

## Junior Warden Report 2007

From my perspective as Junior Warden, 2007 has been a challenging and a rewarding year. Lets start with the rewarding part. 2008 will only be my fifth year at Hickory Neck and the third year on the vestry. I don't have the history with Hickory Neck that many of you have, but what has impressed me most about this wonderful place is:

- \* The quality of Michael, Ann, and Ed;
- \* The outreach and service that the church provides; and
- \* The spirit of Hickory Neck.

### **Quality**

Michael, Ann and Ed take my breath away all the time. We can see how talented they are on Sunday. This year I have been attending Monday morning staff meetings, and I am astounded by how much they do when it is NOT Sunday. It is not unusual for me to go home after a long wardens meeting with Michael and Fred at Fred's farm, then the next morning read an e-mail that Michael wrote at 12:30AM. The love and genuine concern they have for all of us and the desire to do their very best every day continues to impress me. Michael and Ann are lucky if they get one day off a week.

All of us in the choir know that Ed's talent goes well beyond being an outstanding organist. He is under the delusion that some of us in the choir know more than we do, or he is being kind, then goes home after practice and screams. Seriously, to really get to know how good Ed is, come to a choir practice some Thursday night.

### **Outreach**

The growth of our service to the community has been significant. The members of this church have a history of helping others. The last few years, what we do to help others has greatly expanded. Many of you are helping Faith in Action, Grove, Angels of Mercy, Vibrant Life and others. The amount of money we have given to local charities has also increased significantly. This year, by means of the Relay for Life and the Fall Festival, the church has raised over \$20,000 for outreach.

### **Spirit**

All of us who are new to Hickory Neck have our stories as to what it was that caused us join. Many stories sound alike. If you had the pleasure of facilitating a number of visioning sessions as I did, or attended as a participant, you felt the spirit. I could give you dozens of examples of that spirit in action, here are a few:

- This year the Vestry re-organized our Time and Talent forms into 39 different ministries. If you add all the names under each ministry, the total comes to 547. Some of you are doing more than one thing!
- Over fifty parishioners washed cars, worked on spaghetti dinners to go, and supported or participated in the Relay for Life, raising \$5,500.
- Many people put in days, weeks, and, in some cases, months of work to make this year's Fall Festival the most successful one ever, both in spirit and in results. The success was due to the spacious area of the new church, great weather and the effort of the co-chairs and the support they received from the entire congregation.

Would all who assist in a ministry, helped the Relay for Life or the Fall Festival please stand up.

It is support like this that makes the Junior Warden job an easy one. Now you need to keep up your help next year to make the Senior Warden's job equally easy. It is going to be a tough act to follow Fred Boelt and I will need all the help that I can get.

**Now for the challenging part.**

Not enough money is the challenge.

We built this new church, designed to meet our current and future needs and we had hoped that as we grew, the significant financial requirements would be somewhat off-set by that new growth. However, our growth surge has not been as big as we anticipated for lots of reasons, including the fact that there's not a new neighborhood next door. Growth in 2008, while maintaining "that thing that makes Hickory Neck special" will be key to helping us properly pay our staff, the operating expenses and the mortgage as well as achieving many of the goals that we set for ourselves in the visioning process. In the future, when our average Sunday attendance is 50-75 more people than it is now, budget pressures will ease and our outgoing Senior Warden and Treasurer, Fred Boelt, will have better nights' sleep.

Thank you!

Bill Teale