

**Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
September 12, 2006**

Present: Fred Boelt (Treasurer/Junior Warden), Michael Delk (Rector), Ann Dieterle (Associate Rector), Donna Casanave (Parish Life), Sue Dugan (Pastoral Care), De Fehrenbach (Formation), Lynn Geddy (Parish Life), Chuck Jundt (Outreach), Connie Kendrick (Worship), Katrina Luksovsky (Newcomers), Brian Manning (Buildings & Grounds), Randy Tanner (Senior Warden) and Bill Teale (Outreach). Nancy Geddes was absent.

I. Vestry Check-In:

Vestry members shared personal news since our last meeting in August.

II. Opening Prayer and Meditation:

Father Michael shared an excerpt from a book by Rob Bell on discipleship.

III. Approval of August Vestry minutes:

A motion was made to approve the August minutes, seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Parishioner Comments and Initiatives:

A. Bert Geddy informed the Vestry that Williamsburg Health Association will provide training for up to eight people in the use of a life-saving defibrillator. Cost is \$1300.00 and the Men's Breakfast Group has agreed to raise the money needed for this device. A motion was made to authorize this fund raiser, seconded and unanimously approved. Father Michael and Vestry members expressed appreciation to Bert for his time and effort.

B. Bill Forloine and Mayes Mathews presented a plan for our Fall Stewardship Program will take place during the month of October, 2006. The theme of our stewardship program this year is "In the Light of Grace". There will be specific music incorporated into church services during the month of October. There will be four letters that will go out to parishioners that will explain the program and invite participation in time, talent and financial support. Special presentations will be made during services on October 8th and the 15th by witness speakers. Two Sunday Bible Study Sessions will be taught by Pastor Ann Dieterle. Classes will occur at 9:00am in the Parish Hall for the 8:00 congregation and at 10:15 in the Historic Chapel for the 9:00 and 11:15 congregations. Refreshments will be served. There will be two stewardship sermons on the 15th and 22nd of October. Our children will be involved in a Children/Youth Stewardship program. October 29th will be Commitment Sunday at which time, pledge cards and time and talent sheets will be turned in during each church service. Thank you letters will go out after Commitment/Pledge Sunday. Follow-up letters will be sent as well.

Celebration Sunday will take place on November the 12th in the late afternoon so that those who cannot drive after dark can be present. Randy Tanner stated that all three services should be involved in this event and after a lengthy discussion, it was determined that a full congregational dinner would prove too costly at this time. Pot luck was suggested however with so many people, this could be complicated. A wine and cheese/coffee and dessert reception was finally agreed upon.

Celebration Sunday will mark the closure of our Stewardship Season. Bill and Mayes reported that purchase of materials from RSI was quite reasonable and Vestry members agreed that this expenditure is well-worth the cost.

Father Michael requested that Lynn Geddy and Donna Casanave get with Bill Forloine to further discuss the event. It was also discussed whether we should set a goal and Fr. Michael suggested that we educate the congregation as to increases in various expenses such as utilities in the new building and a larger support staff – and then supply a reasonable sum as a goal thus; vestry members agreed upon a goal of \$360,000.00 for the campaign with an anticipated 2007 budget of \$400,000.00.

Fr. Michael further stated that our faith that blessings can happen, is essential. Fr. Michael led the Vestry in prayer prior to thanking and dismissing Bill and Mayes.

V. Treasurer's Report:

Fred Boelt distributed expense reports to date for each ministry and requested that Vestry members submit needs (based upon those figures). These reports will be due by the October Vestry meeting. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Junior Warden's Report:

Fred had nothing to report at this time.

VII. Senior Warden's Report:

Randy Tanner reported that the Nominating Committee met and has created a list of prospective Vestry members and Council Delegates.

VIII. Associate Rector's Report:

Christian Formation

Mid-week classes taught by Revs. Michael Delk and Ann Dieterle began last week.

Christian Formation for Children began this past Sunday, September 10th. There were 26 children in attendance.

Daniel Wetta attended EFM Mentor Training in Sewanee on August 10th – 12th. He is contacting interested persons in order to enroll them. Sessions will be held on Wednesday nights from 7 – 9:30 p.m. and will begin September 27th.

Christian Formation Committee- see attached.

Youth

Fall 2006 Kick-off was Sunday, September 10th- 20 students were in attendance.

Junior High School Volunteers- Marji Chema, Allison Bailes
Senior High School Volunteers- Nancy Geddes, Kristin Adsit and Julia Messer
Revs. Ann Dieterle and Michael Delk also work with both groups.

Junior high students are continuing with "Episcopal Curriculum for Youth". The particular topic of study is "Called by God," focusing on the Hebrew Scriptures.

High school students are using "Nooma," a collection of 13 DVD sessions produced by Pastor Rob Bell, the author of *Velvet Elvis*, from which Fr. Michael read at the August vestry meeting.

Hickory Neck youth will continue to join with the youth of St. Martin's and Bruton for joint events. They will also plan for Youth Sunday, which will be at the 9 am service on February 4th.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Ministry Plan Meeting was held on Saturday, September 9th from 9 -11 a.m. There were 22 in attendance and several others who expressed a desire to help. Time & Talent Questionnaires were completed that will help us to get organized into ministry teams which include: Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Lay Healing Ministers, Lay Pastoral Visitors, and Lay Help Ministers. Mr. Tom Gee volunteered to be the Lay Eucharistic Visitor Coordinator. Ms. Gay Forloine volunteered to be the Lay Pastoral Visitor Coordinator. The varying 'departments' of lay help ministries have coordinators who will continue in their ministries.

We are in the early stages of discerning the shape and scope of our Healing Ministry.

There will be a Eucharistic Visitor training on Tuesday, September 19th from 7 – 9. Subsequent trainings for Lay Pastoral Visitors will be scheduled shortly.

Quarterly support meetings and continuing education opportunities will be available to our pastoral ministers.

A grief and bereavement seminar is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21st from 9:30 – 11 am here at HNC. The facilitator is Cheryl Pharr, M.Ed. who led a similar seminar for Williamsburg Presbyterian. The seminar will initiate our formal grief ministry, which will also include pastoral visitation (clergy and pastoral ministry teams) and a grief support group.

IX. Rector's Report:

Average Sunday attendance, since last meeting – 220
Average Sunday attendance in the last period between meetings – 214

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

Don and Ann Bartholomay
Tom and Eve Gee
Brian, Christine, Madeleine, & Abigail Hanlon
David and Shirley Henderson
Maria Kane*
Jamie and Tracy McClendon (Colby & Austin to be baptized, TBA)
Paul and Suzanne Olsen

Baptisms, since last Vestry meeting:

Alyssa Maria Deal – 10 September

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

Calendar Events, since last Vestry meeting:

- 8/12 ... Praise Band/Choir Party at Geddy's, 6p
- 8/14 – 8/23 ... Parish House Renovations
- 8/27 ... Church School Orientation
- 8/27 ... Parish Picnic and Foyer Kickoff, 5p
- 9/4 ... Labor Day, offices closed
- 9/10 ... Children's Church School begins
- 9/10 ... Deal baptism, 9a

Upcoming Calendar Events:

- 9/17 ... Newcomer Social at Somloi's, 3p
- 9/30 ... Fall Festival, 10a
- 10/1 ... St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals, 9a
- 10/7 ... Diocesan Fall Council, 9a
- 10/8 ... Stewardship Campaign Launch

X. Ministry Team Reports:

A. Newcomers

Since last reporting at the August Vestry meeting, 11 visitor bags have been delivered. Moving into the new chapel has proven to be a challenge for obtaining filled out and returned visitor cards. After a few tries, we think we have a solution that works.

There are 4 small card sized notebooks in the chapel with visitor information cards and pens. One is located at the entrance of the church and can be used by the Greeter to hand to a visitor. The second is at the usher stand and the ushers have the ability to pass cards to persons who are recognized after the Passing of the Peace. The third and fourth books are at the end of the receiving line with Father Michael and Rev. Ann and they can hand a card out at that time too. The cards are given to one of the clergy who in turn passes it on to the Newcomer leader or leaves them on the desk of the administrative assistant. The administrative assistant e mails the information on to Katrina and Ann Lipp and places the visitor on our mailing list.

Ann Lipp is a Newcomer Visitor Bag deliverer and rotates weeks with Katrina delivering. If there are more than 4 visitors in one week Ann & Katrina split the deliveries. This process has worked wonderful because no one living locally who fills out a card is forgotten.

The Greeters on Sunday mornings are very important to the Newcomers Ministry. There is a need for 9am greeters because many of the 9am Greeters are in the Praise Band or Choir and have other responsibilities. The 11am service has numerous Greeters and the rotation is approximately 1 time every other month. A short add will be placed in the October Nuggets asking for additional Greeter volunteers for the 9am service.

A Newcomers Social is scheduled for Sunday September 17th, 3-4:30pm at the home of Frank & Betty Somloi. As of 11 September, 12 Newcomers have responded "yes" and approximately 10 have not responded. We also have 6 persons who will be out of town but want to be invited to the next social. A New Member Orientation will be scheduled for the early part of November. The structure of the June Orientation was a success and the November class will be set up similar. The Orientation gives new members a chance to hear more about the ministries and worship opportunities at Hickory Neck Church. The time frame may be altered in order to accommodate more people. Additional information regarding the date will be available before the end of September.

Sincerely,
Katrina Luksovsky

B. Outreach:

By Chuck Jundt and Bill Teale

We summarized our May 9, 2006 Vestry Outreach Report by stating "We do not want to spread the resources of Hickory Neck Church too thin. Our goal is to have the Outreach Council select a few additional groups with which to partner in 2006. We will select those groups by the end of the summer and will launch our efforts church-wide this fall."

Outreach Council

We have had seven Outreach Council meetings this year. Twenty Hickory Neck members have attended at least one meeting. However, the core of the committee is made of up 10 people who have been very active and supportive. We have reviewed a number of very worthy organizations and have decided initially to continue to support Angels of Mercy, and develop a plan to support Williamsburg Area Faith in Action, and Vibrant Life Ministries. Faith In Action and Vibrant Life have made presentations to church members during the Christian Education hour. Angels of Mercy will make its presentation on September 17.

Outreach Council members have taken leadership roles with each of these organizations. Rick Garfield is the Hickory Neck Church coordinator for Angels of Mercy and will serve on its Board. Esther Gay has become our Member Co-ordinator for Faith in Action. We need to develop a group of volunteers to assist Faith in Action and to make its services well known for use by our own members. John Greenman, Chuck Jundt and Bill Teale have agreed to serve on Vibrant Life's Advisory Board. We have agreed to help Vibrant Life with collecting and delivering food and clothing as well as providing financial support. We shall need to recruit volunteers to meet the commitment that we have made.

We hope to earn enough money at the Fall Festival to make a significant contribution to each organization. In addition, we would like to hold some money in reserve for other charities/ministries that may be selected in the future.

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival will be held Saturday, September 30, 2006. We have another Festival Chair, Lauris Zeni, to assist us.

Committee Chairs:

Attic Treasures	Mary Jo Smith, Jennie McCray
Arts and Crafts	Kathy Balentine
Bake Sale	Paula Simmons
Communications	Linda McGee
Classic Cars	Nancy Geddes
Finance	Fred Boelt
Food Preparation and Sales	Bert Geddy, Randy Tanner

Historic Chapel Tours
Jams and Jellies
Kids' Events
Music
Silent Auction
Stew Master

Martha McCartney
Dorothy Kirk
Terri Lensenmayer
Kathy Balentine
Pam Maddox-Jefferson
Bill Forloine

Activities:

A Classic Car Show around the circle in front of the historic chapel;
Arts and Crafts and Attic Treasures in the nave;
Bake Sale, Jams and Jellies Sale, Silent Auction, Hickory Neck Clothing Sale, Bruton Parish Cookbook Sale, Pre-sale Pick up and Chuck White's massage chair in the Narthex;
Live music and food sales between the crepe myrtle under a 20x60' tent;
Kids' Events, including face painting, moon bounce, horse rides a petting zoo, and
Tours of the Historic Chapel.

Our over-all goals are:

To continue our congregational outreach commitment;
To introduce Hickory Neck Episcopal Church to the Williamsburg community;
To get to know each other a little better; and
To have some fun.

Our specific goal is to raise \$10,000 for Angels of Mercy, Faith in Action, and Vibrant Life Ministries. To meet this goal we need good weather and the support of the entire congregation.

Summary

Our goals for the rest of the year include:

To continue to develop the Outreach Council into an effective organization that will continue into the future;

To develop a plan to effectively support Angels of Mercy, Faith in Action and Vibrant Life;

To decide how to distribute the proceeds of the Fall Festival;

To build a better bridge between the Outreach Council and the many other HNC outreach efforts;

To review and improve our FISH program; and,

To evaluate other fundraising ideas, such as a church dinner.

XI. New Business:

A. Allocation of funds for Historic Chapel renovations (\$6,000.)

A motion was made to allocate funds for renovations, seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Authorization for Men's Breakfast to raise funds for purchase of automated defibrillation device:

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to authorize the Men's Breakfast group to raise funds for the purchase of an automated defibrillation device.

C. Authorization for Treasurer to transfer funds from the Davenport Fund to the operating account (if needed)

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to authorize this action.

D. Allocation of Funds to repair and regulate the Tracker Organ (\$7,834.00)

Ed Godshall was present to explain the following proposal to Vestry members:
Proposal from Central Pipe Organ services to regulate and re-voice the Woodberry pipe organ in our new worship space.

Tonally regulating (re-voicing) the entire organ; and adjusting and lubricating the mechanical action. (\$7,834.00)

Stiffness of Key action...

The Tracker organ is a completely mechanical organ. The key is pressed and a series of levers pass the motion on the valve which allows air into the pipes. The motion goes

through: stickers (horizontal wooden rods); backfalls with bridges (larger pieces of wood with pivots in the middle) trackers (horizontal wire rods); pallets and springs. Along the way any place where two pieces rub together creates friction which retards the motion and causes the “touch” to become stiffer. This friction is caused by dirt, uneven wear or by pieces that have gotten out of alignment or from many other causes.

The friction makes the action stiff and causes the organ to be difficult to play. The action of our organ is much stiffer than it should be making it physically difficult to play. This proposal includes adjustment and lubricating of the entire action of the instrument. Harshness and shrillness of sound...

A rank is a row of pipes all making the same sound; but there is one pipe for each keyboard note in order to make sounds independent of one another.

Voicing is the adjustment of the various physical properties of the individual pipe in order to change the kind of sound it makes and its loudness. All 61 pipes in a rank must be individually adjusted so that the sound is harmonious from the bottom to the top of the keyboard.

When our organ was rebuilt in 1983, it was voiced to fit the acoustics of the room where it was situated at Old Donation Church.

Our new church has a much different acoustical environment and the organ needs to be re-voiced to fit it. In all of the ranks, the bass pipes are too soft and the treble pipes are too loud.

The pipes in the swell box – the enclosure which holds certain of the pipes in order to make them “swell” from soft to loud – are uniformly too soft and that can partially be remedied by simply adjusting the “swell-shades” so that they can open more completely. The mixture is an important stop to use to help accompany congregational singing and can hardly ever be used because it is so shrill. It can be revoiced and the pipes reorganized to make it useable and useful.

Ed further explained that much of the workings inside the organ are original to when the organ was built in 1901 – for example the leather which has simply aged and is no longer pliable. If we were to purchase a used organ the price would be between \$25,000.00 and \$40,000.00. Vestry members expressed appreciation for the diligent work that Ed has done on this problem however presently, there are no funds available for the above expenditure but we do have 90 days from August the 27th to decide upon the proposal from Central Pipe Organ. A motion was made to table the proposal until after our Stewardship Campaign.

E. Setting of date for Annual Parish Meeting

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously that our Annual Parish Meeting will occur on November 19th 2006.

F. Expand the size of Demand Note due to unanticipated change orders:

On September 12, 2006, the Vestry of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church met and adopted the following

Resolution:

It is hereby RESOLVED that the Trustees of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church of Blissland Parish are hereby Authorized and empowered to refinance its construction loan with Sun Trust Bank with a \$500,000.00 fixed Rate note at 8.06% per annum, amortized over 20 years with a balloon payment after 5 years, and a demand Note for \$235,518.28 with interest at 2.75 percentage points above the LIBOR Rate, which notes are to be Secured by the existing \$1,560,000.00 Credit Line Deed of Trust and Modification Agreement encumbering the church’s real estate.

And it is further RESOLVED that the Trustees of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church are authorized and empowered to execute those notes and petition the Circuit Court to confirm that they are secured by the existing encumbrance on the church’s real estate.

We, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is an accurate statement of the action of the Vestry of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church of Blissland Parish and that the above resolutions have not been rescinded or revoked as of this date.

XII. Old Business:

None

XIII. Other Business

None

XIV. Concluding Prayer:

Father Michael concluded the September meeting of the Vestry with prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Phyllis L. Faas, Registrar