



Hickory Neck Nuggets

November 2015

"Let Us Take the Bible Challenge"

By The Reverend Henry P. McQueen

Our Anglican faith is said to be based upon Scripture, tradition, and reason; accurate or not, this is often referred to as a three-legged stool because with three legs it is stable even on uneven surfaces. The vows of ordination include an affirmation that "I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation" as well as a call to be faithful "in the reading and study of Holy Scripture." And as a denomination that each Sunday reads from the Old Testament, the Epistles, the Psalms, and the Gospel, we are clearly people of Scripture.



It brightened my day recently when a parishioner asked "What Bible translation should I get? I want to read the Bible cover to cover." While it can be done, starting with Genesis and ending with Revelation is a recipe for a project unfinished. But there are wonderful ways to read the entire Bible, and it is that challenge that I issue to the parish of Hickory Neck; as a community, let us read the Bible together in one year. Let us walk along a

journey that will include Genesis, Revelation, and everything in between; together let us take the Bible Challenge.

The road map for this journey will involve reading 6 days a week, approximately 3 chapters of the Old Testament, 1 Psalm, and 1 chapter of the New Testament; on the seventh day we hear the Scriptures read in church.

These are guidelines and a more precise map will be provided, but rest assured that, for the first time or the tenth time, by the end of twelve months you will have read the entire Bible. Our journey of the Bible

Challenge will begin Advent 1, 30 November.

A suggested list of Bible versions will be available; my personal favorite is "*The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha*." It is also recommended that an age appropriate version be used in families so that the children can participate with their parents. The use of Kindle, Nook, or iPad is encouraged, as are CDs. (a great way to ease a long commute or relax tired eyes)

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Sarabande

Choral Evensong: Past and Present

By Sarah Ford Bland

The Parish Choir will sing Choral Evensong at Hickory Neck on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1 at 5 p.m. in the New Chapel. Joining them will be the Choral Scholars and the Adult Choir from Our Saviour Lutheran Church, as well as other singers from our church and community.

Choral Evensong is one of the most beautiful services in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. It has been sung regularly since the sixteenth century when the Church of England authorized the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. Both Evening Prayer, nicknamed Evensong, and Morning Prayer, called Matins when it is sung, have a long history dating back to daily monastic services that developed from the years 500 to 1500. These contemplative services or offices of prayer, scripture and song were in turn adopted by the medieval English church.

Evening and Morning Prayer comprise The Daily Office, a bi-yearly rotation of scripture readings and a monthly rotation of psalms woven between consistent prayers and canticles. In Evening Prayer the Old Testament lesson is followed by Canticle 15, The Magnificat, Mary's song of praise which she sang when she visited and greeted her expectant cousin,

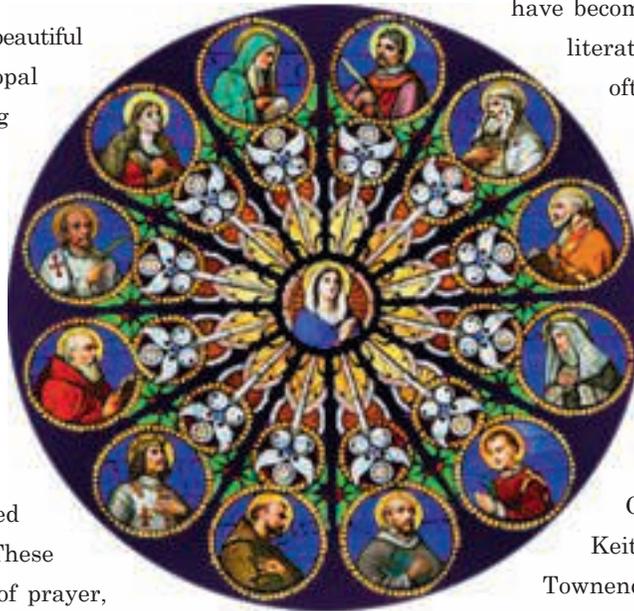
Elizabeth, and John leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb. Canticle 17, The Nunc Dimittis, is the song that the elderly Simeon sang when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the temple. ("Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace. . .") It follows the New Testament lesson. The canticles and the appointed psalm always conclude with the Gloria Patri. In Choral Evensong they are sung by the choir. Much of the liturgy, including the Invitatory (called the "Preces"), Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed, is chanted. The Phos hilaron, "O gracious light", is also sung in this service.

There are many beautiful settings of the "Mag and Nunc", as they are affectionately called, written over the centuries by esteemed English composers such as Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Charles Villiers Stanford and Herbert Howells that

have become standard in the liturgical choral literature. They are called a "Service" and often reference the key in which they are written, such as "Stanford Evening Service in C". Although the Mag and Nunc are separate pieces, the concluding Gloria Patri of each is set the same musically.

The Parish Choir will sing a new setting of the service by pre-eminent contemporary Irish Christian hymn writers/artists Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend. Their hymns, rooted in Irish and Celtic hymnody, are immensely popular in the UK

and now in America since they moved to Nashville in 2006. Their theology is strong, their music appealing. "In Christ Alone", # 115 in our Hickory Neck Hymnal, was their first published hymn and has been voted the #1 most frequently sung hymn in the UK for the past 8 years according to the website, www.gettymusic.com. ✠



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

Please send submissions to nuggets@hickoryneck.org

Share Your time and Talent Through Ministry

By The Reverend Henry P. McQueen

Through the ministries of Hickory Neck Church, God has touched the lives of our parishioners and many others. The story of how God has touched lives was first written at creation and it continues to be written. In October the parish focused on the stewardship of our treasure; in November we look towards sharing our time and talent. As you consider the ministries of Hickory Neck, please take a moment to reflect upon how God has touched your life. Reflect also on how God, through the actions of Hickory Neck, has been able to touch the lives of so many people in our congregation and our community.

Over the past weeks three parishioners have shared with us how God has touched their lives.

John Greenman talked about saying the Daily Office as a way that connects him with God, with his mentor and previous HNC vicar, as well as with the larger church and Anglican Communion. Alan Zoellner shared about the curiosity and joy he found in teaching children about Jesus that led him to

serve for 20 years as a Sunday School teacher. Pete Haines talked about kneeling at the altar to guide a homeless man in the reception of the Eucharist, and how this simple act led him to devote more of his life to helping the less fortunate. Each of these moments was possible through the ministries of Hickory Neck and the commitment of the parishioners to share their time and talent.

In sharing the gifts of time and talent that God has entrusted to you, it is possible for Hickory Neck to continue to write the stories of how God is touching lives. The church is not a building; the church is the people doing God's will in the world. It is only through God and your efforts that Hickory Neck can touch the lives of so many.

Consider participating in a ministry that is new to you; perhaps it is time to share in the leadership of a ministry. Your commitment makes an important difference in the life of the parish and in the lives of so many in our community. ☩



Ring Out the News!

Mark your calendar! On **Sunday, November 22** *Grace Notes* and *Genesis*, the handbell ensembles from Winstead United Methodist Church in Wilson, NC will play the prelude and postlude for our 11:15 service. The evening before, they will be performing at Bruton Parish at 8 p.m. on their Candlelight Concert series. In their 24th year, these groups ring 5 octaves of handbells plus 6 octaves of handchimes, assisting and enhancing church worship services. They especially love to bring their musical offerings to churches such as ours that do not have a handbell program.



Second Sunday Mission

Our Second Sunday Mission collection for November will be for the **Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM)**, whose purpose is "to meet the needs of individuals in the Greater Williamsburg area who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or have other basic needs for assistance." In 2013, GWOM, a coalition of 22 local faith groups, inaugurated a long-term, in-depth "3E Restoration Process" to enable homeless individuals and families to attain full recovery and self-sufficiency. 3E has since incorporated as a separate entity, with several GWOM member faith groups participating.

The most recent project of GWOM is The Harbor, a drop-in/day center which provides the area's homeless with a place of temporary respite and an opportunity to receive a shower and a warm midday meal. The Harbor, located at the St. Bede Outreach Center, will also provide access to computers, stations to charge cell phones and flashlights, and a secure place for people to keep their belongings.

The Harbor will be staffed by volunteers drawn from GWOM member churches, including Hickory Neck. A minimum of five volunteers are needed each day to staff The Harbor. Anyone interested in serving as a volunteer should contact our GWOM representatives, Pete Haines or Dave Hartsough.

Jim Izzo

Bible Challenge from page 1

While a critical reading, which views aspects such as the theological, historical, and social implications of the passage has value, this will not be the approach that we take on our journey. Our approach will be more in line with the intentions of the ancient monastic practice of lectio divina. It is suggested that each person mediate on the text, offer a prayer, and listen for a response. We encourage you to be attentive to what interests you in the passage, what is difficult to hear, how is God speaking to you through the passage. God reveals Himself to us through Holy Scripture; this is an opportunity to witness that revelation.

As a community we will support each other in our journey through prayer, encouragement, and participation in discussions. As part of the Bible Challenge, we will meet weekly to share our insight and our questions, and together we will wrestle with Scripture.

Two years ago, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry encouraged his entire diocese to take the Bible Challenge. He said that it was a challenge worth taking, that it was life changing. Won't you join with the parish and take the Bible Challenge? Contact me or Sue Edwards to commit to this life changing journey. ✠

Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barrèd clouds bloom the soft-dying day
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river-sallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The redbreast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.

From *Ode to Autumn* by John Keats



On **Sunday, 1 November**, we celebrate All Saints and All Souls day. This is a powerful time to remember all those who have gone before us. At each of the three services of Holy Eucharist (8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m.) we will offer an opportunity to tie a ribbon on the altar rail in memory of our loved ones who are no longer with us on our earthly journey. We will also offer a special service of Choral Evensong at 5 p.m. that will include the ribbons of remembrance. Holidays can be a challenging time as we mourn those who have died. All Saints and All Souls is a time to celebrate the lives of those who have been a part of our life; join with our Hickory Neck family and share in this time together.

It is right to give thanks to God each and every day. On **Thanksgiving Day** at 10 a.m. in the Historic Chapel we will take time to offer special thanks for our many blessings during the celebration of Holy Eucharist. Ten a.m. is the perfect time to be able to get the turkey into the oven, come to church, and then be home before the big game starts.

Following our Christmas celebrations, **Sunday, 27 December**, will feature a Service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m. The 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services will be combined to form this 10 a.m. service. The 8 a.m. service will offer a traditional setting of Morning Prayer. Join us for this Christmastide tradition.

Angel Tree

By Nancy Snyder

This year as in years past, we will be supporting the Salvation Army. In early November, our Angel tree will be in the New Chapel Narthex with tags having an individual child's name on each one describing what that child wishes. Please make sure that the Angel Tree Tag is attached to the package when returned. The last date for return of the Angel Tree items is December 10th. The Salvation Army asks that the gifts be unwrapped because of safety issues but you may include wrapping paper with your gifts.

Please understand that these may be the only gifts this child will receive for Christmas so you will want to provide that child with an outfit or two and some toys. If the cost is prohibitive you may want to join with one or two other families to provide for one Angel.

The Salvation Army has asked me to make sure there is a record of each Angel that is adopted from the Tree. *In order to*

*do that, it is **very important** that each person (or persons) adopting an Angel fill out the information on the note pad which will be at the base of the Angel tree. This is the only record anyone will have of the person who has "adopted" an*

Angel. It is also necessary that all items be returned to the church instead of taking the package to the Salvation Army since a new procedure has been instituted by the Salvation Army and there will be a need to add some additional information by the coordinator after the packages are returned to the church.

Please help our needy children in the Williamsburg/Toano Area so that they too will have that special sparkle in their eyes come

Christmas morning!

If you have any questions – either call me at (804)557-3175 or email me at nansteve13@cox.net.



Chaplain's Corner

Advent, a Time of Peaceful Preparation

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday in the liturgical year before we enter the exciting time of Advent. We move from the time of Ordinary to the season of watching and waiting. We move from the normal, to the not so normal, from the sense of having an abundance of time to a realization that time in the calendar year is fast approaching an end, a change. The stories and lessons focus less on the parables and more on the person of Christ, and how He fulfilled the biblical promises we read and learn of in the Old Testament. Our focus also begins to shift from the “normal” Sunday worship routine to a sense of heightened expectancy and excitement. The Advent candles are brought out of storage, and once again take a prominent place in our Church. Each Sunday a new candle is lit, and we count down the time remaining before the blessed event of our Lord’s birth. Plans are formulated for the decorations which will adorn our church walls, doors, windows, and altar, which will help transform our church home into a wonderful visual representation of our shared excitement and joy at this wonderful event in our lives. We’ll come together to clean and polish, wash and wipe down, and generally spruce up things we’ve let slide during the year. Our focus will be on doing and getting ready, preparing in so many ways for this special time.

Yet how much time are we allowing ourselves for quiet and contemplation during this busy season of doing? How much time are we setting aside on a purposeful level to “*be still and know that I am God*”, as Psalm 46:10 reminds us? In Advent, we are called to wait and watch, to pay attention to all the little signs that point towards this great event in our lives, and all of human history. We are called to prepare our hearts and souls, to clean out all the cobwebs and corners of our inner selves, the tabernacles of the Holy Spirit within each one of us, for the coming of this very special person in our lives. As we take time to sweep, clean, polish and decorate our physical structures, let’s not forget to focus some purposeful time on our inner selves, and ready that chamber as well for the celebration.

Let us strive to not be so focused on the outward “*busyness*” of the season that we miss the opportunity to recognize the Savior when He comes, as did the inn keeper in Luke’s account. Let’s take time to sit still, study, watch and reflect on the signs, as did the Magi in Matthew’s account, so that we don’t come to the end of the season without ever feeling like we’ve met this blessed baby in our own hearts. Christ was the supreme gift from God to all of mankind. Let’s make room in our hearts for Him, and then let’s share Him with others through acts of calming presence and joy. ✚



Vestry Highlights

The monthly Vestry meeting took place October 15th in the Wilkinson Center. Father Henry led the group in a meditation and prayer and members shared personal news. Dave Hartsough gave an update on the search process, reporting that the committee has completed reviewing applications and conducting the initial Skype interviews. The discernment committee has identified six excellent candidates whom they will meet and interview in more depth.

Fred Boelt, Treasurer, discussed the monthly financial report, and he and Father Henry also gave an update on the stewardship campaign. The ingathering of pledges is the 18th of October and the celebration will be November 15 with a combined service at 10:00 a.m.; the Men's Breakfast group will cook brunch for all in attendance. The Stewardship Committee is adjusting the Ministry Fair. This year the focus will be on specific ministries and roles that are in need. Ministry leaders will present during coffee hour and parishioners will find out about the specific needs of the parish.

The Vestry had two other ministry reports. Linda Becker gave a report on Parish Life detailing all the recent activities. Alyson Ross has agreed to lead the Foyer Groups and they are progressing well. Game Night, Men's Breakfast, and Book Club continue to meet and there are plans for a special event for the knitting group. Additional help is needed for coffee hour. Gay Forloine reported that there are now 11 areas in the Pastoral Care ministry; they are all meeting needs of parishioners and going well. A new ministry of friendly phone calls has just started and so some individuals will receive quick calls just to check in and give a kind word.

Junior Warden Bill Teale reported on the Fall Festival. Although the final figures are not yet in, it looks like we netted about \$10,000 for outreach. This year was a struggle for a number of reasons, including fewer volunteers and a date that conflicted with other activities. Bill shared a planning sheet that should be considered if we decide to have another festival next year. The vestry discussed the possible timeline and a deadline to make a decision about 2016. The Junior Warden also reported on a new growth committee that has been established and some ideas for making HNC better known in the community.

Senior Warden De Fehrenbach shared information from the Senior Wardens' Day with Bishop Hollerith; the meeting was held at Hickory Neck and 40 wardens from the diocese met for insights and inspiration. Many of the attendees were very impressed with Hickory Neck. Both Bishop Hollerith and Canon Michael Spear-Jones were very complimentary of Father Henry and mentioned their great respect for him and the work he has done at Hickory Neck.

It is also time to make a pledge to the diocese and the vestry briefly discussed the amount given last year and what the ideal 10% pledge would be based on our income. As the HNC budget for next year is developed, the vestry will return to a discussion of the diocesan pledge.

Candidates for the vestry are being identified and information about them will appear in the next issue of the Nuggets.

Father Henry discussed the new Bible Challenge that is being offered and he urged the vestry members and everyone at Hickory Neck to participate.

The next meeting of the vestry will be November 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilkinson Center.

De Fehrenbach



NOVEMBER



CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

2 Dorothy Kirk	18 Terri Lensenmayer
4 Aaron Small	20 Don Faas
6 Bonnie Manning	22 Margene Hartsough
7 Mayes Mathews	23 Robin Eno
7 Penny Schumaker	23 Ray Kindley
9 Barbara Johnson	24 Debbie Coles
11 Brooke Byrd	24 Karly Casanave
12 Henry McQueen	26 Annalise Morris
13 Caroline Turner	29 Nancye Morris
16 Frank Somloi	29 Toni Small
17 Ashley Ferguson	

Anniversaries

4 Mary & Bill Teale
9 Lynn & Bert Geddy
30 Judy & Mark Kintner

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



(09/30/15)

Budget Income	\$323,439.19
YTD Actual Income	\$327,609.36
Budget Expense	\$322,225.09
YTD Actual Expense	\$304,148.76

The income rollercoaster continues: high one month, low the next month. September income was under budget by \$7,275. However, year-to-date, the income is over budget by \$4,170. Pledge and loose plate income are running behind, with non-pledge contributions leading the field.

September expenses were under budget by \$7,356, even after the budget was adjusted to reflect recent personnel changes as well as increases to our diocesan pledge and Discernment Committee funds. Year-to-date, expenses are \$18,076 under budget.

Consequently, at the end of September, we remain in the black by \$23,461.

You will soon receive your 2016 Time and Talent forms in the mail. A pamphlet summarizing the duties for assisting in the various ministry areas will be included this year. Take a few moments to see if there are new areas where you would like to serve. In addition to giving of our treasure, it takes many people doing a variety of tasks to keep the beacon shining brightly on our Holy Hill. Please answer the call; the rewards are great.

Fred Boelt



Carl Gustov Finstrom, Jr.
Died 18 October
Memorial 23 October



Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

Reunification and Healing

The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States (PECUSA) was formally organized in Philadelphia in 1789 as the successor to the Church of England in the American colonies. At that time, a revised – American – version of the Book of Common Prayer was produced. Representative clergy from nine original dioceses met in Philadelphia to ratify the church’s initial constitution. When Virginia’s General Assembly convened in October 1796, the Statute of Religious Freedom became law. Shortly thereafter, representatives from the state’s Episcopal churches met in Richmond. Afterward, Virginia’s churches became part of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

In 1861 when the Civil War began, Episcopalians in the South broke away and formed their own Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America (PECCSA). However, during the summer of 1865, a few months after the war was over, Presiding Bishop John Henry Hopkins of the PECUSA sent a letter to each of the PECCSA’s bishops, inviting them to assume what he called their “proper place” at the General Convention to be held in October. The bishops of North Carolina and Arkansas and delegations from the dioceses of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas decided to attend. When the Council of the Diocese of Virginia convened in September 1865, the Right Rev. John Johns expressed his preference for reunification; however, no action was taken. Instead, Virginia’s Council decided to wait until the PECCSA’s General

Council convened in Atlanta in November. At that time, the General Council’s delegates decided that each diocese had the right to decide whether it would withdraw from PECCSA and join PECUSA. When Virginia’s Council met in May, the vote for reunification passed 93 to 20. That decision followed a heated debate that lasted for two days and culminated in a lengthy period of silent prayer. Virginia was the last Southern diocese to make a decision. By May 1866 all of the dioceses in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America had decided to rejoin the national church. ✠



John Johns, 4th Bishop of Virginia, 15th president of The College of William & Mary, and president of Virginia Theological Seminary. Portrait by James Reid Lambdin.



HNC

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Celebration Sunday Set for November 15

Recent

comments have told us that this parish loves to come together for worship and for a celebration. On 15 November we can offer both of these joyous moments; worship will be offered at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.; the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services will be combined. Also combined on that morning will be the Parish Choir and the Choral Scholars. All of these wonderful voices will unite in song.

Following our 10 a.m. service we will have a parish-wide celebration featuring brunch and fellowship; we will have a meal worthy of a celebration.

There is so much in the life of this parish that is worthy of a celebration. While stewardship is truly a daily event, our activities culminated this October with an abundance of pledges on Commitment Sunday and then in November we will make a commitment of our time and talent. While we can not yet celebrate the calling of a new rector, we can celebrate the hard work and prayerful discernment of our search committee: work that is unseen though infinitely valuable. We can celebrate the parish leadership that continues to lead us with vitality in times of transition. We can celebrate Thanksgiving Day, just a little bit early and before the holiday rush intervenes. We can celebrate God's glory and be thankful that we have been brought together into this holy community.

Mark 15 November on your calendar; prepare for a celebration. Bring your family, bring your friends, notice someone who has not been in church lately – call him or her. Celebrations just get better with each additional person.

The Rev. Henry P. McQueen