

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes  
October 13, 2009

**Present:** The Very Reverend Michael Delk (Rector); The Reverend Lauren McDonald (Associate Rector); Lauris Zeni (Senior Warden); Gary Harvey (Junior Warden); Ann Bartholomay (Parish Life); Fred Boelt (Treasurer); Gay Forloine (Pastoral Care); Jean Hancock (Newcomers); Ed Joyner (Stewardship); Brig Lampert (Children and Youth); Paula Simmons (Children and Youth); and Michael Smith (Outreach).

**Excused:** Eve Butler-Gee and Don Seeterlin.

**Absent:** Melissa Casheros (Communications)

**Also Present:** Mark Kintner (Fall Festival Chairman) and Bill Teale (Stewardship Chairman)

**I. Vestry Check In:** Vestry members shared personal news since the September meeting.

**II. Opening Prayer and Meditation:** Paula Simmons led the group in an example of Godly Play. Jean Hancock will lead the prayer at the November meeting.

**III. Approval of the Vestry Minutes:** Paula Simmons made a motion that was seconded by Michael Smith to approve the September minutes. The minutes were approved.

**IV. Parishioners' Comments and Initiatives:**

**A. Mark Kintner, Fall Festival Chairman,** gave a report on the Fall Festival that included the following information:

- i.** Achievement of Festival goals in outreach commitment, fundraising, and fellowship;
- ii.** Positive aspects included good planning, grounds preparation, participation, communication efforts, parking plan, music groups and dancers, hay rides, and a raffle run by HNEC Youth Group;
- iii.** Areas for improvement included need for a Festival Co-Chair, recruitment of new committee chairs and co-chairs, increased parishioner participation, more advance sign-up for activities, better PA systems, later

closing of the Silent Auction bidding, more exact food purchase, and the need to cook more stew and less chili.

iv. Net cash of \$11,232.30, in-kind donations of \$1325.06 making a total of \$12,557.36

**B. Bill Teale, Stewardship Chairman,** distributed copies of the material that will be handed out at the Small Group Sessions that begin October 15 and the October Stewardship letter that will be sent with a time and talent form and pledge card to all parishioners. All but four new members have signed up to attend the group sessions. Fr. Michael suggested that “Fall Festival Chairman” be added to the list of “Critical Needs” in the handout material.

Lauris Zeni read a letter from Art Spooner, Diocesan Treasurer, concerning our diocesan pledge. It said that the Diocese's Bylaws require a minimum pledge of 8% of each parish's pledge and plate (\$30,817.20 for HNEC). However, Bishop Hollerith has asked each church for 10% (~\$38,500 for HNEC) to meet the needs of the Diocese. The HNEC diocesan pledge was less than requested for some years but last year it was raised to \$24000.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Fred Boelt, Treasurer, reported that while non-pledges were over budget in September by \$1400, pledges were under budget by \$7000 and expenses were over budget by \$1672, resulting in the month being in the red by \$7700. YTD the budget is still in the black. A \$5000 payment was made on the mortgage principal, resulting in a balance as of October 1 of \$484,530. The Davenport Fund went up \$4600 in the third quarter. Upon a motion by Gay Forloine that was seconded by Lauris Zeni, the treasurer's report was approved.

**VI. Junior Warden's Report:** Gary Harvey, Junior Warden, said that some of the lights in the large parking lot are not working properly. He is monitoring the sensors that control the lights.

**VII. Senior Warden's Report:** Lauris Zeni, Senior Warden, said that the Nominating Committee has confirmed four candidates for 2010 Vestry – Carrol Bailey, Margene Hartsough, Lucy Rothnie and Pam Stromberg – and seven candidates for Council – Nancy Aschiero, Fred Boelt, Rick Garfield, Tom Gee, Ben Manning, David Simmons, and Bob Williams.

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

*“Christian Formation*

*Sunday School is going well. The children are enjoying learning music with Terri Lensenmayer. Attendance is good. We had over 30 people at the Family picnic in September. Children's Chapel is also going well. Our new infusion of helpers starts this month.*

*Youth Group is also going well. We regularly have between 8-11 youth. Friends are still coming. The Youth had fun participating in the Fall Festival and raised \$412 with their raffle, donating half of that to Relay for Life. When asked what was the best part of their week, several of them said the Fall Festival. On October 25 the youth will be going to Bruton Parish to hear Fran McKendree in concert, and then they will be having dinner with the youth groups from Bruton and St. Martin's. One youth group member will be attending October weekend at Chanco with approximately 170 other youth from around the diocese.*

*Adult Formation is also going well. We had a large turnout to hear Rich Kunz's presentation on El Hogar in Honduras. We had about 30 people come to hear the first of our debates. Michael's class on the Gospel of John has started off well with good attendance.*

*Confirmation class began again this week. We have 5-6 people who will be confirmed/received on December 6 during the bishop's visit.*

*Centering Prayer has dwindled, and I may soon need to cancel it. There's still an interest, but people are having a hard time making it a reality, and I can't be there two Thursdays a month.*

### **Outreach**

*Kudos to Mark Kintner and everyone at Hickory Neck who helped with the Fall Festival. I'm sure Mark will have a detailed report. It was a great event!*

*This month the Hands-On Ministry team will be reviewing the organizations we support to determine what kind of volunteer help they need and how we can recruit for that.*

*A small group will be getting together on Wednesdays from 12:30-2 to discuss David Shipler's book, The Working Poor.*

*Our visit from the Rev. Rich Kunz has inspired a number of people to show interest in our Mission Trip to El Hogar in October of next year. Norm Cooper is in communication with those interested and will be holding a meeting soon.*

*The Financial Grant team will be making visits to the organizations we support in anticipation of making Fall Festival grants later in November.*

### ***Pastoral Care***

*The Health Team will be offering a workshop about how to manage medications on November 8 at 3:00 pm. More information will be available in the November Nuggets. The Blood Pressure screening went well during the Ministry Fair.*

*Betty Somloi has trained 3 new Eucharistic Visitors who will be tagging along on visits this month in preparation for being on the schedule. Our Meal Ministry team did a great job providing meals to Hope while she was out for her surgery. The knitters are back to knitting up a storm, and shawl receivers continue to be appreciative.”*

Since the report was filed, the young person who had planned to attend the October Chanco session has become ill and will not attend. Fr. Michael made a correction to Paragraph 4, saying that there will be “about 10 people who will be confirmed/received on December 6...”

The pastoral debates have been so successful that they may be extended for three weeks.

Ann Bartholomay asked what the Parish Life Committee should prepare for the Bishop's visit on December 6. Fr. Michael said that while the Bishop is interested in youth programs, the children's programs will be abbreviated on the day of his visit. Hence Parish Life might prepare a reception.

**IX. Rector's Report:** Fr. Michael submitted the following report:

*“No New Member by Letter of Transfer, Baptisms, Marriages, or Burials, since last Vestry meeting:*

*Transfers Out of the Parish, since last Vestry meeting:*

*Martha and Ward Burian (moved to New England)*

*Nicoleen Dodd*

*Calendar Events, since last Vestry meeting:*

- 9/10 ... *Parish Choir Rehearsal resumes, 7:30p*
- 9/11 ... *McDonald preaches at Ecumenical Worship, 7:30p [W'burg UMC]*
- 9/12 ... *Men's Breakfast, 8:30a*

- 9/13 ... *Ministry Fair, 10:15a*
- 9/19 ... *Parish Clean-Up Day*
- 9/20 ... *The Rev. Richard Kunz of El Hogar, Honduras preaches/presents*
- 9/20 ... *Sunday School Family Picnic, 4p [HNC]*
- 9/26 ... *The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Festival*
- 9/27 ... *St. Francis Day Blessing of Animals, 9a*
- 9/27 – 10/3 ... *DELK at Disney World (present for morning worship)*
- 10/4 ... *Sunday AM Debates commence, 10:15a [Historic Chapel]*
- 10/5 ... *Monday night Bible study starts Gospel of John, 7p*
- 10/8 ... *Confirmation Classes commence, 6:30p*

*Upcoming Calendar Events:*

- 10/14 ... *Stewardship Small Groups commence, 10a [HNC]*
- 10/18 ... *Stewardship Small Group Session, 6p [HNC]*
- 10/20 ... *Stewardship Small Group Session, 7p [Somloi's]*
- 10/21 ... *Stewardship Small Group Session, 7p [Teale's]*
- 10/24 ... *Stewardship Small Group Session, 10a [Boelt's]*
- 10/25 ... *Youth Event at Bruton with Fran McKendree, 4:30p*
- 11/1 ... *All Saints' Day with Baptism(s) at 9a*
- 11/3 – 11/4 ... *Diocesan Clergy Conference at Chanco*
- 11/8 ... *Youth Laser Tag, 4p – 8p”*

## **X. Ministry Reports**

**A. Buildings and Grounds:** Gary Harvey presented the following report that covers March – September 2009:

*“Building Update: John Rothnie*

- *Obtained three estimates to have the reverse osmosis filter installed for the humidifier in the New Chapel. Selected a plumber and had the filter system installed on 11 march. System functioning and has solved the mineral dust issue in the church.*
- *16 March, Kamco started the installation of the new alarm system in all three buildings. 31 March alarm system up and running. We have not had a false alarm in the past 6 months.*
- *Installed a surge protector and on/off switch on dehumidifier in the Historic Chapel.*
- *Installed new wall clock in Parish House.*
- *Removed vent covers from Parish House and stored for the season.*

- Transferred the refrigerator from the Historic Chapel to the Youth Room.
- Replace all the burned out bulbs in new Chapel.
- In April we started a project to see if we could use the old well in front of the Historic Chapel to irrigate the new garden project. Toano Well said the old well was not usable and volunteered to dig a new well on the property behind the New Chapel. To date, Toano Well has never made good on their promise. Project remains in limbo.
- The parish House crawl space inspected and mold as well as water invasion was found. Estimates were obtained from three companies and on 22 June work was started to encapsulate the crawl space and trenches dug to allow a sump pump to evacuate any water that entered the structure.
- Planned the lip on the organ platform to remove a trip hazard.
- Repaired one of the exit signs in the New Chapel.
- Replaced the ice maker in the Parish House frig due to Teflon flaking.
- Repaired a sinkhole in the parking lot.
- Repaired faucets in the Historic Chapel.
- Installed a new key box for the Parish House and sprayed for wasps.
- Installed shelves in a classroom.
- Installed new toilet paper holders in the ladies room of the New Chapel.
- Re secured all loose boards at the children's playground, handicap ramp and fence around the dumpster.
- Installed new vent fan in the ladies room in the Parish House.
- Installed childproof devices in the nursery.
- Obtained three estimates to have the steps to the Parish House replaced. Contract let and steps replaced on job completed.
- Obtained estimates to repair or replace the carpet in the Parish House. Carpet repaired on 30 September.
- Installed hand sanitizing stations in all three buildings.
- Repaired one of the pole lamps by the Parish House which appears to have been hit by an automobile two times. The poles are made of fiberglass and will split if hit.

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 Historic Chapel and New Chapel for the week.
  - Checks the parish House and puts in order.
  - Friday or Saturday, checks the Narthex for cleanliness and setup for coffee hour.
  - Set up narthex for the men's breakfasts.
  - All chairs have had the fabric cleaned. This will be done every two years.

*Grounds Update: George Margroum*

*- Conducted Spring Grounds Cleanup Day. Coordinated the efforts of all folks involved. Prior to the cleanup spent several days pruning all vegetation on the grounds.*

*- Obtained estimates to have two large trees which were diseased taken down.*

*- Conducts day to day maintenance of the grounds with the enormous help of some core volunteers. Based on the current salaries being paid to Sextons in the Episcopal Church, it is estimated that the B&G Team will have saved HNC on the order of \$15,000 + this year.”*

**B. Parish Life:** Ann Bartholomay reported that two more volunteers signed up for Parish Life at the Ministry Fair.

## **XI. New Business:**

**A. Appointment of an Endowment Board Member** - Withdrawn in favor of consideration at the end of the year.

**B. Reduction of the Size of Vestry from 12 to 9 Members in 2011** Fr.

Michael said that it is increasingly difficult to get four new candidates each year necessary to maintain a vestry of 12. Diocesan Bylaws and church canons permit a reduction to fewer members upon a 2/3 vote of a church vestry. Gay Forloine prefers the 12 person vestry, feeling that it is valuable to have as many people as possible participating in the work of the church. Gary Harvey said that he feels that a smaller number is more suitable because Hickory Neck has a large proportion of older parishioners who are unable or unavailable for vestry duties and young families that do not have the time, leaving only a small number of people who are asked repeatedly to fill church positions. Fr. Michael said that with a nine person vestry, all jobs can be covered with the help of the liaisons now in place. Michael Smith moved to table discussion. Paul Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was tabled.

## **XII. Old Business**

**A. Motion to Withdraw Proposed Endowment Fundraising Project**

**(Leggett)** Ed Joyner moved to withdraw the motion with a second by Gay Forloine. The motion was withdrawn.

## **XIII. Other Business**

The Hickory Neck Annual Meeting will be November 22 with a 9:30 am service, followed by the annual meeting. Other formats were discussed but no changes were approved.

**XIV. Adjournment and Concluding Prayer** The next meeting of the Vestry will be held on November 10 at 6:30 pm in the Wilkinson Center, starting with a pot-luck supper. Fr. Michael concluded the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Teale, Register