



# Hickory Neck Nuggets

March 2016

## Our Lenten Journey: Challenging and Rewarding

By The Rev. Henry P. McQueen

As you read this, we are not quite halfway through our Lenten journey. I pray that this has been a Holy Lent for each of you; I pray that you have begun to find yourself closer to God. Whether this is through Growing a Rule of Life, or from your own Lenten disciplines, may it be a wonderful experience. Lent gives us some intentional space to reorient our lives towards, or closer to, God, and that is a beautiful blessing.

For those who have done any hiking in the mountains, you recognize the beautiful blessing that can be found in creation as you crest the ridge of a mountain. You also know that it is often the last few hundred feet of elevation that challenges you the most. Part of this is because you are tired from the journey, and part is because the last few hundred feet are often the steepest. Sometimes when you reach that last elevation change, there is an alternative trail around to the other side. The alternative trail may get you back to your camp or car quicker, it may save you the test of climbing the last elevation, it may be a short cut, but few people choose this trail because by doing so they miss the spectacular view that can only be seen from the very top of the mountain. Remember that Peter,



James, and John witnessed the Transfiguration because they were on the mountain top. The breathtaking views are only available from the top.

Our Lenten journey is not unlike a 40 day wilderness journey in the mountains. On Ash Wednesday we don our backpack and begin our hike. Each day in the wilderness takes us closer to creation, closer to God. Finally, we near the summit. Palm Sunday is upon us and we can celebrate Jesus' triumphant journey into Jerusalem.

Our procession of the palms this year will start at our new prayer gazebo, which will be consecrated by the Bishop during the Celebration of New Ministry for Mother Jennifer; we will follow a new route into the Holy City.

It is no secret that many people then choose to take the short cut from Palm Sunday directly to Easter

Sunday. They miss the last climb to the mountain top; they miss Holy Week; they miss the view from the top. Holy Week is emotional and challenging, but it is also rewarding.

On Maundy Thursday we become servants like Christ; we wash each other's feet. Humbling

*continued on p. 3*

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# Sarabande

By Sarah Ford Bland

*“This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave. . . How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and we are reconciled to God.”*

These words are from the beautiful “Exsultet”, the marvelous Easter Proclamation of thanks and praise chanted during the Great Easter Vigil. This first service of Easter begins on Saturday after sundown, outside in the darkness, around a newly kindled fire. The Paschal candle is lit from it, then brought in procession into the darkened church where the “light of Christ” is shared among the candles of all the worshippers. The singing of the “Exsultet”, this year by Jim McGee, concludes this service of light, the beginning of the Vigil.

The Liturgy of the Word consists of Old Testament readings with psalms, canticles and hymns. They tell the story of Creation and of God’s saving acts throughout history and in our own lives. Traditionally, this is the service where candidates are presented for Baptism or Confirmation. We will renew our Baptismal Covenant, for in Baptism we say, “We are buried with Christ in his death,” and “by it we share in his resurrection.” Finally, we proclaim “Christ Is Risen,” sing “Gloria”, ring bells and shout “Alleluia!” as we hear the Resurrection story and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

This will be the third year that I have the joy of planning music for this incredibly beautiful service. The psalms, hymns and anthems will be an eclectic mix of music styles reflecting Hickory Neck’s many different music tastes and traditions. A choir comprised of singers from the parish choir, congregation and guests from the community will be music leaders. I invite you to bring your voices and bells and join us for this joyful journey from dark to light, recalling the ancient stories of our faith and reaffirming through the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist our vow to be Easter people! ✠



## Music for Holy Week:

**Palm Sunday:** 9:00 Parish Choir;  
11:15 Choral Ensemble

**Maundy Thursday:** Parish Choir

**Good Friday:** Choral Scholars

**Easter Vigil:** Choral Ensemble

**Easter Sunday:** 9:00 Parish Choir and  
Praise Band (Forgiven and Free),  
Trumpet; 11:15 Choral Scholars,  
Brass Ensemble

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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)

# Hard Work and Teamwork in Action

By Bill Teale, Senior Warden

Aaron Small, Fred Boelt and I had the pleasure of making the call to The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly. The Discernment Committee and Vestry were unanimous; we all wanted her to be the next Rector of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church. Nothing is more enjoyable than watching a person receive the call to join us when that is exactly what she was hoping to receive. Jennifer and her husband, Scott, are excited to be joining us.

We felt a little guilty that we had the honor of making the call since it was the members of our Discernment Committee who had spent hours every week for more than a year to find the person whom they and the Vestry believe is the best next Rector for Hickory Neck. The committee gained input from parishioners in many small group sessions, and used that material to develop a Profile describing our church. That may sound rather easy but it is no simple matter to develop wording that is totally agreed on by eleven people. The Profile was presented to the Vestry. The Vestry loved it.

After the Profile had been made available to potential candidates, the Discernment Committee reviewed

applications, conducted Skype interviews with many applicants and eventually narrowed the number down to a handful of individuals to bring to Hickory Neck for small and large group interactions and interviews. After these visits, Jennifer was believed to be the best candidate. A three-person team visited her church to hear her preach. Their opinion was confirmed by the visit.

The members of the Discernment Committee recommended Jennifer to the Vestry. Each member of the committee spoke and by the end of the meeting the Vestry was looking forward to meeting her. The Vestry met Jennifer and her husband Scott over three days. We were unanimous that the Discernment Committee had presented us with the right candidate to be the next Rector of Hickory Neck.



The HNC Discernment Committee: Betty Somloi, Carolyn Gaylord, Jim McGee, Juliana Morris, Bob Zoglman, Sue Edwards, Rebecca Zoellner, David Simmons, Nancy Byrd, Karen Small, and Dave Hartsough

*Lenten Journey, from p. 1*

ourselves, either by washing someone’s feet or having our own feet washed, is a climb that is rewarded long after that day has passed. In stripping the altar we see Jesus laid bare; death is imminent. Finally, Jesus implored his disciples to pray with him for just one hour; the prayer vigil in the Historic Chapel has brought new meaning to many who have participated in this silent time of reflection; last year one participant found it rewarding to read the Catechesis found in the BCP.

On Good Friday, Holy Friday, the most challenging part of the climb lies before us as we sink into the darkness of Christ’s

death. The Stations of the Cross, which we might take for granted at other times during the year, come alive to us as we walk and pray at each station. The chill in the air is a challenge.

Holy Saturday and the Great Vigil of Easter offer us the final steps on our journey. Beginning in darkness, the Light of Christ is kindled. Recounting our journey since creation, we come to the top of the mountain; Christ is Risen. The view from the top is more glorious than even the fleeting Transfiguration. Christ lives!

Our festive Eucharists of Easter Sunday will feature multiple musical talents and

the joyous refrains of Christ’s Resurrection. I suggest that we stay on the mountain for a few more weeks; Eastertide is with us until Pentecost and the Andrews-Weckerly family will be with us a few short weeks after Easter. This Lenten journey is made all the more special as the parish also emerges from its own journey of transition. New hills and valleys, new mountain tops, are all on the horizon with a new shepherd to guide us.

May your Lent be Holy, may your Easter be glorious, may we all continue our journey with Christ and one another. 

# Diocesan Deacons Respond to Refugee Crisis

By The Rev. Robert G. Gay, Deacon

Albert Einstein is probably the best known scientist there ever was. One of Einstein's achievements was the founding of the American branch of the International Relief Association (IRA) in 1933. His goal was to help Germans suffering under Hitler. Refugees from Mussolini's Italy and Franco's Spain were also assisted.

In 1940, after the fall of France to the Nazis, the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC) was formed to aid European refugees trapped in Vichy France. Over 2,000 political, cultural, union and academic leaders were rescued in 13 months. In 1942 the IRA and the ERC joined forces and became the International Rescue Committee. At the end of World War II, the IRC initiated emergency relief programs, established hospitals and children's centers and started refugee resettlement efforts in Europe. With the descent of the Iron Curtain in 1946, the IRC initiated a resettlement program for East European refugees, which continued until the end of the Cold War. Since then, the IRC has answered the call to compassion and support all over the globe.

Today the IRC has twenty-two regional offices in the United States. These offices help refugees resettle in the United

States and become self-sufficient. The offices support newly arrived refugees by providing immediate aid, including food and shelter. Through a network of staff members and volunteers, they provide access to the tools of self-reliance: housing, job placement and employment skills, clothing, medical attention, education, English language classes, and community orientation. Each resettlement office serves as a free, one-stop center for refugees' needs during their pivotal first months in this country.

Unfortunately there is no IRC regional office in our area. The good news is the IRC is working to open an office in Richmond. This will be a valuable asset as we at Hickory Neck work to figure out how to best respond to the latest refugee crisis in the Middle East. In order to support the diocese in responding to this crisis, the deacons of Southern Virginia have, with the diocese's permission, started a fundraising effort to support this new regional office. Please consider contributing to this effort as the initial stage of Hickory Neck's response to the refugee crisis.

You can contribute online at [diy.rescue.org/sovadeacons](http://diy.rescue.org/sovadeacons). You can also contribute directly to Hickory Neck and mark your donation for the IRC.

If you would like to learn more about the IRC, check out their website at [www.rescue.org](http://www.rescue.org)



Ethan Alexander Edwards with his proud parents, Chip and Kim Edwards, and grandparents Sue and Chuck Edwards, after his baptism on February 7.

Photos by Mary Teale



The water used to baptize Ethan was brought back from Ephesus, Turkey, by his grandfather, Chuck. Ephesus is where the Virgin Mary is thought to have lived at the end of her life.



## From the Parish Nurse

### Living Well with Chronic Illness

We are frightened when an acute illness occurs, but it usually comes on suddenly and goes away quickly, provided there are no lingering complications. It usually responds to treatment and we return to normal health. Chronic illness, such as asthma, arthritis, heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, cancer, and diabetes often begin gradually and can last indefinitely. Heredity, lifestyle, and environment directly affect the course of a chronic illness. Some of us might have more than one chronic illness to manage.

Living well with a chronic illness can be like being on a roller coaster. Life has many ups and downs, and chronic diseases can be disruptive in many ways. Fatigue, pain, loss of physical abilities, or inability to work may cause financial worries, anger, stress, anxiety or depression.

How do you cope? Living well with chronic illness begins with learning as much as you can about your condition, what to expect, how to manage treatments, medications, nutritional needs and financial expenses. Adapting to all of this can be complicated. This is especially true when children are diagnosed with a chronic illness and it affects the entire family. Knowledge is power and a strong relationship with your medical provider or pediatrician is vital!

Find information on the internet but be careful- only visit reliable websites. Check out the library or national

organizations for information and current treatments or medications, attend classes on how to manage chronic illness, join a support group. If severe stress and/or depression persists or worsens, see a counselor to help you or your child cope.

By becoming an active participant in your health care, you can restore your sense of control. Managing your medical condition takes a strong commitment and hard work, but studies have shown that patients who are educated about their illness and take a pro-active role in its management live longer and have fewer complications or relapses. Remember, your physical health is directly affected by your mental, social, spiritual, and emotional health.

Carolyn Gaylord, RN, FCN

MedlinePlus, [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

## Vestry Highlights

The monthly Vestry meeting took place on February 8, 2016. Fr. Henry led the group in prayer and meditation.

It was determined that the Vestry Covenant needs to be reintroduced to the Vestry as a reminder of goals and expectations of the group and be placed on display. Bill Teale reported a signed L.O.A. by the new future Rector of Hickory Neck Church, Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, whose ministry will begin on April 17, 2016. The announcement will be made at the end of each service on February 14. New Vestry orientation will begin soon with Bill and Fr. Henry.

Fred Boelt discussed the financial standing of the parish. Income for January was over budget by \$2,026. Total operating expenses were down by \$5,870 and to date, we are \$8,959 in the black.

Bill discussed the Monthly Ministry Reports and the need to fill in where people are needed. He thinks that recruitment of helpers for the different ministries is very important. All Vestry members are signed up for Vestry Days.

Clean up days have been slated for 8:00 a.m. on March 12, with a rain date of March 19. There is a possibility that there will be a Fall Festival, because someone has volunteered to be chairman, if a co-chair can be found. Alyson Ross suggested new ideas for Foyer Groups that bring small groups together for fellowship and fun.

Suzanne Olsen, Register

## Second Sunday Mission

March Recipient:

### *Prison Ministries*

#### *Kairos (God's Time) Prison*

*Ministry* is a 4-day weekend, held in the spring and fall of each year. It consists of talks, discussions, chapel meditations and music, all led by volunteers from various Christian denominations. 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.

There are approximately thirty-two prisons in Virginia. Kairos serves in fourteen men's facilities and three women's facilities. Please contact Dave and Joan Forrest for more information on how you might support this vital ministry.

#### *Williamsburg Walks The Talk*

*(WWTT)* 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." Volunteers set up a mentor program, John Greenman explained, whereby they would meet with prisoners before their release and try to prepare them

for that "huge transition" back into society. "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.

#### *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.

## A Plethora of Weeds and a Paucity of Assistance

By Mary Teale

Quite a bit of the Hickory Neck Church property was former farmland. Nowadays, however, the chief crops that grow are weeds; weeds in the flowerbeds, weeds in the shrubbery, weeds in the sidewalk cracks, weeds around the many crape myrtle, pine, and dogwood trees. Occasionally, for variety, sprigs of poison ivy, sown by the wind from neighboring fields, sprout up to irritate unwary touches.

A recent study was done on one weeding project, namely the long sidewalk from the Parish House to the New Chapel. It is roughly 120' long. It took 1 ½ hours to weed 26'. Thus, this single border needs 7 hours of volunteer work to look weed-free.



Think of all the gardens around the church that need maintenance; the sidewalks, the Wilkinson Center, the Historic Chapel, the New Chapel, the Route 60 street sign, the Memorial Garden, the children's playground and the bases of many trees.

A few volunteers work to stem the exuberant growth but we need more hands working on a regular basis, spring, summer and fall. It is very satisfying to pull up weeds that are two feet across. Wouldn't you like to volunteer to be a Hickory Neck Church Lay Weeder? Contact Margene Hartsough, chair of the Hickory Neck Garden Club.

# Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

*I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love.*  
**Hosea 6:6**

“What are you giving up for Lent?” This is a phrase, almost a challenge, I have heard repeated since I was a child. It became a challenge to choose something that I thought I might be able to do without, and yet not miss too much. There were the years I tried giving up chocolate, only to find myself fixating on the thing I had put out of bounds. Lent became a time of mental struggle to try and block the thoughts and temptations and physical struggle as my taste buds seemed to yearn, even cry out for that one pleasure which I was struggling to deny myself.

Lent became a time dedicated more to self-mortification and abstinence, and less to the inner spiritual transformation which should be its focus. It became a time of proving my love for God by showing him how strong I was, and not learning to rely on His love and strength. Yet this is not what Lent is really all about. Lent is a time when we stop, take a break from our normal routines, and focus on the Love of God which surrounds us, upholds us, and nourishes our souls.

The Prophet Isaiah, as well as the Psalms, reminds us that God is not so interested in our physical sacrifices

as in our hearts. The Prophet Hosea makes it even clearer when God tells us: “I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me” (Hosea 6:6 TLB). God wants our hearts, He wants us to trust Him with our deepest secrets, and trust Him that He will love us still. He wants us to enter into a truly intimate relationship with Him where there are no secrets, no hidden agenda. He wants us to “bare our souls” to Him, and trust him completely.

Fasting and abstinence are good; they can truly be pathways to a more intimate relationship with the Lord, as long as they are offered with the right mindset and without the inner competitive spirit which seems to pervade so many of our attempts. They are good so long as we focus on the true source of our strength, so long as we are reminded that “in our weaknesses the Lord's strength is sufficient” (2 Cor. 12:9).

For this Lent, perhaps instead of focusing on what I can do to prove my love for the Lord, perhaps I should focus more on His love for me, for all of us, and the myriad ways He showers it on each of us every day.

Perhaps instead of giving up some physical thing, I can give up some of my ego, some of my innate sense of trying to control everything. I can admit my personal weaknesses, and trust the Lord to love me and take care of me as He has promised to do. Instead of focusing on what I am doing, I can spend more time in quiet contemplation, listening, and allowing my soul time for healing and communing with God.

What about you, “What are you giving up for Lent?”



MARCH



## Birthdays

1 Carolyn Gaylord	17 Ashley Roberson
2 Jessica Hughes	18 Cleve Corlett
3 Nancy Byrd	20 Betty Harrison
3 Shannon Hunter	20 Ken Parsons
4 Esther Gay	21 Phyllis Faas
6 Eleanor Hunter	22 Donald McConaughy
6 Margaret Schober	23 Daniel Morris
10 Pam Maddox- Jefferson	24 Jim Day
	24 Bill Teale
12 Gwynneth Ross	27 Terry Day
13 Nancy Aschiero	27 Jennie Seiler

## Anniversaries

2 Gay & Bill Forloine
9 Kathryn & George Bridewell
14 Joy & Randy Tanner
17 Ann & Bill Burnett
24 Ann & Coleman Ragsdale

*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)*



(01/31/16)

Budget Income	\$34,496.58
YTD Actual Income	\$36,522.84
Budget Expense	\$33,433.69
YTD Actual Expense	\$27,564.00

January income was over budget by \$2,026. This seems remarkable since we missed one Sunday due to the snow storm. Many of you did catch up on the following Sunday and we are grateful for your consideration. However, pledged income for the month would have been well below budget had we not received two sizeable prepaid pledges. It will be particularly important this year to maintain a healthy cash flow.

Expenses for January were under budget by \$5,870, partially due to the billing dates on some of our accounts. Expenses did include Diocesan Council registration fees and our annual initial proportionally larger insurance premiums. This being said, the month of January ended in the black by \$8,959.

As we are now moving through a Solemn Lent, let this be a time of spiritual understanding and peace as we anticipate a joyous Eastertide and the arrival of our new rector and her family. May we together find strengthened energy and faith to advance the mission of Hickory Neck as we add new oil to the beacon on our Holy Hill. Working together, our light will shine even brighter, casting its beams far and wide.

Fred Boelt



**Baptized:** Ethan Alexander Edwards, 7 February

**Confirmed:** Larry Kelley, 14 February

**New Members:** Ray and Pat Haggerty, 12 February



# Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

## Recapping Our Lengthy History

Historic Hickory Neck Church was part of Blisland Parish, established in 1652. Blisland's vast territory included western James City County, formed in 1634, and eastern New Kent County. Today, Hickory Neck Episcopal Church is in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. In 1721 Blisland Parish spanned a distance of 30 miles. It had two churches: an "Upper" one (in the western part of the parish) and a "Lower" one (in the easternmost part). Both congregations were served by one clergyman and one vestry. Blisland Parish was enlarged in 1725 when Wilmington Parish, which straddled the Chickahominy River, became extinct and part of its territory was added to neighboring parishes.

In 1734 workmen commenced building a new Lower Church for Blisland Parish on an acre of land donated by Mrs. Mary Holdcroft, the owner of Hickory Neck Plantation and the widow of parish clerk, Henry Holdcroft. The new Lower Church was built of brick, measured 26 feet by 60 feet, and was oriented on an east-west axis. On account of its location on Hickory Neck Plantation, the new house-of-worship had become known as Hickory Neck Church. Walnut trees were planted in the churchyard at Hickory Neck in 1738 and in 1742 a brick wall was built around the church, probably to enclose the graveyard. Some of those original walnut trees are on Hickory Neck's historic campus and archaeologists have identified the remains of the brick wall that surrounded the church.

A north transept that measured 25 feet by 25 feet was added onto the oldest part of Hickory Neck Church in 1774. It was

the first step in making the building cruciform. Worship services are still held in this north transept. During the Revolutionary War, American soldiers pitched camp at Hickory Neck and the church was used as a military hospital. The French Army's baggage trains passed by Hickory Neck in 1781 when going to and from Yorktown to participate in the conclusive battle of the American Revolution. Hickory Neck, like many other colonial churches, sustained significant damage during the war on account of being used as a hospital and encampment.



In 1784 the Church of England ceased being Virginia's officially sanctioned denomination and Hickory Neck entered a period of dormancy and neglect. Historic Hickory Neck Church was deeded to James City County officials in 1825 and readied for use as a public school. The oldest part of the

church was razed and the north transept's south end was extended ten feet and bricked up. The new school, Hickory Neck Academy, occasionally was used for inter-denominational worship services. During the Civil War, Confederate Captain John Pelham and the Stuart Horse Artillery camped at Hickory Neck on the night of May 6, 1862. Later, Union soldiers reportedly stripped the school of its woodwork. Hickory Neck Academy was repaired in 1871 and restored to use as a public school. However, Hickory Neck Academy closed its doors in 1908 when Toano High School opened its doors. In 1912 the county school board deeded Hickory Neck to the trustees of the Hickory Neck Protestant Episcopal Church. Regular worship services resumed in 1915 and the church was re-consecrated in 1917.



# HNC

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Whether you call it Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras (or even Fastnacht Day) you'd have to call it fun! For the first time in three years, the weather permitted Hickory Neck to host this festival of carbohydrates and merriment that marks the close of the season of Epiphany.

