

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
December 14, 2010

Present: The Reverend Michael Delk (Rector); The Reverend Lauren McDonald (Associate Rector); The Reverend Maria Kane (Deacon); Gary Harvey, Senior Warden; Ann Cooper, Junior Warden; Fred Boelt, Treasurer; Carrol Bailey (Newcomers); Melissa Casheros (Communications); Jean Hancock (Newcomers); Margene Hartsough (Children and Youth); Ed Joyner (Stewardship); Brig Lampert (Children and Youth); Lucy Rothnie (Outreach); Michael Smith (Outreach); Mary Teale (Register), Lynn Kelley, and Jan Brown.

Absent: Gay Forloine (Pastoral Care) and Pam Stromberg (Pastoral Care).

Vestry Check-In: Vestry members shared personal news since the last meeting in November 2010.

Opening Prayer and Meditation: The opening prayer and meditation were led by Michael Delk.

Approval of Minutes: After a motion by Margene Hartsough and a second by Carrol Bailey to approve the November minutes as submitted, the minutes were approved. The Annual Parish Meeting minutes of December 5, 2010 will be presented to the Parish for approval.

Parishioner Comments: None

Treasurer's Report: Fred Boelt, Treasurer, reported that November income and expenses were under budget respectively by \$3255 and \$831, resulting in November ending in the red by \$2424. However, year-to-date the budget remains in the black by \$5279.72. An extra payment of \$2500 was made on the mortgage loan principal in November resulting in a loan balance as of December 1 of \$445,900.91.

Junior Warden's Report: Ann Cooper, Junior Warden, hosted a gathering of the Parish Life Committee at her home on December 1.

Senior Warden's Report: Gary Harvey, Senior Warden, circulated a letter from Bishop Hollerith, thanking Hickory Neck for its Diocesan Pledge for 2011.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Maria Kane gave the following report:

“I. During Lent, I will be teaching a week night course “Lord, Teach Us to Pray:

Six Studies on Spirituality and the Lord's Prayer". This course will be interactive, reflective, and will include occasional small group activities.

II. I have decided to postpone a course on Christianity, Judaism, and Islam until the fall to allow for more preparation and to be able to solicit the cooperation of a local imam for two of the sessions. Dr. Molly Levine, a professor and orthodox Jew with a depth of knowledge on Jewish history and culture, has agreed to Skype in for a couple of sessions as well.

III. Pending the Bishop's schedule my ordination will either be in the beginning of March (before Lent) or early May (following Easter).

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

"It's been another great year for me at Hickory Neck Church. I'm so pleased to be working with such dedicated teams of people to provide for those both inside and outside of our walls. God has blessed me greatly by bringing me to serve here.

Christian Formation

Children: On Dec. 5 the children participated in the Christmas Carol Cavalcade with Bill Harris during the Annual Meeting. We had 12 children and 5 adults in attendance. On Dec. 19 at 5pm we will have the Christmas Pageant. Thanks to Margene Hartsough for her delightful article about Godly Play in the Dec. Nuggets.

Youth: Youth group had another great month. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving we partnered with the youth group at Stone House Presbyterian to do a food collection at Farm Fresh and then deliver Thanksgiving dinners to four families in Burnt Ordinary. Afterward the kids reflected on their experience. This month, in addition to regular youth group activities the youth will be participating as readers in the Christmas Pageant and as worship leaders at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. They will also be attending and participating in an ecumenical service on January 30. We have been pleased to have Adam Otstot and Tori Oxley join the youth leadership team.

Adult: The Women's Spirituality Group had its final meeting of the year on Dec. 11. We will continue to meet on the third Saturday of the month in 2011.

Outreach

Our next serving date for From His Hands is January 6. Since Alita Small is out with a broken hip, Gary Harvey will take over the meal planning for this serving.

We had a great participation in the Angel Tree project with 45 angels being provided Christmas gifts by Hickory Neck parishioners. LiteracyWorks continues with meals and

tutoring being provided.

The Outreach Celebration on Nov. 30 was a huge success. We had about 32 people in attendance. Lucy Rothnie did a rundown of all the outreach we've been involved in this year – quite a list! The mission team presented pictures and stories from their trip to Honduras.

The Financial Grant Team will be meeting on Dec. 13 to make decisions about the distribution of Fall Festival funds. They have been visiting the sites of potential grant recipients and wrestling with how to make the money stretch as far as possible.

Pastoral Care

We continue to have many pastoral care needs, and our teams have been doing well in providing care. The New Mom's ministry provided meals to the Smith family after the birth of their daughter, Sydney. The Eucharistic visitors regularly visit 2-6 people each Sunday. Our healing ministers continue their healing prayer on Sunday mornings and will be meeting on January 8. Our meal providers continue to provide meals to those needing them, and our Prayer Warriors have been diligent in lifting up the numerous requests they receive in prayer."

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

"Since our last meeting:

Burials: Ridgely Dupont Kemp – 6 November

Worship

Preparations for the season of Christmas are nearly complete. The most significant change is the shift of the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist to 9:00 p.m., a move detailed in an article in the December edition of the Nuggets, as well as in the Rector's annual Christmas letter, which parishioners received late last week. The youth will rehearse for their leadership roles at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist on December 19. That early evening liturgy will be significantly different from previous years, in an attempt to better capture the attention and imaginations of our children.

Our fourth liturgy will begin on Wednesday, January 12 at 8 pm in the Historic Chapel. We would have started this new initiative on the first Wednesday of the New Year, but Epiphany falls on the first Thursday. I have been working on an alternative lectionary, based on a sequential reading of the Gospel of Mark, with other readings that connect directly with those passages. The liturgy itself will

include elements from the offices of Evening Prayer and Compline in the Book of Common Prayer, from other resources throughout the Anglican Communion, such as the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, and indigenous “homemade” prayers. Music will be sung *a capella* at first, though I hope those who attend will be eager to share whatever instrumental gifts they have as the liturgy develops. Recorded music will also be used to expand the available repertoire beyond congregational singing.

The Rev. Julia Messer will be ordained to the priesthood at Christ & St. Luke’s, Norfolk, on Saturday, December 18th, at 11:00a.m. I have been asked to serve as one of her witnesses. She seems content with her posting as an Associate Rector of Emmanuel, Virginia Beach. Julia served at Hickory Neck for three months as an intern before going to seminary.

Christian Formation

Adult

The Men’s Breakfast gathered on November 20th to hear speaker Wrenn Holland, owner and operator of a local Chick-Fil-A, offer his witness on the practice of Christian business. Our December gathering is scheduled for December 18th, where we will share our favorite Christmas memories. On January 15th, David Forrest has volunteered to share his experiences of the Kairos prison ministry.

The Monday night Bible study on The Revelation to St. John the Divine continues to draw record crowds. It will be completed no later than the end of January. The next book for study will come from the Old Testament, most likely one of the minor prophets.

Maria Kane will postpone teaching a course on the Abrahamic faiths of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam until fall.

The series on Spiritual Gifts during the Sunday morning adult forum has been well-attended with participants showing great interest and satisfaction in this process of discovery. I may repeat this series in January and February on Sunday morning, because many people have expressed a desire to attend, but have been traveling extensively during the course.

Youth

Attendance continues to be robust. Activities have included a joint

Thanksgiving food drive with Stonehouse Presbyterian Church's youth group, and a holistic approach to the Bible, to acquaint them with the basic structure and content of its many books. They continue to show strong community, and if the group gets larger, we may be able to divide the Junior and Senior High for a portion of the meeting time, so that we can better tailor activities and formation to their age-specific needs.

Newcomers

Since the last Vestry meeting, we have received very few visitor cards, with most visitors only in town on vacation or to stay with family.

Outreach

The Honduras mission team to El Hogar had its follow-up meeting on November 23rd to assess the trip from the vantage point of distance. It gleaned significant learning from that session, including the need to insure that future team members have a conversational knowledge of Spanish, and that one team member needs to be fluent in that language. So far, two fluent Spanish-speakers in the parish have been identified, one of whom has taught ESL [English as a Second Language], which could prove very valuable. One of the two has expressed interest in joining the next team, which we hope can go in 2011, if a slot is available in the El Hogar schedule. Veteran team members have been actively recruiting people for the next team. I plan to convene a meeting of interested persons early in January, and if a sufficient number seem committed, reserve a week at El Hogar as soon as possible. The team gave a complete report of our mission at the Outreach celebration on November 30th. It was well-received, with nearly 30 people in attendance.

Administration

Personnel

Bishop Curry of the Diocese of North Carolina has determined that he lacks the time to ordain each of his seven candidates for the priesthood individually, and they cannot be done as a group, because only two of the seven serve in his diocese. Therefore, Bishop Curry has asked Bishop Hollerith to ordain Maria Kane to the priesthood on his behalf. In a preliminary discussion with our bishop, his preference is to wait until after Easter, which would mean a date in May or June. I hope to persuade the Bishop that late February would be a more suitable and convenient time.

Communications

Our web minister, Laurie Brown, needs assistance in posting an ever-increasing volume of data onto our website. I hope that we can identify, recruit, and, if necessary, train volunteers to take on this task. Laurie recommends that we switch to a new software package that will make editing the site more efficient, though the cost of transitioning from our current format to the new one would require professional assistance and could cost several thousand dollars. In the meantime, I hope that we can begin taping short (5 – 7 minute) vlogs (video blogs) on our ministries. I am distressed by the lack of knowledge displayed by our own parishioners about the wide array of ministry opportunities available to them. The trend in business, when communicating to large groups, is moving away from the written word to video, and I believe that Hickory Neck can be served well by making this transition both on the web and with DVDs that could be set to play in a corner of the Narthex during coffee hour.

Administration

The annual parish meeting went well, with a few minor glitches. Due to the record number in attendance, we ran out of primary ballots, and counting them took longer than expected. Fortunately, a run-off ballot was not required for either election. The details of the actions taken at the meeting can be found in the minutes provided by the Register.”

New Business:

Revision of 2011 Budget: Fred Boelt, Treasurer, circulated copies of the 2011 Pledge Analysis and the Revised Operating Budget for 2011. He said that the \$6000 carryover could be put into the budget in a number of ways but he chose to put it in the Buildings and Grounds Repairs/Maintenance for the use of a major repair or replacement. Gary Harvey questioned whether expenses for Office Supplies and Utilities could be expected to be less than last year. After discussion, Jean Hancock made a motion to approve the revised budget as presented, Carrol Bailey seconded the motion, and the revised budget for 2011 was approved.

Allocation of Fall Festival Funds: Proposal by Outreach Financial Grant Team: Lucy Rothnie, Outreach, presented the following proposal for distribution of funds:

“The Financial Grant Team of the Outreach Committee has awarded \$11,822 to local charities from money raised at the 2010 Fall Festival. Members of the team evaluated what each organization does for our community and what their volunteer and financial

needs will be in the coming year. In addition to the funds they receive, all of the charities listed are supported by the time and talent of Hickory Neck parishioners. Financial grants were awarded as follows:

- **\$3,600 to Housing Employment and Linkages Project (HELP)**, a collaboration of the government and service agencies working with the faith community to address homelessness in the Williamsburg area. **\$500** has also been awarded to the **Intake and Referral Office** which helps people in need get the appropriate services and support.
- **\$2,700 to Angels of Mercy**, a free clinic designed to help patients manage and treat their diseases. This is the 10th year we have supported the clinic.
- **\$1,800 to Williamsburg Faith in Action**, an organization that helps people to continue living in their homes. This is the 5th year we have supported WFIA financially and with over a dozen volunteers.
- **\$1,500 to SpiritWorks**, an organization that works to free individuals from the cycle of addiction and minister to the children of parents fighting addiction. In addition, SpiritWorks received a **\$2,500 Seeds of Hope** grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia.
- **Grove Christian Outreach Center** provides meals and other services to those in need in the Grove community. In the past, we have given financial grants to Grove from funds raised at the Fall Festival. This year we will be participating in **“Grove Sunday”** next February. Watch for details. We have also set aside funds to buy food in 2011 for the quarterly **From His Hands** meals Hickory Neck parishioners prepare and then serve at **Grove**.
- The Financial Grant Team also awarded small grants to **Williamsburg Walks the Talk, Good News Jail and Prison Ministries, Eastern State Hospital**.
- **\$594** has been held back for grants for other charities in 2011.”

Ann Cooper made a motion to accept the allotment of Fall Festival funds. Melissa Casheros seconded the motion, and the allotment was approved.

Proposal to Sponsor Grove Christian Outreach Day on Sunday, February 27: Fr. Michael described the possibility of Hickory Neck participating in a community effort to raise funds for the new Grove Christian Outreach Center. This would be done on Sunday, February 27 with worship oriented toward the awareness of those living in poverty and a second collection for those who wish to donate to the Center. A presentation by Grove could be done during the interval between the 9 and 11 am services. The Vestry approved participation in the community partnership effort to raise funds.

Housing Allowance Disbursement Requests: The Vestry approved the customary annual housing disbursement requests from Fr. Michael, Pastor Lauren and Deacon

Maria.

Nominations: Fr. Michael announced that he was nominating Ann Cooper as Senior Warden and Lucy Rothnie as Junior Warden for the 2011 Vestry. The Vestry approved the nominations.

Elections: The Vestry approved Lynn Kelley as At-Large Member to the Executive Committee for 2011 and the nomination of Fred Boelt as Treasurer and Mary Teale as Register for 2011. Fr. Michael said that there were two positions on the Endowment Board that needed to be filled. Bill Teale has volunteered to continue on the Board and Fr. Michael nominated Anne Johansen to fill the second position. The Vestry approved their appointments to three year terms.

The meeting was then adjourned. A Eucharist was held in the Historic Chapel during which the retiring Vestry members who were present – Melissa Casheros, Gary Harvey and Ed Joyner – were released from their positions with gratitude for their services, and the new Vestry members for 2011- Jan Brown, Lynn Kelley, and Mary Teale – were commissioned. The fourth new Vestry member, Sue Dugan, will be commissioned in January.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be January 11, 7 pm, in the Wilkinson Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Teale
Register