



Hickory Neck Nuggets

October 2014

Oxford Visit Both Educational and Enjoyable

By The Reverend Henry P. McQueen

SPENDING TIME IN OXFORD, ENGLAND, is a wonderful treat, and part of being able to explore the roots of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. During my studies there in August, I heard three lecturers, all of whom have taught at Oxford and who, while very different, all share a love of the church and of God.

The Rev. John Kerr, who may be familiar to many, serves as chaplain to the College of William and Mary and is an associate at Bruton Parish. John discussed his love of the poetry of W. H. Auden. We compared poems from Auden's self-proclaimed atheistic period with those that followed his confirmation in the Episcopal Church. Study of these poems leads me to suggest that his "atheistic period" was really a period of being a non-practicing Christian. His powerful language cuts deep, as seen in this excerpt from "I Walked out One Evening:"

'O look, look in the mirror,
O look in your distress:
Life remains a blessing
Although you cannot bless.

'O stand, stand at the window
As the tears scald and start;
You shall love your crooked neighbour
With your crooked heart.'

From a completely different perspective, The Rev. Keith Ward discussed his favorite topic: the relationship between science and religion. In addressing the writings of some prominent atheists, Keith casually comments that their view suggesting there is no God and no purpose to this universe is both naive and based on a hatred of God; it is not based on science. Weaving together a deep knowledge of philosophy, theology, and science, he then deftly dissects their arguments and shows how scientific discovery actually supports religion.

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The Rev. Canon Trevor Dennis shared his poetry and writings as they related to some of the significant stories of Scripture. He did not shy away from the challenging stories that make us question God, and he brought insight into some of the anonymous characters of the Bible. His own retelling of Bible stories often gives names and faces to the previously unknown women of Scripture. His use of poetry and storytelling brought new insight to the familiar stories.

Praying, studying, exploring Oxford, sharing a pint, and enjoying the hospitality of Saint Edmund's College brought together a group of 18 clergy and laity. It was an experience that was enjoyable and one I would repeat. If you are curious about participating, please ask me. Our group was about 1/3 laity and represented five different states, so there are opportunities for your own exploration of the treasures of Oxford. ✨



*Crozier Head with the Eagle of Saint John
Venetian, 13th c. The Walters Art Museum*

The Right Reverend David Jones' visitation will be 5 October at a special 10 a.m. service. On that day the 8 a.m. Eucharist will be in the Historic Chapel and a service of Confirmation, Reception and Eucharist will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in the New Chapel. The 9 and 11:15 services will be combined that day. The Parish Choir and the Choral Scholars will offer special music, and a reception in true Hickory Neck style will follow to welcome Bishop Jones and our newest HNC members. It will be an occasion not to be missed!

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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

Choral Scholars Return for New School Year

By Sarah Ford Bland

Choral Scholar: “a student at a university or private school who receives a scholarship in exchange for singing in that institution’s choir.” This is a very common practice in Great Britain, where the choristers of many cathedral choirs are from the schools attached to them. Many of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge Universities have very famous choirs, such as King’s and Claire College, the alma mater of well-known composer/conductor John Rutter, who later was also one of its music directors.

Hickory Neck’s own Choral Scholars, a double quartet of students from the College of William and Mary, are modeled after this longstanding English tradition. They rehearse together as a group for just an hour and a half on Sunday mornings, first on campus, then at church with me, to provide choral leadership for the 11:15 service. Each week they sing the psalm and two anthems, always with exquisite beauty. This month



Front row, from left: Catherine Smith, Jess Hoover, Colleen Fennessy, Sarah Falls (junior; Virginia Beach, VA)
Back row: Richard Rossini, Josh Frakes (sophomore, Fairfax, VA), Dereck Basinger, Jesse Levine (sophomore; McLean, VA)

they will also sing at the combined 10:00 a.m. service on Oct. 4 when Bishop Jones is here. They are a joy to work with, and I am very grateful for the special funding that makes their continued presence possible.

This year we welcome four returning Scholars, and four new ones who replace those who graduated last spring. All of these young singers are active in numerous choirs at the college. Here is some information about several of them:

Richard Rossini, tenor, is a double History/English Major from Fairfax. A senior, he is also beginning the 5th year masters’ program for secondary education. This is his third year singing with the Scholars. He is also the new administrator for the group.

Dereck Basinger, tenor, is a Classics Major, History Minor from Richmond. A junior, he is a member of Alma Mater Productions, a student organization charged with planning fun events for W&M’s student body. This is his second year with the Scholars.

Colleen Fennessy, alto, is a sophomore from Austin, TX. She is a double major in Music and Theater. She subbed some last year, and is now a new regular member.

Jess Hoover, alto, is from Fredericksburg. She is also a double Music/Theater Major. A senior, this is her third year with the Scholars.

Catherine Smith, soprano, is a freshman from Richmond. She sang with the Virginia Girls’ Chorus, an auditioned community choir for girls in grades 3-12 that is based at St. Stephen’s, Richmond, her home church. ❁

Transition Update

By Sue Edwards, Senior Warden

Having welcomed Fr. Graham as our interim rector, the vestry is beginning stage two of the transition. The diocese assigned a consultant, Steve Van Voorhees, to work with the vestry and the search committee until a new rector is called. He has assisted many churches through this process and brings tremendous experience that will be invaluable to the vestry.

In September the vestry met with Steve, who discussed how the vestry selects a search committee. Listed below are some of the criteria he asked us to consider in selecting members of the search committee:

- ▶ "Mature" Christians (The Episcopal Church considers people over the age of 16 to be adults). Look for people who are matured in their faith regardless of chronological age
- ▶ Healthy, spiritually and physically
- ▶ Able to commit to a minimum of two meetings per month, plus homework between meetings
- ▶ Active in the church
- ▶ Representing diverse backgrounds, lifestyles, and age cohorts
- ▶ People whom the vestry assesses are servant leaders: humble, competent, loving and giving, but independent thinkers

Please pray for the vestry as they form the search committee, which we hope will be completed in early October. ✨

Partnering with Parents

Toano Middle School has developed a program to help their "at risk" students succeed. Under the guidance of a very able Student Advancement Coach, they have put in place a number of programs and activities to help these students develop the habits and life skills which will help them succeed in the classroom and help them to become contributing members of their communities. They would very much like to have our help in this endeavor. After all, it takes a village to raise a child. Thus, on **Thursday, October 23**, we are going to provide dinner for their **Partnering with Parents Program**, in which parents and their children will eat and participate in a program on active parenting. Hickory Neck volunteers will be needed. Please watch the October Bulletins for more information about this, and other volunteer opportunities.

Gerry Hassig



It's flu season! What an awful thought! Soon the flu bug will be creeping into our lives and making us miserable. Hickory Neck hopes to chase the flu blues away. On a Sunday morning in October we will be offering an Influenza Vaccination Clinic. In collaboration with the Bon Secours Parish Nurse Ministry, flu shots will be available; a donation of \$15-\$20 is suggested. As the serum becomes available we will announce the date of the clinic. Please watch the ePistle and the Sunday Bulletins for additional information.



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. This is the second in a series.

Ann Lipp : *"Some of the most fun is getting lost!"*

"I started riding in my late twenties, having always longed to ride since a little girl. That makes it about 45 years! I am still riding at 73 although not as long, fast or hard as I once enjoyed. I own two horses, Shakey and Thorne, but ride only one. They are both senior citizens like me, and Thorne has retired. He was 31 on March 24th.

I have had lots of experiences riding. In the 1980s I worked with the York River State Park folks to allow horses in the park, and we have had trails there and in many other parks in the state since then.. For many years I enjoyed riding to the hounds and belonged to several local hunt clubs. I think foxhunting at the historic plantations was like going back in time. Now, I trail ride, mostly right here at York River State Park. A group of us (some Hickory Neckers, some not) go camping with our horses, and it is lots of fun!

Some of the most fun, is getting lost, then letting the horses tell you the way back to the trailer. They always know which way

to go although they may go a more direct route, and it may not necessarily be on the trail! It can get a little hairy!

I do have a funny story. My friend, Marji, and I were riding down the park road to the trail, and we were approached by an older lady riding a bicycle. We looked at each other and said, 'Isn't that sweet! That old lady riding her bicycle!' and then we looked at each other and burst out laughing, because she was probably thinking the same thing – "Look at those two old ladies riding their horses!"

I enjoy my horsey friends; we love getting together and talking about our horses and our adventures. We may be a bit 'different' but we sure do have fun. When I ride, I don't worry about anything, just enjoy the moment. It is better than happy pills.



Ann and Shakey

Jody Loftus : *"How fortunate and blessed I am to experience the... spirit of such a beautiful animal every day!"*

I am definitely one of the HNC happy trail riders. Not only was I introduced to trail riding at the York River State Park but was also introduced to the wonderful communal family of Hickory Neck Church by the lovely, one and only, Ann Lipp.

Harmony, my thoroughbred, and I have ridden with Ann and Shakey, her trusted quarter horse, and other Hickory Neck



Jody and Harmony

equine enthusiasts, Marji Chema, Suzanne Olsen and Sue Banks, primarily at York River State Park. We have also gone to a Milestone trail ride and overnighted at James River State Park. I would have to say my most memorable ride was when Ann on Shakey and I on Harmony were riding down a trail to the river at the York

River State Park. We were accompanied by a beautiful Swallow Tail butterfly and felt very safe, protected, and very blessed.

Harmony is the thoroughbred that I longed to have all the years that I had been away from the equestrian world for ages, raising four children. I found her down the road at the New Hope Rescue Foundation where Helen Walters had her out at pasture for a year following an injury on the track. I have had her for three years now, and last summer I got my land prepared for her to come home with me. She is atypical in that she is quite calm and laid back for a thoroughbred. We have gotten to know each other and are always working for that harmonious state for which she is suitably named.

I must say how very fortunate and blessed I am to be able to experience the wild and moving spirit of such a beautiful and fine animal every day!

It's Not About the Jam

By Mary Teale

Jam making sounds easy. Take fresh fruit, crush it, add sugar, perhaps a little lemon juice and, if the jam is to be preserved, a gelling agent. Bring the mixture to a boil, ladle it into hot sterile jars and top with sterile lids. Only a few ingredients and a few steps. Anyone can do it. Right?

Well, the other requirement for jam that looks beautiful and tastes wonderful is perfection in each of the steps. The fruit must be at the peak of ripeness and sweetness but not over-ripe. The jars and lids must be sterile and in good condition, the fruit and sugar must be measured out exactly in liquid and dry measuring cups; the utensils should be of materials that do not leave any metallic taste in the jam.

Dorothy Kirk is a master of all these steps. First she finds perfect fruit. She goes to the market where the produce manager accompanies her and anxiously watches as she selects a berry from each container to taste for sweetness and ripeness. He knows that if she is pleased, there will be a large fruit sale! When she is ready to cook, she sets up the mise en place – all her dishes and tools and ingredients in line in the order that they will be needed.

The resulting jams that come out of this immaculate kitchen are little jewels of red and blue perfection. They have been a staple of Hickory Neck Fall Festivals since the first Festival, except for times when she was recuperating from injuries. Her peak contribution was the year in which she gave 167 jars to the Festival. She estimated that those jars involved 20 separate batches of cooking.

Dorothy was introduced to jam making as a child when she watched her two aunts cooking during the long summer months in southern Indiana. Later, newly married, she prepared her first batch of jam. It was not a success. She had

not realized the importance of tasting her fruit to make sure that it was perfect. Puzzled as to what went wrong, she called the home economics department of the local university to get advice. It gave her all the information she needed.

Eventually her jams became predictable and good. She was able to give her two aunts, elderly by now, some jams that met their approval.

A few years ago Dorothy suffered some injuries that kept her house-bound and unable to do much cooking. One evening Jim and Linda McGee took communion to her house. Afterwards they surprised her by opening a basket filled with a picnic supper for the three of them. Then the McGees sat down on the living room floor and assembled her Christmas tree. It was the start of a wonderful friendship.

The next year as the Fall Festival approached, Linda decided that she needed to keep up Dorothy's jam tradition and, with Dorothy's advice, she prepared some batches to add to the bake sale.

This fall Dorothy's kitchen was once again open for jam making. She made two dozen jars each of blueberry, raspberry, strawberry and blackberry jam for the Fall Festival. She selected a jar of fresh strawberry jam and gave it to Linda McGee. The two friends smiled over the perfect jar of jam, one giving and one receiving. Dorothy's ministry continued.



Dorothy with a juice squeezer that belonged to her aunt



Dorothy and Linda McGee and some perfect jam



Sunday School Off to a “Beautiful Start”

By De Fehrenbach

Jesus reminds us: “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” (Matt 19:14)

At the beginning of August, Father Henry wrote a letter reminding us all of the importance of religious education. It read, in part:

“One of the great pleasures of serving on a Sunday morning is watching the energy of our children as the youngest march off to Children’s Chapel, and then later they all process to Sunday school in the Wilkinson Center. There is such joy on their faces.

Sunday evenings are filled with this same energy as the Youth Group meets. Here they learn and share in an environment where it is all right to no longer be a child, and not quite be an adult. Their wisdom often is beyond their years.”

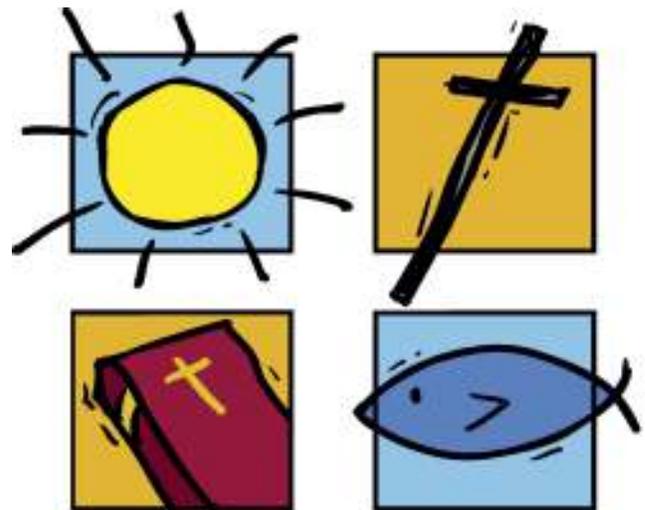
We prepared for the children with registration on August 24th and 31st and then Sunday school classes and Children’s Chapel started on September 7. Children’s Chapel, a special ministry that provides purposeful worship experiences for our young children, is led by Ann Cooper. During the sequence hymn our youngest children follow the banner and join the adult leaders in songs, stories, and prayers, all related to the day’s lectionary but made child friendly by our excellent volunteers, Tina Sinclair, Toni Small, Paula Simmons, Margene Hartsough, Beth Pruitt, and Barbara Laroche.

After the 9 o’clock service, our children aged 3 through 5th grade follow the Sunday school banner and go to the parish house where Sunday school begins with a joyful noise under the direction of Terri Lensenmayer. The musical selections include many of the hymns that we sing during our Eucharist as well as songs that include motions or instruments.

As the last notes are played, the children go upstairs to their Sunday school classes. This year we have a very large 3rd - 5th grade class, taught by Aaron Small, using the Weaving God’s Promises curriculum and the Episcopal Church’s Revised Common Lectionary. The children gather round as Aaron takes them through the lesson for the day. Then they move to tables and make the lesson come alive through a hands-on activity. Betty Somloi, Terry Day, and Laurie Todd join Aaron on rotating Sundays. He also has excellent support from his daughters, Lisa and Karen, who take attendance and assist as needed.

Our second Sunday school class is Godly Play™, which is a method of Christian education that uses the Montessori approach. The goal of Godly Play™ is to teach children the art of using religious language—parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action—to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God’s presence in their lives. Children aged 3 to 2nd grade join Beth Pruitt each Sunday for the stories, the play, and the wondering.

Our children are precious; they are the future and we strive to start them on their journey with a solid foundation in scripture and a knowledge of a loving God. Our year has started beautifully. Come see us on Sunday morning. Enjoy the songs, the stories, and the smiling faces!



Building Spiritual Muscle

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Centering prayer, like many other forms of contemplative prayer and meditation, requires time set aside to be still and wait. But what if it is hard to find the time? What if your day is so full, and your schedule so stretched that it doesn't seem possible to fit one more five minute task in it? And even more seriously, what if you finally manage to carve some very precious time out of your schedule, and then nothing seems to happen? You dutifully make the effort, find a quiet corner of your home, sit in a comfortable chair, do your best to empty yourself of all conscious thoughts and concerns, and still you feel empty and alone? The time you set aside with the intent on being still, and waiting on the Lord is never wasted. It may not become apparent at first, but with honest stillness and listening; quiet and peace can and usually does find a way into our souls.

Chaplain's Corner

Thomas Merton, one of the great apologists of the practice of Centering Prayer, suggests that each session last for 20 minutes more or less. But while twenty minutes may not seem like much to our busy and overloaded schedules, allowing ourselves to sit and be still for that amount of time may at first seem like hours. It isn't that the time is stretched more in these quiet times, it just seems that the harder we try to focus on being quiet, the more our focus is interrupted with thoughts concerning other areas of our lives. The more we try to be still, the more we are bombarded by our sub-conscious with other things needing our attention. What we feel we need most of all, *quiet and peace*, may seem to elude us the most. In a way that's okay. In a way it may even be beneficial to our souls.

What we may be doing during those first tentative steps is setting the ground work for a stronger sense of connection and peace with Our Lord and Savior. What we may be doing is not unlike what one does upon joining the military, or some other

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Books for Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail



On behalf of the inmates at Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, Chaplain Rick Jenkins says, "Thank you for remembering us in your prayers and with your thoughtful donations of Christian books for the inmates to read. Your ministry to us is appreciated." Every few months I gather up a couple of grocery bags full of books, devotionals, and publications such as Reader's Digest that you've placed in the bin under the kiosk in the narthex. If you've never donated, here's a review of the guidelines, which are intended to prevent contraband and inappropriate material in the jail: remove any identifying information, such as mailing labels or handwritten names; if hardbound, no larger than a Gideon Bible; no spiral bindings (however, I did cut a plastic binding off of a Kerygma workbook and tied it together with string, so adjustments are possible); avoid anything with potentially "adult" content, such as National Geographic.

Thank you for supporting our incarcerated brothers and sisters. I'd hate to be in jail and I'd really hate to be in jail with nothing to read!

Laurie Brown

All Saints & All Souls Celebration



November begins with the very important commemoration of the Saints of the Church, as well as a remembrance of All the Faithful Departed. These feasts are a reminder to us that the living and the dead are united in the Body of Christ.

The Principal Feast of All Saints occurs on 1 November. The feast for All the Faithful Departed is observed on 2 November. This year the parish will celebrate the feasts of both All Saints and All Souls Day on the first Sunday of the month, 2 November. We will remember the Saints whose heroic deeds, and sometimes heroic deaths, elevated them to eternal recognition. We will also remember the saints in our lives who have gone before us, those we see no longer but for whom our love does not fade.

We look forward to sharing in this very special celebration.

Spiritual Muscle, from page 8

corporate entity where physical fitness is a requirement to participation in the full life of the group. In those first tentative steps, a new recruit is tested and challenged to help him or her grow stronger and more confident in the ability to personally succeed and excel. So too in those first tentative steps into a deeper prayer life and deepened personal relationship with God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We may need to test and strengthen our spiritual muscles. Sitting alone and being still requires our full attention at first. Just like doing pushups and sit-ups requires our full physical attention, learning to be still can require our full mental and spiritual attention. As pushups become easier when we strengthen our physical body, being still and listening can become easier and even more like second nature when we practice and put forth the effort.

The interesting part is, while our physical growth may be dependant on the totality of our effort, our spiritual growth requires only minimal effort for maximum return. God loves us so much that He has blessed us with the life defining gift of freewill. Yet He never abandons us. He is always just a prayer, just a whisper away. We make the small effort to set aside a few minutes of the life He has blessed us with, and He generously takes care of the rest. The more time we invest, it

seems the rewards are multiplied ten fold. God only wants our attention, and He graciously shows his love in return.

So basically, instead of being concerned that nothing is happening in those times when we are assailed with thoughts and concerns, let's try and celebrate the spiritual muscles we are building while finding God's grace and peace which He has shared with us in our hearts. Imagine God saying, ***"Drop and give me twenty!"*** Not twenty pushups, but twenty minutes, ***"and I will change your life for the better in ways you can't begin to imagine!"***



OCTOBER



Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Terri Christin | 19 Tina Sinclair |
| 4 Madeline Hanlon | 19 Roland Todd |
| 5 Robert Harcourt | 19 Bunkie Righter |
| 6 Christine Barnes | 22 Linda Wever |
| 7 Penny Orth | 27 Lynn Geddy |
| 8 John Greenman | 28 Jim Izzo |
| 8 Joanna Parsons | 28 Ann Stone |
| 14 Ethel Margroum | 28 Geraldine Baker |
| 15 Karen Dutro | 30 Randy Tanner |
| 15 Diane McQueen | 30 Ron Houser |
| 16 Ray Laroche | 31 Jean Hancock |
| 17 Linda Becker | 31 Joan Forrest |
| 17 Abigail Best | 31 Rachel Harcourt |
| 17 Sue Dugan | |

Anniversaries

- 4 Christine & Steve Barnes
- 15 Carrol & Dal Bailey
- 15 Penny & Vic Shumaker
- 21 Cheryl & Mayes Mathews
- 27 Terri & Gary Lensenmeyer

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



(08/31/14)

Budget Income	\$295,425.92
YTD Actual Income	\$289,739.09
Budget Expense	\$296,504.44
YTD Actual Expense	\$278,499.25

Five Sundays in August helped, but the income in all three categories, pledge, non-pledge and loose plate, was under budget by \$2,472 cumulatively. Additionally, year-to-date income was under budget by \$5,687. Expenses for August were under budget by \$11,551, and year-to-date under budget by \$18,005. Thus, we ended in the black by \$11,240 at the end of August. And everyone sighed in relief, thinking that the treasurer will stop begging.

Not so! We cannot let our guard down!! The budget has not been adjusted to reflect staff changes and consultant/search costs that will begin in September. Also, there were below normal program expenses in August. This is rapidly changing as autumn approaches, and Christian Formation, Youth Group, and a host of other activities reappear on our calendar.

As you read this, we have just passed through the Autumnal Equinox, the signal for cooler temperatures and getting the crops in before winter comes. This year, our harvest moon came two weeks before the equinox, and already the corn has been harvested from our adjacent fields. It is a time of storing sustenance for the future. As we approach a season of stewardship at Hickory Neck, let us, too, store up Time, Talent and Treasure, that the future of our Holy Hill may be secure, and that we may continue to sustain all with God's gifts.

Fred Boelt



Baptism:

John Luke Trant, 14 September



Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

The Colonial Church's "Ornaments"

If we were time travelers and were able attend worship services at Hickory Neck during the eighteenth century, we would notice some similarities and some significant differences. We would see a large Bible that was used for reading the Scriptures. There also would have been two copies of a large-size Prayer Book: one for the use of the priest and another for parish clerk, who led the responsive readings and also led in the chanting or singing of the Psalter or Book of Psalms. A cloth covered the reading desk of the pulpit and hung down as an antependium and there would have been a pulpit cushion on which the priest laid the text of his sermon while he preached. Pulpit cushions usually were covered with velvet or a rich silk and seem to have been considered as important as the vessels used in Holy Communion. Hickory Neck's priest would have worn a surplice when conducting morning and evening prayer and Holy Communion, and he also would have worn it at baptisms, weddings, and funerals. However, before preaching the sermon, he would have removed his surplice and donned a black scholastic gown. That's because during the eighteenth century, a sermon was considered a scholastic or prophetic function rather than a liturgical one. The vestry was supposed to provide the parish priest with a surplice, but he was expected to have his own gown and bands.

Front and center, we would see the Holy Table, covered by a carpet or heavy cloth of silk, velvet, or damask. On it would be placed a "fair white linen cloth" on which sat a flagon, one or two chalices, and a patent. A small

white linen cloth would have been used to cover the vessels and the consecrated elements after all had communed.

Some eighteenth-century Virginia clergymen claimed that only about ten percent of their congregation took communion and that everyone else exited the church. This may have been due to the fact that worshipers already had sat in their hard, wooden pews for 90

minutes or more by the time communion began, in buildings that had neither heat nor air conditioning. When parishioners were invited to gather around the Holy Table, they came to the chancel rail where they knelt, received the host and then were dismissed with a blessing. However, in 1724, the Rev. Hugh Jones reported that a significant number of people, contrary to Anglican tradition, insisted upon receiving communion while seated in their pews, instead of kneeling before

the altar. He added that, "It is not an easy matter to bring them to the Lord's Table decently upon their knees."

As for the enhancement of worship services through the use of music, many of Virginia's larger colonial churches had organs. However, smaller, rural churches typically did not. A singing master sometimes tried to train parishioners to lift their voices in song, but formal choirs appear to have been non-existent. As we can see, there have been some changes and improvements, but many of our practices are rooted in the past. ❁



Hello
my name is

Getting to Know You...

By the Rev. Earnest Graham

One of the greatest blessings that I have experienced in ministry, both as a lay and ordained person, has been in getting to know people, and to witness what God has done, and continues to do in their lives. It is nothing short of amazing to listen to people's stories, and see the variety of ways God has answered prayers, or been present in quiet moments and great events. As I enter into the life of Hickory Neck, I would love to hear your stories, or find out what excites you in ministry, or to be with you in times of sorrow and joy.

This fall, we will be lining up some dinners or receptions in members' homes to get to know each other. We will let you know in the e-pistle when and where they will be. I would also be happy to meet with members individually, or in ministry groups. Please feel free to call (804-334-8443) or email (egraham@hickoryneck.org) if you would like to set up a time to meet, or for a visit.

God bless,

Earnest +

