



# Hickory Neck Nuggets

September 2015

## Blessings

By The Rev. Earnest Graham

One of the final acts of our worship service is to pronounce a blessing before we depart into the world to be the people of God—transformed by word and sacrament. I often wonder— what is a blessing? Is it magic—a special word intended to guard and protect you as you face the world? Is it a wish for health, prosperity or success? Are we blessed when we have such things? Are we not blessed when we do not? Or is there something more to a blessing?

The biblical Greek word, 'Makarios', can be translated as blessed or happy. When Jesus uses this word in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-10), the circumstances invite us to see blessing in a new light. "Blessed are the poor in spirit... those who mourn... the meek... those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... the merciful... the pure in heart... the peacemakers... the ones persecuted for righteousness sake... and those reviled for following Jesus." We do not typically associate these with happiness. And yet, for those who dare to enter these territories with the light of faith, there is a blessing in each. For Jesus, it is a blessing to know the presence and love of God in all circumstances of life, and not just those

rare occasions when we appear to be favored. A blessing is the power of God to transform any experience of life into an opening for God to be present with us in our trials and our triumphs. I believe that Jesus knew that blessing as he faced the cross, and through it, he blessed all of humanity and creation.

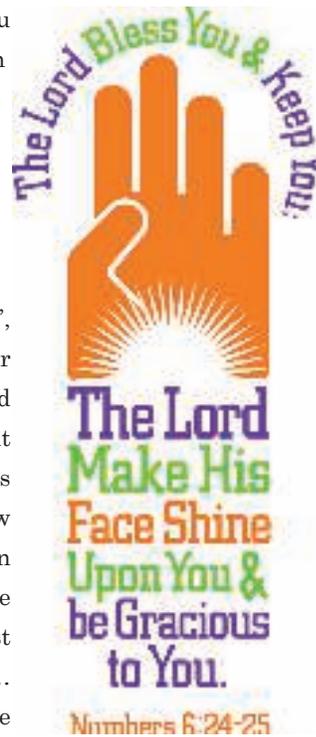
It has been a blessing to walk with you all at Hickory Neck for this brief season as Interim Rector, to share your joys and pains, and to pray with you and for you. You have touched my life and heart, and I am thankful for the light I see shining brightly in this community. You are blessed, because God is with you.

And so, as I prepare to go forth into the world to minister in the church in new ways as a Regional Canon in the diocese of North Carolina, I pray that the Peace of God, which

passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the Blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now, and forevermore.

Peace,

*Earnest+*



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# Sarabande

By Sarah Ford Bland

*“So will I ever sing praises to thy name, as I pay my vows day after day.” Ps. 61:8*

“I’m thinking about joining the choir at church.”

“Oh. . . it would tie us down on the weekends.”

“Yeah, I know. I’ve thought about that and I’ve thought of other things, too. Going to rehearsals when tired, being away from home another night each week, not sitting with our family in church. But it’s something I think I would like to do.”

—from *Please Don’t Ask Me to Sing in the Choir* by Thomas Are, Hope Publishing.

Would YOU like to join the choir? Would YOU like to belong to a supportive, caring group of faithful men and women who share a love of singing and serving God through their song? The Parish Choir always welcomes new members. Our new singing season is about to begin, and this is the perfect time to try us out. As the choir continues to grow, we are able to expand our music repertoire and broaden our musical

outreach. In addition to our regular worship schedule, plans for the coming year include an All Saints Choral Vespers Service, Christmas Lessons and Carols, a concert at a local nursing home and a possible ecumenical choral festival with other upper county churches in the spring.

Parish Choir rehearsals are every Wednesday from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the New Chapel beginning September 2. We sing in worship at the 9:00 a.m. service on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month beginning September 6. Please contact Sarah Bland at church or at home (229-6381) if you are interested.



## Blessings Abound

Watch for these upcoming events:

**6 September** - all three services: the Blessing of the Backpacks and Briefcases

**13 September** - all three services: the commissioning of Sunday School Teachers

**4 October** – 4 p.m. - the Feast of Saint Francis and the Blessing of the Animals



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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](mailto:nuggets@hickoryneck.org)

# Second Sunday Mission

By The Rev. Henry P. McQueen

**Chanco on the James** – it is more than you think. For some, it is summer camp; for others, it is a parish retreat, and to others it is Cursillo. Chanco on the James is the diocesan retreat center, and it is a treasure located just across the James River, near the Jamestown/Scotland Ferry. The Second Sunday Mission offering for September will go to Chanco. These funds may help provide a scholarship to summer camp for someone who has never been to camp before. It may improve the meeting facilities or assure that the best staff is available to make your retreat experience a blessing. If you have been to Chanco on the James, you understand what a spiritual blessing it is; if you have not, you owe it to yourself to discover what you are missing.



## Transition Update

As you all know, Father Earnest will be leaving us at the end of August. His presence here at Hickory Neck has been a blessing as he helped us through the most challenging part of our transition. His last Sunday will be August 30th, and we will take a few minutes during coffee hour to express our thanks and wish him well. I hope you will be able to join us.

Father Henry and I have been in contact with Michael Spear-Jones, who has informed us that Bishop Hollerith thinks we are far enough into our transition and search process that the Vestry and Father Henry will be able to lead Hickory Neck until the new Rector is called. There will be more information in September. Thank you for your support and prayers for Father Earnest, Father Henry, and for Hickory Neck, as we take the next steps in our journey.

De Fehrenbach, Senior Warden

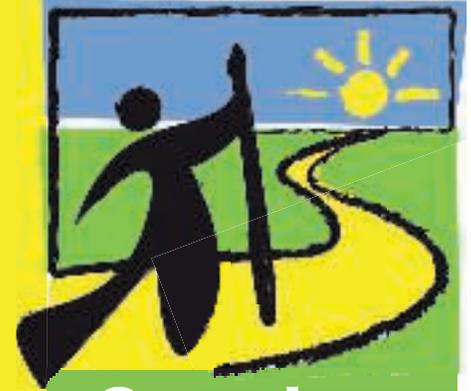
The Discernment Committee continues to receive applications for our rector position. We thank all who are sending applicants our way and ask that you continue to send anyone who you think may be an excellent fit for our church to the committee. We have decided to extend the deadline for applications until September 30. After this date, we have a three-tiered interview process. First, we interview qualified candidates via Skype/conference call. Next, we narrow down the candidate pool to those we will meet in person. In most instances, we anticipate several Committee members will travel to see the candidate in his or her current environment. Finally, we will narrow down the candidate pool to a few finalists that we will meet with in the Hickory Neck community. Thank you for your continued prayers and, as always, we are honored to serve Hickory Neck's congregation through this committee.

Juliana Morris, Discernment Committee

**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)**

Sunday school plans are underway. Registration will be held on August 30 and September 6. Once again we will have a "Godly Play" class for children up through second grade. Children in grades 3-5 will continue study with the curriculum "Weaving God's Promises." The first day of Sunday school classes will be September 13. On the same day, Children's Chapel will begin during the 9 a.m. service.

The Youth Group will resume regular meetings on Sunday, September 13, from 6-8 p.m. in the Wilkinson Center. The group is open to youth in grades 6-12, and friends are welcome to join us. The group will offer times for fun and fellowship, opportunities to learn and grow spiritually, and to serve others in our community... in other words, to practice the shape of Christian life.



## Sunday School and Youth

## Healing Ministry

By Christine Hanlon

We recently held a half-day retreat at Hickory Neck, with Father Graham leading us through some much needed quiet time and meditation. We came to the conclusion that we should share what it means to some of us to be a part of this wonderful healing ministry.

Here are some of the thoughts about our ministry that may give you a little bit of insight into what it is all about; you may even wish to give it a try. Remember that Healing Ministers hold all information in **strict confidence**. This means that, no matter what the request or situation may be, it is all **sacred**.

• "When we clear our minds, the Holy Spirit can step right in and take over with the right words every time."

• "When we let go and let God, there is little or no effort involved on our part when praying for/with others."

• "When I breathe and relax, I am able to be calm and hear the prayer request - everything that comes after that is what is truly meant to be heard by the person I am praying for/with - they are not my words."

• "Personally, I receive far more than I give when praying for someone, but then this is how God's wonderful grace works."

• "We are truly blessed tenfold when we serve in this ministry."

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Healing Minister, please contact Father Henry.



# A New Name for our Evolving Praise Band

by Laurie Brown

Back in 1998 when Phyllis Faas joined Hickory Neck Church, Father Jim Kellett visited her home to get to know her and her husband Don better. When he saw a guitar and piano, he encouraged her to contact church member Nancy Aschiero. Phyllis recalls, "The next thing I knew, I was playing my guitar with Nancy and Mary Jo Smith!" Soon, the 3 guitarists were joined by Bill Long on guitar and eventually, Don Seeterlin playing the washtub bass! Sue Banks and her recorder joined the group a short time later.

With many Cursillistas\* in the pews who enjoyed expanding their worship repertoire beyond the covers of the Hymnal 1982, the little band was well received. The congregation, which already filled the pews beyond capacity in those days of rapid growth, seemed to overflow with the Holy Spirit as we embraced "The Barnyard Buddies." It was a country church, after all, and the close-knit congregation reveled in the spirit of fun and fellowship the band brought to our worship services. Secure in our love for God and respect for our rich liturgical tradition, we exuberantly expressed our joy in the good news of the gospel through music.

As the years passed, the band introduced more and more music, and Nancy created what we now know as the Hickory Neck Hymnal. Additional musicians playing a variety of instruments came and went from the group, including a few vocalists by 2010. Now known as the Hickory Neck Praise Band with as many as 9 members, organizing the group became a big job. Sue Banks and Phyllis Faas agreed to share the duties of musical and logistical leadership, helping the group to make the most of its rehearsal time and encouraging each member to grow musically.

With vocalists leading the congregation on the melodies and talented harmonies joining the mix, the band could include more challenging pieces. The name "Hickory Neck Praise Band" just didn't seem to fit any more. Most churchgoers today associate the term "praise band" with a particular style of contemporary worship song. While we do include praise music, it seemed an inadequate description for the breadth of music that our congregation enjoys. On any given Sunday, we might do Anglican and Celtic hymns, gospel, folk, Taize, or praise songs.



*Forgiven and Free, Front Row: Don Seeterlin, Sue Banks, Phyllis Faas; Back Row: Paul Casanave, Laurie Brown, Jim Ball, Andy Miskovich.*

For more than a year, the 7 current members of the band have prayed about a name that would represent us well. After considering a long list of possible names, we realized that we are each so grateful for God's mercy and forgiveness in our lives that we would like to be known as "Forgiven and Free."

If you haven't heard "Forgiven and Free" lately, you might be pleasantly surprised. The band leads the service music on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at the 9 a.m. service. Instruments include guitars, recorder, string bass, bodhran, upright dulcimer, musical saw, and bowed psaltry. "Forgiven and Free" rehearses at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings, either in the church or the parish house. We welcome musicians and vocalists to visit our rehearsals to learn more about the band and how they might join our ministry.

\*A Cursillista is a person who has attended a Cursillo event. Visit [www.cursillodsv.org](http://www.cursillodsv.org) to learn about Cursillo in our diocese.



Reflecting on a Bible story with bricks



# Vacation Bible School 2015

## Children Called by God: Building Faith Brick by Brick



Teen volunteers



The ukulele band



Arts and crafts



Taking aim at Goliath



Preschool Bible story

# Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

***Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. Psalm 147:5***

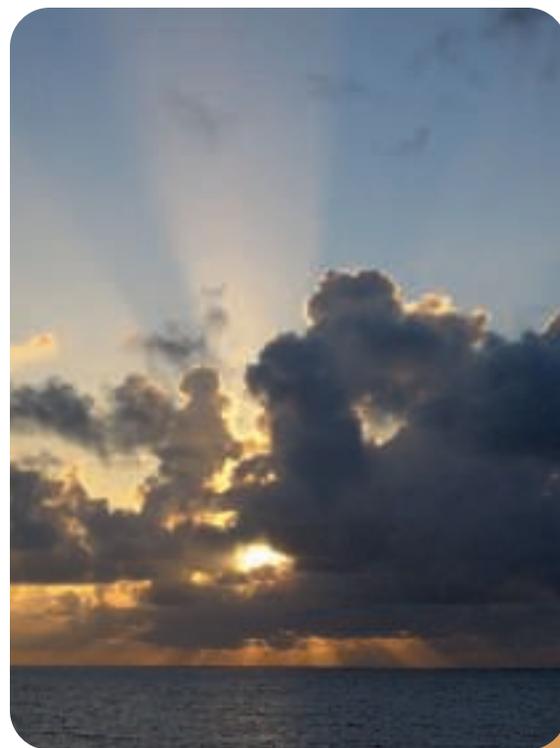
God's power and might are beyond our understanding or ability to even imagine. His ways are not necessarily our ways, and His thoughts are so far beyond our understanding that many times we may not recognize the answer to our prayers until later, even much later. As a regular visitor to the hospital, I am blessed to witness many miracles. Many times these miracles come wrapped up in everyday attire, such as when a patient grows stronger and healthier against all odds, or when a person comes in suffering cardiac arrest, and walks out with a new lease on life, or even, when I met my wife.

Robin and I met on a blind date. She was a country girl from rural Virginia, and I was a young, somewhat reckless soldier from outside of Pontiac, Michigan. She was interested in staying close to home, and I was in the process of getting an early discharge to return home. There are too many variables here to ignore, too many places where if one thing hadn't lined up with another, the end would have been different. But God, in all His awesome wisdom and freely shared grace, had mercy on us, and despite all odds, brought us together. He did this in creative ways completely beyond my understanding, but He used the normal events and laws of physics to bring this about. He does this every day, in ways so vast and yet so common, I believe we overlook most of them because they do not bear the earmarks of the Hollywood blockbuster miracles. God, author of the laws of the universe in which we live, still

continues to **create** and bless to this very moment. Look around Church, and see how many people you can count who wouldn't be with us without the wonders of modern medicine. Think about the broken lives you've witnessed being mended through time and new healing relationships. What about the wonders of love and companionship we experience in our pets, which in a real way become much more to us; they become members of our family.

The God we worship is not a God who is restrained by any of our natural laws, or understanding of their parameters. He is able to continually step around them and help us in our earthly journeys. He is not a reactive God, simply reacting to our actions. He is a constantly **creating** God, bringing good and wonder out of things where we see only defeat or the absence of good. Look at what He did with the Cross.

I urge you to take a moment or two, look around at all that surrounds you, all that you may see as common or ordinary in your everyday life, and I bet you too will see a miracle you may have overlooked. ✚



SEPTEMBER



## Birthdays

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

## 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](mailto:Nuggets@hickoryneck.org)*



(07/31/15)

Budget Income	\$252,119.37
YTD Actual Income	\$256,510.49
Budget Expense	\$252,952.89
YTD Actual Expense	\$244,513.53

For a mid-summer month, July proved to be very positive financially. Income for the month was over budget by \$1,543, and year-to-date, over budget by \$4,391. We express appreciation to those of you who have kept your pledges up to date, and also to those of you who have been sending in your contributions even while away.

Even with sizeable HVAC and insurance payments, July expenses were over budget by only \$23. Year-to-date, they continue to be well under budget by \$8,439. Consequently, we ended in the black by \$11,996.96. Additionally, with designated contributions, we made an extra payment of \$1,500 to the principal of our mortgage, bringing the outstanding balance down to \$166,655 as of August 1st.

Labor Day approaches and will be followed by "back to school" for our younger parishioners. This also signals the return of our Parish Choir and Choral Scholars. Christian Formation classes begin anew and our annual Fall Festival will be held on September 19th. Renewed chances for serving in our various ministries abound at this time of year. It is important that each one of us share our Time, Talent and Treasure at Hickory Neck. After all, it is the sum total of these three resources that keeps our light shining brightly, sending forth beams of hope from our Holy Hill.

Fred Boelt



**Confirmation:**  
Carl Finstrom, 7 June

**Baptism:**  
Frankie Alexandra Boelt,  
15 August  
(granddaughter of Fred)



# Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

## A Stroll Through Time

One man who strolled by eighteenth-century Hickory Neck Church was Christopher Colles, who, in the late 1780s, traveled on foot from Annapolis to Williamsburg, laying out the new nation's postal routes, mile by mile. He drew upon the work of two military cartographers, Simeon DeWitt and Robert Erskine, and the itinerary used by Rochambeau's Army on its way to and from Yorktown in 1781-1782. An ingenious man, Colles was an Irish-born engineer and surveyor. To measure the mileage accurately, he used a perambulator or surveyor's wheel, an instrument that he had designed and built himself. His book, *A Survey of Roads of the United States*, consisted of a set of strip maps, two or three to a page, showing the major routes between Albany, New York, and Yorktown, Virginia, a distance of around 1,000 miles. Each of Colles' maps, which identified well known landmarks such as taverns, river crossings, and urban communities, covered a distance of approximately 12 miles. Colles used a directional arrow that pointed north, but the mile numbers on his maps reveal that he was traveling south. He had intended to extend his coverage as far as New

England by selling maps to travelers, but a shortage of funds brought his project to a close.

When Christopher Colles mapped the postal route that followed Richmond Road, he identified what he called "Hickory Nut Church." He also depicted the beginning of another road just south of the church, a small byway that extended in an easterly direction toward Ware Creek. On an adjacent map panel and to the south of Hickory Neck, Colles showed the site of the "Burnt Brick Ord" that stood at the intersection of the forerunners of Route 60 and Old Forge Road, where the farmers market is now located. Several miles to the south was Allen's Ordinary, at the intersection we call Lightfoot. To the north of the church and approximately three-quarters of a mile away was another road that ran in the direction of Ware Creek and above that was Doncastle's Byrd's Ordinary, a country inn frequented by Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson. Christopher Colles' Survey was the first comprehensive road atlas published in the United States. He was neither the first nor the last mapmaker to use Hickory Neck as a point of reference. ❀





**HNC**

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**How has God  
touched your life?**

**Stewardship 2016**