

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
March 10, 2009

Present: The Very Reverend Michael Delk (Rector); The Reverend Lauren McDonald (Associate Rector); Lauris Zeni (Senior Warden); Gary Harvey, Jr. (Junior Warden); Ann Bartholomay (Parish Life); Fred Boelt (Treasurer); Melissa Casheros (Communications); Gay Forloine (Pastoral Care); Eve Butler-Gee (Register); Brig Lampert (Children and Youth); Don Seeterlin (Pastoral Care); Paula Simmons (Children and Youth); and Michael Smith (Outreach).

Absent: Jean Hancock and Ed Joyner

Also present: Bert Geddy representing Buildings & Grounds' garden project

I. Vestry Check In: Vestry members shared personal news since the last meeting in February, 2009.

II. Opening Prayer and Meditation: A Stations of the Cross meditation was led by Don Seeterlin. Eve Butler-Gee will lead the prayer and meditation at the April meeting.

III. Approval of Vestry Minutes: On motion of Gay Forloine and seconded by Melissa Casheros, the minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2009 were approved.

IV. Parishioner's Comments and Initiatives: Bert Geddy reported to the Vestry on the use of Church grounds as a communal garden by parishioners (See New Business, Item A below).

V. Treasurer's Report: Fred Boelt, Treasurer, reported that February figures were in the black, with February income over budget by \$3,000, due to the fact that some people had paid one quarter of their 2009 pledges in advance. Year-to-date numbers are \$17,500 ahead, with non-pledge income ahead significantly, probably because new members have not yet pledged. Expenses are on target taking into account the cost of heating buildings for the month of February; and the expenses of the Vestry Retreat and our delegates to Diocesan Council. Utilities will go down in the spring before the hot weather and then up again in summer. Fred reminded the Vestry that the Building Fund loan was being carried under the General Fund as an expense. He reported that he had been able to make a \$2,000 payment on the loan principal, thanks to some gifts received designated specifically for paying down the Building Fund.

On motion of Paula Simmons and seconded by Melissa Casheros, the Treasurer's report was approved.

VI. Junior Warden's Report: Gary Harvey, the Junior Warden, deferred making his report until he reported on Buildings and Grounds (X. Ministry Reports below).

VII. Senior Warden's Report: Lauris Zeni, the Senior Warden, thanked Vestry members who had submitted their mutual ministry forms and reminded those who had not to turn them in to her before Sunday, March 15.

Lauris also reminded Vestry members about Bishop's Day(s) on March 21 (Eastern part of the Diocese) and March 28 (Western part of the Diocese), respectively. This year, Hickory Neck Church is making its inaugural presentation on Stewardship on both dates with Fr. Michael and Bill Teale presenting on March 21 and Fr. Michael and Fred Boelt presenting on March 28.

Lauris read her proposed response as Senior Warden to a recent letter from the Diocese of Southern Virginia regarding 2009 pledging.

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

"Christian Formation:

On March 1 the Youth Group did some bonding during Laser Tag in Newport News. We also started our first "conversation with the clergy" for youth on that Sunday. We had four participating. This past Sunday we engaged in a conversation about the topic of violence. Bob Gay is teaching an Adult Forum class on the Prophetic Parables of Jesus for the duration of Lent.

The centering prayer group had dwindled to two but has grown again since Lent started. There will be a Quiet Day on Saturday, March 28, on the theme of forgiveness. Quiet day will be from 8:30-12:30, including a half hour for gathering and a half hour for an optional brown bag lunch.

Our first Lenten Evensong went very well with lots of positive feedback.

Outreach

We had to cancel the last Outreach Meeting due to the illness of the Associate Rector. Our next meeting is March 17. On March 19 we will be cooking and serving a meal for From His Hands.

We have had a good update from H.E.L.P. (Housing Employment Linkages Project). Three parishioners are working as mentors in the program. The next mentor training is on March 21 from 9am-2pm at the Salvation Army. We have at least one more parishioner interested in the training. The program now has a planning budget and is in the process of interviewing case managers. An information meeting will be held in July to update the community about HELP.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team leaders will be meeting on March 11 after Evensong to check in and share ideas.

The Health Team Ministry received the results of its surveys. The top three topics of interest were:

- 1. Nutrition, diet, weight control, exercise*
- 2. Advanced directives and end of life issues*
- 3. Heart disease, arthritis, men's health, prayer and health*

Denise Deal is offering an exercise class on Thursday nights, so the Health Team has decided to focus on Advanced Directives by holding a Workshop on Sunday, April 26 at 2pm. The team will be meeting later this month to plan the workshop.

The outcome of the healers meeting is that we will be offering the laying on of hands and anointing by lay healers each Sunday at the 9:00 service. A special space has been set up to enhance this new ministry. We began this ministry on March 8, and it seemed to be appreciated by both healers and those seeking healing".

Pastor Lauren reminded the Vestry of the Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday, March 28 and that there are still a few slots open for HNC members to volunteer with "From His Hands" on March 19.

IX. Rector's Report: The Very Reverend Michael Delk submitted the following report:

"New Member by Letter of Transfer:

*Frederick and Susan Biel
Chad Biel
Jennifer Biel Hartman
Maggie Newsome*

Baptisms, since last Vestry meeting:

Gavin Steven Kingsley – 22 February

NO Burials, Marriages, or Transfers Out of the Parish, since last Vestry meeting:

Calendar Events, since last Vestry meeting:

- 2/13 ... Consecration of the 10th Bishop of Southern Virginia, 7pm
- 2/13 – 2/15 ... Diocesan Council, Williamsburg
- 2/15 ... Family Foyer, 4:30p
- 2/21 ... Healing Team mtg., 10a
- 2/21 ... Acolyte Training, 2p
- 2/22 ... Newcomer's Social, 4p
- 2/24 ... Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6p
- 2/25 ... Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist, 7a, 12n, 7p
- 2/28 ... Men's Breakfast, 8:30a
- 3/1 ... Youth to Laser Tag, 4-8p
- 3/4... Lenten Midweek Evensongs Commence, 6p (Historic Chapel)
- 3/4 — 3/5 ... DELK AWAY, Diocesan Executive Board, Chanco

Upcoming Calendar Events:

- 3/17 ... Staff Day Retreat
- 3/21 ... Bishop's Day with Vestries and Clergy (East) at Emmanuel, Virginia Beach, 8:30a – 3p
- 3/28 ... Bishop's Day with Vestries and Clergy(West) at Amelia High School, Amelia, 8:30a – 3p
- 3/30 ... Council of Advice Inaugural mtg., 7p
- 4/5 ... Palm/Passion Sunday
- 4/9 ... Maundy Thursday Footwashing, Eucharist, & Altar Stripping, 7p
- 4/10 ... Good Friday Liturgy, 12n and 7p; Stations of the Cross, 6p
- 4/11 ... Buildings and Grounds Clean-Up
- 4/11 ... The Great Vigil of Easter
- 4/12 ... Easter Day
- 4/13 ... Easter Monday -- OFFICES CLOSED".

Fr. Michael reported that Wednesday Lenten Evensongs have been very well received with 26 attending last Wednesday.

A. Update on the Liturgical Impact of the Healing Ministry on the 9 am Eucharist: Fr.

Michael reported that the first 9 am service to include healing and anointing as part of the Eucharist went very well. Members of the congregation approach the side altar in the North Transept for healing, where there are several lay persons whose special gift is healing. After prayer and anointing people then insert themselves into the flow of people going up to communion, receive communion and then return to their seats. Fr. Michael and the Healing Team will be meeting in the next few weeks to review their progress.

X. Team Ministry Report—Buildings and Grounds: Gary Harvey, Junior Warden and Vestry Liaison to the Buildings and Grounds Committee submitted the following report on the Committee's behalf:

"Building Update: John Rothnie

- Hung 3 fire extinguishers in compliance with last years Fire Marshall inspection.
- 15 December Fire Inspection by JCC. Found light bulb out in exit sign in New Chapel. Refrigerator in Old Chapel blocking breaker box. The exit sign is a work in progress. We ordered a new led light bar which arrived in February and that did not solve the problem. Diagnostics indicated the motherboard is bad and it has been placed on order. Father Michael is looking at alternatives to the refrigerator and a solution is close at hand.
 - Repaired broken shutters in WC kitchen.
 - Repaired drain in front of New Chapel to reduce the water buildup on the sidewalk.
 - Purchased and hung nameplates on office doors in WC.
 - Heating issues in classrooms in WC. All thermostats are battery operated. We have adopted a semi-annual battery replacement schedule.
- Repaired broken window treatment in Hopes office.
- Installed wall desk in Father Michael's office.
- Purchased 12-foot stepladder to enable us to replace light bulbs inside and outside without having to call for a contractor in most cases.
- Ordered reverse osmosis filter system for humidifier in the new Chapel--required to filter out minerals in the water, which is causing excess dust buildup in the New Chapel. Currently using portable humidifier until filter installed. In process of obtaining estimates from 3 plumbers and a carpenter.
 - Repaired front door in New Chapel and reinstalled the automatic door closer.
 - Replaced two bulbs at the HNC sign and two bulbs on the parking lot pole lights.
 - Repaired men's bathroom door in New Chapel. Molding coming loose.
- Called for no power to New Chapel on 26 Jan. Turned out receiving partial power and Dominion Power called to fix problem.

- Worked on the alarm issue for considerable time and have let the contract to install a new system and monitoring firm. Will be accomplished by the end of March.
- Mailbox repaired.
- Replaced missing wall sconce in men's restroom in New Chapel.
- Installed 100-pound restored bell outside HC.
- Daily filling of the portable humidifier in the New Chapel.

Sexton Update: Mark Kintner

- Weekly accomplishes the following:
 - Put the Nave back in order after the last service each Sunday.
 - Mondays sets up the Narthex for Bible Study and checks the HC and NC for the week.
 - Checks the WC and puts in order.
 - Tuesday sets up the Narthex for Wednesday EFM.
 - Friday or Saturday check the Narthex for cleanliness and setup for coffee hour.
 - Dec 16 cleaned and set up Narthex for Diocesan Planning Meeting.
 - Set up the Nave and narthex for Christmas Services. Set out hymnals and prayer books. Took down and reconfigured after all Christmas services.
 - In preparation for Epiphany burning of the greens, obtained burning permit and prepared fire pit.
 - Jan 8 set up Nave and Narthex for funeral service. Set up WC for the family.
 - Jan 22-24 set up Nave and Narthex for funeral service.
 - Jan vacuumed all chairs and kneeling pads in New Chapel.
 - Helped grounds keeper cleanup fallen limbs after two weeks of high winds.
 - Feb 2 set up the WC for knitting group.
 - Feb 24 set up the Narthex for the pancake supper.
 - Set up the Narthex for the men's breakfast. Mopped the Narthex after the two meals.

Grounds Update: George Margroum

- Feb 7 strung wire for the blackberry vines.
- Feb 25-27 pruned the crape myrtles. The Manning Family and Mark Kintner were involved in this giant effort.
- Preparing for the Spring Cleanup Day on April 11. Information placed in the Nuggets, e-pistle, and the service bulletins.

The Vestry requested a team be formed to help keep the three buildings “presentable” by doing a walk through weekly and tidying up things that are out of place and being an extra set of eyes for the B&G Team dealing with clutter. As of this report only Pam Stromberg has volunteered and is conducting this alone with the help of Gary Harvey as needed”.

Gary reported that the bell at the Historic Chapel had been repaired and restored by Carl Aschman and looks wonderful. It is also very easy to ring and sounds great. Gary advised that he will be away from the 21st to the 30th of March and that John Rothnie will be out of town from the 25th to the 29th.

XI. New Business

A. Use of Church Grounds as a Communal Garden by Parishioners: Bert Geddy reported that he, David Ware and about 13 people interested in working a communal garden at HNC had met. A number of topics were touched upon including:

- Size of the plots (10 x 20 feet)
- Natural fertilizer (manure)
- water supply options—soaker hose connection from the New Chapel and how that would be handled re water bill and possible use of the well if, after a year's time the garden project is prospering and there are water shortages
- beds should be ready to go by April 15
- deer activity—may need a small fence about 4 feet high—will advise
- locations for tool storage
- pesticide use—will revisit if needed and Fr. Michael suggested possibly clustering those gardeners who wish to use a benign form of pesticide from those who use none at all

The garden project would provide educational opportunities for the children and would be a way that HNC could engage in a green project. Excess vegetables could be donated or perhaps sold at the Toano Fire Department farmstand to raise money for our outreach ministries. Bert indicated that the first year of gardening will serve as a learning experience to see how the project unfolds. On motion of Eve Gee and seconded by Michael Smith, the Vestry voted to approve the usage of up to an acre of land on the Northeast corner and near the BNP for use as a communal garden for parishioners.

B. Conversion of the Wilkinson Center Library to a Dedicated-Use Youth Room-- Fr. Michael requested that the library space on the second floor of the Wilkinson Center be converted into a dedicated space for the Youth Group. The use of that room as a library has not been effective. The Youth are willing to build bookcases in one corner of the downstairs meeting space in the Wilkinson Center for a library which is more accessible and visible. The books in the library will be reviewed and purged, with some retained and some donated. The Youth Group is very excited at the prospect of having their own dedicated space and will be responsible for painting and preparing it for use. On motion of Michael Smith and seconded by Lauris Zeni, the Vestry voted to convert the second-floor library room in the Wilkinson Center to a dedicated-use Youth room and to relocate library books to the first floor.

C. Lease of a Color Copier—the Vestry discussed the feasibility of leasing a color copier to replace the existing black and white copier. This would allow greater flexibility in the production of materials whose attractiveness and effectiveness might be enhanced by being produced in color. After discussion and on motion by Don Seeterlin and seconded by Michael Smith, the Vestry tabled further consideration of this topic until other options, including the cost of offset printing, are investigated. This item will be revisited under Old Business at a future time.

D. Endowment Board Guidelines—Following the Vestry's opportunity to review of the Endowment Board Guidelines distributed at the February meeting, on motion of Ann Bartholomay and seconded by Paula Simmons, the Vestry voted to adopt the Endowment Board Guidelines as written. Many Vestry members commented on how clearly these Guidelines were written.

XII. Old Business—Update on the Sunday Morning Schedule Team—Fr. Michael reported that the Sunday Morning Schedule Team had met with another meeting scheduled on April 6. Fr. Michael commented that the meeting was respectful, collegial, and prayerful. Persons of different opinions and ideas worked extremely well together and it was a great first meeting. It is anticipated that the Team will meet every 3 or 4 weeks and hopes to report to the Vestry at the June or July meeting.

XIII. Other Business: Gay Forloine suggested designating a Sunday morning after worship for HNC parishioners to "get up from their pews" and go out into the community to perform various mission tasks, reconvening again at HNC at the end of the day. At the end of that day there might be a Parish picnic, a concert or Evensong. Pastor Lauren will mention this concept to the Outreach Committee.

The next meeting of the Hickory Neck Vestry will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7 pm in the Wilkinson Center. Pastor Lauren concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Butler-Gee