



# Hickory Neck Nuggets

May 2013

## House Church Gatherings to Begin in May

By The Reverend Henry P. McQueen

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”*  
(Matthew 18:20)

Before His death, Jesus met with the Disciples in the Upper Room; it was here that He washed their feet and instituted Eucharist as a devotion to be carried forward for all generations. Take, Bless, Give — the bread and the wine become for us the very real presence of Christ. Early Christians found a meeting place in their homes, and this is where they broke bread together.

For the first three centuries of Christianity, the home was the usual meeting place. Hickory Neck intends to return to that practice for at least part of this year. In a few short weeks we will celebrate Pentecost; from the time following Pentecost until Advent we will hold weekly Eucharistic celebrations in the homes of parishioners.

Our hope is that on Wednesdays from mid-May until late November parishioners will offer their homes for the celebration. A small

gathering of family, friends, neighbors, and parishioners will meet each week at 7 p.m. to break the bread and celebrate Eucharist. Each host can determine how large the gathering will be so that we don't overwhelm the space. The prayers will be shortened, though still meaningful. And the sermon will become a short homily or a brief group discussion about the Gospel.

Following the Eucharist we will share fellowship. As the host desires, a simple dessert or perhaps wine, cheese and chocolate will be offered.

Our parishioners live in several different counties and we hope to explore all the regions north,

south, east, and west. Shortly there will be a signup sheet to offer your home and host the Wednesday celebrations. As you prayerfully sign up, please indicate how many people you can accommodate and consider leaving space in your home for neighbors to join us. It is far easier for neighbors to come to your living room than it is for them to cross the threshold of our church doors.



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There will also be a signup to participate at the different host homes. Some may choose to stay close to home, while others may want to explore new areas. There is no limit on how many homes you can visit; sign up as you feel called to do so. It is our prayer that over the course of the season each parishioner

will have the opportunity to celebrate in someone's home.

The roots of the Church are deep. House Church is one of the deepest roots and we look forward to seeing the blossoms that emerge from nourishing these roots. ✿

## Hickory Neck Community Garden Update

Plans for the Hickory Neck Community Garden are progressing rapidly. Parish members have already spoken for three more plots, and before any announcements were made, a member of the community learned of our efforts and has signed up to garden with us. Within the boundaries of the current garden we have room for approximately twenty more gardeners. Should we be blessed with more participants than that, we will then expand the garden to the east.

A core group of our current gardeners met recently and crafted a set of community norms and rules. Fundamental to this is the use of organic gardening methods. A restriction on the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers, insecticides or weed repellents is a fundamental part of these efforts. This is an example of how we will show ourselves to be good stewards of creation.

Also under discussion is the possibility of a garden shed to house community tools. The shed would also serve as a location for announcements and a central place to share extra seeds or produce.

Further plans are also underway to secure funding for a rainwater harvesting system. The ability to store rainwater from the New Chapel roof and then use it when needed is another example of how we can be good stewards of creation.

The Hickory Neck Community Garden offers us many opportunities to preach the Gospel, using words if necessary. Through this ministry we can reflect proper stewardship of our gifts, build community, and promote healthy food choices. Throughout the growth of this ministry parishioners will be able to find ways to contribute and be blessed. The first phase of the Community Garden ministry will begin with a public meeting at **10 a.m. on Saturday, May 4** so that we can welcome those who wish to participate. Please spread the word about this wonderful opportunity.



The Rev. Henry P. McQueen

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Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Items received after this date will be considered for publication in a future issue.

## New Minister of Music Starts July 1st

By The Reverend Michael L. Delk

After months of prayerful search, we have called Sarah Bland to become our new Minister of Music effective July 1st. Sarah brings extensive experience and education to share with us. She has served as the staff musician for four congregations in the Episcopal, United Methodist, and Baptist churches. Sarah also conducted the Williamsburg Choral Guild from 1984-1993. More recently, she has been a regular substitute organist for us during the interim period, and is an Adjunct Lecturer in Piano for the College of William and Mary. Sarah took both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from the highly respected Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey.

As Hickory Neck's Minister of Music, Sarah will play regularly at worship and rehearse and conduct our two choral ensembles, as well as collaborate with the Praise Band. Sarah will also oversee the maintenance of our parish instruments and music library.

Our thanks go to our Personnel Committee of Fred Boelt, Ann Cooper, Sue Edwards, Bob Pringle, Lucy Rothnie, and Bill Teale, who carefully interviewed multiple candidates over a three-month period, and gave me very wise counsel throughout the entire search pro-



cess. Our thanks also go to those in the parish who helped fully fund this position for the second half of 2013, and to everyone who prayed for us as we sought the right person to lead our music ministry forward. And, of course, we offer thanks to God for guiding us all in the right direction.

The many Sundays Sarah and I have worked together already have been very fruitful and enjoyable, and she has enjoyed your hospitality and the liturgy and music of the Episcopal Church that help make our worship together special.

She and her husband, Bob, have three daughters, and her interests include gardening to attract birds and butterflies, tennis, jogging, reading, spectator sports, playing games, and working puzzles.

When you next see Sarah at Hickory Neck on a Sunday morning, please welcome her once again, this time as the newest member of our staff. ☩

### Vestry Highlights

The vestry met on April 9, 2013, in the Wilkinson Center. Fred Boelt gave the treasurer's report. Our March income was over budget by \$8,584. Pledges were over budget in March, but year to date were under budget by \$900. Year to date, loose plate is over budget by \$1,000. Non pledge donations are over budget by \$5,600. The citrus sale netted \$2,195.87, which was applied to the principal of the mortgage: \$292,000.

Our Youth Ministry is doing well but could use some parishioners who are interested in working with the youth. Interested parties should contact Fr. Michael or the Otstots.

The New Chapel has had electrical work done to repair 2 bad outlets.

Hickory Neck Church will participate in St. Martin's winter shelter program in 2014. We will be responsible for two nights in January. Stay tuned for updates.

The next vestry meeting will take place on May 14, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilkinson Center.

Jean Jundt, Register



Members of the Hickory Neck Garden Club met on Saturday, April 6 to continue their efforts to beautify the church grounds. Margene Hartsough, Master Gardener and chairman of the group, planned a design of contributions of different types of lavender and several Easter lilies for the garden alongside the New

Chapel windows. Margene, Jeannie Gilman, and Mary Teale planted these flowers as well as a dozen lilies along the church sign on Richmond Road and four lilies in the Memorial Garden.

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be held **Saturday, May 11, 9 am** at which time some of the daffodils along the side of the Historic Chapel will be lifted, divided, and planted around the base of the church sign to provide additional color next spring. Field trips to Lavender Fields Farm and Brent and Becky's Bulbs are being considered for later in the year.

The Garden Club would be happy to have new members. Call Margene, 250-3151, for more information.



*Margene Hartsough, Jeannie Gilman, and Mary Teale*

Mary Teale

**Drivers** are needed occasionally to transport parishioners to church or to doctors' appointments.

This particular ministry is vital to those who are unable to drive, and it is a great opportunity to show God's love to those who need it most. Please let Sue Edwards know if you are willing to be a driver. Email [suedwards@cox.net](mailto:suedwards@cox.net) or call (757) 206-1029.

#### **Card Ministry**

In an effort to recognize all parishioners who are celebrating a birthday, coping with a difficult situation, recovering from an illness, grieving a loss, or needing to be remembered by their church family, the Pastoral Care committee requests your help.

First, if your birthday does not appear in church publications, please let Hope know your birth date so that you may be properly recognized. Also, if you know anyone at HNC who needs a card – get well, sympathy, coping, or thinking of you – please let Sue Edwards know by calling (757) 206-1029 or email [suedwards@cox.com](mailto:suedwards@cox.com)

There are several members of the card ministry who are eager to make sure everyone gets a card when they need it.

At Hickory Neck, we welcome everyone to participate in everything freely, member or non-member. However, if you would like to become an official member of Hickory Neck, we want to make that happen for you. Simply call our office, 566-0276, or speak to Father Michael

or Father Henry. There are several ways to join. If you have not yet been baptized, we would be overjoyed to speak with you about receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. If you are already baptized, we can transfer you in as a baptized member, and if your letter of membership resides in another congregation, we can write them and effect the transfer. Official membership entitles a person to vote and stand as a candidate in parish elections, but making the commitment of membership is also a good way to affirm your commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ in this place.



# Florida Citrus Sales

by Nancy & Steve Snyder

Thanks to many people and a lot of help, we made it through our first year of citrus sales, and Fred Boelt has applied the proceeds from the December, January, February and March sales to our mortgage. The final figure for the four sales was \$2,195.87.

The following volunteers participated in these sales, either by helping to load or unload fruit, by collecting payments and maintaining records during the sale, or by assisting customers by loading fruit purchases into their vehicles: Gayle Bangert, Fred Boelt, Chris Casheros, Kay Cooper, Bert Geddy, Margene Hartsough, Gary Harvey, Mark Kintner, Ben Manning, Buddy Mathews, Ken Parsons, John Rothnie, Jeff Seiler, Bill Small, Bill Teale, Mary Teale, Linda Wever and Bob Zoglman. Mary Teale was also a big help writing articles about the sales and getting them published in the Virginia Gazette (with pictures). Those articles brought in quite a few new customers.

After losing money on transportation costs during the December and January sales, due to our failure to meet the minimum

150 cases necessary to avoid a \$3.26 charge for each case short of the minimum, we elected to travel to another site to pick up fruit for the February and March sales. So, a special thanks to the following volunteers who drove to Richmond and/or Kilmarnock, Virginia, unloaded our fruit into our three or four vehicles, and drove back to Hickory Neck where they unloaded the same fruit again: Gayle Bangert, Bill Teale (with his neighbor Bob Miller on the Richmond trip and Bert Geddy on the Kilmarnock trip) and Bob Zoglman. Also, thanks to John and Lucy Rothnie for loaning us their vehicle for the Kilmarnock trip.

You may recall from an earlier article that these Florida citrus sales had previously been held for 18 years at the Williamsburg Seventh Day Adventist Church. The gentleman who had coordinated those sales for many years was very helpful in our efforts to get started at Hickory Neck. He also purchased fruit from us at each of our four sales. When he stopped by our sale in March he commented that he had been impressed by the number of volunteers he observed each time. We certainly agree!

Our next sale will be in November, when we will again be selling navel oranges and pink grapefruit. Keep in mind that boxes of fruit purchased in December will make excellent Christmas presents.



Bluegrass, inspired by the music of Appalachia, is one of the unique forms of American music, though its roots can be traced back to immigrants from England, Scotland and Ireland. The Episcopal Church also traces its roots to the British Isles.

These common roots will unite to bring together the best of Bluegrass and the best of Episcopal liturgy at Hickory Neck on **June 2nd**. Solid Rock Bluegrass, a Hampton Roads band, will be our musical accompaniment for the 9AM service.

Having participated in a Bluegrass Mass previously I can attest that the theology of the Bluegrass music contributes to the depth of the worship experience. It is a unique and powerful experience; and one that you won't want to miss.

Please watch the Nuggets and the ePistle for more details as the date approaches.

The Rev. Henry P. McQueen



## Birthdays

1 Lily Dutro	15 Margaret Sutton
2 Mary Jo Smith	15 Ruth Rowland
3 Nancy Byrd	18 Linda McGee
4 Lynn Kelley	20 David Ware
5 Bob Pringle	20 Becky Smith
5 Neal Lensenmayer	22 Diane Perry
5 Jody Loftus	22 Amanda Buckley
7 Jeanne Williams	23 Sherron Ware
7 Ree Stone	26 Trevor Simmons
8 Bob Byrd	27 Joanne Izzo
9 Bert Geddy	29 Jamie Seeterlin
9 Gary Lensenmayer	30 Kathryn Thomas
10 Jennie McCray	30 Paul Casanave
12 Alita Small	

## Anniversaries

9 Judy & Jesse Hodges
14 Debbie & Bob Coles
17 Tara & Ervin Best
20 Tanya & Chuck White
22 Barbara & George Johnson
24 Shannon & Ron Houser
24 Barbara & Ray Laroche
27 Tina & Noel Sinclair
30 Jessica & Stuart Hughes

*Did we miss your big day? If your birthday or anniversary is this month and you are not listed above, please send the information to [Nuggets@hickoryneck.org](mailto:Nuggets@hickoryneck.org)*



31 March 2013

YTD Budget Income	\$104,810.50
YTD Actual Income	\$110,576.40
YTD Budget Expense	\$107,004.32
YTD Actual Expense	\$105,171.11

March proved to be an outstanding month for the Hickory Neck coffers. Income was over budget for the month by \$8,584, and by \$5,766 year-to-date.

Expenses continued to run under budget by \$1,873 year-to date, leaving us in the black by \$5,405 at the end of March. Additionally, the Davenport Fund increased by over 8% (\$5,438) during the first quarter of the year. The profits from the Citrus Sale went toward the principal of our mortgage bringing the outstanding balance to \$292,137 as of April 1st.

First quarter contribution statements have been sent out. As you may recall, pledge income was significantly under budget in February. We are grateful for those of you who caught up in March and are happy to report that 24.76% of our annual pledge has been received. Non-pledge, loose plate and the Easter offering were all well over budget giving us a solid foundation for the spring.

A line from a French carol, "Now the green blade rises from the buried grain," speaks to this time of year. Much as Christ burst from the grave, new life springs forth from the seeds hidden away in their earthly graves. As the earth warms, new life abounds as a symbol of the Resurrection of our Lord. May we be caught up in this surge of renewed growth to keep the Light of Christ burning ever brighter on our Holy Hill.

Fred Boelt



# Our Prologue

by Martha W. McCartney

## Processioning: A Little Known Art

Vestries, which were comparable to their counterparts in England, were established in each of Virginia's parishes by 1635. Within the following decade, new laws, which regulated the colony's State Church, stipulated that parish vestries were to be elected by a plurality of freeholders. Vestrymen, in turn, had the right to choose their own churchwardens, who could be punished or fined if they neglected their duties. Although ecclesiastical law was suspended between 1649 and 1660, while the Commonwealth government was in power, the direction of religious affairs largely was left to parish vestries. It was during this period that Blisland Parish was established.

After the monarchy was restored, the Church of England regained its legal authority. Vestries, which consisted of twelve of a parish's "most able men," set the rate of the parish levies or church taxes, a legally binding obligation. The revenue vestries collected was used for hiring and supporting the clergy, building and repairing churches, and providing for the poor. Parish vestries also were responsible for laying out public roads and making sure that they were maintained.

Another duty a parish vestry was obliged to perform was "processioning" or walking the boundaries of

public and private property, to make sure that neighboring landowners agreed upon their respective boundary lines. In accord with Virginia law, every four years, vestries were required to summon local landowners. Then, two or more vestrymen, accompanied by the owners of neighboring tracts, would "procession" or walk those properties' boundaries. If old survey markers (such blaze or chop-marks on a line of trees) needed to be renewed, that

was done. It is probable that processioning helped to maintain peace within the community by preventing boundary line disputes.

Our colonial vestry minutes identify by name the men who served as



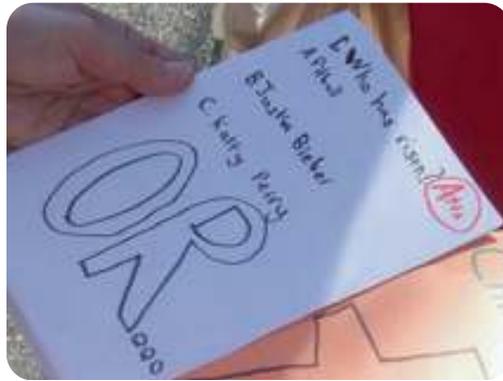
*Processioning, 21st century-style: Hickory Neck walks the boundaries of our newly expanded campus in 2005. Photo by Laurie Brown.*

Blisland Parish's processioners and note that their "returns" (the information the processioners compiled) were duly recorded. In some colonial parishes, boundary line descriptions were entered directly into the vestry minutes. Unfortunately, Blisland's were not. After the Civil War, some of the Tidewater Virginia counties whose antebellum court records had been lost or destroyed deployed groups of processioners, who attempted to reestablish land boundaries and ownership traditions. That was done in James City County, Gloucester, and a number of other localities. ✚



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## This joyful Eastertide

The rain on Easter Sunday couldn't dampen our joy at the Feast of the Resurrection, even if the Easter egg hunt had to be postponed until the following week.

This Easter season saw the added joy of the wedding of Rebecca Smith and Bryce Corlett on April 6th.

And, as usual, Barbara Laroche worked her floral magic to transform our worship spaces.

