

**Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
March 13, 2007**

Present: Fred Boelt (Treasurer/Senior Warden), Bill Teale (Junior Warden/Stewardship), Michael Delk (Rector), Sue Dugan (Pastoral Care), Nancy Geddes (Youth), Lynn Geddy (Parish Life), Chuck Jundt (Outreach), Connie Kendrick (Worship), Katrina Luksovsky (Newcomers), Mayes Mathews (Strategic Planning), Don Seeterlin (Buildings & Grounds), Paula Simmons (Christian Formation), and Lauris Zeni (Newcomers).

Absent: The Reverend Ann Dieterle

I. Vestry Check In:

Vestry members shared personal news since the last meeting in February.

Fr. Michael announced that, as a result of elections at Diocesan Council, Ann Dieterle has been re-elected to the Diocesan Commission on Ministry and that he has been elected to the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Court. He also announced that he had been appointed by the Bishop as Dean of the Convocation and Bill Forloine had been appointed as Director of the Diocesan Ministry and Mission Fund.

Fr. Michael also reported that his attendance at the Clergy Leadership Project had been wonderful, affirmative, and informative. He is grateful to have been invited to attend and looks forward to the next session in June. During his participating in the Clergy Leadership Council, he received very positive feedback on the concept and timing of the anticipated Parish Visioning Process at Hickory Neck.

II. Opening Prayer and Meditation:

Lauris Zeni led the prayer and meditation.

III. Approval of Vestry Minutes:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the February meeting.

IV. Parishioner's Comments and Initiatives:

Lynn Geddy distributed a memorandum from Diane Perry outlining plans for the Parish cookbook (Attachment A).

V. Treasurer's Report:

Fred Boelt presented the Treasurer's report (Attachment B). He reported that cash flow was good, but that we needed to consider why we are where we are.

As reported at the February meeting, one individual pre-paid their 2007 pledge in advance. In February, another individual paid a portion of their Operating and Building Fund pledges for 2006 and pre-paid their pledge for 2007.

Pledges for the two months ending February 28 total \$58,933.40. Pledges for January and February were basically flat. We took in \$16,000 for the Building Fund in February, but Fred reminded that this contribution would have to be spread over the whole of 2007.

The Diocesan Pledge amount for the two month period is showing an additional \$385, which should actually be carried as for Diocesan Council. This will be adjusted.

Utility expenses were high, particularly natural gas. February was the first cold winter month we have had this season, so there will be \$1300 showing up on the March report for natural gas usage.

Nancy Geddes made a request that the expenses incurred during the Lenten soup dinners (soup ingredients, paper products, etc) be subtracted from the 2007 Youth Group budget, rather than from proceeds taken in during the Lenten Soup Supper campaign. In this way, all proceeds from the suppers can be applied to mission.

On motion of Chuck Jundt and seconded by Connie Kendrick, the Treasurer's report was approved.

VI. Junior Warden's Report:

Bill Teale reported that the new Time & Talent form was finished (Attachment C). Hope Brans will use these forms for new members. She has already begun to enter responses into the data base using this new format. Once done, Vestry members should make sure to contact every person who signed up under the categories for which each Vestry member has responsibility.

Regarding Stewardship, Bill reported that he, Fr. Michael, Fred Boelt, Mayes Mathews, and Bill Forloine had met to review current Stewardship procedures.

In the past few years, newcomers who have become members of Hickory Neck have not been approached to pledge if their joining the church came after the standard stewardship campaign "season". Also, new members have not been asked to contribute to the Capital Campaign Fund.

Recommendations from the stewardship meeting were that, following the Welcome letter which Fr. Michael sends to each new member, there should be a follow-up letter from Bill Forloine as Stewardship chair enclosing a pledge card.

In reference to newcomers, Fr. Michael said that he had talked with Lauris about revamping the new member orientation. His thought is that Vestry members need not be required to attend the orientation, because the expanded discussion this brings about may be too overwhelming for new members to take in all at once. Newcomer questions and concerns can be addressed by Fr. Michael and Pastor Ann at initial newcomer orientations.

Bill Teale will be following up to see that Time and Talent sheets are turned in by members.

During further discussion, the sense of the Vestry was that if people are engaged and involved at Hickory Neck (with Time and Talent sheets as a beginning) they will feel they have a stake in the church and community and naturally be more amenable to pledging.

Bill will review the Time and Talent/Pledging connection and, if this is not working, will have further stewardship suggestions.

VII. Senior Warden's Report:

Fred Boelt thanked all parties responsible for turning in their insurance inventories. The originals will go in the safety deposit box with copies in the church office. If there are any new items post-inventory, please advise Hope Brans. Fred also expressed gratitude to Ollie Kendrick who kindly photographed all the Altar supplies and sacred vessels.

Fred also expressed gratitude that the Vestry was functioning very well and that all committees were engaged and active. This makes it possible for Vestry meetings to run efficiently without wasted time.

VIII. Associate Rector's Report:

[Due to Pastor Ann's absence due to illness, the Associate Rector's report will be added later]

IX. Rector's Report (Attachment D):

Average Sunday attendance, since last meeting –206

Average Sunday attendance in the last period between meetings –231

New Member by Letter of Transfer, since last Vestry meeting:
Ron, Shannon, and Allyson Houser; Jim and Joanne Izzo

No burials, marriages or transfers out of the Parish since last Vestry meeting.

Calendar events, since last Vestry Meeting:

- 2/9-2/11—Diocesan Annual Council, Williamsburg
- 2/11—Guest Preacher for Theological Education Sunday
- 2/11-2/16—Delk AWAY to Clergy Leadership Project
- 2/20—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 2/21—Ash Wednesday at 7 am, 12 noon, and 7 pm
- 2/28—Lenten Midweek Series begins, 6 pm

Upcoming Calendar Events

- 3/15—Parish Visioning Process Small Groups Start
- 3/18—Newcomers' Social, 2:30 pm
- 3/24—Bishop's Day with Clergy & Vestry, Emmanuel, Va Beach
- 4/1—Palm/Passion Sunday
- 4/4—Diocesan Chrism Mass/Renewal of Ordinal Vows at HNC, 10 am
- 4/5—Maundy Thursday
- 4/6—Good Friday
- 4/7—Great Vigil of Easter with Baptisms
- 4/8—Easter Day
- 4/9—Offices closed

Fr. Michael announced that Bob Gay had been officially accepted by the Commission on Ministry as an aspirant to the vocational diaconate in the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Fr. Michael announced that the sanctuary cross is completed. It is 8 feet wide by 6 feet long and weighs 130 pounds. It will be put in place on Saturday at 10 am. The kiosk is still being built.

Fr. Michael called the Vestry's attention to the flyers they had received regarding Bishop's Day for Clergy and Vestry (Saturday, March 24 from 8:30 am to 3 pm). He encouraged Vestry members to attend. Attendance fees will be paid by HNC. Applications should be completed and returned to the Diocesan office by the deadline. Vestry members were requested to advise Fr. Michael if they plan to attend so that carpooling might be arranged.

Fr. Michael informed the Vestry that, at Diocesan Council in the fall, a plan will be presented for mandatory assessments for Diocesan contributions from parishes, based on a percentage of each church's operating budget. He suggested it would be prudent to begin planning for a potential increase in HNC's pledge and estimated the assessment for HNC would be at about 16% of operating budget. We presently voluntarily contribute five percent.

As to the broader church, Fr. Michael advised that there was a meeting of the Anglican

Primates in Tanzania, resulting in an ultimatum being issued to the ECUSA House of Bishops to place a voluntary moratorium on the ordination of gays and lesbians to any order in the church.

Since our province is by far the most democratic of any of the provinces in the Anglican Communion, decisions in our province cannot be undertaken unilaterally by the House of Bishops but must be voted on at General Convention every three years by the House of Bishops and the House of Delegates. Any independent decision on this ultimatum by the House of Bishops would violate Church Canons

Therefore, the House of Bishops will decline to address the ultimatum. The Anglican Communion will respond. Scenarios resulting from that anticipated exchange might be: the expulsion of ECUSA from the Anglican Communion; or that ECUSA could be deprived of a vote at the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates Meeting at Lambeth. Of the 38 provinces in the Anglican Communion, 6 provinces are with us, 12 are opposed and the remaining 19 are in the middle. Things may heat up in April, just after Easter.

Fr. Michael has received the Vestry's written reports on their calls to parishioners. Lauris Zeni suggested that, in the future, the congregation be advised in advance via Epistle/Nuggets to expect these calls from Vestry members. Many seemed caught off guard and might have been better able to respond had they had time to reflect.

Fr. Michael referred to the Parish Visioning Process and announced that 10 groups were fully subscribed and there might possibly be an 11th group. A listing of all groups, facilitators and note takers will be emailed to Vestry members (Attachment E). This listing will be distributed to all participants. Last page of this mailing will review the group "norms" and itemize each step of the group meetings, including the preliminary gathering for prayer and reflection.

It was noted that the note taker must be diligent in note-taking, but notes should be without attribution to preserve the integrity of the process. It was suggested that each facilitator also write a paragraph detailing his/her observations.

X. Team Ministry Reports:

A. Pastoral Care Committee Report

Sue Dugan submitted her portion of the Pastoral Care Ministry report (Attachment E) as

follows:

“Listed below is an update of the Pastoral Care Team since our last report in November 2006.

Emergency Meals: *There have been 22 meals delivered to seven families.*

Prayer Chain: *There are 44 members of the prayer chain and since November 1, 2006 there have been 118 prayer requests (approximately 29 per month).*

Lay Eucharist: *No report*

Special Deliveries (New Mom’s Ministry): *There have been 11 meals delivered to two new Moms and families.*

Singles Foyer: *We had our first meeting on Mar 2nd by having dinner at Sal’s, which was very successful. We will meet again May 4th when we will have dinner at Hog Wild at 6pm and then attend Game Night at HNC.”.*

B. Worship Committee Report

Connie Kendrick submitted the Worship Committee report (Attachment F) as follows:

“Our congregation has grown to be a program church during the last eight months. As our outside community continues to grow so will our church.

“The last months have been very busy with a wide variety of services held in our new chapel. The various guilds in the Worship Committee have remained well organized for their duties, with training of new members done as needed. Volunteers are always needed to help keep the work of a committee spread between the members and not just a few. The members are needed, relied upon and their service in Christ’s name is appreciated. We must be ready to minister to everyone.

“The Worship Committee met Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at 7 pm. We meet on an as needed basis.

“The focus of the meeting was to look at our Lenten and Easter services for 2007. The times for the services were set and any changes in procedures were discussed.

“One permanent time change was made in that the 8 am congregation will meet in the historic chapel on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays. This gives the Praise Band time to set up their instruments before the 9 am service on these Sundays when they play.

“Recently the old floor and substructure [of the sacristy] of the historic chapel was totally replaced by a contractor found by our building supervisor, Don Seeterlin. Because everything had to be removed, this gave us a chance to clean the sacristy. Mary and Bill Teale, Mark Kintner, Barbara Laroche and Connie Kendrick cleaned, painted the walls and threw out anything that was not useful. We now have a lovely room thanks to their hard work.

“Oliver Kendrick has completed the inventory of items in both chapels. He has produced a photographic book and typed lists of all the items existing in each chapel. Fred Belt will have a book for the insurance coverage.

“It is a privilege for me to work with all these guilds and because of the real community and Christian brotherhood we have at Hickory Neck Church, we continue to thrive.”.

XI. New Business:

Don Seeterlin expressed concern that business matters discussed with Vestry members prior to worship have the potential to distract and detract from preparation for worship.

Fred Belt offered that the discussion of church business on Sunday at church goes back to colonial times when the business of the Parish was conducted on Sunday morning.

Fr. Michael suggested that individual Vestry members feel free to set their boundaries with parishioners and suggest that these exchanges, if lengthy, be conducted via email, phone, etc, on subsequent weekdays.

XII. Old Business:

Ed Godshall made a presentation to the Vestry regarding the condition of the organ. There are essential repairs that must be done, at minimum, to preserve the condition of the organ. These initial essential repairs involve the mechanical parts of the organ and will cost \$7,834.

Bill Teale and Fred Boelt reported that they had talked with Fr. Michael and concur that these repairs are needed immediately.

In addition, there are other repairs which must be made very soon, including the replacement of rotting and disintegrating wooden and leather parts of the organ which have further degraded over the winter because of a lack of humidity in the sanctuary. [For the time being, a small, \$500 humidifier has been hooked up behind the organ to keep the wood from degrading further, but is not doing the job].

The wind which is produced to blow through the pipes and create the organ's sound is escaping from the underpinnings of the organ due to this deterioration. As a result, the organ is not working to full capacity. Ed has to coax sound and volume out of it every time it is played. These additional repairs will total \$12,000.

It is also hoped that a restoration involving the placement of an 8 foot diapason, would round out the lower register of the sound and restore the original composition of the organ.

Bill Teale made a motion that an amount adequate to accomplish the immediate repairs to the organ be borrowed from the Davenport Fund, to be repaid, if possible, by an appeal to the congregation.

Pending consideration of said motion, Mayes Mathews offered the following amendment to the motion: *That if adequate funds are available, the \$12,000 to perform the additional repairs (including an 8 foot diapason), be applied to the aforesaid organ funding.*

The amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

Subsequently, the question was put on the motion, as amended, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

XIII. Other Business:

With reluctance, Fr. Michael and the Vestry released Katrina Luksovsky from further Vestry service, effective upon the date of her written resignation. Fr. Michael then led the Vestry in a blessing for Katrina and her family in their new life in Florida.

The next meeting of the Hickory Neck Vestry will be held on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 pm.

Father Michael concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Butler-Gee, Register