



# Hickory Neck Nuggets

April 2015

## We Have Good News... Why Not Share It?

By The Rev. Earnest Graham

A couple announces that they plan to marry and they send invitations; friends tell one another. A child is born and the family posts pictures all over the internet; they celebrate with parties. A friend comes through a life-saving surgery, and a community rejoices. We know how to share good news. In fact, good news is hard to contain. It erupts like a smile. It spreads like a flood over a parched and open plain. In Holy Week and Easter, we hear good news—the best news—Christ is risen from the grave. And because of God’s love, shown forth in Christ, we are free from death. Death no longer holds us in captivity. It is not the final word. The resurrection of Jesus is the first glimpse of what that life and freedom look like. In Christ, death is not the end it is a doorway leading to a newer and bigger life.

We have such good news—why not share it? Why not tell all our friends, invite them to come to Hickory Neck Church and see. Every Sunday we celebrate the risen Christ

and the good news, but at Easter, we throw the party. We have the feast. We remember and celebrate with heart and soul and voice the amazing thing that God has done. This Easter, invite your friends, your family members, your neighbors—or even invite a complete stranger—to join us for the celebration, and to hear this good news. Do not be afraid of what they will think, or even how they will respond. Simply share it because we do not know who needs it most. But God knows, and God wants them to know that they are not alone, that God can speak to their fears and bring them a peace which is beyond understanding. God is able to shine light in the darkness, and bring joy out of sadness.

This Easter, I invite you to be the bearers of good news. Tell people about Jesus. Invite them into our fellowship. Show them what it is like to live in the light and hope of Christ.

Peace

*Earnest+*



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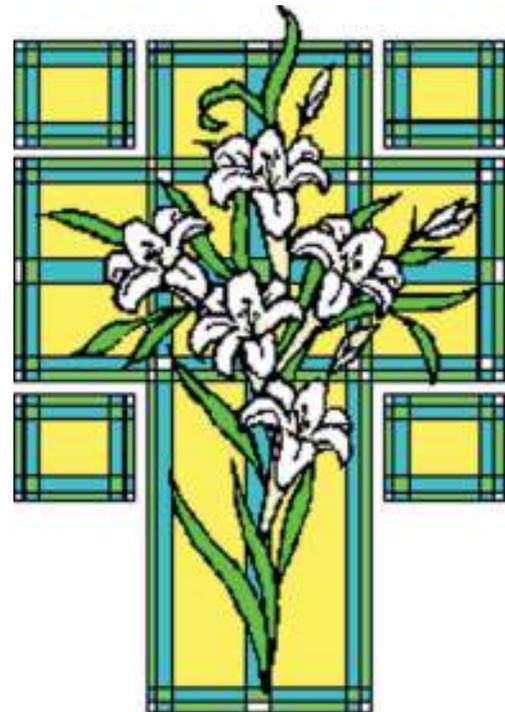
By Sarah Ford Bland

## Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Have you missed singing and saying “alleluia”? Historically, Christians have refrained from repeating this expression of joy during the penitential season of Lent. The word itself is derived from the Hebrew “Halleluya”, an exclamation of praise to God found at the beginning or end of many of the Psalms. Early Christians preserved this word, untranslated, as an ultimate expression of triumph, thanksgiving, and joy. There are many mentions of “alleluia” by ancient church fathers: St. Augustine (born 354) describes it as an “old tradition of the Church”; St. Jerome (born c. 342) says it was sung at festive meals; Sidonius Apollinaris (born c. 430) says it was sung by boatmen on the Loire; and St. Bede (born c. 673) reports that the Britons used it as a battle cry in 448. (Willi Apel, *Harvard Dictionary of Music*, p. 28.) In the Roman rite it is especially favored during the Easter season, perhaps because of Alleluia psalms chanted at Passover. Our Easter services will include traditional refrains of “alleluia” in the hymns, responses, psalms, and in the concluding words of dismissal, “Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!”

Choral music will enrich all of our Holy Week services. The Parish Choir will sing at the 9:00 a.m. services for both Palm Sunday and Easter. They will also sing at the 7 p.m. Good Friday service. The Choral Scholars

will sing at the 11:15 a.m. services for Palm Sunday and Easter, as well as for the Maundy Thursday service. A small choral ensemble of parish and guest singers will provide music for the Easter Vigil. They will sing anthems, assist with the hymns and psalms, and “decorate” the traditionally chanted “Exsultet” with simple choral refrains and hand bells. In addition, our Easter morning music will be enhanced with trumpets.



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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](mailto:nuggets@hickoryneck.org)

One of the top stated goals of most churches, and Hickory Neck is among them, is to grow. It came up in the CAT survey last year, and in discussions in the Discernment Committee's Focus Groups. Practically speaking, this is necessary in order to be able to continue to exist and even thrive as a community. But existence, as good as it is for the church, is not our reason for being. The Church, as the living body of Christ throughout the world, shares in the mission of Christ himself: to share the good news of salvation, to reconcile the world to God and one another, and learn to grow into the full measure that God intends for each of us.

This year, the vestry is taking steps to grow the church and live more fully into this mission. We have established and reinstated three commissions to help: Communication, Church Growth, and Incorporation.

**Communication** seeks to present the message of the church to the community and the world. This includes working with our website, digital communications, social media, word of mouth—whatever it

# WHO WANTS TO GROW?

By The Rev. Earnest Graham



takes to reach people in ways that are meaningful for them.

**Church Growth** asks the questions: Who is our neighbor? Who are we called as a community to reach out to with the love of Christ? How can we do this effectively? We are looking for people who want to get to know the community in a deeper way, and propose ways that the groups and ministries of the church can connect others to our community.

**Incorporation**—which means being brought into the body—goes beyond welcoming newcomers to the church, and assists them to find what they are looking for when they come here—the love of the living God, embodied in the community of faith and faithful. We will need people with gifts for hospitality, encouragement, and companionship.

We need members with a variety of gifts, talents and experiences to share in these ministries. If you can help in any way, please contact one of the vestry members: Andy Miskovich (Communication), Bill Teale (Church Growth) and Terri Lensenmayer (Incorporation).



## Hickory Neck Community Garden

Gardeners are already at work out in the Community Garden, and it's not too late to join in. Plots are available, and there will be a whole new section opening up. The bounty grown outside our chapel includes such things as greens, beans, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, herbs, and flowers of all sorts—the Flower Guild is going to start growing blooms that will grace our altars at worship. Friendships grow as well! If you want to come outside and play in the dirt, contact Fr. Henry or Mark Kintner.

# FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE

By Juliana Morris

The Discernment Committee extends a big "Thank you!" to the congregation for a wonderful participation thus far with the focus groups being conducted this month. As of March 19, we completed 10 groups with a total of 89 parishioners attending! Wow and thank you! We value your input greatly and know that your thoughts will help shape our search in such a valuable way. We will continue to complete sessions until the end of March. We are thrilled to have more focus groups gathering everyone's ideas. The next step will be to look carefully at all your input and begin to shape the Parish Profile that prospective rector candidates will look at to see what Hickory Neck is like. Thank you for your support and we continue to be honored to serve you and the church on this committee.



## Another Citrus Sale Season Ends

By Nancy & Steve Snyder

The fifth and last citrus sale of the 2014-2015 season was held on March 11th. Overall, we had a very successful season, with almost \$3,900 in profit going toward our church mortgage. We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped to make our season successful. They come in several varieties:

**Drivers** – these gentlemen drove their personal vehicles to the Richmond Academy campus, at 12285 Patterson Avenue (about 65 miles each way), where they helped unload boxes of fruit from the H&S Citrus 18-wheeler into their vehicles and returned to Hickory Neck, at which point they helped to move the boxes into the Wilkinson Center. The number of drivers involved for a monthly sale depended upon the amount of fruit ordered that month, but the following people drove at least three or four times: Mac Downs, John Rothnie, Bill Teale and Bob Zogelman.

**Unloaders/Stackers** – Chris Casheros and his son, Evan, helped unload boxes at the church for our big November and December sales. Once the boxes were in the Wilkinson Center, Mark Kintner and Nancy Snyder positioned/stacked them by type and size of fruit. In addition to helping to unload boxes, Tony Casanave helped Nancy sort and stack boxes when Mark could not be there.

**Sale Day Volunteers** – Gayle Bangert, Kay Cooper, Sue Edwards, Margene Hartsough, Jill Ramsaur, Joy Tanner and Mary Teale worked two hour shifts greeting customers and handling cash/check transactions. Fred Boelt, Mac Downs, Dave Forrest, Curt Johnson, Mark Kintner, Ted Ramsaur, Bill Smith and Randy Tanner worked two hour shifts helping customers by transporting their boxes of fruit to their vehicles.

**Publicity** – Mary Teale faithfully sent articles (with whimsical pictures) to the "Virginia Gazette" prior to each sale. The articles were the source of many new customers, some of whom have already become regular customers.

We would also like to thank Ann King for putting up with the noise and confusion outside her office on sale days and for handling the customers who, for one reason or another, came to pick up and pay for their fruit on Thursday or Friday instead of the Wednesday sale day.

The only thing wrong with celebrating April 22 as Earth Day is that **every day** people the world over should protect and appreciate the only planet known to sustain human life. We are called to do so as far back as the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, as well as in the following prayer:

**“Blessed Creator of the earth and all that inhabits it: We offer thanks for thy prophets John Muir and Hudson Stuck, who rejoiced in your beauty made known in the natural world; and we pray that, inspired by their love of thy creation, we may be wise and faithful stewards of the world thou hast created, that generations to come may also lie down to rest among the pines and rise refreshed for their work.”**

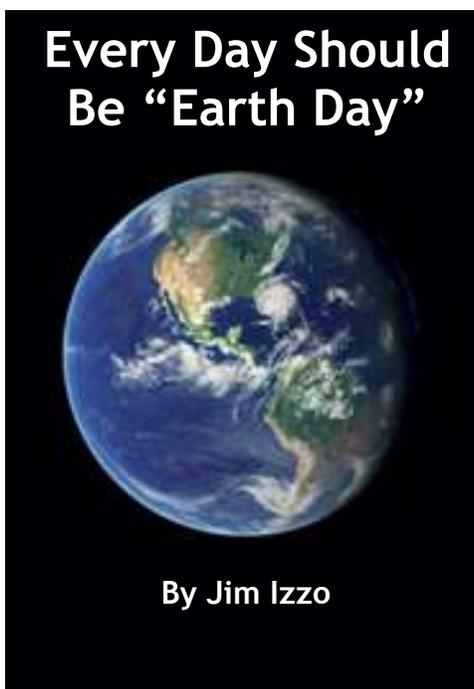
The origin and history of Earth Day is too long to detail in one essay, but four people whose efforts made the day possible should be noted.

John Muir, naturalist and writer, was born in Scotland but immigrated to the United States as a boy in 1849.

As a college student he studied botany and at age 30 he arrived in Yosemite, California, which he called “the grandest of all the special temples of nature.” Some years after a hiking trip through the Sierras, Muir took up the cause of preservation, eventually co-founding the Sierra Club, an association of environmental preservationists. In “My First summer in the Sierra,” Muir wrote “The place seemed holy, where one might see God. God himself always seems to be doing his best here, working like a man in the glow of enthusiasm.” Muir was influential in convincing President Theodore Roosevelt to insure the preservation of America’s natural forests, which he called “places of rest, inspiration, and prayer.” His life’s work “stands as a powerful testament to the majesty and beauty of God’s creation.”

Hudson Stuck was an Episcopal priest and explorer, who was born in England but came to America as a young man

in 1885. After graduating from The University of the South, he became Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral in Dallas. In 1905 he moved to Alaska, where he spent the rest of his life as archdeacon. With a group of fellow explorers, Stuck was the first to completely ascend Denali (Mt. McKinley). Upon reaching the pinnacle, he led climbers in prayer and thanksgiving. He later wrote of the experience as a “privileged communion” to be received in awe and wonder.



In 1969 Senator Gaylord Nelson, the founder of Earth Day, organized a huge grassroots protest over the degradation of the environment. The response was tremendous from coast to coast. “The American people had a forum to express their concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air,” wrote Nelson. “Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. The remarkable thing about it was that Earth Day organized itself.” On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was held, “one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy,” proclaimed *American Heritage Magazine*, and it has been held ever since.

Another pioneer at that time was Rachel Carson, whose

1962 book *Silent Spring* is “credited with launching environmentalism in the Western hemisphere” because it “inspired widespread public concern with pesticides and pollution of the environment.” In her book, based on the research of many scientists, Carson contended that the indiscriminate spraying of pesticides would harm birds (the book’s title referred to a spring in which no birds would be singing), fish, and animals, including humans. A presidential commission confirmed Carson’s claims, which resulted in the banning of the pesticide DDT in 1972. *Silent Spring* inspired a generation of environmental activists. What Rachel Carson wrote over forty years ago is still true today: “We in this generation must come to terms with nature; we are challenged as never before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves.” ❁

# The Stations of the Cross

By the Hickory Neck Youth Group

I. Jesus is condemned to death.



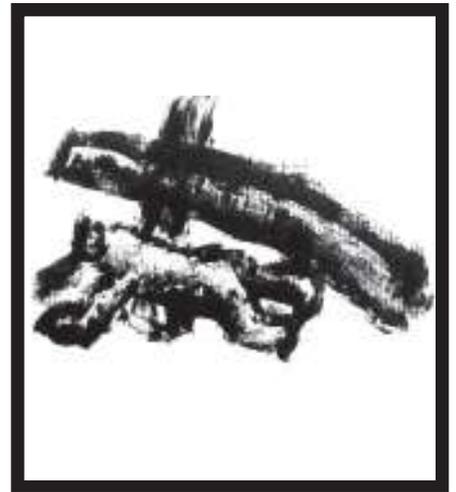
*Gareth Ross*

II. Jesus takes up His cross



*Pete Haines*

III. Jesus falls the first time.



*Andrew Small*

IV. Jesus meets his afflicted mother



*Trevor Simmons*

V. The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene.



*Seth Ross*

VI. A woman wipes the face of Jesus.



*Lisa Small*

VII. Jesus falls a second time.



*Madelyn*

VIII. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.



*Austin R.*

IX. Jesus falls a third time.



*Karen Small*

X. Jesus is stripped of his garments.



*Ethan Ross*

XI. Jesus is nailed to the cross.



*Ernest Graham*

XII. Jesus dies on the cross.



*Andrew Small*

XIII. The body of Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother.



*Henry McQueen*

XIV. Jesus is laid in the tomb.



*Trevor Simmons*

Created by the  
Youth Group of  
Hickory Neck  
Episcopal  
Church for Holy  
Week 2015

## Vestry Highlights

The monthly Vestry meeting took place March 10th in the Narthex. Father Earnest led the group in prayer. Vestry members shared their personal reflections on the recent Diocesan training for Vestry members held in Virginia Beach.

Fred Boelt, Treasurer, discussed the financial standing of the parish (see separate "Nuggets" article). The Second Sunday offering for February raised \$181.00 for Proclaiming Grace Ministries.

Ministry liaison reports were given by Terri Lensenmeyer for Newcomers and Linda Becker for Parish Life. De Feherenbach, Sr. Warden, reported that there is a plan to offer nursery for 11:15 service again in the near future. The Time & Talent festival sent home a stewardship project for children that will hopefully be completed within each family. Bill Teale, Jr. Warden, distributed the revised Hickory Neck Bylaws, which have been updated to reflect the diocesan canon guidelines for parishes. The updated bylaws will be voted on by the Vestry in April, and then presented to the parish at a special meeting in June.

Frs. Earnest and Henry reported that, even though the inclement winter weather led to cancellations and rescheduling of some parish activities, pastoral visits and services were still completed. Ongoing planning is underway for Holy Week and Easter. Youth group activities are also planned after successful parent meetings. New ADA ramps/mats have been ordered for the Historic Chapel. Proposals

are being gathered for exterior lighting for the Historic Chapel as well. Henry will be away for vacation after Easter in April, and Earnest will take his vacation at the end of May.

Bob Zoglman reported that the Search process for the new rector is currently forming small focus groups in the month of March, in hopes of meeting with at least 80% of the parish. The Vestry also reviewed and discussed the supplemental questions and responses from last year's CAT survey which dealt with our own parish's outreach ministries, worship services, and music.

The next meeting of the Vestry will be April 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilkinson Center.

Jill Ramsaur, Register



Members of the Vestry recently attended a Diocesan training day in Virginia Beach. Pictured are Brian Manning, Bob Zoglman, Terri Lensenmayer, De Fehrenbach, Bill Teale, Jill Ramsaur, Andy Miskovich, Linda Becker, and Gay Forloine.



## Chaplain's Corner

### “But who do you say that I am?” Mark 8:29

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

Jesus asked this question to His chosen disciples as they were on the road. They had already spent a good deal of time with Him, and had been witness to many of His healing miracles. Yet even they had trouble explaining what they felt in their hearts. Perhaps it was fear of being ridiculed by some of their fellow travelers. Or perhaps it was because they, like so many of us, had trouble accepting the spiritual in a physical world. It was only with the guidance of the Holy Spirit that Peter was able to give voice to the answer, “*You are the Messiah*”. Later, in John’s Gospel, we hear Jesus tell His disciples, “*The Father and I are one.*” *John 10:30*

This leads to an even deeper question, “*Who is the God you worship?*” What would be the best way to describe your understanding of God to someone who may never have heard of Him before? What attributes and tendencies do you associate with God? All of these questions are very basic to our underlying faith, and how we may choose to view the world around us. No two people see or know God in the identical way. Everyone’s relationship with God is based in no small measure on the unique circumstances of their lives, and how these have affected their way of thinking and being. To some, God may be a loving Father and guardian; to others an intimate friend and trusted companion; and to still others, a source of stability and order in a sometimes otherwise chaotic and out of control world.

On the surface, the question of “*Who is the God you worship?*” may seem elementary and trite. Yet the answers form the basis of a true and deep relationship

with God. By prayerful reflection and scriptural study, hopefully the picture will come more into focus. We, of course, will never know the true God in all of His omnipotent grandeur in this life. But we can strive to deepen our relationship with Him and strengthen the faith necessary to live our lives in accord with His will.

This, I think, was one of the reasons that Jesus asked His disciples who others said He was. It wasn’t so much to get a consensus of current thought or local gossip, as it was to get the disciples to start the important work of searching their souls and using prayerful contemplation to come to a personal understanding and acceptance of Him, both in His spiritual as well as His physical nature. It was a challenge to look deeper, to go below the surface so that when they were called to carry His message of Love to the world, they wouldn’t be sidetracked by false doctrines and misrepresentations. That, I think, is the challenge we each face and the obligation we each must meet, if we wish to be true disciples and evangelists of this loving and caring God we call Abba, Father. Then, when someone asks you about the God you know and worship, you may be able to answer from the heart, expressing your personal understanding of Him. You also will be more ready to sift the chaff from the wheat as far as what others may tell you about God; Father, Son or Holy Spirit. I ask you Jesus’ question again, “*Who do you say that I am?*” ❄



## Hickory Neck Prison Ministries

*(Editor's Note: We are still seeking recommendations from parishioners for future ministries this year for August – December. Contact any Vestry member.)*

**Kairos (God's Time ) Prison Ministry** is a 4-day weekend, held in the spring and fall of each year. It consists of carefully planned and coordinated talks, discussions, chapel meditations and music, all led by volunteers from various Christian denominations. It is not a Bible study although we reference scriptures often. For the residents (inmates) this experience may create the desire to become a Christian; for others, it may create a desire to continue his/her own personal spiritual walk, and for others, perhaps just a planting of seeds yet to be brought to fruition. Many residents arrive simply out of curiosity and a desire to share in the fellowship, cookies and coffee.

There are several components to the overall program: Team formation, The Weekend, Institutional Reunions, Weekly Prayer & Spare Group Fellowship, Monthly Reunions, and Two-Day Retreats. As you can see, the program consists of a lot more than just the 4-day weekend. Teams are made up of twenty or more volunteers from various churches throughout the greater Tidewater/Richmond and Northern Virginia areas. Our churches act as our individual sponsors, supporting us both spiritually and financially—assisting with travel, room and board. There are at least four team meetings prior to entering the prison. At these meetings we learn the dos and don'ts of the program and, just as importantly, build a strong bond with each other. Each team member sponsors at least two participants and acts as their individual contact throughout the weekend. These team members must be approved by the Department of Corrections and complete hours of rigorous training and yearly recertification, all at their own expense.

There are approximately thirty-two prisons in Virginia. Kairos serves in fourteen men's facilities and three women's facilities. It is a fact that violence in those facilities where Kairos is active is drastically reduced. We do not have enough

volunteers to fulfill all the wardens' requests for Kairos in their institutions. Participants in these weekends (the residents behind the walls) continue the Kairos ministry on a daily basis, which is a primary goal of Kairos. Those involved in the inside program are much less likely to return to prison. Volunteers bring the programs into the facilities and the residents continue the ministry. Seeking and serving the Christ in others is the backbone of Kairos... "I was in prison and you visited me."

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**I was in  
prison  
and you  
visited  
me.**

**Matthew 25:36**

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Join other Hickory Neck members who have supported Kairos by way of financial contributions, making cookies, decorating placemats for the dining tables, writing agape notes, committing to prayer times, making posters, sponsoring a resident, attending a closing, etc. Please contact Dave and Joan Forrest for more information on how you might support this vital ministry.

**Joan Forrest**

John Greenman and Patty Kipps volunteer with **Williamsburg Walks The Talk (WWTT)**, which provides transition services for individuals who are exiting the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail and returning to live in the local community, those who are viewed as "the least of our brethren." WWTT began about eleven years ago as an outgrowth of *All Together*, a group of individuals of different races who met to discuss mutual concerns. "We wanted to continue the relationship of this group," John said, "and we thought we could work with the families of prisoners to provide transportation for them when they were released." The volunteers set up a mentor program, John explained, whereby they would meet with prisoners before their release and try to prepare them for that "huge transition" back into society. "We would listen to their stories on an individual basis, determine their needs, in terms

*Continued on page 11*

# Hickory Neck to Host Vacation Bible School this Year

By Paula Simmons

Hospitality was the theme of last year’s joint Episcopal Vacation Bible School held at Bruton Parish Church. This summer, it is our turn to show our Hickory Neck hospitality. Our congregation will host VBS for the three local Episcopal churches and the extended community. Children as young as three years and as old as rising sixth graders will join us for a week of spiritual fun.

Our theme for the week is “[Children Called by God: Building Faith Brick by Brick.](#)” Our curriculum is based on the book *Building Faith Brick by Brick: An Imaginative Way to Explore the Bible with Children* by Emily Slichter Given. We will learn about faith through the examples of children and youth in the Scriptures: Joseph, Moses’ sister, Samuel, David, and Jesus. After hearing each story, we will explore the story through play. (Those of you who have followed the Lenten online series will appreciate this aspect.) We will use LEGOs®, Duplos®, and similar building toys in imaginative ways to reflect on the stories. We will also explore the stories through music, art, recreation, and snacks.

In preparation for this imaginative and fun experience, we are collecting LEGO®, DUPLO®, and other snap-type building toys. We need “bricks” as well as people figures. A collection box is located in the Narthex. Monetary donations to purchase

more items may be sent to the church office or put in the offering plate with “VBS donation” written on the memo line.

Other ways you can be involved in VBS include helping with preparations for VBS. We need to obtain and prepare materials for decorations, arts & crafts, Bible story, snack, and recreation. You can also pray for this ministry. You can be involved in the activities the week of VBS. We need youth and adults to assist with the various activity centers or guide the children through the mornings. Many blessings are found in working with VBS. If you want to be a part of this ministry, mark your calendar for August 3-7, 9:00 a.m.-noon and contact Paula Simmons at 564-7998 or [VBS@hickoryneck.org](mailto:VBS@hickoryneck.org) to volunteer.

Registration forms for children and for volunteers will be available by May 1st so watch for more information.



## **Prison Ministries** from page 10

of housing, clothing, transportation, employment, etc. We work as a team with the jail and the local Colonial Community Corrections Office.” WWTT is a non-denominational organization, which welcomes persons of any faith, but religion is not a qualification for participation in the group’s efforts. John described his participation in WWTT as “a journey of the heart and part of my search for Christ. I believe Christ is with these men and women because He was with them in the gospels.”

**Good News Jail and Prison Ministry** provides the chaplain for the Virginia Regional Jail, a cooperative venture for

Williamsburg, Poquoson, James City County, and York County. The chaplain is responsible for recruiting, clearing, and scheduling community volunteers to assist in ministry opportunities conducting Bible studies, worship services, and one-on-one Biblical instruction. Hickory Neck has helped support the chaplain’s ministry by providing books for the inmates’ library. Laurie Brown oversees the collection of these books by providing a box in the Narthex.

Jim Izzo



## Birthdays

7 Bill Small	16 Chuck Jundt
7 De Fehrenbach	22 Daniel Zoellner
9 Luke Barnes	22 Brody Cash
11 Mike Willoughby	23 Dal Bailey
11 Marcia Kirkpatrick	24 Carol Smith
11 Collin Koob	24 Betty Somloi
11 Aubree Koob	24 Adam Otsot
13 Ambler Loving	28 Janet McConaughy
13 Lauris Zeni	29 Brian Manning
13 Brian Hanlon	

## Anniversaries

5 Christine & Brian Hanlon
6 Mary Jo & Doug Smith
24 Lucy & John Rothnie
28 Margene & Dave Hartsough
30 Karen & John Dutro

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



(02/28/15)

Budget Income	\$71,319.82
YTD Actual Income	\$66,677.77
Budget Expense	\$72,986.54
YTD Actual Expense	\$70,878.83

February, our shortest month, was certainly a challenge weather-wise. Cold, snowy weather may have been the culprit, but our income was down by \$5,459 for February, and is now down by \$4,642 year-to-date. And “thank you” to some of you who were unable to navigate the weather but mailed your contributions in to the office. The largest part of the missing income is in the pledge category. Please help bring this contribution category up to budget

Expenses for February again ran under budget by \$882. Even with paying our annual Workers’ Comp insurance policy, we managed to hold other expenses in line for this time of year. Year-to-date expenses are under budget by \$2,108. The bottom line shows February in the red by \$4,910 and the year in the red by 4,201. Your assistance is needed to rectify this situation.

Spring is officially here and we prepare for Holy Week, culminating in the glorious resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Just as he arose from his grave, new life bursts forth from the earth. Bulbs send up their flowers and chicks hatch from their eggs. Gardens are plowed and the warming earth will yield green shoots. These plants will provide us with sustenance for another year. May our lives find renewed strength and energy in this cycle to continue spreading the Good News from our Holy Hill.

Fred Boelt



**Burial:**  
Barbara Jayne Paul,  
died 14 February;  
Requiem 20 February



## Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

### *Introducing a Blisland Parish Vestryman*

If you'd visited Hickory Neck during the 1760s, one of the people you'd undoubtedly have met was William Daingerfield, the eldest son of Edwin Daingerfield of New Kent County. William was educated in England and when he returned to Virginia, he inherited his family's ancestral home and became a Blisland Parish vestryman, just like his late father. By 1765 William had become a churchwarden and he also was appointed to the county court and became a colonel, or commander, of the local militia. Although

William Daingerfield's prominence increased as time went on, his financial problems multiplied and finally, in 1770, he left Blisland Parish and moved to Spotsylvania County. There he took up residence on a 1,300 acre plantation that his wife, Sarah, had inherited from her father, Colonel Lawrence Taliaferro, who was buried at Hickory Neck in 1748. The Daingerfield couple built a beautiful two-story brick mansion they called Belvidera on a high bluff overlooking the Rappahannock River, about seven miles above Fredericksburg. Once Colonel Daingerfield had made Spotsylvania his permanent home, he seems to have tried to avoid holding a public office. Although he was asked to become a county justice, he declined, and when he was named to the vestry of St. George's Parish, he indicated that he was unavailable.

Thanks to the diary kept by John Harrower, a Scottish merchant who became Colonel William Daingerfield's children's tutor, we know more about the setting in which the Daingerfields lived. According to Harrower,

when Belvidera was viewed at a distance, it resembled a small village, for a group of outbuildings, namely a kitchen, laundry, dairy, smokehouse, and schoolhouse, were grouped around the main house. On the periphery were slave quarters, barns, stables, corncribs, and shops, and beyond them, large fields planted in wheat and corn.

Although Colonel William Daingerfield and John Harrower, who was an indentured servant or contract

worker, enjoyed a cordial relationship, some of the colonel's other employees considered him "a fickle Master." Harrower often dined with the Daingerfields and frequently accompanied the family when they went to church or attended barbecues or boating and fishing parties.

Like many other private tutors,

he was encouraged to accept pupils from nearby plantations and could keep the fees paid by the children's parents. In fact, Colonel Daingerfield sometimes tried to recruit students for the school Harrower kept. He also allowed Harrower to instruct some of Belvidera's slaves in the catechism and to teach the Daingerfield family's young housekeeper how to read and write.

Colonel William Daingerfield's financial situation improved a little after he moved to Belvidera, but by the fall of 1782 he found himself in dire straits. He made his will on January 4, 1783, and two weeks later committed suicide at Newcastle, a small town in Hanover County, on the Pamunkey River.



*The house at Belvidere Plantation, Fredericksburg.*



## Holy Week & Easter at Hickory Neck



**Morning Prayer** is offered daily at 8:15 a.m. in the Historic Chapel.



**Maundy Thursday** - We remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. The service is at 7 p.m. in the New Chapel, with foot-washing, communion and stripping of the altar. We will offer a prayer vigil the night of Maundy Thursday, from 9 p.m.-midnight. Members are invited to sign up and 'pray for an hour'.



**Good Friday**- We honor the sacrifice made by Christ on the cross. The Good Friday liturgy will be held at noon in the Historic Chapel and at 7 p.m. in the New Chapel, with choir. Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m.



**Great Vigil of Easter** - Saturday, April 4 - 7:30 p.m. This special service marks the beginning of Easter by transitioning from darkness into light.

**Easter**- We celebrate the risen Christ and the joy of the Resurrection with services at 8, 9 and 11:15, with an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15.

Our Times are in Your Hands...

Join with us for a special event on **Sunday April 19** between the 9 and 11:15 services. To help us in the discernment process as we seek a new rector, we're creating a timeline of the living history of Hickory Neck. Make your mark and help us tell the story of how we got where we are today—and get ready to move together into the exciting future that God is preparing for us here in this place.