



Hickory Neck Nuggets

June/July 2014

Blessing

By The Reverend Michael L. Delk

We hear or say the word nearly every day. When someone sneezes, “God bless you” is the standard reply. Interestingly, that habit derives from ancient beliefs that when someone sneezes a part of their soul gets expelled, or it’s the body’s way of trying to force out demons. The bidding, “God bless you,” serves as a device to restore the soul or to disperse the exorcised demons.

Every Sunday, except in Lent, a priest pronounces the blessing of God over the people near the conclusion of worship. When reading scripture, the words “bless” or “blessing” appear several hundred times. In the South, when someone wants to say something cruel about another person, but wishes to place a veneer of kindness on their comment, they preface the barb with “God bless his heart.” We often speak of how we feel blessed.

Yet despite the ubiquitous utterance of blessing, we aren’t entirely sure what it means

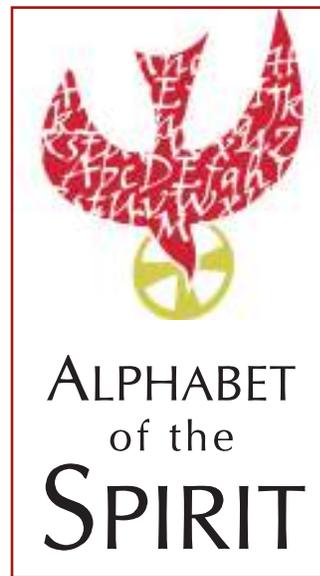
exactly. When studying Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew, which starts with the Beatitudes – blessed are the peacemakers, etc. – commentaries generally suggest that blessing means happiness, and

certainly in most situations that is true.

However, we also bless God. The Psalms are replete with blessings upon God, and for most of the year, our worship starts with the opening sentences, “Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And blessed be his kingdom now and forever. Amen.” Do we and the Psalmists mean to say that we wish God happiness? It seems strange for that to be the case, because it assumes that

God’s happiness somehow relies on our human desires. Instead, when we bless God, we intend to offer praise and adoration.

So blessing is a multifaceted word, with many different meanings, depending on the context. The diversity of expression available through this single word is largely due to quirks of the



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Hebrew language, a rabbit hole from which I'll spare you. Rather, let's explore what it means to bless and to be blessed.

We often focus on the "goodies" when we talk about being blessed. Consider the star athlete, who, after a great victory, declares that she feels blessed. In no less significant ways, we talk about being blessed with good weather or good health or the birth of a child. This usage focuses on the outcome or content of the blessing. But what if that was merely the residual of the blessing?

When we receive blessings from God or bless God, what we really denote is a state or condition of relationship, and the relative permanence of this blessedness helps set the "individual" gifts we receive into a broader context. While certain experiences might heighten our sense of being blessed, the reality is that our relationship with God forms a continuum of blessing, punctuated by discrete instances of blessing that we readily recognize. However, the true blessing is our constant connection with God.

This awareness can awaken a whole new understanding of blessing and its role in our lives. We need not wait for a particularly favorable event to feel blessed. Instead, we can abide with a sense of always being blessed, even when things don't go our way. In this mindset, every breath is a blessing of our Creator. Every peaceful moment and every compassionate

act performed or observed is a blessing of the Holy Spirit sent to sanctify us, to make us holy. Every time we celebrate our freedom is a blessing of Jesus Christ, who saves and redeems us.

This isn't to suggest that we should refrain from saying "God bless you" when someone sneezes or cease to identify and honor particular blessings as they emerge in our lives. Yet how much more encouraging is the knowledge that we exist in a state of blessing that inspires and empowers us to bless God with praise.

When Jesus declared, "Blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are the poor," etc. we tend to think of this as a promise to be fulfilled at some unspecified future time, because the poor and the peacemakers rarely feel happy in the here and now. But Jesus wasn't pronouncing a series of promissory blessings or being ironic, because even when we can't identify the specific blessing, we are blessed in a way that transcends happiness with joy, if only we value the broader continuum over the discrete events of our lives. ✨

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of essays whose topics are based on the letters of the alphabet.)

Congratulations!

Congratulations and best wishes to the following recent/upcoming graduates:

Josh Dutro, Warhill High School (going to Christopher Newport U.)
Gwyneth Ross, Warhill High School (going to Thomas Nelson C.C.)
Emily Corlett, B.A. from High Point University
Daniel Zoellner, B.A. from University of Mary Washington



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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.

Please send submissions to nuggets@hickoryneck.org

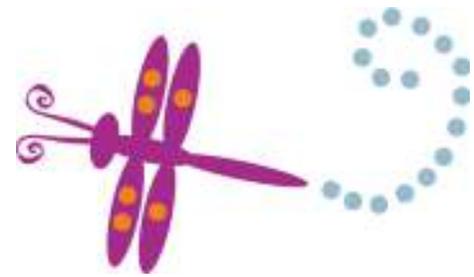
Sarabande

By Sarah Ford Bland

"He who sings (well) prays twice".

Although this famous, oft repeated quote has been attributed to St. Augustine, recent research has failed to actually find these words among his writings. Nevertheless, they are filled with inspiration and meaning for singers everywhere—at home, in church, in Christian gatherings and especially in choirs. Consider the Parish Choir this past year:

34	Rehearsals (less 4 "Snow Days")
23	Worship Services
2	Memorial Services
1	Special Program
31	Anthems
18	Psalm Refrains
	Hundreds of Hymns



You would think they'd be exhausted and ready for summer break, but they are not! They've enjoyed choir so much this year that they want to continue singing throughout the summer, and they would love for some of you to join them! Although midweek rehearsals are suspended until the fall, the choir will meet at 8:15 a.m. on the odd Sundays of the months in June, July, and August, beginning Sun. June 15, to learn either an offertory or a communion anthem for the 9:00 a.m. service. The music will be easy, probably something from the hymnal, and accessible to whomever comes. Moms, dads, teens, children, grandparents, entire families—this is the perfect opportunity for you to experience choir in a casual setting without any long term commitment. We meet in the Wilkinson Center. Just give me a call (810-7634) or send an e-mail (sbland12@cox.net) before the Sunday(s) you would like to sing, so I'll have an idea of how many to expect.



Calling all who like to sing!! We want you to join us this summer--

Inpatient or Outpatient?

It Makes a Big Difference with Medicare

By Carolyn Gaylord RN, Parish Nurse

According to an article published in the AARP Bulletin, October 2012, and then later reported on national television news, the current trend in hospitals throughout the country is to classify Medicare beneficiaries as “observation” patients rather than admitting them. This practice can be costing patients thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses.

Most patients go to the hospital either because their doctor told them to go or because they go to the emergency department and the doctor tells them they should “stay”. Sounds like it shouldn’t make a difference. And because you get a hospital room with a hospital bed, receive the same level of care, medications, etc., as “admitted” patients you are not even aware that you have not been formally admitted. Although Medicare has determined that hospitals have 24 hours to make the decision whether or not an “observation” patient is to be admitted or discharged, some claims have been made that patients were in “observation” for up to 14 days and were not aware of it until the time of discharge.

Placing patients in outpatient status denies rehab coverage in a skilled nursing facility. While in the hospital as “outpatients” or “observation,” Medicare coverage comes under Part B, which covers doctors and outpatient care instead of Part A, which is hospital coverage. This also affects prescription medications while in the hospital. The out-of-pocket expenses can be staggering.

Why is this practice happening? Patients are frequently admitted and cared for by hospitalists rather than their own physicians. Hospitals can overrule the physician on the decision of observation vs. admission. It is also being considered that patients are placed under

observation by the hospitals to protect themselves from the severe penalties recently put into place for unnecessary or frequent admissions of the same patient.

What can we do?

- Ask about your status every day while in the hospital, as it can be changed.
- Ask to see your record to verify your status.
- Know your options. Ask about home health care options.
- Appeal charges related to “observation” status with Medicare. The instructions on how to do this are on the back of every Medicare Summary which you receive quarterly from Medicare.
- Stay in touch with your physician regarding your status and options.

If you are the Medicare beneficiary, be an informed patient, especially of changes brought about by the new healthcare law. If you are caring for a Medicare beneficiary, be an informed advocate!





By Jim Izzo

It didn't take long for Ann King to discover what the rest of us know to be true about Hickory Neck Parish. "I find the people extremely friendly and helpful and always willing to give their time. Many have stopped in just to introduce themselves," she says. "The priests have been outstanding and very patient in helping me know how things are done and why," she adds.

Ann has lived in Williamsburg for fourteen years, moving here with her husband Robert, now deceased, when he retired. Before that, they lived in Connecticut for twenty-eight years, where they raised their three children: a son (Rob) and two daughters (Cynthia and Deborah). Ann was born in Missouri, raised in Kansas and lived in New York after marriage, where Robert was a CPA for a firm in the city. Ann got a job as secretary at a law firm when her children were in school and then went back and earned a paralegal degree from the University of Connecticut.

As parish administrator, Ann's duties are many and varied, which involve people and machines. On the computer she works on the Sunday bulletins, the monthly Nuggets, and the weekly E-pistle. She enters financial figures into several programs, maintains duty

rosters supplied by various committees, schedules the use of parish buildings, as well as answering countless phone calls. Greeting visitors and parishioners, who stop by the Wilkinson Center, and helping to set up both chapels for Sunday services reveal some of Ann's personal skills. Ann worked for a parish before she was married. "The duties were similar, except for the computer parts of the job," she said, adding, "The main office machine then was a word processor."

In her free time Ann enjoys several activities, which reveal her creativity. She has designed and made costumes for the entire cast of many plays ("too long to list"), including some produced by the Williamsburg Players. She makes dolls from scratch and sells them at various craft fairs. She is a member (and secretary) of "Joy Notes," a Williamsburg group of seniors who sing at area nursing homes.

Each year Ann's extended family gets together in a different city or town ("not where any of us lives") for an extended weekend to see a different part of the country and share their experiences with each other. This year's family reunion was held in San Antonio in mid-May.

Ann is enjoying her time here at Hickory Neck and looks forward to getting to know everyone better.



Equestriennes at Hickory Neck Church

By Mary Teale

Author's Note: The idea for an article on the equestriennes at Hickory Neck Church was greeted with such gracious responses from our riders that there was no way that they could be covered in a single Nuggets issue. Therefore, the mini-Spotlights will be stretched out over several issues, and the women's words will be their own.

Hope Brans: "Heaven, indeed!"



Hope, in high school, and Toby

"At age nine two friends had started riding, and I had to follow. Once we'd had a few lessons, we were sent off to a huge deer park complete with ponds to wade through and logs to jump. At this point I decided if Heaven were like the deer park – I'd try to get there. When I was 13, we moved to downtown Chicago – not a deer park in sight. A classmate had a young Pinto for sale, and my indulgent father let me buy it and keep it in a suburban stable. I taught Toby to jump, and we had a glorious time playing on our own through high school. He had to be sold when I left for college but not before he dumped me on the morning of high school graduation. I got to attend the ceremony and prom in a wheelchair. I rode a bit in college, giving lessons in exchange for free rides at a nearby stable. There followed a stretch of no riding.

It wasn't until my daughter started riding that it occurred to me if I bought a horse, we could both ride. Thus began the slippery slope known as competition riding. Tory was a young

thoroughbred that my daughter rode to competition glory, and I got to hack and do some drill team riding. When she outgrew that horse's ability, we ended up with another thoroughbred for her to compete with. It was one of my greatest rewards in life that we shared the love of horses, and it kept us both out of trouble as we spent most weekends doing horse shows. Part of the time she was in college I got full use of the horse and was talked into doing my own riding in a show. It was a real kick entering the ring to cheers of "Go Mom, go" from all the other moms there helping their kids.

When we both moved to Virginia we left Poi behind at the barn where he'd been for all his life. There followed another period of no riding until this winter when the urge to get back on a horse proved too tempting. The first test was going to be if my titanium right hip wanted to swing my leg over a horse's back. Luckily one of HNC's members conveniently has a local stable, and I gave it a go. I spent two very happy months grooming, riding and feeding carrots to Waldo, my lesson horse (he was a Pinto like my first horse). The best lesson was my last when the weather was perfect, and we did 10 minutes of work and then walked around the trails behind the stable.



Where's Waldo? Right here at Stonehouse Stables with Hope,

This took me back to all the rides that went before in my life - just wandering through woods and fields on the back of a horse – Heaven indeed."

Happy Trails, Hope

Sue Banks: "It is a lifestyle."



Sue and Silija

I started taking riding lessons when I was 10 years old. My sister and I shared our first horse when I was 13 years old, and I've been a horse owner and rider ever since except for the four years when I was at Ohio State University. As most horse people will admit, for many of us, it is a "lifestyle" and not just an activity.

I ride hunt seat mainly and have also done some dressage and have shown in both types of riding. I don't consider showing my main goal in riding, and have never particularly liked showing; it was just something to measure my progress and to allow me to be around friends. I've also done some pleasure carriage driving with Lizzie B., a Morgan horse I owned for many years, and some drafting with my current Norwegian Fjord horse, Lilly, in order to earn a Versatility award which requires showing in riding, driving and draft to qualify.

I've also done the traditional mounted fox hunting. I came back from my first fox hunt when I was in college and said "this is why I learned to ride." Once I graduated from college it was many years before I had an opportunity to fox hunt again, but I joined Colonial Fox Hounds Hunt in New Kent in 2001 and, riding on my Norwegian Fjord horses, Lilly and Silija, hunted with them for 12 years. The hunt recently was disbanded due to economic reasons, and so now I mainly trail ride and ride Lilly in American Competitive Trail Horse Association (ACTHA) events and work on training Susie Q, my four year old Norwegian Fjord, for the same purposes.

Stories of horses and Hickory Neck? I drove by the Historic Chapel long before I became a member because I kept Lizzie nearby at Mr. Dorsey's farm. Later, when I was boarding Lizzie at Bert Geddy's place, I brought my carriage to the church picnic and gave carriage rides. One year when I was getting her ready for a driving show, Bert mowed the field where the new church now stands, so I could set up a dressage ring for practice in carriage driving.

Once I joined the church, I remember that the horse people, including the Garfields and their daughters, sat in the back pew of the Historic Chapel with my son up in the window seat.

I took EFM classes with leader Rick Garfield who would usually groan at check in, because there were a lot of horse owners in the class. Often our week's events involved horses. I remember one Theological Reflection we did on a relatively abstract painting by Phyllis Faas. My reflection involved a simile with riding horses. This year I've caught myself in our Bible Study on Tuesday night using an example dealing with horses to explain my thoughts. And if ever I had to pick the one time that I would say that God intervened in my life, my witness talk would be about how God found Silija for me. But that is a long story with explanations involved, because without the explanations, you would not see how slim the odds were for it to be just "chance".

I think that most people know that the horse trailer sitting out in the parking area on Sunday is mine. We are headed to York River State Park for a trail ride after church. I enjoy spending a free afternoon with my horses.



Carriage driving with Lilly

Recognition Sunday

By De Fehrenbach

In many places the end of the school year is marked by graduations, parties, and award ceremonies; here at Hickory Neck we celebrate with Recognition Sunday. We are fortunate to have much to celebrate. The young people and adults have met all year to explore and develop their relationships with Jesus, and Recognition Sunday marks another successful year of learning and growing together.

On June 8th we will gather between the 9 and the 11:15 services to recognize our children and the adults with whom they have worked. The children will sing, play instruments, and some will give testimony about the journey they have travelled this year. All children who attended Sunday school will receive a certificate of attendance; the first year of attendance they also receive a wooden cross. The younger children, who are in Godly Play, are recognized for Good or Excellent attendance, and for each successive year they receive another gift: pocket crosses, pins, a Bible Story book. As children finish second grade, they are ready to leave Godly Play and enter our third through fifth grade classroom, where they will enjoy the Weaving God's Promises curriculum, which uses the Episcopal Church's Revised Common Lectionary. To prepare for a more in-depth study of our church, graduating second graders receive their own Bible; this year four children will receive Bibles.

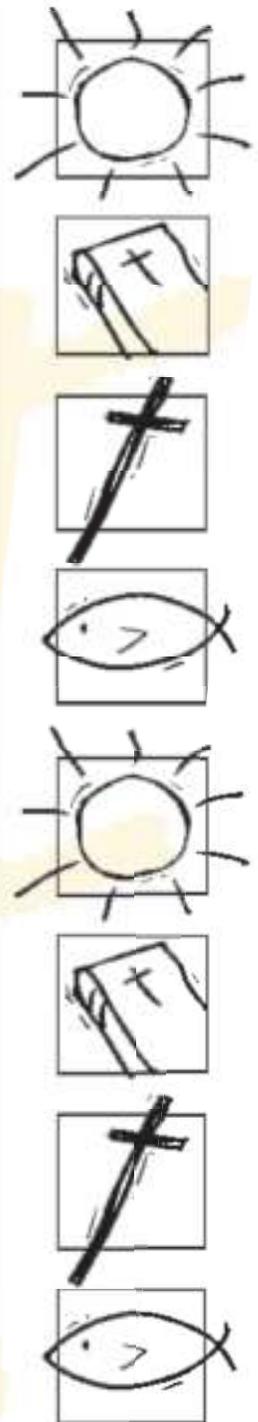
The third through fifth graders receive certificates marking their attendance, with

special recognition if it has been Good or Excellent. At the end of fifth grade, our Sunday school children are officially invited to join the youth of the parish and attend youth group in the evenings. Many years there has been a dramatic gesture as Father Michael makes the invitation. This year, one child will receive that special recognition.

As wonderful as the accomplishments of the children are, none would be possible without the diligence and commitment of our adult volunteers, and so we recognize our adults. Faithful volunteers care for our youngest in the nursery. As the children grow, they enjoy Children's Chapel with adult volunteers who plan and deliver appropriate lessons and sermons which often mirror the lessons for the week. Sunday school teachers also prepare weekly to provide our children with rich lessons that will deepen their understanding and assist them on their journey.

Our 9 a.m. service will also highlight the youth group, who will have a larger than usual participation in the liturgy. The confidence to do this comes from the bonds that formed through discussion and learning that are part of the Sunday evening Youth Group activities.

Be sure to attend this year's Recognition Sunday celebration and enjoy the joyful sounds, congratulate our children who have accomplished much this year, and thank our dedicated volunteers who have made it all happen!



Jesus, a cool friend indeed!

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

I had trouble sleeping the other night. The muscles in my back were tight and felt twisted and extremely sore. I wrestled with this pain, trying every way I could to ignore it, or put it out of my mind. Nothing seemed to work with any lasting effect. After many restless hours a thought came to mind. My chiropractor is always counseling me to use ice on new pains. So I got up, found the ice pack, wrapped it in a towel, and lay down on it, placing it as best I could in the area of greatest discomfort. Almost immediately I felt the muscles begin to flex and loosen, and soon I was asleep. In the morning I awoke in the same position as I had drifted off. I was refreshed, my back was cold, but the pain was gone. Ahhh!

Lying there thinking about how great it was to not feel pain, to be able to greet the new day with a new sense of vitality and vigor, I found myself reflecting back on how this simple act of putting cold on my hurt helped it to heal. I remembered watching a science show recently that explained the properties of how ice works. When we put ice in our drinks, the ice doesn't so much introduce cold into the drink as it draws the heat out of the drink. The ice, in effect, works by dying to itself in order to draw out the heat of the drink. The ice pack seems to work the same way. It didn't introduce the cold into the muscle, as much as it drew the offending heat and tension out, thereby allowing the muscles in my back to return to their original healthy self. The healthy muscles were already in my back. I just needed to find some help in removing the offending tension and pain in order for the inner healing to begin. I had created the tension by not moving in ways which were healthy. I had over taxed my body on my own, but I was only able to find relief when I owned that I needed some help in dealing with it.



Chaplain's Corner

Being a theologian, I found myself taking this thought process one step further. This process of pain and healing reminded me of what Christ did for us on the cross. We are all born as healthy and beautiful children of God. We all share an innate goodness and love because of our being made in the image and likeness of God. Each of us, at some point in our lives, will stretch ourselves beyond our ability to recover on our own.

The healthy person and child of God is still within, but we may have trouble realizing this because of all the pain and suffering we are dealing with. It is only when we hit that spot where we own that we can no longer deal with or ignore our pain, and turn to God for help, that we are able to find some blessed relief. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. The Gospels tell us He bore our offenses. For our transgressions He suffered. He, being the

Son of God, knew our innate goodness, and also the pain that was blocking us from experiencing healing and a deepened appreciation of the world around us. Just like the ice cube that dies to itself to unlock the natural goodness of the drink it is immersed in, Christ died on the cross, died to Himself, to draw the pain out of the world so that the true goodness and healing innate in the world could emerge.

Christ draws out our pain, every time we approach Him in humility and honesty, and admit our inability to handle it on our own. In turn, the natural goodness and love and healing that are innate in each one of us is allowed to flourish and grow. Christ died on the cross so that He could draw the pain out, just like the ice pack or the ice cube. Kind of puts a new spin on the phrase, "*Jesus is a pretty cool friend*".



June Birthdays

2 Ellie Pruitt	13 Jesse Hodges
3 Sandy Harvey	14 Ginny Daughtrey
3 Melissa Casheros	15 Eve Gee
4 Jim Allegretto	18 Shirley Forde
6 Georgia Irby	19 Ryan Byrd
7 David Baum	22 Michael Delk
7 Joe Orth	23 Sadie Cash
7 Elizabeth Baum	24 Paula Simmons
10 Mark Kintner	24 Evan Casheros
10 Bob Williams	25 Stuart Hughes
10 Linda Matthews	26 Chris Ellmers
12 Janet Blair	26 Bill Forloine
12 Bert Kime	26 Kelli Dugan

June Anniversaries

5 Lauris & Tom Zeni
6 Stephanie & Michael Delk
9 Sandy & Gary Harvey
13 Nancy & Steve Snyder
16 Rebecca & Alan Zoellner
17 Betty & Bill Harrison
18 Jennie & Jeffrey Seiler
18 Mary & Jim Allegretto
21 Ashley & Waverly Ferguson
24 Donna & Paul Casanave
26 Louanne & Tom Martin
27 Bunky & Rick Garfield
29 Linda & Jim McGee
29 Linda Wever and Jim Ball

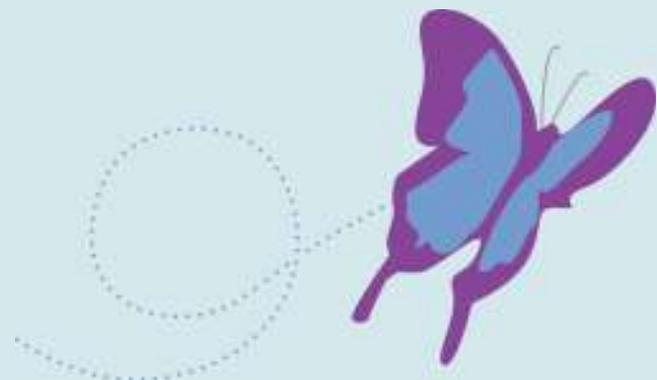
Did we miss your big day? If your birthday or anniversary is this month and you are not listed above, please send the information to Nuggets@hickoryneck.org

July Birthdays

3 KayCooper	20 Carl Aschman
4 Karen Buckley	22 David Henderson
5 Donna Casanave	24 Craig Hagan
6 Connie Kendrick	25 Charlotte Ellmers
9 Theresa Hunter	26 Norm Cooper
11 Allison Tanner	26 Chuck White
11 Tess Schaffner	27 Carrol Bailey
15 Ava Chambers	29 Ann Ragsdale
15 Bob Zoglman	29 Lyndsey Houser
18 Piper Baum	

July Anniversaries

10 Debbie & Cleve Corlett
11 Connie & Ollie Kendrick
12 Lynn & Larry Kelley
16 Linda & Buddy Matthews
17 Robin & Don Seeterlin
19 Jean & Chuck Jundt
19 Mary & Bob Pringle
20 Martha McCartney & Carl Aschman
21 Shannon & Jarrett Vogt
25 Betty & Frank Somloi
27 Laurie Brown & Jeff Hoage
29 Linda Becker & Pete Haines





Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

As early as

The Statute of Religious Freedom

October 16, 1776, when the State of Virginia's General Assembly held its first session, a petition was presented, asking for religious equality and the disestablishment of the Church of England. This 125 page manuscript, signed by nearly ten thousand Virginia citizens, initiated public debate over the relationship between church and state. Afterward, the General Assembly deliberated whether it was appropriate to levy taxes to support ministers of the Christian faith. James Madison, who went on to become our fourth president, circulated his "Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments," which received widespread support. The legislation that Virginia's General Assembly enacted in October 1784, which authorized the incorporation of the Protestant Episcopal Church, gave parish vestries taxing authority, just as they had had before the Revolution, and

entrusted them with the management of church-owned property such as glebes and houses-of-worship. Passage of the 1784 act resulted in backlash, and registered voters throughout Virginia began calling for its repeal. On December 9, 1785, a group of James City County men filed a petition in which they urged assembly members to repeal the law. When the legislature convened in 1786 session, its members passed the Statute of Religious Freedom, which abolished the State Church and denied it the right of general taxation. With enactment of that legislation, separation between church and state was achieved. In 1785 the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia held its first General Convention.

Under the Statute of Religious Freedom, much of the real estate once owned by Virginia's State Church was to revert to the Commonwealth of Virginia and could be sold. However, Episcopal houses-of-worship were not to be sold if they were in active use by a congregation. Under the new law, a parish vestry was entitled to retain the glebe or home farm of the incumbent clergyman until he died or moved away. Money yielded by the sale of parish-owned real estate was to be given to county Overseers of the Poor, the officials responsible for providing public welfare. The proceeds of parish-owned property also could be set aside for the education of children from poor families. During this period, many of Virginia's Anglican churches came into the hands of other denominations or simply fell into disrepair. Hickory Neck was no exception.



(04/30/14)

Budget Income	\$148,962.96
YTD Actual Income	\$150,989.01
Budget Expense	\$149,559.72
YTD Actual Expense	\$142,309.15

Easter always saves the day financially! While pledge income continues to lag behind, non-pledge and loose plate income soared ahead in April. The special Easter offering was \$2,710 this year, and the total April income was over budget by \$2,554, and year-to-date, over budget by \$2,026. Frugal oversight by ministry leaders held April expenses under budget by \$ 1,907, and following this

trend, year-to-date expenses are under budget by \$7,251. This being said, at the end of April, we are in the black by \$8,680.

As the temperature climbs and schools close for another season, many of our parishioners will be headed out for vacations. As you enjoy your well-deserved times of refreshment and renewal, please remember that Hickory Neck is a 24/7 - 365 operation. The utilities and salaries continue, the lawn is mowed, coffee is brewed, and pastoral and spiritual needs are met. Please keep your contributions current even if you are away for a while. And post cards are welcomed, too. It is very important to keep our beacon on our Holy Hill beaming brightly, spreading the Good News at all times.

Fred Boelt



Vacation Bible School: Welcome! Give & Receive God's Great Love

By Paula Simmons

*If we love one another, God lives in us.
1 John 4:12b*

Our theme for this summer's Vacation Bible School is based on these words from scripture, which will make all people who come to VBS feel welcome. **"Welcome! Give & Receive God's Great Love"** will focus on hospitality. This year, VBS will be hosted by Bruton Parish Church during the week of **August 4-8** from 9:00 a.m. until noon, for children from three-years-old through those having completed 5th grade. Everyone will feel welcome as we tell Bible stories that focus on receiving strangers (Abraham and Sarah welcome three visitors), caring for neighbors (The Good Samaritan), meeting Jesus (Zacchaeus) and so much more!

During the week, we plan not only to welcome those from our own parishes of Hickory Neck, Bruton Parish, and St. Martin's but also to invite others to feel welcomed and teach them what it means to make people feel part of a Christian community. Visiting relatives and local friends are invited to join us. We will sing, talk, play, listen, and just have fun!

The VBS curriculum is designed for our children ages three through fifth grade, but we do not discriminate! Teens and adults of all ages are encouraged to be a part of this great experience, as you will grow spiritually and have as much fun as the children. VBS really is for our entire church family.

Share the love of God by volunteering that week or help with preparations leading up to the week of VBS. Volunteers are needed to help with arts and crafts, decorations, shepherds, music/song leader/instrumentalist, nursery, outreach project, recreation/games, registration, snacks, prayer team, and early morning childcare (8:30-9:00 a.m.).

Registration forms are available in the Wilkinson Center and the narthex or they may be downloaded from the HNC website (8.5"x14" paper required).

Please register by Monday, July 20, so that we can accommodate all who want to attend. The cost for VBS is \$15 for the first child and \$10 for the second (\$25 maximum per family).

If you have ideas to share or want to volunteer, please contact Paula Simmons at vbs@hickoryneck.org or 757-564-7998.

