals. Each participating church is asked to provide meals once each quarter. It requires about 14 –16 volunteers to prepare and deliver the food. We are looking for those who would like to help with this truly hands on ministry and/or would like to contribute to this effort to reach out to others.

FISH: Hickory Neck has been a long time provider to FISH. However, the program was just a basket at church where people could place food items to be delivered to FISH. To restructure the program it was decided to call attention to the requirements of FISH with our program called Gone FISHn. Therefore, on the second Sunday of each month members of the congregation could take home a paper fish with a list of needed items. The third Sunday of month each is Gone FISHn Sunday when parishioners bring in their donations. In the first two months (October and November), 86 bags of groceries were collected and delivered to FISH.

Salvation Army this year we once again have an Angel Tree. Forty tags with the names of children and their Christmas wishes are on the tree in the Narthex. By December 2nd, all tags were taken. Gifts are due, unwrapped, at the church by December 12th.

Relay for Life for the benefit of the American Cancer Society was held June 8th and 9th at Jamestown High school. This was a record year for our youth as they raised \$5,500 for Relay for Life. Hickory Neck youth and adults participated in both walking and support. There were 24 “official” relay members and about 25 others who helped in many ways. Money was raised from both sales of spaghetti to go and a car wash. There were also 20 people who signed up to be “Prayer Partners” who prayed for more than 80 people.

Food for the Poor: Fr. Mike Casell a retired Episcopal priest Visited Hickory Neck on May 20th and talked about the “Food for the Poor”. This is a program that provides food, housing, health care, education, water projects, micro-enterprise development assistance and emergency relief to the poorest of the poor in 16 different countries. Food for the Poor reported that Hickory Neck parishioners contributed \$3,659.

Hickory Neck is a light on the hill our goal is Bigger, Better, Brighter.

With apologies to Home Depot: **We can do it. You can help.**
We can do it. If you help.

We will do it with God's help.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR HICKORY NECK FALL FESTIVAL – 2007

Income:

Food \$ 6,450.80
Bake Sale 1,811.00
Attic Treasures 2,848.64
Pillows/Clothing 260.00
Silent Auction 7,168.00
Arts & Crafts 929.75
Donations 630.00

Total Income \$20,098.19

Expenses:

Signs \$ 20.00
Tent Rentals 1,507.23
Propane 28.35
B. Forloine, Food 1,928.09
Trash Cans 47.83
Permit 50.88
Tommy Sitzler, Band 200.00
Crock Pots 105.97
Handy Ice 149.52
P. Casanave, Food 449.26
Virginia Gazette, Ad 276.00
Table Cloths 36.93
Exhibit Booth Equipment 175.00
Pillows 428.92

Total Expense \$ 5,403.98

Net Income \$14,694.21

Christian Formation 2007 Annual Report submitted by Paula Simmons

The Christian Formation program for children continues to grow at HNC. The **Christian Formation Committee**, which coordinates the children's program, includes: Toni Small (Sunday School Superintendent), Stephanie Delk (Godly Play Materials), De Fehrenbach (Curriculum & Staff), Paula Simmons (Vestry Liaison), and Ann Dieterle (Associate Rector).

Sunday School Recognition was held Sunday, June 10. The year was celebrated with certificates and small gifts for the children, gifts for the teachers and the Children's Chapel leaders, a photo presentation, and cake and punch. Amy Miller, Carol Shutt, Pete Haines, and Linda Becker helped make the event a great celebration.

The joint Episcopal **Vacation Bible School** for Hickory Neck, St. Martin's, and Bruton Parish was held at St. Martin's the week of August 6-10, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Approximately 75 children, ages 3-years-old through rising 5th graders, attended and over 60 youth and adults helped. Six adults, 6 youth, and 23 children participated from the HNC family and extended family.

The Western theme *Avalanche Ranch: A Wild Ride through God's Word* was enjoyed by everyone. The daily lessons included: God is real, God with us, God is strong, God is awesome, and God is in charge. Bible stories include: Rahab protects the Israelite spies (Joshua 2); Israelites cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3-4); Jericho's walls fall (Joshua 6); Jesus dies and rises again (Mark 15-16); and God heals Naaman (2 Kings 5)."

The Sunday school teachers were invited to participate in the "Personal Prayer" Ministering to **Ministers' Mini-Retreat** with Pastoral Care ministers, and several were able to attend.

2007-2008 Christian Formation

Christine Hanlon, Linda Matthews, Carol Shutt, Paula Simmons, and Alan Zoellner attended a **Godly Play** training sponsored by the diocese this summer. Everyone thought the workshop was extremely helpful and came away with great ideas.

Godly Play expanded to three classes this year – preschool, mixed ages, and K-2. We are experimenting with one mixed-age group for the first time this year. The collection of lessons has been expanded to include stories we have not used previously. Additional materials for the new stories and for the third classroom have and are being made or purchased.

The **3rd-5th Grade** class is again using *Episcopal Children's Curriculum*, which is built on a three-year cycle.

This year, volunteers are being asked to provide the snacks for the children's classes in order to save money.

The **2007-2008 Teachers** are:

Godly Play Preschool: Carol Shutt & Christine Hanlon

Godly Play Kindergarten: Second – Alan Zoellner, Shannon Houser, & Lucy Purse

Godly Play Mixed Ages: Melissa Casheros, Jennifer Lampert, Linda Mathews

Grades 3-5: Denise Deal, Pam Chambers

Subs: Paula Simmons, Terri Lensenmayer, Suzi Blanchard, Karen Dutro

Linda Becker is overseeing the **Nursery** staff. The nursery staff includes two paid workers and several volunteers, so that at least two people are caring for the infants and toddlers each Sunday. Additional volunteers are being recruited.

At least 16 HNC members attended **Creating Safe Churches Training** to be certified or recertified to work with youth. One of those members also attended the "adult" training session. The church records of who has completed training have been updated and continue to be updated as members receive training.

Terry Lensenmayer is leading our new **Children's Choir** with eight members. They rehearse once a week and will make their debut Sunday, December 9. The choir plans to sing at the Christmas pageant and once a month at the 9:00 a.m. service.

HNC Building and Grounds Annual Report submitted by Don Seeterlin

The grounds are in good shape due to the tireless effort of many volunteers in the weeding, watering, planting, pruning and general maintenance. Every time an event has arisen which would require the attention to some aspect of the grounds keeping, volunteers have stepped up and quietly and graciously performed the needed service.

Our new sign continues to be a “Welcoming Sign” thanks to those volunteers which planted and maintain the beautiful flowers and shrubbery around it.

Many, if not all, of the flower beds have been adopted and maintained by volunteer parishioners.

Our Crape myrtles are looking better than ever, thanks to conscientious pruning and mulching by the members taking care of them.

The flower beds around our new chapel “seem” to be of the weed-less variety, thanks to the continual weed pulling and other forms of **penance** by parishioners.

Our private lake, “Lake of the Front Doors”, which seemed to appear magically after every rain fall, has been reduced significantly thanks to the installation of a new drain system.

The azaleas used on our altar for Easter decorations were transplanted to a bed bordering our playground area, though some succumbed to the ravages of the drought, many are still there struggling on and promising new life and fresh flowers in the spring.

Two of our wooden picnic tables have received a much needed overhaul, allowing them to be enjoyed by our parish family as well as those who choose to stop and enjoy the tranquility of our parish grounds while enjoying a picnic lunch.

Coyne and Co. continue to do a good job of keeping the grass cut, and picking up wind blown debris after storms. They have cut down the tall weeds in the back area in order to keep the plant looking clean and well cared for.

Our infamous dumpster enclosure doors, after laying hold of our dear choirmaster Ed, have been reworked, allowing for easier access to the area and less chance of them blowing down in the first wind or tripping up an unwary passerby.

The buildings, thanks to many volunteer hours, are in very good shape, and continue to show that they are loved, which in turn makes Hickory Neck a warmer and more inviting place for parishioners and visitors alike.

The front of the Wilkinson Center received a much needed sprucing up prior to our re-dedication ceremony. The left door closer on the stoop entrance has been replaced and the handset tightened up. The entrance doors from the ramp entrance were repaired and repainted, along with the weather stripping tuned up to help keep the elements out.

Our phone system is now in working order, with the fax system working and not preempting incoming calls. We also have a working phone in the nursery of the new chapel.

Exterior lights and timers have been repaired and reset and help to promote the image of our parish as a “Light on a Hill”.

Cox-Powell continues to provide outstanding service to our heating and air conditioning components as evidenced by their quick response times to our numerous calls and dilemmas, going so far as to have a technician on site within 2 hours of calling them on a Sunday after gas fumes were detected.

Our new chapel is now graced by the presence of a large English oak cross, hanging in front of our recently refinished Pipe Organ. The walls also bear 14 descendants of the large cross, to be used as "Stations of the Cross".

The historic chapel is undergoing renovations and repairs to help extend its life and to aid it in looking better for the many visitors and parishioners which cross its threshold daily.

These and many more projects have been accomplished all or in part by members of our Hickory Neck Family. Including the many delicious meals supplied by Parish Life during many work days. Proving the old adage "if you feed them they will come".

It is an honor to be involved in this portion of our ministry.

Stewardship Report 2007 submitted by Melissa Casheros

We kicked off our Stewardship Season on Sunday, October 7, 2007 with a challenge to Give Like God. The Stewardship Committee, consisting of Melissa Casheros, Dave Simmons and Brian Hanlon worked with our Junior and Senior Wardens and Father Michael to provide information to the congregation on our 2008 budgetary needs for Hickory Neck. Three letters were mailed to the congregation through the course of the Stewardship season, and witness talks were given by many of our brothers and sisters here at Hickory Neck to share their thoughts on stewardship. To date we have received pledges totaling a little over \$350,000, which is approximately 88% of our \$400,000 goal.

Hickory Neck Youth Group 2007 submitted by Nancy Geddes

The Hickory Neck Youth Group is gaining momentum! Within the past twelve months, under the guidance and energies of adult leaders, parents and clergy, this program has grown and continues to joyously evolve.

There have been on-campus and off-campus outreach opportunities such as Relay for Life and the Lenten soup suppers. The on-campus Sunday evening fellowship/formation activities have included sharing supper together (with many thanks to the parents and families that have donated time and talent in this regard!! We have eaten so very well!), non-competitive "sporting" activities, thinking games, fellowship and formation lessons.

On December 2nd, a fourth Eucharist started Sunday evenings. This service, open to all parishioners, will be formatted with the youth in mind. It is an important and exciting opportunity for the HNC youth to be so closely involved in the spiritual rituals and lessons.

Thank you to all of the Hickory Neck family that have been directly involved with the Youth Group. Our youth are fortunate to have such a loving, spiritual family. There remain opportunities for all of us to continue to support our Hickory Neck Youth Group.

Newcomers Ministry 2007 Annual Report submitted by Lauris Zeni

Purpose of Newcomers Ministry – To welcome visitors to Hickory Neck Church who may be searching for a church home. To inform visitors of the mission and ministry of Hickory Neck Church, as well as how they can become a part of our church family.

Sunday Greeters – There are 15 people on the Greeters' List for the 9:00 AM worship service and 13 for the 11:15 AM service. Greeters extend a warm welcome to first time visitors, as well as to long time members. Greeters inform Fr. Michael and Rev. Ann if they are aware of visitors during the service, and introduce the visitors to the clergy if possible. Completed visitor cards are given to the administrative assistant who passes the information to the deliverers of the Newcomers' welcome bags.

Visitor Cards – From January, 2007, through November, 2007, the administrative assistant recorded pertinent information from 40 visitor cards.

Newcomers' Welcome Bags – From January through November, 2007, Ann Lipp and Lauris Zeni delivered welcome bags to visitors. As of September, 2007, 6 additional people had signed on to help with this ministry. All Newcomers' bags have information about Hickory Neck Church, 1-2 copies of the most recent Nuggets newsletters, a note from the person making the delivery, and a loaf of homemade sweet bread prepared by a parishioner. Visitors living more than 25 miles from Hickory Neck receive information in the mail.

January: 7 deliveries	July: 5 deliveries
February: 3 deliveries	August: 4 deliveries
March: 2 deliveries	September: 3 deliveries
April: 6 deliveries	October: 2 deliveries
May: 1 delivery	November: 1 delivery
June: 3 deliveries	

Sweet Bread Bakers – As of September, 2007, 7 people had signed up to bake sweet bread.

Newcomers Social – Sunday, March 18, 2007, at the home of Betty and Frank Somloi. 7 newcomers/visitors attended, as well as the clergy and vestry members.

New Member Orientation - Sunday, April 15, 2007.
4 new members attended. Father Michael and Lauris Zeni were also in attendance.

Historic Preservation Committee Report submitted by Martha McCartney

Accomplishments to Date: Professional (complementary) evaluation of the historic church's structural fabric; underpinning the brick of the north and south walls (at risk of collapse) with carefully concealed metal supports; preservation and restoration of 18th century windows on the east side of the historic church; removal/installation of mortar by a restoration brick mason; retrofitting pew seats to make them more comfortable; replacement of seat cushions; repair of kneelers and fabrication of railings; trimming

of louvered shutters so that they will close; repair of termite-damaged wainscoting and other woodwork; repair and stabilization of plaster and concealment of heating ductwork/wiring; repair of rake board and trim-work; professional cleaning the carpet runner; cleaning of chandeliers and sconces; reversing doors of the entryway; replacement of louvered foundation vents; compilation of list of potential funding sources.

Work in Progress/Anticipated: Repair of flooring; modernization of electrical wiring; installation of lighting for the organist; painting of exterior trim, the interior and pews; preparation of paperwork; re-installation of carpet; establishment of a secular non-profit entity, Historic Hickory Neck, that will enable us to compete for grant funding that can be used for future repairs, such as re-roofing. Note: a sterling silver cruet is needed to complete our Communion service and a small light is needed for the lectern.

Projected Cost of Restoration Project: \$56,380

Funds received to date: \$40,680

Hickory Neck's preservation committee needs your financial support. If you are willing to contribute toward this important project, please contact Hickory Neck treasurer Fred Boelt.

Hickory Neck Church Cemetery 2007 submitted by Fred Boelt

There have probably been burials at Hickory Neck ever since the original building was completed around 1738 and the yard was walled in with brick in 1743. The now well-known sketch of the academy building done in 1862 by Union cartographer Robert Knox Sneden included numerous broken gravestones on the west side of the building. Mrs. Lucy James, who had been a student at Hickory Neck School from 1893 to 1896, recalled in 1934, how the older boys frightened the younger boys by telling them that they would put them under the large flat gravestones in the yard. Although these grave markers are now all gone, there is sufficient reference to say that we have long had a cemetery at Hickory Neck.

After church services were resumed on a regular basis in 1915, there were a few burials on the east side of the church building, but there does not seem to have been any formal cemetery lay-out until 1980. At that time, the congregation was beginning to grow and it was felt that cemetery plots should be laid out and offered for sale to our parishioners and their families. A cemetery committee was formed, the area was platted, rules were drawn up and burial privilege certificates were granted to those who purchased plots. At that time, it was also decided that there would be no new burials to the west and north of the church since it is thought that there are many now unmarked graves already there. The cemetery section laid out in 1980 is now sold out.

In 1992, in keeping with changing customs, a Memorial Garden was designed and established to be the repository for cremains to be returned directly to the earth without use of urns and vaults. A large granite monument was erected with a bronze plaque that lists the names and dates for those interred in the Memorial Garden.

When we acquired additional land for expansion, a section was incorporated in the overall site plan to enlarge our cemetery. This year (2007), we have had the new section of the cemetery surveyed and platted and early in 2008, we will offer plots for traditional burials and half plots for the interment of one or two sets of cremains in urns (and vaults, if desired). Again, keeping abreast of the times and changes in burial customs, the cemetery committee is investigating the possibility of a columbarium for Hickory Neck.

In 2007, we had two burials in the cemetery and one interment in the Memorial Garden. We maintain a checking account for operating expenses (current balance \$1,666.00) and have funds for perpetual care invested in two CDs (current total \$11,345.00).

Cemetery Committee: Fred Boelt, Bert Geddy, Larry Kelley

Music Program 2007 Submitted by Ed Godshall

There has been much growth in the music program at Hickory Neck Episcopal Church during 2007. Among the more notable items are the following.

Entirely through congregational subscription much needed work was done on the Woodberry pipe organ. The mechanism was completely overhauled, cleaned, and lubricated. The entire instrument was re-voiced in order to make it sound better in its present acoustical environment. A new Open Diapason stop has been ordered and will be installed in January '08. All of these efforts combine to make the instrument really top notch in its size category. The instrument is listed in the database of the Organ Historical Society.

The Choral Scholars, the William and Mary students who sing at the 11:15 service, have been reorganized to some extent in order to provide for an official rehearsal director and a member who is in charge of secretarial duties. Both of these singers have been given a slight raise in salary. The Choral Scholars' calendar has also been standardized in order to create a higher degree of accountability.

The Parish Choir has grown to a membership of 18 parishioners and is now capable of singing anthems in 4 part harmony. Members are learning to read music as well as learning new anthems. This Choir has become an important part of the 9:00 worship service, singing approximately on alternate Sundays and on other special occasions. Part of the success of the choir is the fact that rehearsals are held weekly. A two month hiatus in the summer resulted in members returning with a renewed sense of invigoration in the fall.

The choir library of anthems for both the Choral Scholars and the Parish Choir is growing. With anthems costing anywhere from \$.90 to over \$2.00 per copy the challenge is not only to acquire enough copies to furnish each choir member, but also to provide additional copies for future growth. A new filing cabinet will soon be necessary as the library has outgrown the original 4 drawer one.

The music department of Hickory Neck has been the grateful recipient of several gifts this past year. The loaned Clavinova or electronic piano has been given as a gift; and most recently the church was presented with a four-year-old limited edition Baldwin Hamilton studio piano. Incidentally, a friend of the Director recently contributed 14 copies of the Oxford Carol Book (usual cost \$15, each).

Through the efforts of parishioner Terry Lensenmayer a children's choir has been formed which has eight regular members and rehearses weekly. The choir is expected to debut at a service in early December.

Ongoing discussions with the members of the Praise Band have resulted in a heightened sense of the importance of this ensemble, a more positive attitude, and an appreciation of the work that they do.