



Hickory Neck Nuggets

December 2015/January 2016

'Tis the Season

By The Rev. Henry P. McQueen

The holidays are always a busy time; Hickory Neck is no exception with many services planned throughout the season. We like to think that the many services offer not confusion but multiple opportunities for slowing down and coming into the presence of the Lord.

Advent begins this year on 29 November. As an additional Advent candle is lit each week our quiet anticipation of the coming of Christ draws nearer. There will be an Advent Quiet Morning on Saturday, 12 December; this guided series of meditations will provide a respite from the hectic pace of the season. On Sunday, 20 December at the 9 a.m. service our youth group and Sunday school children will offer a unique interpretation of the Christmas Story. This Christmas Pageant will be a joy to behold.

Before we know it, 24 December will be upon us. Christmas Eve offers three

opportunities to worship and share in Holy Eucharist at Hickory Neck. There will be a service at 5 p.m. in the New Chapel with full choir. A small choral ensemble will sing at the 8 p.m. service, also held in the New Chapel. Finally, at 11 p.m. in the Historic Chapel we will hold a candlelight service with choral ensemble. On Christmas Day, a simple said service of Eucharist will be offered at 10 a.m. in the Historic Chapel. Each of these services offers time to reflect and celebrate the uniqueness of the season of Christmas.

Christmastide is 12 days long so please enjoy each day of the celebration.

The 1st Sunday of Christmas, 27 December,

brings us back to our tradition of Morning Prayer at the 8 a.m. service. Lessons and Carols will be celebrated at a combined 10 a.m. service.

Epiphany will be celebrated at 7 p.m. in the Historic Chapel on Thursday, 6 January. On



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Sarabande

By Sarah Ford Bland

Advent and Christmas services in 2015 promise to be filled with beautiful music from our parish musicians! As we have done for the past two years at the 9:00 service, the Parish Choir and Forgiven and Free (our praise band) will switch off Sundays so that the Sunday after Christmas we can offer Lessons and Carols at a combined 10:00 service. The Parish Choir will lead worship for Advent 1 (Nov. 29) and Advent 3 (Dec.13), Forgiven and Free for Advent 2 (Dec. 6) and Advent 4 (Dec. 20). Our 11:15 Advent services will have special music by parishioners and guests when the Choral Scholars are on break.

Of special interest for our congregation is a Community Christmas Service at Williamsburg Christian Academy on Sun. Dec. 13 at 6:30. The ministers of the upper county churches are organizing this ecumenical service of lessons and carols. Our Parish Choir is excited to be taking part in this!

Our Christmas Eve services will all have a choral presence. The Parish Choir will lead worship at the 5 p.m. family Eucharist. Both the 8 p.m. (New Chapel) and 11:00 p.m. (Historic Chapel) services will have a “pick-up” choir. All services will feature an extended prelude of organ carols interspersed with congregational carols led by the choir. Here’s your chance to sing some of your favorites that we get to sing only during the 12 days of Christmas! Let me know if there is a special carol that you would like us to sing on Christmas Eve, either beforehand during our “carol sing” or during worship.



Season from p. 1

the following Sunday, 10 January, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Should anyone be considering it, this is a very appropriate day for a baptism.

New for our celebrations this season will be a Holy Hike on Saturday, 23 January. A walk in the woods will bring us into closer contact with creation as we celebrate Communion along the path and among the trees.

The Last Sunday of Epiphany is 7 February, which means that our Lenten journey begins on Wednesday 10 February. Until that time, enjoy the rhythm of the Christmas season; first the quiet waiting of Advent followed by the 12 day celebration of the birth of Christ. This is a joyous time, a time to be drawn into the folds of the Church to celebrate. We look forward to celebrating with you. ✠

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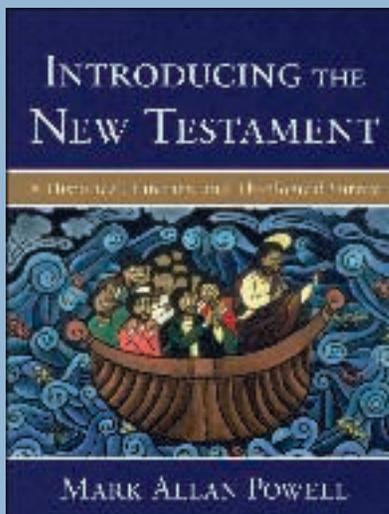
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month, except June and December. Items received after this date will be considered for publication in a future issue.

Please send submissions to nuggets@hickoryneck.org



The Youth Group shows off their pumpkin-carving prowess.

The **Tuesday Night Adult Education** will be starting a new study using the text book *Introducing the New Testament: A Historical, Literary, and Theological Survey* by Mark Allan Powell as the basis for a reading and discussion starting in mid-January of 2016. This text, currently being used by the Education for Ministry course, will be an academic or scholarly study, versus a confessional or devotional study of the Bible. Contact Susan Banks at sam.banks@cox.net for a detailed summary and more information.

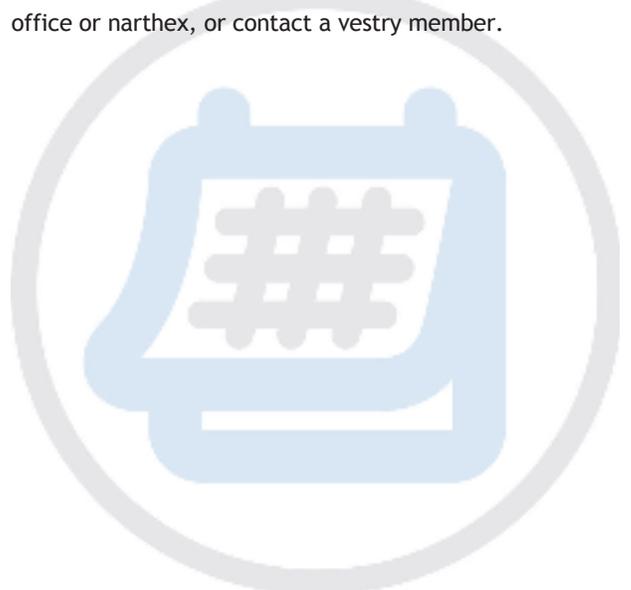


Upcoming Events

Our “**Bible Challenge**,” a pilgrimage through scripture, begins on Monday, 30 November. Over two dozen parishioners are taking this pilgrimage and will be reading the entire Bible in a year. It is not too late to join these friends along their journey. The schedule of readings is available at the church or on the website thecenterforbiblicalstudies.org. Please keep all who participate in the Bible Challenge in your prayers to support them along their journey.

Advent Quiet Morning will offer an opportunity to escape, at least temporarily, the rush of the season. On Saturday morning, 12 December, beginning at 9 a.m. we will offer a series of guided meditations along with the quiet time and space needed to reflect on the readings. These few hours are intended to provide refreshment and centering so that we can all approach the season in the light of its true meaning, in the Light of Christ.

Our ministries are very important to the life of the parish and the community. In January we will offer opportunities on three different Sundays to highlight a few of our ministries. On 10, 24, and 31 January, specific ministries will be the focus of displays and discussions so that needs can be highlighted and so that you can prayerfully consider offering your time and talent towards these ministries. Not all of our ministries will be explored during this time, though each is important. For information on the other ministries consult our HNC Ministry Guide, available in the office or narthex, or contact a vestry member.



The Beautiful Words of Morning Prayer

By Mary Teale

Three years ago Fr. Henry talked about the service of Morning Prayer, describing the powerful image of people around the world, praying at the same time at the start of day, resulting in a column of gratitude and joy rising to heaven. He wondered if there might be some individuals at Hickory Neck who would like to be the lay leaders in such a service.

Five responded at once – Tom Gee, John Greenman, Pete Haines, Mark Kintner and me. Eventually, Curtis Johnson volunteered as well. Since that date, Morning Prayer has been conducted Monday through Friday, rain or shine, including most national holidays, at 8:15 am in the Historic Chapel. Few people have attended other than the lay leaders. There have been times when the lay leader is there alone. Even one is sufficient. The thin column of prayer still rises.

Perhaps you might be interested in my own experience in this ministry. There was a learning period that is on-going, in which I had to figure out the order of the service, the psalms, the lessons and the collects which alternate with the yearly cycle, the week of the year and the day of the week.

The calendar in the front of the Prayer Book shows Holy Days and commemorative days for individuals who have influenced the development of the church in all parts of the world throughout history. Take January, for instance: Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, 367; Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095; Fabian, bishop and martyr of Rome, 250; Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts, 1893; John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407 and Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Friar, 1274. Material and special collects are available for these entries and may be introduced into the regular daily services.

Then there was the mastery of when to sit, when to stand, how fast to read and the use of the prayer book's colored ribbons to allow quick access to various passages. Remember to give the congregation a chance to find the page number in the prayer book before moments of group participation. Take off my eye glasses while listening to the lessons so that I am not distracted by my eye falling to the written page, which is my preferred avenue of

learning. Allow generous time for moments of silent prayer for intercession and thanksgiving. Look up occasionally. Feel the beautiful words.

Although the rotation of leaders is not perfectly predictable, my schedule is such that Tuesday is my preferred day. I love Tuesday readings – the Jubilate with its commands “Be joyful”, “Know this”, “Enter his gates” and Cantic 13 Benedictus es, giving glory to God wherever he sits, whether in his temple, or seated between the cherubim, or in the high vault of heaven. Glory, glory, glory; the repetition is powerful. And, finally, Cantic 18 Dignus es accords honor to God who has redeemed “from every family, language, people and nation a kingdom of priests...” All of us are part of that kingdom. It is quite definite. All.



Photo by Mary Teale

I have several other favorite parts of the service. Curtis Johnson usually volunteers to read the Old Testament lesson. The rest of us are grateful for his choice as it is amazing how many passages are devoted to the lineage of the central character or the exact geographical location of the passage. Biblical names do not fall easily from the tongue. Thank you, Curtis, for your

perseverance. The Psalms rotate in cycles. In the early days of our Morning Prayer ministry, Pete Haines said that he loved the beginning of Psalm 62 – “For God alone my soul in silence waits.” I think of Pete whenever I say these words. And finally, I indulge myself in choosing the traditional form of the Lord’s Prayer in which the use of the soft “thee” and “thy” come naturally to me, raised in a Quaker community. It may be archaic but I like it; the different usage elevates the language to a special plane.

A lasting gift to me is the fellowship of the lay leaders. Every day when I arrive for the service, Curtis is waiting in the front row. He has lighted the candles. The others come in, and we talk for a few minutes before we fall silent. The service begins. Each brings his special talents for reading or interpretation to the morning. Afterwards, different hands put away the candles and complete the Record Book. I like every bit of it. ☦

2 Second Sunday Mission

Our Second Sunday collection in December will be for **Community of Faith Mission (COFM)**, “a faith-based, non-governmental low barrier emergency shelter ministry which, through the efforts of volunteers, provides emergency shelter and food on a weekly basis from November through March for men, women, and families who are homeless in the greater Williamsburg, Virginia area,” according to its website.

“Community of Faith Mission (COFM) was established in August, 2012, because of a dire need to provide assistance for homeless individuals. Conceived by the Homeless Ministry at Saint Bede Catholic Church, the faith community quickly came together to support the Mission. COFM has the support of many county and city officials as well as community groups and individuals. In November of 2012, COFM successfully launched its first season of winter emergency shelter, offering 12 weeks of shelter to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families in the greater Williamsburg area.”

“In 2013 COFM expanded the number of weeks provided from 12 to 18 weeks. As of July 2013, Community of Faith Mission, Inc. became governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a diverse group of individuals from our faith community and other community professionals. The program is managed entirely by volunteers.”

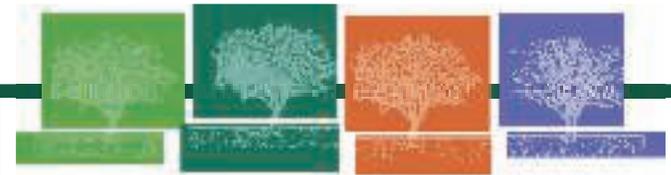
Hickory Neck will participate again in 2016, beginning on February 1. Volunteers are needed for various duties at various times on February 1, 3, and 5, at Saint Martin’s Episcopal Church. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. Contact Gerry Hassig at (703) 855-8392 or gerry.hassig@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Jim Izzo

Transition Update

November was a busy and exciting month for the Discernment Committee. After an initial round of Skype interviews, we had the opportunity to meet with several rector candidates in person here in Williamsburg. The next step will be to visit a few of those priests at their current parishes. After that, it's decision time.

We appreciate the support of the congregation and ask for your continued prayers as we enter this next stage in our discernment process.



2016 Annual Meeting

It has been an important year at Hickory Neck and we look forward to an exciting 2016. On Sunday, January 17, 2016, the Hickory Neck parish family will come together for our annual meeting. Sometimes annual meetings might seem business as usual and perfunctory, but this year we will review our year of transition and look forward to our promising future. The morning will include the state of the parish, a budget review and the election and installation of our new vestry members.

Please come; you won't want to miss the ending and the new beginning.

Vestry Nominees

Nominees for the Vestry were asked to address two questions:

- What does it mean to be a member of Hickory Neck Church?
- What do you feel you can contribute to the leadership of Hickory Neck?



**Alyson
Radcliffe Ross**

When I think of Hickory Neck, I think of community. I realized there was something different about this church the first time Jim and I attended. Being shy, (believe it or not) we tried to slip away after the service. But some members of the church weren't going to let us get away with doing that. They stopped us, asked questions, chatted, and made us feel welcome. This was so different from what happened at other churches to which we had belonged that we were a bit taken aback. But it was wonderful and this behavior kept us coming back. The longer we belong to Hickory Neck, the more strongly I feel this sense of belonging. I see it when we exchange the Peace with one another. I see it in the way we deliver the Eucharist to those who can't attend services and in the other ways we help each other in times of stress or illness and death. And I certainly see it in the amazing friendships we have made over the years.

While I feel this closeness and community, I have become aware that there are many in our church who don't share this feeling. I also have become aware that there are competing opinions as to the direction in which the church should head and in how we should reach out to others to spread the Gospel. This is a time of tremendous potential for Hickory Neck, but a time that could become one of travail if we don't move to build consensus. This is one area in which I believe I can play a helpful role.

I believe that one of my personal strengths is my ability to help people develop concrete goals and formulate plans to meet those goals. In doing this, I coach people to see other persons' points of view, understand those views, and reach compromise to turn the dreams we have into reality. If ever there is a time for this skill, it appears to be now. As we choose a new rector we are essentially entering the next phase of our parish's life and we need to pull together, not apart.

I bring other strengths, such as years of experience in law, business and finance, to the table, and these can also result in positive contributions to the church's present and future.

I hope that you will consider me to be a positive addition to the leadership of Hickory Neck Church and look forward to serving you.



Aaron Small

To provide answers to both of these questions, I went back and reviewed my original Vestry nomination blurb I wrote back in January of 2002. Toni and I had just moved back to Williamsburg 2 years prior and we had only one child at the time (the twins would come along about 8 months later). Back then, Hickory Neck was

going through some interesting changes: we were in the midst of a search for a new Rector and we were cramped for space in the historic Chapel with little room and resources for growth. At the time, there were only a few young families and if we were lucky, we would seat 80 parishioners on a Sunday (combined). Although I was relatively new to Hickory Neck and only just completed confirmation, two vestry members convinced me to run for the Vestry since they knew of my skills as an engineer and my enthusiasm for the church.

Serving on the Vestry was not what I had originally expected. Initially, it did have the effect of what is known in government

as working at the sausage factory. Seeing it firsthand you learn what goes into creating and making the product and it is not always appetizing and sometimes very messy, but the ultimate result is very delicious. Fortunately, being on Vestry also allowed me to grow spiritually and come much closer to God than I ever expected. I even read the Bible for the first time, cover to cover. People I worked with noticed that I had taken a much more reflective position with more compassion about issues than before and I credit Hickory Neck for bringing forth that change in me. Since then, the Church has allowed me to use my skills on managing the building of the new chapel and then in working with the youth in Sunday School for the past 8-9 years. I can honestly say that through these efforts, I have witnessed God's handiwork, both directly and indirectly.

Fast forward to 2015 and you see that, although much has changed at Hickory Neck, history has repeated itself. Again, we are in the search for a new Rector, resources are starting to get scarce, and there are few young families. Now seems like the right time to once again heed God's calling to serve on the Vestry of Hickory Neck Church. My prior experience on the Vestry as well as my skills and contacts in the community could be of great assistance in the coming years as we bring on a new Rector and help him or her become part of us. This critical time is when we best can gather together for the glory of God and spread the good news of Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Alan Zoellner

in the words of the Book of Common Prayer, "the happy mean between too much stiffness in refusing and too much easiness in admitting variations in things once advisedly established." Membership at Hickory Neck provides structure to my life and places me in a tradition of folks who have faithfully sought to live a good life. Beyond that, it means I am responsible, like every other member, to do what I can to help it endure and prevail.

For me, a person raised in the Lutheran Church and educated in a Lutheran-affiliated college, church became something to get away from. I stayed away for 20 years. Eventually I found myself looking for something sturdy in a slippery world. Sturdy but not rigid. The Episcopal Church in general, and Hickory Neck in particular, represent for me,

At a time when presidential campaigns are wending their endless way through newspapers, airwaves and Interwaves with promises of great leadership abilities, I find it difficult to examine myself and uncover such stirring stuff. The ears grow weary. Nevertheless, here's what I can offer

I have attended services at HNC for 25 years under a variety of service leaders—rectors, associate rectors, interim rectors—and service styles. I taught in the church school program for two decades and managed to keep up with the energy level of our youngest members. It will always seem to me more satisfying to discuss Bible stories with 5, 6, and 7 year olds than debate budget priorities with grownups, but I am prepared to make that adjustment.

I am more a listener than a talker. I try to understand the other guy's point and look for compromise when conflict arises. I am open to change but respect tradition. I hope these are useful contributions to a leadership team at a time when Hickory Neck faces the challenge of adjusting to a new rector, while resolving questions of limited resources, aging membership, competing priorities, and differing worship preferences.



From the Parish Nurse

The Christmas holiday season is a special time. It is a time of love, peace, and joy. Unfortunately, for many it can be a time of overwhelming stress and depression. With some advanced planning, you can minimize unwelcome holiday stress on your physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

- **Acknowledge your feelings.** If you can't be with family and loved ones or if someone close to you has died, if you've lost your job, recently divorced, suffered recent or worsening illness, accept that it is normal to feel sadness and grief. If you feel lonely or isolated, reach out to others for companionship and support. Sharing your feelings with those with whom you can talk is one of the most beneficial things you can do to reduce stress.
- **Be realistic.** The holidays don't have to be perfect. Families and situations change, and often rituals and traditions do as well. Be open to changing traditions or starting new ones if the old ones cause stress or no longer nourish your spirit. Be understanding of others who get upset if something doesn't go as planned. They might be feeling holiday stress and depression also.
- **Set financial goals and priorities before you go shopping for gifts and food.** This is an opportunity to change from trying to please everyone on your gift list with expensive gifts to starting a family gift exchange. Planning menus in advance and getting help with party or meal preparation and cleanup gives you more time to enjoy the festivities. Remember, God blessed rest as much as work.

- **Learn to say no.** Make time for yourself and you'll have more to share with others. Just 15 minutes alone without distractions may leave you feeling relaxed and refreshed. Saying "yes" when you should say "no" adds to your stress and leads to resentment. Set aside time for holiday activities and visiting. Everyone needs down time.
- **Keep healthy habits in sight.** Increase your energy and sense of well-being with plenty of sleep, exercise, and good nutrition. Party safely! Overindulgence with alcoholic drinks and overeating high carb/ high fat/ high sugar treats creates guilt and stress.
- **Get professional help if you need it.** If you develop new or worsening physical problems, or if you are unable to sleep, or become persistently irritable, have feelings of overwhelming anxiety, sadness, or hopelessness, talk to your doctor or mental health professional.

Heavenly Father, help us to go beyond the busyness, glitter and stress of the holiday season to prepare our hearts to receive the Christ Child.

Carolyn Gaylord, RN, FCN

Sources: Mayo Clinic, National Institutes of Health



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

“Behold, I make all things new.” Rev. 21:5

Happy New Year! We have turned a corner in our liturgical year, reset the clocks, and now begin the wonderful adventure of another year in our Christian calendar. The secular calendar changes at the end of December; the rest of the planet will join us in beginning a new year, full of its own challenges, struggles, rewards, and blessings. New years and new beginnings have a tendency to bring with them a series of mixed emotions. We may grieve lost loved ones, missed opportunities, and times that can never be repeated. We may look forward to new beginnings, new opportunities, and a chance to deepen relationships. Many times the pressure we may feel in this tender time is a result of unrealistic expectations and goals which we place on ourselves. We vow to lose weight, or gain it, as the situation dictates. We vow to improve our health through an increase in physical exercise and better living choices. We may vow to write more letters, make more phone calls, reach out in any number of ways to those we love, and never seem to spend enough time with. The New Year with its full complement of 365 days seems so vast that many things seem possible, if only we buckle down and try harder. “That’s what I need to do” we tell ourselves, “buckle down, do more, strive harder, and stop all of this goofing off!” Seems like what we may be doing is placing a heavier burden



on our already overburdened shoulders; tightening the yoke which for many of us already seems unbearable.

But with all of this doing and striving, are we making any plans for our spiritual and emotional wellbeing? Are we ignoring our emotional and spiritual wellbeing just so we can show a better physical appearance to the world? Jesus offers us a way out of this malaise when He tells us, “Shoulder my yoke, and learn from me...and you will find rest for your souls.” Mat.11:29 He isn’t saying “sit around and be lazy”. He is saying, “trust me with all you have and are, and you will find peace”, even in the busy-ness of life. As we move forward and begin pondering what our new goals and missions may be, I want to share a profoundly simple, yet deeply insightful quote that a dear friend of mine shared with me. In order to have a healthy, life-giving ministry, there are

two components which need to be in full agreement. Is the ministry **“good of you, and is it good for you?”** Both sides of the equation need to be present in order for the ministry, or action, or goal to be truly life-affirming. One side without the other will most likely spell an early demise, either in burnout, or bailout.

As we choose what our goals for the next year of our life will be, let’s try and keep this simple yet wise dictum in focus. Is what I am planning on doing good for others (good of me), and is it also an avenue to bring health and vibrancy to my soul (good for me)? If it doesn’t really help others, am I doing it just to make myself feel good at others’ expense? And is what I am doing draining me to the point that I no longer feel fed by the experience? If the ministry is taking away all sense of blessing, perhaps a break is in order so that you can find refreshment and peace, and a refilling of your soul. Let’s pray for guidance and direction as we prayerfully contemplate the next step in our spiritual journeys. And then it may truly be a **Happy New Year** for all! ✠

DECEMBER/JANUARY



December Birthdays

4	John Dutro	20	Shannon Houser
5	Nancy Snyder	22	Angela Casanave
6	Bryce Corlett	22	Joseph Pruitt
7	Karen Small	24	Michael Wilson
10	Doug Smith	26	David Forrest
11	Don Seeterlin	26	Tori Otstot
15	Joseph Banks	28	Debby Corlett
18	Sue Edwards	30	George Bridewell
18	Noel Sinclair	30	P. J. Casanave
20	Bill Harrison	31	Joy Tanner

December Anniversaries

1	Alita & Bill Small
12	Kay & Norm Cooper
19	Diane & Henry McQueen
21	Sue & Chuck Edwards
22	Bonnie & Ben Manning
28	Charlotte & Chris Ellmers
28	Toni & Aaron Small
31	Esther & Bob Gay



Married: Maryann Sloan & Kenny Hilton, Nov. 7

Deaths: Marcia Kirkpatrick, died Nov. 7, buried Nov. 14

Marjorie Chema, died November 17

Transfers out: Chris and Melissa Casheros, Mac Downs, Maggie Newsom, Judi Thomas

January Birthdays

1	Allyson Houser	12	Gayle Bangert
4	Buddy Matthews	12	Wanda Adsit
4	Marilyn Hughes	15	Marie Wilkinson
5	Marta Zoellner	16	Kathryn Bridewell
6	Kent Ross	17	Judy Kintner
7	Jim Ball	17	Laura Ross
7	Kathryn Parsons	18	Lauren Bridewell
8	Tom Martin	18	Rebecca Zoellner
10	Dave Hartsough	21	Robin Seeterlin

January Anniversaries

4	Penny & Joe Orth
15	Ambler & George Loving
25	Laurie & Roland Todd
31	Phyllis & Don Faas

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



Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

Christmas in Colonial Virginia

Christmas in colonial Virginia was very different than the holiday we celebrate today. The Christmas season commenced on Christmas Eve and lasted until January 6th, Twelfth Night or “Old Christmas.” In 1746 a London magazine reported that “All over the colony, a universal hospitality reigns.” Homes were decked out with wreaths and garlands of holly and ivy, bunches of mistletoe, and clusters of lavender, rosemary, and other pungent spices. During the twelve days of Christmas, Virginians visited with friends or received guests of their own. At night, great parties were held where guests danced to the accompaniment of musicians, sang, and celebrated until late at night. Traditional carols and hymns also were sung by friends and family. On December 18, 1773, Philip Vickers Fithian made a note in his diary about “the Balls, the Fox-hunts, [and] the fine entertainments” that characterized the holiday season in Virginia.

Christmas dinner was a major event, and in wealthy Tidewater Virginia, households often included oysters and

other fish, succulent roast beef and turkey, ham, venison, and game. Vegetables, biscuits, and cornbread also were part of a well-to-do planter’s Christmas feast. Pies, puddings, tarts, and an assortment of cakes and sweetmeats were available at the end of the meal. Slaves enjoyed much more modest fare, but at Christmas many planters gave them a jug of whiskey plus chicken, ham, and the ingredients they needed to make cakes and pies. They also might be given passes that enabled them to visit family members and friends who lived on nearby plantations.

Anglican churches were decked out for the Christmas season with garlands of holly, ivy, mountain laurel, and mistletoe that adorned the pews, pulpit, galleries, and sometimes the altar. This was called “the sticking of the church.” Scented herbs and flowers were chosen because they were aromatic and were considered an alternative form of incense. The Reverend George Herbert, an Anglican clergyman from Maryland, urged his communicants to see that “the church be swept, and kept clean without dust, or cobwebs, and at great festivals strewed, and stuck with boughs, and perfumed with incense.” Although we have no way of knowing how Hickory Neck’s members adorned their house of worship, it is likely that they clung to many of these traditions.



(10/31/15)

Budget Income	\$359,099.10
YTD Actual Income	\$358,934.36
Budget Expense	\$357,490.54
YTD Actual Expense	\$334,585.18

The October income again ran under budget; pledge and loose plate offerings low, non-pledge ahead of schedule. This pattern holds true in the year-to-date income numbers. Overall, October income was below budget by \$4,335, and year-to-date income was below budget by \$165. Frugal spending allowed the month to finish in the black by \$889. The enviable position of being in the black, year-to-date, by \$24,349 may soon be eroded as Discernment expenses come into play.

The harvest is now in; pledges of Time, Talent and Treasure are safely stored for the coming year. As you read this, we are entering the season of Advent anticipating our celebration of the birth of Christ. And as the star shone brightly over His manger bed, a hope for peace radiated around the world.

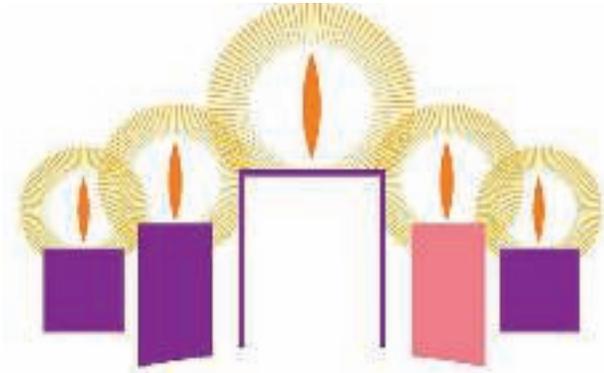
Two thousand years later, we still seek world peace. At Hickory Neck, we pledge our resources to keep the Light of Christ shining from our Holy Hill. We strive to be a beacon of peace, love and hope for all in our parish and our community. And as the Wise Men followed the star, we anticipate having a new rector seeing our light and arriving to help us keep our beacon well lit.

Fred Boelt



HNC

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Advent & Christmas WORSHIP

Centering Prayer: Monday mornings at 7:30 a.m., Historic Chapel

Morning Prayer: weekdays at 8:15 a.m., Historic Chapel

Sunday, Nov. 29: The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 6: The Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 12: Advent Quiet Morning, 9 a.m., New Chapel

Sunday, Dec. 13: The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, Dec. 20: The Fourth Sunday of Advent - Christmas Pageant, 9 a.m.; Greening of the Church, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

- 5 p.m.: Holy Eucharist with Choir, New Chapel
- 8 p.m.: Holy Eucharist, New Chapel
- 11 p.m.: Candlelight Service, Historic Chapel

Friday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day Eucharist (said), 10 a.m., Historic Chapel

Sunday, Dec. 27: 8 a.m. Morning Prayer; 10 a.m. Lessons and Carols.

Thursday, Jan. 6: Feast of the Epiphany, 7 p.m., Historic Chapel

Sunday, Jan. 10: Baptism of Our Lord

Saturday, Jan. 23: Holy Hike, 10 a.m., York River State Park (\$4/car park admission)