

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
January 12, 2010

Present: The Very Reverend Michael Delk (Rector); The Reverend Lauren McDonald (Associate Rector); Gary Harvey (Senior Warden); Ann Cooper (Junior Warden and Parish Life); Fred Boelt (Treasurer); Melissa Casheros (Communications); Gay Forloine (Pastoral Care); Jean Hancock (Newcomers); Ed Joyner (Stewardship); Brig Lampert (Children and Youth); Lucy Rothnie (Outreach); Michael Smith (Outreach); Pam Stromberg (Pastoral Care); and Mary Teale (Register).

Absent: Carrol Bailey (Newcomers) and Margene Hartsough (Children and Youth).

Also Present: Eve Butler-Gee

Vestry Check-In: Vestry members shared personal news since the last meeting in December 2009.

Opening Prayer and Meditation: The opening prayer and meditation were led by Melissa Casheros. February's meditation will be led by Michael Smith.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Melissa Casheros and a second by Pam Stromberg, the minutes of the December Vestry meeting were approved.

Parishioners' Comments and Initiatives: Ed Joyner said that a parishioner told him that it was difficult to hear the choir. Ed suggested that the sound would project better if the choir were facing out to the congregation but that cannot be done since the choir needs to face Ed Godshall.

Father Michael introduced Eve Butler-Gee who is asking for endorsement for her application for postulancy which could include a financial commitment as well as a support of confidence. Father Michael said that he felt that the financial commitment, if requested, would be modest and within the means of Hickory Neck. Eve described her activities at St. Marks where she has been serving her Ordination Exploration Process internship which she said has confirmed her wish to continue the process. Eve left the room while her application was discussed. Upon a motion by Gay Forloine and a second by Jean Hancock her application was unanimously approved. The endorsement certificate was signed by Vestry members and officers.

Treasurer's Report: Fred Boelt, Treasurer, reported that income for 2009 was over budget by \$14,276, non-pledge income was more than twice the budget amount but loose plate was short by \$881. Although pledge income was under budget by \$7,389 it

represented a 98.2% return of the expected amount which is considered an excellent return. The Christmas offering was \$4,175 as compared to \$3,975 in 2008.

Expenses for 2009 were under budget by \$713 resulting in the year concluding in the black by \$14,719 after paying retroactive lump sum merit increases in December to the Associate Rector, Music Director and Office Administrator. A payment of \$4,000 was paid to the mortgage principal in December, making a total of \$41,200 in principal payments for the year and a resulting mortgage balance as of January 1, 2010 of \$471,734.

The Davenport Fund balance is \$52,849 as of 12/31/09, representing a near total comeback to the October 2008 level of \$53,139 from which it fell \$9,000 in the subsequent two months.

Fred concluded his report by saying that 2009 was an extremely good year, especially in light of the economy. On a motion by Melissa Casheros and a second by Jean Hancock, his report was approved.

Junior Warden's Report: Ann Cooper, Junior Warden, said that the Parish Life Committee is planning a Shrove Tuesday celebration on 2/16, 6-8 pm, with food being served during the first hour and festivities following. A change in menu is being considered, and suggestions for the rest of the evening are welcome.

Senior Warden's Report: Gary Harvey, Senior Warden, was happy to report that John Rothnie has volunteered to co-chair the Fall Festival. He said that the new outdoor light for the New Chapel is on order and that an inconspicuous deadbolt has been installed on the Historic Chapel door so that it can be locked when necessary. Gary is working on long range projects of improving the entrance to the New Church to prevent cold air from chilling the Narthex and engaging a part-time sexton to help in the maintenance of the three church buildings. In conclusion he circulated a thank you note from Bishop Hollerith for the 2009 Hickory Neck diocesan contribution.

Associate Rector's Report: The Reverend Lauren McDonald submitted the following report:

“Christian Formation

Adult Education: *At my request, Michael Delk will now be overseeing Adult Education. I will be sharing oversight of Newcomers with him, as this is an area in which I would like to gain more experience. Reports on Adult Ed will now come from Michael. That being said, I will continue to teach and lead educational and formational activities as part of our offerings. The Women’s Spirituality Group will have its first meeting on Jan. 16.*

Children: *We had to cancel the Christmas Pageant due to snow. Sunday School took a short break for Christmas but resumed on January 10. Attendance continues to be stable. We've had some absences mostly due to illness, but overall our attendance is strong. Children's Chapel has a core group of about 5-6 children who are enjoying their time with the clergy and members of the parish as they hear a Bible story told for their level of development. We still don't have someone to oversee the scheduling of Children's Chapel, so I've taken that on for now. The children seem particularly to enjoy the chance to take the elements up to the altar at the Offertory.*

Youth: *Our core group has grown to 10-12. Members are still bringing friends occasionally, but the core remains steady. In December the youth group made cards for the "Adopt-a-Sailor" program in addition to participating in a healing service. We are planning to incorporate healing ministry into youth group upon occasion. We postponed our Christmas party due to snow and had it on January 3. Much fun was had by all. On Jan. 10 we enjoyed a Church/Bible Jeopardy game created by Michael. We have plans for a Super Bowl party to be held at SpiritWorks on Feb. 7, and we are lining up plans for other activities as well. Maria Kane will be attending a preliminary meeting on Jan. 16 about Relay-for-Life so that we can make plans for participating this year.*

Outreach

We are excited to have Lucy Rothnie coming on board as co-chair with Michael Smith. With Bill Teale she will have visited the majority of organizations that received Fall Festival funds by the end of this week. In 2010 we are going to focus on an organization each month. Jim Izzo will be visiting them and writing an article for the Nuggets. We will also have a 2 minute "witness talk" on the 3rd Sunday of the month along with information in the Narthex about the charity. In January we will explain the idea on the third Sunday, and in February we will start with Angels of Mercy. We will add the organization to the prayers of the people for the entire month. We will also be looking for more hands-on projects during the year.

Pastoral Care

We are excited to have Pam Stromberg coming on board to co-chair with Gay Forloine and to learn the Pastoral Care ropes from Gay's very capable hands. The pastoral care team leaders will be getting together later this month in order to check-in and share ideas. Lynn Kelley and Gay Forloine are now heading up the Prayer Shawl ministry."

Rector's Report: Fr. Michael submitted the following report:

“New Member by Letter of Transfer since last Vestry meeting

Georgia Stromer

Burials since last Vestry meeting:

Shirley Mahone Henderson January 9

No Baptisms, Transfers out of the Parish or Marriages since last Vestry meeting

Calendar Events, since last Vestry meeting

- *12/15 Honduras Mission Meeting, 7 pm*
- *12/20 Children's Christmas Pageant, 4 pm CANCELLED SNOW*
- *12/20 Youth Christmas Celebration, 6 pm CANCELLED SNOW*
- *12/24 Eucharist at 5, 8 and 11 pm*
- *12/25 Eucharist at 10 am (Historic Chapel)*
- *12/25 Parish Offices CLOSED*
- *12/25–1/2/10 McDonald AWAY*
- *12/27 Eucharist at 8 am, Lessons and Carols w Communion at 10 am*
- *12/27 NO Youth Group*
- *12/28 NO Monday night Bible study*
- *1/03 Youth Group resumes*
- *1/04 Monday night Bible study resumes*
- *1/06 Epiphany Eucharist at 7 pm (Historic Chapel)*

Upcoming Calendar Events:

- *1/26 Pre-Council Convocational Meeting at HNC, 7 pm*
- *1/29-1/30 Vestry Retreat at Boelt's*
- *2/12-2/13 Diocesan Council at Williamsburg Lodge*
- *2/17 Ash Wednesday”*

Fr. Michael announced that H1N1 flu shots will be available 1/21, 4-6 pm, for any parishioner over age 18. The extra sanitary precautions that have been taken during the Eucharist service are being discontinued but will be reinstated if necessary. Ed Joyner asked that this information be relayed to the congregation.

The Vestry Retreat will be held at Fred Boelt's home on January 29, starting at 6 pm, and continuing the following day, 9 am-3 pm. Fr. Michael asked Vestry members to review the responses turned in at the Annual Meeting in answer to the questions "How has God's grace blessed you through our parish over the past year?" and "What do you hope God will do through you and/or our parish over the next year?" He asked each Vestry member to categorize the responses in any way desired and to distribute the categorization to other members the week before the Retreat. Fr. Michael will re-distribute information from the 2008 Visioning Process.

Fr. Michael made the following announcements:

- Staff retreat is 2/10;
- Hope Brans's hip surgery is 2/15;
- Carol Goff is teaching an Adult Formation series on the relationship between science and religion on Sunday mornings and Eve Butler-Gee will conduct a Lenten series on Celtic Christianity;
- Honduras Mission Fund raising Evening is 4/23
- Aaron Small is willing to serve as Trustee in the event that one of our current trustees is no longer able to serve.

Ministry Reports:

Outreach: Michael Smith (Outreach) gave the following report:

"12 January 2010

The Outreach Committee is honored to welcome Lucy Rothnie as Co-Liaison for the 2010 year.

Financial Grant Team

This team is in the process of visiting local charities which were awarded a grant following the 2009 Fall Festival, to get an update on their needs and to introduce them to Lucy. All members of Outreach are encouraged to visit these charities so they can see up close and personal how much help they provide for our community.

Mission Team

In September we welcomed the Rev. Richard Kunz, missionary in Honduras, who preached at all three Eucharists and offered a presentation. We have also set a date for 16-23 Oct, 2010 for a mission trip to El Hogar, Honduras. A fund raiser

"Cabaret" night has been scheduled for Friday, April 23. The number of parishioners going has yet to be determined, although Fr. Michael is set to be the team leader.

Hands-On Ministry Team

In 2010, we are focused on giving our supported charitable organizations more coverage and exposure to our parish. This will hopefully make our members more aware of how we as a church are already supporting these organizations, and will also inform our members of how they can contribute their time and talents. We are going forward with the idea of focusing on a different organization each month, through information being available in the narthex, brief reports in the 3rd Sunday Morning Prayer service, and monthly articles in the Nuggets. Even though these are organized into monthly increments, we want to emphasize that these organizations need more help with time and talent throughout the whole year. We also acknowledge that there are some members of our parish that are already contributing their time and talent to these and other organizations on their own."

Newcomers: Jean Hancock (Newcomers) gave the following report:

Purpose: *to greet and welcome visitors and new members to Hickory Neck Episcopal Church and help them assimilate into this faith community.*

Sunday Greeters: *for 2010, there are 10 greeters for the 9 AM service and 9 greeters for the 11:15 AM service.*

Visitors Cards: *from January 2 visitor cards have been received; welcome bags have been delivered to each of the families. The welcome bags have been delivered by Ann Lipp and Pam Stromberg.*

Newcomer's Social:

Because attendance is very low, Newcomers' socials are not planned for at least the first quarter. A more suitable social event is being explored.

Sweet Bread Bakers – *There are a total of 4 parishioners willing to bake the sweet bread which is included in the Newcomers' Welcome Bag.*

2010 Changes:

**** Rev. Lauren McDonald*** *will be overseeing the work of the Newcomers' ministry*

**** Carrol Bailey*** *will be the vestry co-liaison; Lauren and Jean will be meeting*

with Carrol to determine the ministry's direction for 2010.

** 2010 Greeter guidelines are being developed to ensure greeter consistency.*

** Information about Hickory Neck and method of distribution to area newcomers and visitors is being developed. ”*

New Business:

Request for Application Endorsement for Holy Orders: Eve Gee: (See above)

Gay Forloine said that the prayer shawl ministry would like to rename the group as the Kathy Ramsaur Ministry if Ted Ramsaur approves. Fr. Michael said that it was not necessary to get Vestry approval for such a name change.

Old Business: Gay Forloine asked how and when the Endowment Fund is going to be made available. Fred Boelt said that it will be discussed at the next meeting of the Endowment Committee. This information, when approved by the Endowment Board, will be brought to the Vestry.

Other Business:

Bishop's Day is March 6.

Adjournment and Prayer: The next regular meeting of the Vestry will occur on February 9, 7 pm, in the Wilkinson Center.