



Hickory Neck Nuggets

September 2014

A Message from The Rev. Earnest Graham

Greetings and peace,

It is with great joy that I accept the call to serve as Interim Rector of Hickory Neck Church.

Speaking as someone who has lived in Williamsburg for 7 years, your warmth and hospitality are well known, as is your compassion towards people in need in the wider community. Having met with the vestry for retreat and in the interpretation of the CAT survey, I have witnessed a vibrant faith and deep spirituality at work here. I look forward to being a part of this community during this special time.



I love interim ministry. Interim ministry offers a unique gift to the life of the church- a different sense of time. It calls us to step outside the regular routine of life and ministry to be attentive to God as something new is being formed in the life of the community. We will continue to sustain the ministry of the church, to offer

worship to God, and to care for one another, but also take time:

- To acknowledge the change that comes naturally when a leader has left, and make space for healing in the life of the church
- To take a breath, and invite the Holy Spirit to both comfort us and inspire us with wisdom and grace
- To celebrate the life of the church and the gifts that continue to bear fruit in our community
- To discern a sense of mission of the church, and articulate it in such a way that a new rector may be called who has the desire and gifts to take you in the direction the Holy Spirit has given you.

It is a lot of work, not only for the search committee and vestry as they engage in the process; it involves all members of the church. This work includes looking at the history of the church, working with the results of the CAT survey, discerning gifts for ministry, understanding the community around us, and writing a

Continued next page

Inside:

St. Francis Day	2	Ruby Tuesday GiveBack	5	Fall Cleanup	9	HNC History	11
Sarabande	3	CAT Survey Summary	6	Celebrations	10	Fall Festival	12
Transition Update	4	Youth Group	7	Treasurer's Report	10		
Vacation Bible School	5	Chaplain's Corner	8	Parish Family	10		

Father Earnest from page 1

profile which genuinely reflects the character and call of Hickory Neck Church. I encourage everyone to get involved, because as you do, it will bring renewal and joy into the life of the community, and assist in calling a rector who can lead the church in this new time.

A few notes about me:

The heart of my ministry is the healing power of God's grace and love. At times in my life, at every stage of my life, that love saved me from hardships too great to bear. I have also found that the church, when it is healthy and whole, can be an instrument of that grace—such community can embody the love of Christ, and that is a gift beyond compare.

I grew up in Wyoming. The wide open spaces and immense sky gave me a sense of wonder and possibility which I take with me wherever I go.

In college I studied History and Art. History taught me to see life in perspective and to see it as a whole. Practicing art (I worked as a graphic artist and

illustrator) helped me become comfortable with the creative process, working through the messy stage until a vision emerges. It also showed me the joy of collaboration and appreciating the unique gifts others bring to the process. I continue to practice my art in a new way, creating graphic novel translations of the bible. I have 3 books published, and am working on selections of the Psalms right now.

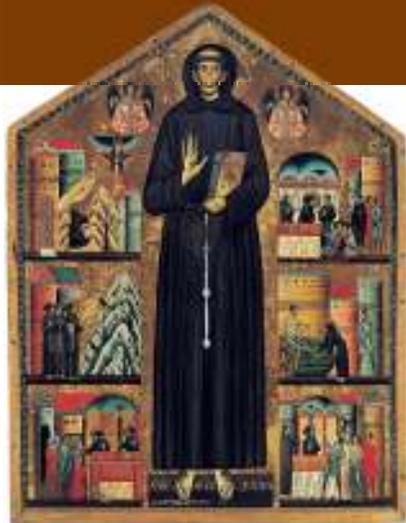
I have been blessed to serve in churches large and small, historic and new. As different as each is, I have found the same Spirit at work in all.

I am grateful daily for my wife Shirley, and son Evan.

I look forward to getting to know you all in the weeks and months ahead, and witnessing God at work in our community.

God bless,

Earnest+



Bonaventura Berlinghieri, *St. Francis*. 1235.
Church of S. Francesco, Pescia, Italy

Saint Francis Celebration

Mention of Saint Francis of Assisi brings with it the image of a gentle soul preaching to a flock of attentive birds. His love of nature is often depicted with a small bird perched on his outstretched hand and animals at his feet. It is on the feast day of Saint Francis, the fourth of October, that we traditionally bless the animals in our lives.

This year at Hickory Neck, the animals will have their own service of blessing. At 4 p.m. on Saturday, 4 October we will gather at the entrance of the New Chapel for the Blessing of the Animals and Eucharist. Fins, fur, and feathers, hoofs and paws - all are welcome to the Feast of Saint Francis so that we may delight in all of creation with perfect joy.

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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

The Parish Choir begins its new singing season this month. We would love to have a few more men and women swell our ranks! The more voices in each section, the better the blend, the bigger the sound and the more beautiful our song. Father Henry and I have already figured how and where we can add more chairs to our seemingly small space. If you have sung in a choir before, or if you have always wanted to, why not give us a try?

People join choirs for many reasons: to learn new music, to share their musical talent, to engage in Christian fellowship, to gain spiritual nourishment. My sister-in-law joined her church's choir so her ex-husband couldn't sit with her! Whatever the motivation choir members share a love of singing and making music together for God's glory. Here are a few other thoughts in the article "Why I love to Sing in the Church Choir" from the blog, "Worship Sounds Music":

"Singing in the church choir. . .

- gives me an opportunity to express my love for the Lord.
- is more than an activity or a hobby. It is a calling.
- allows for a type of expression of praise to the Lord that could not be accomplished any other way.
- allows me to participate in the overall ministry of leading in worship.
- has implanted incredibly profound messages within my heart and soul through the lyrics of the songs that I have been able to sing."

Parish Choir rehearsals are every Wednesday from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the New Chapel beginning Wed. Sept. 3. We sing in worship on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month beginning Sun. Sept. 7. Please contact Sarah Bland at church or at home (229-6381) if you are interested.



The choir sang at the Patriot's Colony Convalescent Center back in May. Three HNC members, Caroline Turner, Terri Hunter, and Caroline Dozier, were among the residents attending the concert.

Photos by Mary Teale

Transition Update

By Sue Edwards, Senior Warden

On Sunday, August 17, Michael Spear-Jones, Canon for Transition of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, preached and celebrated at all three services and conducted a forum on the transition process. Below you will find a summary of the information he shared.

- ▶ The process of transition has changed since the last time Hickory Neck was searching for a rector. The interim rector, who is trained in this type of ministry, no longer comes in and changes everything; rather he works collaboratively with the associate rector, staff, and vestry. Interims have certain tasks: to help the church learn from its history, think about the future, and identify the gifts and needs within the church. The Bishop's office watches over the transition closely and meets monthly with the interim and the consultant assigned to Hickory Neck.
- ▶ Consultants are trained by the diocese and are generally lay people. The consultant will be introduced to the parish before beginning his/her work with the vestry to build a search committee. Once the search committee, made up of 8-12 people, is formed, the consultant works with that team until the finalists for rector are found. The consultant, then, goes back to work with the vestry until a new rector is hired.
- ▶ The cost of the search for rector depends on the breadth of the search. Some parishes keep their search area no more than a day's drive away to limit travel and overnight accommodation expenses. The size of the search impacts total cost and the length of the process.
- ▶ When a priest leaves a parish where he/she has served for seven years or longer, there is grief. The diocese, therefore, recommends that the church take at least a year to complete the search so that healing and planning for the new direction of the church can take place. The Canon expects our search will take 12-18 months.
- ▶ The search committee members make an intensive commitment of time, often meeting once a week. A person who has an illness, care-taking responsibilities, or travel for work should not take on this task. The committee will be selected by the vestry with the help of the consultant and should include a cross section of the church. According to Canon Spear-Jones, "No one who strongly liked or disliked Father Michael should be on the committee." He recommends an application process so that those who are interested and committed to the well being of the church can be considered.
- ▶ Canon Spear-Jones was asked if Father Henry could be considered for the rector at HNC. The Bishop does not allow an associate to become the rector of the church in which he/she serves. Father Henry will remain as associate rector while the interim is here.
- ▶ When a priest leaves, the parishioners are either mad, sad, or glad. The departure might impact attendance or giving, so it is critical that the congregation support each other and our church. It is a time when people might be anxious, but it can be a wonderful process if we attempt to discern what and who the Lord has in store for us. ✨



Vacation Bible School

By Paula Simmons

Hospitality was abundant throughout the week of this summer's Vacation Bible School whose theme was "Welcome! Give & Receive God's Great Love." With Bruton Parish as our hosts, all ages learned about welcoming and caring for our neighbors. The Biblical stories of Abraham and Sarah, the Good Samaritan, Zaccheaus, Abigail, Nabal, and David; Paul, Luke and the Maltese, and Mary and Martha illustrated some of the many ways we can offer hospitality to new friends and old friends.

Throughout the week, the children prepared for the family luncheon that followed our closing Holy Eucharist. They made invitations, placemats, aprons, napkin rings, and centerpieces for our Friday gathering. Over 170 people enjoyed lunch together.

The outreach project for the week was creating "manna bags." Each day, a specific item was collected. On the last day, the children assembled manna bags that included a bottle of water, a pair of socks, applesauce, tuna, eating utensils, and a napkin. The children took manna bags to keep in their family vehicles. When they see a person in need as they go around town, they can give the manna bag to that person.

Over 90 children, including 12 associated with HNC,

attended Vacation Bible School. Even more HNC adults and teens volunteered to guide the children throughout the week. A huge "thank you" to our volunteers who personified Scripture for the week—"If we love one another, God lives in us." 1 John 4:12b Linda Becker, Quinn Casheros, Stephen Greenhow, Abigail Hanlon, Christine Hanlon, Linda McGee, Caleb McNabb, Diane McQueen, Parr McQueen, Tori Otstot, Paula Simmons, Trevor Simmons, Andrew Small, Karen Small, and Carol Smith.

Next year, it is our turn to show our Hickory Neck hospitality during the week of August 3-7, 2015. Mark your calendars now so you can be a part of this special, once-a-year ministry.



Ruby Tuesday

Hickory Neck will be again participating in the Ruby Tuesday Community GiveBack Program this year. The dates this year are **September 23rd, 24th and 25th**. In order for Hickory Neck to get 20% of the bill for your meal on those dates at the Monticello Avenue Ruby Tuesday location, each party must present a GiveBack Flyer. These flyers will be available in the Narthex starting in early September. Please take some for your friends and neighbors.

Steve Snyder

HNC's CAT Scan : We're in Good Health

By Tori Otstot

I am sure you've been asked to explain why you came to Hickory Neck and why you've stayed. The recent Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey confirms what many of us already know: We are members of a truly special church.

Let's start with some basics. We had 150 surveys returned, for an 84% response rate as percentage of average Sunday attendance. The vestry wants to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you – this is an excellent response rate that lets us know that the data collected by the survey is reliable. This data will be incredibly important as our church transitions and searches for a new rector.

I want to share something that reflects how important Hickory Neck is to many of us. Almost half of the respondents to the CAT survey travel 10 or more miles one way each Sunday to attend church. That doesn't include other trips to the church for participation in ministry, etc. I think that is pretty good evidence that we are doing something right at Hickory Neck!

According to the survey, morale is high at Hickory Neck. Almost 90% of respondents agreed with the statement, "Overall, I am satisfied with how things are in our church." You might be interested in more specific information. According to our survey results, we are doing many things well, including managing conflict, providing opportunities for education and formation, and equipping members for ministry. This

means we are providing opportunities for members to discern their spiritual gifts and then get out and use them! Respondents feel positive about communication between leaders and members as well as our worship services.

The special people at Hickory Neck are the reason for such a healthy CAT report. The results describe us as an open-minded, hospitable, and adaptable parish. On the survey's "Energy-Satisfaction Map," based on



responses related to satisfaction with the church and excitement about the church, we are a high-energy, high-satisfaction parish. On the map, we are in the "Transformative Quadrant," meaning

that Hickory Neck is a source "of new meaning and purpose" for our members. This result, combined with many of our scores compared to other churches, demonstrates that Hickory Neck can be a model to other churches. Because of our placement on this map, the survey results showed no urgent or important critical success factors for improving satisfaction.

The survey did give us insight into the priorities of the congregation. The top priority for every age group and attendance group (frequent vs. infrequent attendees) was "Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church." Every group chose, "Strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and leadership" as a top priority. Expanding outreach, providing more

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CAT Results from page 6

opportunities for education and formation, building relationships in the community around our church, and developing “ministries that work toward healing those broken by life’s circumstances” were all priorities selected by most groups.

The survey results are very helpful in that they demonstrate the unity of our congregation in our goals. These areas of priority may be areas we have not yet tackled, or they may be areas where we are already performing well, and the results show that people notice and want us to keep up the good work.

The time of transition is upon us, and it is not a time for waiting. It is a time for working toward growth as a church community. The vestry is excited to explore these survey results further through upcoming workshops that will provide resources and strategies for continuing our transformation! ✨



YOUTH GROUP

The youth of Hickory Neck Church have a special place, a special time, just for them. On most Sunday nights during the school year, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., sixth through twelfth graders converge on the Wilkinson Center for two hours of fellowship. Some are from HNC families; others only know HNC through our youth group. Their fellowship centers on sharing meals, getting to know each other better, sharing emotions and experiences, playing games, discussing Scripture and anything affecting their lives, challenging themselves and their leaders, leading Compline, sharing Eucharist, enjoying a safe and caring environment, and venturing beyond HNC for additional activities.

Several adult members of our congregation guide these experiences each week. Other members prepare meals. Hopefully, all offer prayers. With all this support, the HNC Youth Group continues to expand and help our youth grow.

Youth Group will resume on SEPTEMBER 7, and all middle and high school students are invited to be a part of a group just for them.

Paula Simmons



Walking with God, and Feeling the Peace

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

Chaplain's Corner

I parked my vehicle in the usual area by the Emergency Department door and prepared to enter the hospital to perform my rounds as Chaplain. I was not new to the ministry. I had been studying and serving in this capacity for nearly three years at that time, and felt fairly sure of my call to this form of Christian service. As I approached the building, I stopped at the vehicle Stop sign. It is my practice to stop at that point, and to ask the Lord to clear my mind, and to walk with me so that I might better hear and be with those whom I would be allowed to spend time with that day. This day, not unlike others, I was acutely aware of my own emptiness. The daily pressures of my nine to five work-a-day world had taken their toll on my sense of inner peace and calm. I realized that I would need the Lord's presence and guidance in full in order to convey His presence and peace to those who, due to varying circumstances, might be having trouble realizing this Presence on their own.



As I stopped, I silently uttered the prayer that had become my mantra; *“please Lord, walk with me today, I am so empty.”* This time, however, I realized a reply I had not sensed before. In place of the sense that He would surely be walking with me, I heard, *“today you walk with Me”*. Wow! That was something that had not occurred to me to ask or to even wish for. I had trained and studied and spent numerous hours in prayer and discernment in this ministry, and I had felt that it was my duty to put forth my best, and then I could be assured of His guidance and help. Don't get me wrong; I am not saying

I felt I was doing this ministry on my own or by my own merit. I was well aware that without God's love and guidance on a minute by minute basis, I would not be able to reach the person I was with in the way that God had intended. What had crept into my practice, however, was the feeling that I was supposed to be a master, or at least a journeyman in this ministry. Each encounter would be different and unique, but I should be able to reach into my spiritual tool bag, and find the

tool most useful in the given situation. I had come to view this ministry in a way not unlike my carpentry profession. Not that I could fix or repair the situation, but that I had received my training and should now be able to go forth and use the tools and knowledge I had received to their best effect.

I never felt the Lord was not with me continually in this ministry. Without Jesus' continual and complete presence and help, I would have crashed and burned on my first visit. However, I had come to view myself as being responsible

for initiating the conversation and exuding the Peace of God instead of realizing that I really was no more than a witness to what was already present in the room. The Holy Spirit was already present. I was just being allowed onto hallowed ground to witness His workings and Presence.

When I heard the words, *“today you walk with Me”*, I felt a huge sense of relief. I did not need to feel pressured to know what to do, or who to see. I needed only to follow His guidance, and enjoy the precious time I had to share with

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Fall Cleanup Day at Hickory Neck

To ensure our campus is looking sharp for the Fall Festival, a Fall Clean Up day is scheduled for Saturday morning **September 6** (with a rain date of September 13) beginning at 8:00 a.m. The majority of the work will be weeding and spreading mulch. Please bring any garden tools which may assist in this effort but most importantly bring yourself for all or part of the work period, whatever you are able to support. The Parish Life Team will supply goodies and refreshments to keep us going.

Bob Zoglman

Walking With God, from page 8

others. I was allowed to follow and just observe, and do what I was led to, as I had been allowed to as an apprentice in the carpentry field. I was not responsible for completing some project or task on my own. I still had conversation and prayers with the patients and their families. I still met and visited and supported members of the hospital staff. I still needed to be aware of my training and tools at hand. Now, however, I felt the freedom from the personal pressure to perform as I allowed God to be in charge, and I just followed Him, instead of the other way around.

The best part of this story for me is how this simple message has impacted my life in a myriad of ways. I now feel less pressure to help others to see things my way, instead of appreciating them for who they are and where they are in this shared journey. I now feel less pressure to always be “right”. My sense of discontent with others on the highway as I drive along has lessened. I can now relax a little easier and just be in the moment. The world is a little less stressful because I don’t feel as though I need to make everything right. I wonder, too, how many other people could benefit from this seemingly simple, yet very rich piece of advice which I heard on my way into the hospital. Maybe the next time we are tempted to ask God to walk with us as we go forth doing what we feel needs to get done, and feel the accompanying sense of pressure to be right, we could stop and instead ask, “*Lord, please let me walk with You today. Please guide me and move me wherever you would have me go, and show me your presence in all things.*” Maybe the sense of pressure to be right and to prove ourselves would be lessened, and we could appreciate a greater sense of God’s beauty and grace in all things that surround us.

Please Lord, allow me to walk with You today. Amen.



SEPTEMBER



Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Larry Kelley | 21 Juliana Morris |
| 4 Ed Joyner | 22 Kevin Maddox-Jefferson |
| 6 George Johnson | 24 Waverly Ferguson |
| 6 Ben Manning | 24 Heather Sinclair |
| 8 Barbara Husted | 25 D.J. Seeterlin |
| 10 Janice Wagner | 26 Bill Burnett |
| 10 Josh Dutro | 26 Cheryl Mathews |
| 11 Ann Burnett | 26 Barbara Laroche |
| 13 Patty Kipps | 26 Emily Corlett |
| 16 Mary Allegretto | 28 Stephen Greenhow |
| 19 Ava Marshall | 29 Rick Garfield |
| 19 Laurie Todd | 30 Maria Seeterlin |
| 20 Dave Simmons | |

Anniversaries

- 1 Sue & Sam Banks
- 1 Nancy & Bob Byrd
- 16 Sara & DJ Seeterlin
- 17 Jen & Bill Merton

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



(07/31/14)

Budget Income	\$258,810.18
YTD Actual Income	\$255,595.32
Budget Expense	\$259,913.26
YTD Actual Expense	\$253,458.61

July income was over budget by \$274; modest but at least it is positive. Overall, income is down by \$3,215. While some of you caught up on your pledges in July, that category still needs help. Please make every effort to bring pledges current if you are behind, and a huge "thank you" to those who have paid ahead.

Expenses in July were over budget by \$448, which is not bad when you consider that our annual HVAC contract (\$3,035) was due. Year-to-date, expenses continue to run under by \$6,455. July ended up \$149 in the red, but year-to-date, we are in the black by \$2,137; may it continue.

Having now entered the period of transition, we move forward. Our financial demands are not diminished. Funding for a consultant, interim rector, and search committee expenses will add up quickly. Additionally, September is the re-start time for Christian Formation and Youth Group activities and preparation time for the Fall Festival. Our steadfast support of Time, Talent and Treasure will be required now more than ever to insure that the light on our Holy Hill does not grow dim!

Fred Boelt



Burials:

William Franklin Shutt III
(+ 10 July) Requiem - 21 July

Leonard F. Wagner
(+ 30 July) Requiem - 5 August



Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

Hickory Neck's History

- ✦ In 1652 the site of historic Hickory Neck Church was located in Blisland Parish, whose vast territory included western James City County and eastern New Kent County.
- ✦ In 1721 Blisland Parish had two churches, an "Upper" one (in the western part of the parish) and a "Lower" one (in the easternmost part). Both congregations were served by one clergyman and one vestry.
- ✦ In 1725 Blisland Parish was enlarged when neighboring Wilmington Parish became extinct.
- ✦ In 1734 workmen commenced building a new Lower Church for Blisland Parish on an acre of land donated by Mrs. Mary Holdcroft, owner of Hickory Neck Plantation. The new church, built of brick and oriented on an east-west axis, became known as Hickory Neck Church.
- ✦ In 1738 Walnut trees were planted in the churchyard and in 1742 a brick wall was erected, probably to enclose the graveyard.
- ✦ In 1774 a north transept was added onto the oldest part of Hickory Neck Church, the first step in making the building cruciform. We still hold worship services in the north transept.
- ✦ In 1781 American soldiers pitched camp at Hickory Neck and the church was used as a military hospital. As a result, the building sustained significant damage.
- ✦ At the close of the American Revolution, the Church of England ceased being Virginia's state church and Hickory Neck entered a period of dormancy and neglect.
- ✦ In 1825 Hickory Neck Church was converted to use as a public school, Hickory Neck Academy. The oldest part of the church was razed and the north transept's south end was extended and bricked up. The new school occasionally was used for inter-denominational worship services.
- ✦ In 1862-1865 Confederate Captain John Pelham and the Stuart Horse Artillery camped at Hickory Neck on the night of May 6, 1862.
- ✦ In 1871 the Hickory Neck Academy building was repaired. It was used as a public school until 1908.
- ✦ In 1912 the county school board deeded Hickory Neck to the trustees of the Hickory Neck Protestant Episcopal Church. Regular worship services resumed in 1915.
- ✦ In 1917 Hickory Neck Church was re-consecrated.



FALL

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Fall Festival Features Food, Fun, and Fellowship for Families and Friends

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By Ashley Baer

TI

The HNEC 14th Annual Fall Festival is only a few weeks away, and we are so excited! A huge “thank you” goes out to everyone who has already volunteered their time and talents to this endeavor. We appreciate you! If you have not had a chance to sign up yet, please check out the volunteer lists posted in the Narthex. One of our biggest needs right now is for a Yard Sale Captain. In addition, we are thrilled to announce that pre-sale for our two delicious culinary delights, Bill Forloine’s Brunswick Stew and David Ware’s North Carolina style pork barbecue, has already begun. More information will be coming soon. One thing is for sure: you don’t want to miss out on these savory treats!

V

Hickory Neck kids: the Fall Festival is going to be so exciting for you, too! We will have hay rides, a bounce house, snow cones, and cotton candy for you this year. Round up your friends for a great back-to-school get together, and have some fun at the festival. So get excited, folks, and remember to spread the word about this amazing event to your family and friends. If you have any questions, please contact our chairpersons, Jim and Terry Day by phone at (804) 714-4970 or by email at: tvday53@gmail.com or jimday356@cox.net.

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