

**Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
October 10, 2006**

Present: Fred Boelt (Treasurer/Junior Warden), Michael Delk (Rector), Ann Dieterle (Associate Rector), 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), Bill Teale (Outreach), Julia Messer (Intern), and Nancy Geddes (Youth), Donna Casanave was absent.

I. Vestry Check In:

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

II. Opening Prayer and Meditation:

Chuck Jundt shared the evening prayer and meditation. Connie Kendrick will offer November's opening prayer and meditation.

III. Approval of the September Vestry Minutes:

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

IV. Parishioner Comments and Initiatives:

Martha McCartney presented the archeological/preservation report authored by Mark R. Wenger pertaining to the historic chapel. This report cited multi-layered needs of varying critical and non-critical (aesthetic) natures. Items of an urgent nature are: repair to external brickwork, install supporting stainless steel beam in back, repair to northwest corner dental molding to close small hole to prevent harborage, recommendation to treat chapel carpet with flame retardant material, re-hang chapel doors so that doors swing outward and screening of exterior building grills to prevent access of small animals. Other items discussed were masonry repair to windowsills, repair of interior lentil above sacristy (will eventually affect ceiling), organization of electrical wires near organ, safety lights for safer movement throughout chapel, pooling water (water near bell has been removed), replacement of roofing (project to be scheduled in the future due to the expense and the fact that the roof is all right at this time), addition of more fire extinguishers throughout the historic chapel and possible removal of the railing in front of the pews.

Various interior upgrades were also mentioned such as plaster repairs, repainting (off white color) and moving the lectern to the front of the chapel for ease of entrance by parishioners.

Father Michael noted that although few candlelight services are held in the historic chapel, the chapel carpet flame retardant materials line item should be accomplished before Epiphany.

A discussion ensued as to the establishment of a fund designated for restoration expenses. It was noted that we currently have money available to accomplish the necessary brickwork. Martha McCartney said that she would be happy to contact those parishioners who have a specific interest in the preservation of the chapel to perhaps provide seed money earmarked exclusively for the restoration projects.

Martha also discussed about formation of a committee that would devote itself to the business of the restoration of the historic chapel. This item is covered under New Business.

Father Michael thanked Martha for her extraordinary initiatives in this regard. He also noted his gladness that we are now able to focus upon the preservation of this historic gem. Father Michael encouraged both Fred Boelt and Martha McCartney to spearhead this effort due to their combined experiences in the fields.

During the Fall Festival, seventy (70) persons toured the historic chapel. It was then discussed that another possibility to share our chapel would be during Virginia Garden Week. It was noted that Janice Wagner would be the place to begin to pursue this idea.

V. Treasurer's Report:

Fred Boelt pointed out that there was a doubling up of the Associate Rector and Organist's medical insurance plan payment and that the correction of this error would show up next month. The treasurer pointed out that the income is not keeping up with the expenses. There are five Sundays in this month, which is helpful, and insurance payments have been made. The treasurer noted that we are not borrowing from the Davenport Fund at this time.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, seconded and passed unanimously.

Receipts from the Fall Festival were discussed. The current gross is \$14,083 with approximately \$900.00 outstanding from the silent auction and clothing sales. The net proceeds were slightly more than \$10,000 plus the carryover of \$1,300 for a total of \$11,757.

The Silent Auction receipts were similar to 2005. Food sales were \$1,200

improved from last year, Attic Treasures showed an increase over last year at \$1,200 and Dorothy Kirk's jams/jellies receipts stood at \$759.

Bill Teale reported that the Outreach Committee, at their recent meeting, discussed their objectives in donating \$5,000 to Vibrant Life, \$4,000 to Angels of Mercy Clinic and \$1,000 to Faith in Action.

The Treasurer also requested that all 2007 Committee Budget Requests be submitted as soon as possible.

It was also noted that we currently have \$825.00 earmarked for a defibrillator. The Men's Breakfast Committee has chosen the purchase of this equipment for Hickory Neck Church as it's fundraising focus.

VI. Junior Warden's Report:

It was noted that sturdy, portable coat racks must be purchased. It was also noted that the Narthex is not unified in its appearance.

Tony Casanave will be consulted on the possible construction of an information kiosk. Father Michael will also discuss the making of the cross for the new sanctuary with Tony. Several wood samples and stains will be obtained. There is a felled pecan tree on the Geddy's property that may be employed, machine hewed and finished with a hand planer. Suspension engineering will be discussed with Aaron Small and the entire project is slated for completion by Advent or Christmas.

It was also suggested that ½ round wood molding be placed on the back of the square platform in the sanctuary to prevent the choir formation from sliding off the back of the platform. Choir chairs should be interlocked also.

VII. Senior Warden's Report:

We are coming to the end of the punchlist; however, it is noted that the repair to the building's front doors is both unacceptable and unattractive. Door handles have been damaged in the efforts of repair and the appearance is industrial in nature. This is an important craftsmanship issue.

The access to the Electrical Room is a safety issue, especially with the presence of the mop sink/water in the same area. It was felt that some type of preventative measure should be taken immediately in this regard.

The sacristy closet shelves need to be removed.

The connecting wires, lying upon the ground outdoors, need to be buried. Aaron

Small is aware of this need.

It was suggested that an associate from Henderson Contractors be invited to the November Vestry Meeting to better understand that these lingering issues require and deserve resolution.

The Nominating Committee has completed the two candidate slates for upcoming Vestry members and Council delegates. The Vestry slate includes: Kathy Ballantine, Gary Harvey, Mayes Matthews, Don Seeterlin, Paula Simmons and Lauri Zeni. The slate for Council delegates includes: Gay Forloine, Rick Garfield, George Loving, Dave Simmons, Betty Somloi and Bob Williams.

Father Michael thanked the Nominating Committee for presenting two such excellent slates of candidates for election.

VIII. Associate Rector's Report:

Pastor Ann discussed the upcoming Saturday seminars for Christian Formation entitled "Unplugging the Christmas Machine" and the Children's Christmas Music Festival.

There are currently 12 persons enrolled in EFM, the maximum number and this is a joyous goal.

Randy Tanner will find volunteers to help usher parishioners "outdoors" as they make their way between chapels for Stewardship Bible Studies on October 15th and 22nd.

Pastor Ann discussed the transition of the youth group back into a Sunday morning/Sunday evening format beginning in January 2007. The historic, spotty attendance/commitment of high schoolers on Sunday morning vis-à-vis obtaining teachers was discussed. The well attended Sunday evening Youth Group program may require "formation first", then play, if we are to successfully inject Christian formation into the evening program line-up.

Ten persons attended the Lay Eucharistic Visitors training class held on Tuesday, September 19th. Thank you to the Altar Guild for their help in making the LEM kits part of their Sunday preparations.

IX. Rector's Report:

Average Sunday attendance, since last meeting – 227

Average Sunday attendance in the last period between meetings – 220

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

Corder and Ava Chambers

Robert and Nancy Fedorisko
Mark and Judy Kitner
Woody and Shirley Lake
Pamela and Thomas Victor

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

Calendar events, since last Vestry Meeting

9/16 – Men’s Breakfast
9/16 – Ultreya
9/17 – Newcomer’s Social at Somloi’s
9/30 – Fall Festival
10/1 – St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals
10/7 – Diocesan Fall Council
10/8 – Stewardship Campaign Launch

Upcoming Calendar Events

10/21 – Grief/Bereavement Seminar, 9:30 am
10/24 - 10/25 - Fall Clergy Conference at Chanco
10/27 – 10/28 – Parish Retreat at Chanco
10/29 – Commitment Sunday
10/29 – Brette and Luke Miller Baptisms, 9:00 am
11/3 – First Game Night, 7:00 pm
11/5 – New Member Orientation
11/12 – Congregational Celebration

Father Michael noted that there is a slight increase in attendance with five new families and thirty-two (32) prospective families.

There was a brief Fall Council report by Randy Tanner. Our delegates (by virtue of splitting up their forces) attended all three breakout sessions and these sessions were helpful in regard to the 2007 Diocesan budget.

Father Michael stated that the number of registrations for the Fall Parish Retreat is low. He will publish a list of workshop topics and attendees. The deadline for sign up is October 20th.

It was not possible to locate, or speak to, any of the references submitted by the candidate for Sexton. In the interim, the candidate obtained another job. The advertisement of the position will be published locally again. Meantime, Cleaning Service is handling our needs.

Father Michael circulated a letter of thanks to Phyllis Faas for signature by the Vestry members. Phyllis was a very skilled recorder of Vestry business and her presence shall be missed.

Father Michael then discussed the conflict of parishioners' rights of privacy and parishioner initiated/outside consumer sales/marketing that would potentially make use of the church parishioner roster/data base. African Team Ministries was cited by Father Michael as a wonderful example of fairness in craft sales.

In regard to the foregoing, Tanya White's posted jewelry sale will be able to take place at Hickory Neck. However, the congregation must be tactfully informed that, from this point forward, any endeavors along this line must have prior Vestry approval. It was then proposed that the Outreach Committee considers all proposed fundraising efforts and makes recommendations to the Vestry. This would consolidate the authority for fundraising and establish consistent policies and procedures. Meetings have already taken place with the Outreach Committee concerning these dynamics, i.e., Youth Group/Spring fundraising efforts, Outreach/Fall Festival.

Chuck Jundt then spoke briefly about the use of custom tote bags designed for parish use while collecting for the food bank. The bags may provide a better reminder for the parishioners than a box in the back of the sanctuary. Action concerning this item was set aside for the time being.

Father Michael then spoke about altering his sabbatical plans. He also addressed his plans and goals for the January Vestry retreat to aid us in inaugurating the vision planning process for 2007. This leadership process would continue, specifically, while Father is away from the parish on his sabbatical. While similar to the 2003 process, the planning process will include the educational building, capital campaign, services to the broader community (childcare, parochial school) and other forward thinking matters.

X. Team Ministry Reports:

A. Worship

Connie Kendrick reported on the status of the Worship Committee. She recognized the many dedicated members of the committee and guilds. Her report encompassed the Acolytes which are functioning well under the direction of Brian and Bruce Manning. The Altar Guild has more than one dozen ladies that serve on a rotating basis. Connie will plan on attending Newcomers' gatherings in an effort to recruit additional, interested Altar Guild members. Children's Chapel does require more help and an appeal has been made. Bob Gay continues to organize and work with the LEMs. Fifty-five (55) ushers have been organized under Ollie Kendrick to cover the three services in the new sanctuary.

Father Michael talked about the Liturgical Team that would function as a creative organization devoted to design work on liturgies such as worshiping in the round. The efforts of this team would result in a diversity of worship.

The Worship guild continues to be aware of the disabled of our congregation with

appropriate seating. This committee also plans to add a signer for the deaf and we currently have four hearing headsets that may be obtained from the ushers.

Father Michael took this time to note that there will be a regular worship schedule for the morning of the fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve. Services for Christmas Eve will be at 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM and 11:00 PM. Christmas morning Eucharist will be held at 10:00 AM. The child's pageant will be held in the morning Sunday and the pageant formation is underway.

A. Parish Life

Lynn Geddy reported on the various events held in the life of our parish. They included the recent Church Consecration (384 attendees), Church Picnic (140 attendees), the Farewell/Congratulation reception for Gini Campbell, the upcoming Stewardship talks and our Coffee Hours. The Parish Life committee also noted the upcoming Stewardship Celebration in November and the Christmas Pageant.

Due to the increased numbers of congregation members, the Parish Life Committee requested a ten to twelve percent (10% - 12%) budget increase for 2007.

A. Outreach Committee

It is noted at this point in our proceedings that the Outreach Committee has been granted the authority, by the Vestry, to consider any and all proposed fund raising efforts that would in any way involve Hickory Neck Church or its parishioners. The Outreach Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Vestry for necessary approvals before any fund raising event is undertaken.

XI. New Business:

D. Application for Diocesan Interest Subsidy

The Senior Warden read the resolution asking for the above-identified diocesan grant and Fred Boelt moved for the adoption of the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The subsidy grant application would be accompanied by a cover letter mentioning that Hickory Neck Church has enhanced the Diocesan's position without reciprocity.

E. Establishment of Historical Preservation Commission

A motion was made to appoint Martha McCartney as chair of the above commission and that she be permitted to appoint her committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Fred Boelt said that we currently have two building funds and that one of those building fund accounts should be designated the Historical Preservation Commission early next year. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to designate one fund as the Historic Preservation account.

XII. Old Business:

There was no Old Business

XII. Other Business:

There was no Other Business

The next meeting of the Hickory Neck Vestry will be held on Tuesday, November 14th beginning at 6:30 PM with a Pot Luck meal. The 2007 Budget will be discussed more fully.

Father Michael concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Louise Geddes, Vestry Member

