

**Hickory Neck Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**April 10, 2007**

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

**I. Vestry Check In:**

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

**II. Opening Prayer and Meditation:**

Mayes Mathews led the opening prayer and meditation.

**III. Approval of the Minutes:**

By motion of Bill Teale, seconded by Fred Boelt and agreed to unanimously, the minutes of the Vestry meeting of March 13 were approved.

**IV. Parishioner's Comments and Initiatives:**

Some members of the congregation would like the seating arrangement in the new chapel to remain the same all the time. Fr. Michael responded that the chapel design approved four years ago called for a flexible space. However, the seating will remain mostly the same, with exceptions for special services/events.

Don Seeterlin suggested that "business cards" be printed and distributed for use by parishioners who are out and about in the community and encounter opportunities to invite people to visit and worship at HNC. These cards would have information about Hickory Neck on the front and a small map on the back.

## **V. Treasurer's Report (Attachment A):**

Fred Boelt reported that we had had a good Easter Sunday offering. April will be a five Sunday month which was also positive. Usually, there are some late offerings for Christmas and Easter, so more offerings could still be coming in.

Special organ repair donations received to date have totaled \$8,436. The total of the first phase repair contract is \$7,834.50 and repairs are scheduled for the end of June.

The balance owed on the demand note is at \$136,000. The balance owed on the mortgage is \$493,000, which is as expected. Capital Campaign Fund donations have slowed down, also as expected at this time of year, but we need to stay on it. We have to be able to pay off the \$130,000 on the demand note by year's end.

Mayes Mathews reported that he had sent notes to those whose Capital Campaign pledges were in arrears and has received three responses. He will be considering a visual display of the status of the Fund.

On motion of Lauris Zeni, seconded by Connie Kendrick and agreed to unanimously, the Treasurer's report was approved.

## **VI. Junior Warden's Report:**

Bill Teale reported that the Stewardship Committee (Fr. Michael, Fred Boelt, Bill Teale, Mayes Mathews, and Bill Forloine) had met and drafted the Stewardship letter to be sent to new members.

New members will continue to receive the standard welcome packet. A few weeks later a separate stewardship letter will be sent out, with a Time and Talent sheet and an operating budget pledge card as enclosures. This letter will discuss the balance due on the mortgage (but not the Capital Campaign).

Hickory Neck Church's pledge to the Diocese of Southern Virginia was discussed during the recent Wardens' meeting, which took place prior to the publication in the Jamestown Cross of a list of all churches in the Diocese, their current pledges (as a percentage of their operating budget) and a projected percentage increase per church.

Fred Boelt and Bill Teale have offered to meet proactively with Bishop Buchanan to discuss with him any immediate change in HNC's Diocesan pledge. Their discussion plan would be to remind the Bishop of Hickory Neck's contribution to the Diocese in the form of the new building and the future growth/income potential that this expansion of HNC's physical plant will afford. The point will be made that HNC still needs to retire the demand note (by year's end) and seek to

pay off the mortgage so as to move toward a cash position that would allow a percentage increase in HNC's contribution.

Fr. Michael reminded the Vestry that the Diocese of Southern Virginia is one of four remaining Dioceses that (since 1984) still employ a voluntary giving program. This Diocese has been experiencing a steady loss of income over the last twenty years. However, it is important to remind the Diocese of the value to the Diocese of Hickory Neck's new building and acquisition of more property.

Fr. Michael wants to be certain that our relationship with the Diocese is not clouded by a perception that we are being selfish, but rather that we are attempting to be good stewards by retiring debt and staying solvent. In this way we can ultimately serve the Diocese best with the larger congregation that this expansion will help create.

## **VII. Senior Warden's Report:**

Fred Boelt reported that he had attended the Triduum services and Easter Sunday. He expressed to the Vestry the significance of attending Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services as a worshipful progression toward Easter Sunday. He hopes to encourage more people to make this journey to Easter next year, since Easter Sunday is all the more meaningful if Holy Week is taken as a whole.

## **VIII. Associate Rector's Report:**

Reverend Ann Dieterle submitted her report to the Vestry as follows:

### **Christian Formation**

*Plans for a third godly play classroom are well on their way- including new materials, classroom/age division, space allocation and teacher recruitment. The 'old nursery' and 'bean bag room' will be used for additional classroom space and a resource room (aka storage).*

*"Several opportunities akin to the Pastoral Care 'Ministering to Ministers Mini-Retreats' (see below) will be provided in the upcoming months. The first opportunity will be a combined retreat with the pastoral caregivers, and focus on personal prayer disciplines and developing a rule of life. The dates have not been determined yet, but I will consult*

*"Vacation Bible School has been tentatively scheduled for Aug. 6 – 10<sup>th</sup>. VBS is a collaborative effort between ourselves, Bruton and St. Martin's, with St. Martin's set to host this year.*

*"Sunday School Recognition will be June 10 at 10:15 am between services.*

**"Youth**

*Fundraising for the Relay for Life is beginning. There will be a spaghetti dinner (April 15, pre-orders; April 22, dinners on sale) & car wash (May 20<sup>th</sup>). In addition, the youth are encouraged to do individual fundraising. The relay will be held June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at Jamestown High School. Although this is a youth group activity, adults are welcome and encouraged to participate. Please see me or Karen & John Dutro for registration information and details.*

*"I would ideally like 4 additional youth advisors. I am in prayer about this matter and have several people in mind, but if you have any ideas, they are most welcome. Our current outstanding team includes: Nancy Geddes, Marji Chema, Kristin Adsit, Brian Hanlon and myself."*

**"Pastoral Care**

*We held our first of three "Ministering to the Ministers Mini-Retreats" for 2007 on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 1 and Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 9. We decided to have two sessions of each retreat based on responses to an availability survey- which was a blessing in two ways: it enabled more people to come and maximized the group time as the size of the group was not too large. There were 20 in attendance between the two days. We gathered for food and fellowship at each retreat, had a time for sharing and discussion, and framed our time together with worship. The theme for this retreat was listening. Future topics include personal prayer life and prayer in the context of ministry encounters.*

**"Other**

*Dieterle Away: April 11 – April 22, 2007."*

Fr. Michael approved the purchase of a new basketball hoop and backboard for the youth. Don Seeterlin will advise re the purchase/installation.

**IX. Rector's Report:**

"Average Sunday attendance, since last meeting (excluding Easter Day and Easter Vigil) –224

**Easter attendance (including Easter Vigil)-425**

Average Sunday attendance in the last period between meetings –206

"New Member by Letter of Transfer, since last Vestry meeting: Sarah Fertig

"Transfer out of the Parish since last Vestry meeting: Christopher Russell [inactive roster] (moved to Richmond)

"Calendar events, since last Vestry Meeting:

- 3/15—Parish Visioning Process Small Groups Start
- 3/18—Newcomer Social, 3 pm
- 3/24—Bishop's Day with Clergy & Vestry at Emmanuel, VB
- 4/1—Palm/Passion Sunday
- 4/4—Diocesan Chrism Mass/Renewal of Ordinal Vows, HNC, 11 am
- 4/5—Maundy Thursday
- 4/6—Good Friday
- 4/7—Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism
- 4/8—Easter Day
- 4/9—Offices Closed

"Upcoming Calendar Events:

- 4/11 to 4/22—Dieterle AWAY
- 4/15—New Member Orientation, 4 pm
- 4/19—2nd flight of Parish Visioning Process Small Groups begins
- 4/27 to 4/29—Men's Cursillo
- 5/7—Delk Sabbatical begins."

Fr. Michael reported that Easter Sunday services very well attended, although the Easter Vigil attendance was not so good. The combined choir/choral scholars at the 11 am Easter Sunday service sounded wonderfully and powerfully loud! He is grateful to all who helped make Holy Week an outstanding worship experience.

Fr. Michael reported that, as predicted, the ECUSA House of Bishops said "no" to the ultimatum issued by the Anglican Primates' meeting in Tanzania (see minutes of March 13). The House of Bishops, instead, issued an invitation to the Archbishop of Canterbury to meet with them in the fall. No response as yet from the Archbishop. This topic will be the subject at Christian Formation beginning this Sunday and every Sunday until the end of April.

Fr. Michael reported that there has been a sudden flood of people coming to him seeking his counsel on how to deepen their spiritual life. Several have advised that they are resigning their positions in various aspects of church work in order to focus more on such a transformation, and a number are seeking guidance on deepening their prayer life.

Fr. Michael reminded that the second flight of the Parish Visioning Process Small Group meetings begins on April 19.

## **X. Team Ministry Reports:**

### **A. Newcomers Committee Report:**

Lauris Zeni submitted the Newcomers Committee report as follows:

*"Sunday Greeters—There are 9 people on the Greeters List for the 9:00 AM worship service and 8 for the 11:15 AM service. Greeters have been scheduled through June, 2007.*

*"Visitor Cards—From January, 2007, through April 8, 2007, the administrative assistant has recorded pertinent information from 19 visitor cards.*

*"Newcomers' Welcome Bags—Ann Lipp delivers the welcome bags from the upper end of the county and Lauris Zeni delivers them to visitors from the lower end of the county.*

*December—1 delivery*

*January—7 deliveries*

*February—3 deliveries*

*March—2 deliveries*

*April—3 deliveries*

*Newcomers' Social—Sunday, March 18, 2007, at the home of Betty and Frank Somloi. Seven newcomers attended, as well as a fine showing of Vestry members, clergy and parishioners. That day was a busy day with Parish Visioning Process Small Groups that night.*

*New Member Orientation—Sunday, April 15, 2007, 3:00 – 4:00 pm. Approximately 18 new members have been invited. A different format will be tried and new materials will be distributed."*

Fr. Michael added that the New Member Orientation will be different this time (as discussed at the March 13 meeting). Vestry members will not be required to attend since the format will be changed. Lauris Zeni will conduct some ice breaker games to get people comfortable, following which Fr. Michael will spend 25 minutes addressing new members issues, with his remarks tailored to the demographics of those attending. During his talk, Fr. Michael will emphasize that membership in the Episcopal Church is a serious undertaking with many privileges, but also responsibilities. He will be emphasizing a life of worship, study, prayer, service, stewardship and fellowship. Then there will be a one-half hour question period.

## **B. Outreach Committee Report:**

Chuck Jundt submitted the following report:

*“The Outreach Council has met three times in 2007 deciding not to meet in April, as it was the day after Easter. Fourteen different people have attended the three meetings with ten members attending at least two of the meetings.*

*“The most gratifying aspect of the meetings was sharing the letters of appreciation that we received from Vibrant Life Ministries, Williamsburg-area Faith in Action, Grove Christian Outreach Center and the chaplain’s fund at Eastern State Hospital. They were thankful for the donations that we were able to provide from the money raised from the Fall Festival.*

*“The efforts by members of Hickory Neck with direct and meaningful involvement with Williamsburg-area Faith in Action, Vibrant Life ministries and Angels of Mercy has strengthened mission and improved the prospects for their future. Parishioner’s Ester Gay, Bob Gay, John Greenman, Rick Garfield, Bill Teale and Bill Forloine are providing the hands on support as part of Hickory Neck’s Christian commitment to the community.*

*“Bill Teale went to the Byron White Church Committee and reported that Vibrant Life Ministries is projected to receive \$25,000 from James City County. They have purchased a hotel and are presently housing 15 to 20 people at the camp. No word from the County on how long they will be able to stay there. Bill mentioned that it was significant that Vibrant Life would receive funding from James City County. Also United Way now also has Vibrant Life on its list of approved United Way donation recipients, so that gifts can be given to them by the community through the United Way.*

*“Also, Rick Garfield is on the Board of Angels of Mercy, which recently met at Hickory Neck.*

*“Recognizing that there was little or no control over the fund raising activities at Hickory Neck the vestry asked the outreach Council to develop guidelines for approving outreach programs. The guidelines were developed with a great deal of input from the members of the Outreach Council and were approved by the vestry.*

*“A presentation was made by Aaron Small on behalf of LHT (Leadership Historic Triangle) class of 2007 for a donation to PIPE (Providing Indoor Plumbing to Everyone). There are presently 82 homes in the area with no indoor plumbing. The structures require novel and extensive improvement, with a sum of \$350,000*

*just for maintenance. Bob Gay strongly urged our support, as Aaron is a member of Hickory Neck. Bill Teale discussed the matter with the treasurer and \$250 has been sent to PIPE. Chuck asked that PIPE be considered as a recipient of Fall Festival funds.*

*“The Hickory Neck Youth groups fundraising activities in support of the Relay for Life will include Spaghetti To Go sales and a car wash. Adult participation in the Spaghetti To Go and the Relay For Life is a great opportunity for the Hickory Neck family to show our support for our youth and the community”.*”

## **XI. New Business**

Fr. Michael and Pastor Ann excused themselves for approximately one-half hour while the Vestry and Personnel Committee conducted Fr. Michael’s fifth-year mutual ministry evaluation.

The Vestry engaged in a discussion regarding the next two questions to be posed during the second flight of the Parish Visioning Process Small Groups, based on notes taken from the first flight in March.

Fr. Michael announced that he had received Katrina Luksovsky's formal letter of resignation from the Vestry (due to her relocation to Florida). He and the Wardens have some individuals in mind for her appointed replacement on the Vestry. Vestry will be advised.

Fr. Michael thanked Vestry members for their feedback on recent "how are you doing" phone calls made to parishioners. This feedback will make a significant impact on the spiritual health of the Parish.

## **XII. Old Business:**

Paula Simmons received official authorization from Chuck Jundt (Outreach) to tell Diane Perry to proceed with the Hickory Neck cookbook.

## **XIII. Other Business:**

There was no other business.

The next meeting of the Hickory Neck Vestry will be held on Tuesday, May 8, at 7 pm.

Mayes Mathews concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eve Butler-Gee, Register