



Hickory Neck Nuggets

February 2016

Lent: A Time for Worship, Fellowship, and Study

By The Rev. Henry P. McQueen

The season of Lent is upon us. In just a few short days we will pass through the darkened door of Ash Wednesday, recalling that we are formed of dust, and to dust we shall return; we are formed by God, we are God's own.

Lent, like the shortened days and long nights of winter, draws us inside. We are drawn inside ourselves to examine our relationship with God, creation, and each other. This quiet, reflective time is important. It is also important to experience the darkness of Lent and Holy Week, for it is through the darkness that we can truly see the brightness of the Easter light. The quiet provides space for the resounding alleluias of Easter to resonate with unbounded joy.

While we try to slow down for Lent, our intentional pace also includes many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and study. Ash Wednesday begins with three services at 7 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m. At the

evening service we will be joined by the member parishes of the Upper James City County Ministerium. This group will continue each Wednesday to hold ecumenical services throughout the upper county. Your presence would be welcomed at any of those services.



At HNC, on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. we will continue our Lenten tradition of Evensong followed by fellowship and a potluck supper. Join us as we celebrate the feast days of Janani Luwum, Saint Matthias the Apostle, Chad Bishop of Lichfield, Gregory Bishop of Nyssa, and Saint Patrick of Ireland.

Lent is also a time of learning. This season we will join with Virginia Theological Seminary and the brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist whose joint efforts bring us a program entitled "Growing a Rule of Life." Through daily online videos, a workbook, and weekly discussions on Sunday we will explore our

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Sarabande

By Sarah Ford Bland

“And oh, what transport of delight. . .”

The Hymnal 1982, #645, text by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

I woke this morning with this text snippet from a paraphrase of Psalm 23 floating through my mind. Last night I attended a choral concert at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond by the Westminster Choir, the premier choir from my alma mater, Westminster Choir College. Words are inadequate to express the exquisite, profound beauty of their singing in this visually and acoustically glorious space.

The concert’s theme was “community building.” In his program notes, director Joe Miller says, “Wrapping ourselves in beautiful song is something that we all seek, and the songs that we sing as a community form our collective conscience.” Before the concert and during intermission each audience member was invited to “participate” by choosing a single word that summed up his/her reaction to or feelings about his/her place in the evening’s concert community. We wrote our word in bold marker on large, colorful paper, then had our photo taken with it. These placards will all appear during the next concert as ones from the previous concert did in this one. At the end of the tour these hundreds of headshots will be woven into a colorful word/photo tapestry and serve as a backdrop for the choir’s homecoming concert, bringing together many concert communities into one.

A single word???? After only a couple of minutes into the program I was instantly transported into what a colleague later described as “a slice of heaven.” The word for me became

obvious: BEAUTY. I think about this word’s meaning and implication for Christ’s followers. 1 Chron. 16:29: “Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” Hymn 416: “For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies. . . Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.” “In developing an eye [and ear] for the unexpected appearance of God’s beauty, we can respond to the perplexities of Christian community and contemporary life with a love that surpasses our native capacity for care.” (John S Mogabgab. “Editor’s Introduction.” Weavings May/June 2003.) And finally, “Day by day the ‘dayspring from on high’ visits us in ways that are as ordinary as Bethlehem’s child, and we behold the beauty of the Lord.” (John W. Vannorsdall. “Behold the Beauty of the Lord.” Weavings May/June 2003.)

Beautiful music, coupled with beautiful words, can draw us closer into the presence of God. This is always my goal in choosing and preparing hymns, psalms, organ music and choral music for worship at Hickory Neck. In Parish Choir rehearsals I often tell the singers that they know the notes, now make them beautiful. As we transition from the glory and brightness of Epiphany into the reflective, somber season of Lent, may the beauty of God’s world in sound and sight inspire and accompany you on your spiritual journey. ✠



Detail, William Morris window, Cattistock Church, (1882).

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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.

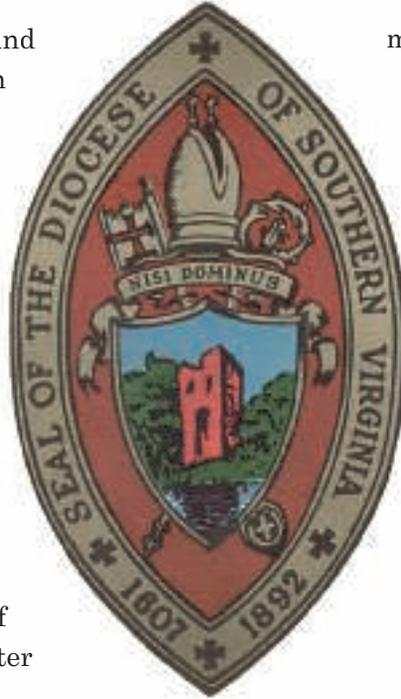
Please send submissions to nuggets@hickoryneck.org

124th Annual Diocesan Council

By The Reverend Henry P. McQueen

On February 5 and 6 delegates and clergy from the Diocese of Southern Virginia will convene for the 124th Annual Council. The two days are filled with worship, fellowship, conducting the business of the Diocese, and learning from our speakers and each other.

The keynote speaker for Council is The Very Reverend Mike Kinman, who serves Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis Missouri. Following the Ferguson police killing of Michael Brown, Jr., Dean Kinman found himself at the heart of the protests and the Black Lives Matter



movement. He will be speaking about #Ferguson Theology and Sacred Conversations About Race and Class, Power and Protest.

Our preacher for Friday morning Eucharist will be The Reverend Canon Dr. Sandye A. Wilson, who has served four Presiding Bishops as a member of the National Executive Council over the course of 18 years.

These two days promise to be a wonderful experience. Please keep our delegates and the entire body of Council in your prayers.

Lent, from page 1

relationships with God, self, others, and creation. As we emerge from the darkness of Lent into the brightness of the Easter Resurrection, we will bring with us a Rule of Life to guide our journey for the days ahead. (See p.5 for description–ed.)

The season of Lent is the most sacred of seasons and provides the opportunity for fertile growth. The many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and growth exist within the framework of the quiet of Lent. Be mindful of the many opportunities and join with the Hickory Neck community as we grow together. ✚

The season of Lent is the most sacred of seasons and provides the opportunity for fertile growth.





By Mary Teale

One walks away from an interview with Curt Johnson, knowing that this man is a person of sturdy faith and family. It is no secret where he has lived all his life. He laughs, saying that once he talks, listeners ask “What part of the south are you from?” The answer is the Tidewater/Peninsula area.

Curt is the last of the seven Johnson children. They grew up in Hampton, where their dad worked for the C & O as a special agent for the piers, and their mom was a teacher. It was a happy place for the large family. The back yard had a basketball court. The James River was nearby with its sandy shores, good for digging tunnels. Children could roam about during the day with no concern for their safety. They walked unaccompanied a half mile to school.

Curt graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in business. For the next 25 years he and his brother, Bugs (so called for his childhood skill in flying June bugs about on a string), had an auto parts business. Eventually the business declined, and Curt spent two years in Suffolk, pursuing odd jobs. When his father died in 1995, he returned home to live with his mother but commuted to Williamsburg where he worked for the Colonial Williamsburg commissary in the shipping department. The commissary provided every type of baked goods for restaurants and hotels in the area. The work day started at 5 a.m. and ended at 1:30 p.m. Employees were served breakfast and lunch and enjoyed samples of baked goods throughout the day. Weight gain was a definite possibility.

During this time he had a small house built for himself in Barhamsville. However, when the commissary closed and

after a six month period of work at the Golden Horseshoe, he returned to Hampton to care for his mother who had broken her hip. Curt said that they should think about moving to Barhamsville, which was closer to several of his siblings. His mother “thought about it” for seven years, and eventually they did make the move in 2013. She liked azaleas. Curt thought hollies would be nice, but he planted azaleas instead and mulched them carefully with pine straw.

Curt continued to cook and care for and watch over his mother devotedly for the last two years of her life.

Curt began attendance at Hickory Neck Church in the spring of 2013. Morning Prayer services began that fall, and he attended them also and then hurried home to make breakfast for his mother. He agreed to become a Lay Leader in the Morning Prayer service where he is always the first to arrive. Others straggle in and find him reading over the lessons of the day. He has already given them thought at home, consulting his library of commentaries for information and explanations of confusing texts. He is quite prepared. He is also a regular Lector at the 8 a.m. service.

What does he like to do? He enjoys history and is especially knowledgeable about his ancestors’ lives in Virginia. He and his friend, John Greenman, have lively conversations over the Civil war period – north (John) and south (Curt). But his real passion is the reading of books that are the backbone of his faith – the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. He reads the daily office every morning. He has 13 volumes of notes taken during a Bible study course. He takes inspiration from Holy Men Holy Women, which provides the daily profile of a person through whom God is visibly acting. Curt thought a moment and said, “I wouldn’t mind being a missionary. Doing God’s will is the main thing.”



Photo by Mary Teale

Growing a Rule of Life

In this series, we focus on God as the Chief Gardener of our souls, and we seek out ways to grow into the fullness he desires. Just as stakes and lattices nurture the growth of young plants, so too can spiritual disciplines support the flourishing of our whole being. This series uses a tool from monastic spirituality called a 'Rule of Life' to explore and cultivate our relationships with God, Self, Others, and Creation. This is an exciting opportunity to dig deep and dream big about ways to live into a more abundant life with Christ.

This series is designed for both small groups and individuals. For small groups, facilitators will guide

the growing process as participants discuss and learn together. For individuals, daily videos and reflections will lead them through



the same process. Ultimately each participant will create a unique Rule of Life or 'Garden Plot' to sustain and expand beyond the class.

Participants will be able to:

- Design a balanced plan for growing into a deeper relationship with God, Self, Others, and Creation.
- Celebrate areas of their lives that are thriving and explore areas that need extra nourishment.
- Tune their sensitivity to the rhythms of nature to help them in keeping a Rule of Life.
- Grow in fellowship with other participants and support them through the growing process.

From SSJE.org

Vestry Class of 2018



New vestry members Alan Zoellner, Aaron Small, and Alyson Ross were installed on January 17 at the Annual Meeting. Also recognized with thanks were outgoing vestry members De Fehrenbach, Gay Forloine, and Brian Manning.

Photo by Linda Becker

Gather your appetite, roll up your frivolity and slide them to the Hickory Neck Narthex for our

SHROVE TUESDAY BLOWOUT

...or ice storm. The Men's Group will serve their delicious pancakes and fixin's. Fun and entertainment may abound! Get prepared. Make plans. Be there. February 9, 6 p.m.



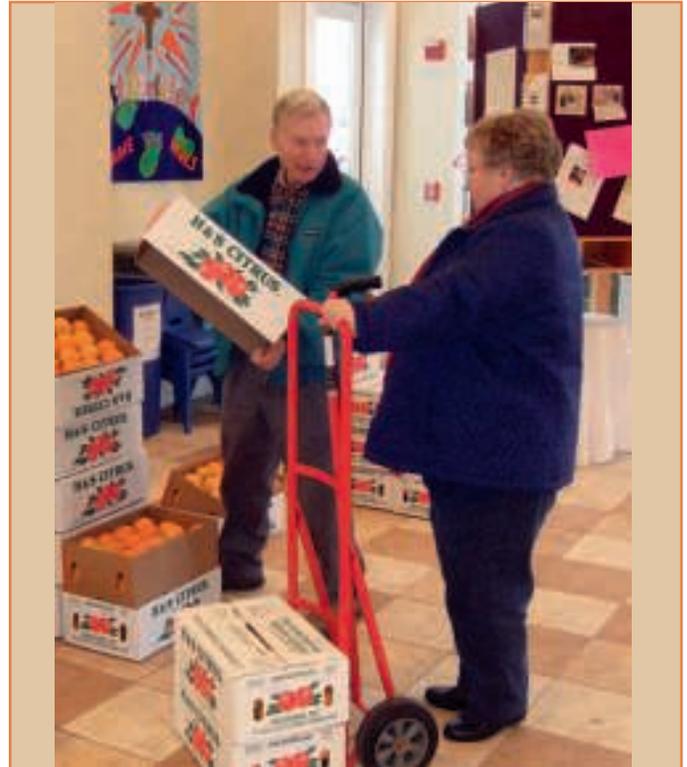
Second Sunday Mission 2

3e Restoration

“Breaking the cycle of homelessness and extreme poverty through gracious hospitality and systemic change one friend or family at a time is the goal of 3e Restoration. Finding permanent solutions to end homelessness means more than providing housing. It often means reintegrating homeless individuals or families into society. The restoration process aims to provide those who are homeless or in extreme poverty with the tools they need to become productive members of society, transitioning to self-sufficiency with a network of faith partners known as Servant Leader Coordinators, coaches, and All-In-Friends who encourage, equip, and empower these Friends-In-Need by addressing the five-fold reality of poverty: physical, emotional, cognitive, social, and spiritual.”

If you have questions about 3e Restoration, contact Pete Haines at petehaines848@gmail.com or 757-869-3107.

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ~ Book of Common Prayer



Bill Small and Sue Dugan help with the Citrus sale. Orders will be taken for the next sale on Monday and Tuesday, February 8th and 9th. Pick up will be in the Narthex of the New Chapel on Wednesday, February 17th. To get additional information, call Mary or Bill Teale at (757) 345-3745 or email them at weteale@cox.net. Photo by Mary Teale.

Thank You!



I would like to thank the very generous Hickory Neck families who contributed to the Angel Tree this past holiday season – and a special thanks to De Fehrenbach who subbed for me when I was unable to complete the task because of Steve's surgery!

I know our contributions were greatly appreciated by the Salvation Army and helped 45 children in the Williamsburg/Toano area to have a happier Christmas this year.

Nancy Snyder

Grants Awarded to Local Charities

By Bill Teale



The Financial Grant Team of the Outreach Committee has awarded \$10,400 to local charities from money raised at the 2015 Fall Festival. \$870 has been held back for additional grants in 2016 to the charities we currently support or to new charities based on our Outreach Committee's recommendations.



Members of the team evaluated what each organization does for our community, and what their volunteer and financial needs will be in the coming year. In addition to the funds they receive, many of the charities are supported by the time and talent of Hickory Neck parishioners.

- **Angels of Mercy**, a free clinic which provides compassionate quality health care to the uninsured residents of the greater Williamsburg area, Charles City and New Kent Counties. This is the fifteenth year we have supported the clinic. Two of our members serve on their Board of Directors.



- **Avalon**, an organization which provides a 24-Hour Help Line, and helps women and children who are victims of abuse with emergency and transitional housing, counseling, life skills, legal advocacy, and other supportive services. This is the sixth year we have supported Avalon. One of our members is their Executive Director.



- **From His Hands** provides meals to people in the Grove area. Hickory Neck parishioners prepare the meals at St. Martins and then serve them at the Grove Christian Outreach Center. This is the ninth year we have supported From His Hands.

- **Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission** is an organization made up of members from twenty-three churches in our area addressing the needs of the homeless. We have been helping the homeless through various organizations for ten years. Several of our parishioners are very involved in this ministry.



- **The Salvation Army Transitional Housing Program**, provides housing, counseling and mentoring to help families and individuals get back on their feet. This will be the seventh year we have supported this program.

- **Williamsburg Faith in Action**, an organization that helps people to continue living in their homes. This is the tenth year we have supported WFIA financially. We also have parishioners volunteering at WFIA.

Since 2002, Hickory Neck Church has now raised \$137,950 for local charities from our Fall Festivals.

Vestry Highlights

The monthly vestry meetings took place December 8th and January 12th. Some of the items the vestry discussed and considered are as follows:

Fred Boelt, Treasurer, discussed the financial standing of the parish (see separate Nuggets article). He will have a complete analysis of the state of the parish and a proposed 2016 budget for ratification at the January 17th annual meeting.

The Financial Grant Committee has been meeting with the various charities that our church supports to consider 2016 grants. A total of 90 Time & Talent forms have been completed and returned. A new spreadsheet and data entry have been completed for better utilization in 2016.

The gazebo structure is close to being finished, and parking lot lights have been timed to turn on from dusk till dawn each day. Hickory Neck has been awarded a \$500 grant from The Nightingale Foundation / Hampton Roads Community Foundation to cover our AED expenses and training. The Diocese is undertaking an Asset Mapping project, which will provide a resource for identifying the different programs and services offered by diocesan related churches, schools and organizations. An initial input of information regarding Hickory Neck has already been submitted.

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, our host partner for the Winter Emergency Shelter, has significant mold issues in their facility. The remediation and renovation will not be complete prior to our service dates, 30 Jan - 6 Feb, for the winter shelter. A plan has been established to host the shelter at HNC with St. Martin's providing

significant manpower support. After discussion of the logistics involved, the vestry approved this plan.

Bill Teale will be updating the parish on the plans for the 2016 Fall Festival and will begin recruitment for volunteers and chair/co-chair in January. The citrus fruit sales have been successful, and to date over \$11,000 has been raised through those sales to help pay extra towards the church mortgage. Since we are on track to pay down the mortgage on time, a motion was made and approved to have the future proceeds of the citrus sales go towards the parish's outreach ministry fund.

The vestry was updated on the current status of the rector search process. A transition committee has been formed to assist the new rector and family, once hired. The committee consists of Sue Edwards (chair), Betty Somloi, Aaron Small, Terri Lensenmeyer, Fred Boelt and Jill Ramsaur.

The vestry voted to approve another three-year term for Cheryl Matthews on the Endowment Board, and for a three-year term for Doug Cash to replace Bill Teale. The vestry also voted for Suzanne Olsen to replace Jill Ramsaur as vestry register in 2016. New vestry will be inducted on January 19th, which will consist of Bill Teale (Growth/Newcomers), Bob Zoglman (Grounds), Aaron Small (Buildings), Alan Zoellner (Christian Education), Andy Miskovich (Communications), Linda Becker (Parish Life), John Rothnie (Outreach), Alyson Ross (Pastoral Care), Larry Kelley (Stewardship), Terry Lensenmeyer (Worship). Officers are Fred Boelt (Treasurer) and Suzanne Olsen (Register). Outgoing vestry members are De Fehrenbach, Gay Forloine, and Brian Manning. The next vestry meeting is Monday, February 8th, a day earlier than usual due to the Shrive Tuesday celebration.

Jill Ramsaur, Register



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Don Seeterlin

Let us love, then, because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

We entered a new year recently, for a moment a “perfect” year, full of new possibilities, and chances to start over again. The celebration of a new year gives us a fresh start, we begin with an unsullied record, and we have the chance to mold this new year, this new creation to better reflect our ideals and our better sides.

I had a grandson born recently. He was born with beautiful skin, a full head of hair, and the most precious of little mouths. He was in many regards “perfect”. He drew his first breath, made his presence known in his first wail, and drew his first bit of physical nourishment. His eyes, even though just opened, followed the noises that the nurses and medical staff were making, and most importantly the voices of his mother and father. He seemed to have an innate sense of knowing who his parents were, perhaps from hearing their voices through the veil of the womb, the world he had lived in for nine months. His mother and father have loved him long before his entrance into this world. They have loved him for the “perfect” creation he is and for his future talents and desires. He will always be their “perfect” little creation.

We have a Father in heaven who loves us the same way. He loves each one of us as the “perfect” creation He envisioned and made, despite all of our eccentricities and foibles. God does not live in linear time as we do, with beginnings and ends. God lives and loves and exists in eternity, the ever present “now”. He still sees each one of us as His own personal creation, and He

always will. Before Jesus came into this world, we served God as servants, slaves. But through Jesus we have come to know Him as Abba, Father. (*Romans 8:15*) He is our Father, and, though we may never have seen His face, we have an innate sense of knowing His voice, a voice that speaks in our hearts and we recognize, much like my grandson recognized his parents’ voices even though he had never seen them face to face before.

My grandson’s parents have the joyously serious opportunity of bringing him up to know and live and share love. They have the chance to help him to know and understand in a deep way the love that God has for him, through their own actions and love.

Let’s look at this new year, this new beginning with the eyes of newborn parents. Perhaps we can strive to reflect the love God has for each one of us in our everyday actions and reactions. Perhaps we can even live as though we are loved with a “perfect” and unconditional love, which we are! As my grandson will learn to live in love because he was at first loved, may we continue to live and love because God first loved us.



FEBRUARY



Birthdays

1	Ted Ramsaur	18	Lucy Rothnie
2	Geraldine Kent	19	Bruce Manning
2	Jim McGee	21	John Rothnie
2	Lucy Purse	22	Tara Best
2	Sara Seeterlin	23	Jack Mills
3	Ron Kindley	25	Vic Shumaker
11	Laura Kindley	26	Fred Boelt
14	Jean Jundt	27	Ann Lipp
16	Coleman Ragsdale	29	Alan Zoellner

Anniversaries

6	Joan & Dave Forrest
8	Joanne & Jim Izzo
13	Patty Kipps & John Greenman
20	Nancye & Bill Morris

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



(12/31/15)

Budget Income	\$432,919.00
YTD Actual Income	\$440,071.17
Budget Expense	\$428,021.08
YTD Actual Expense	\$402,023.12

Another year has come to a close. Financially, peaks and valleys persisted, but we ended in a very favorable position. For both the month of December and year-to-date, we ended in the black. And while we had several low income months, you can see from the figures above that we rallied round the cause. And so that there is no misunderstanding, the balance from 2015 (\$38,048) becomes the funding for the monthly principal balance of our mortgage. This monthly requirement is now slightly over \$3,000, so you can see that we are set for those payments in 2016.

Among other blessings received during the holiday season, we had donations totaling \$21,300 that were applied toward debt reduction. This brought the principal balance of our mortgage down to \$123,350 as of January 1st. We continue to make impressive strides on lowering our debt.

As we prepare for a new rector, it is critical that we have our finances in order. Pledged income for 2016 is below the comfort zone. We may have to “pass the plate” a second time to have the necessary funding for property, program and staff. Therefore, it will take the concerted effort of our entire parish to share the burden of the three “Ts” in 2016. We want our beacon to be gleaming from our Holy Hill as we offer refuge and comfort!

Fred Boelt



Married: Lee Ann Guzy and Craig Hagan, November 28

Committal: Barbara Jayne Paul, November 6 (died 14 Feb. 2015)



Our Prologue

By Martha W. McCartney

Williamsburg's Black Baptists: Part of a Proud Tradition

Gowan or Gawen Pamphlet, a slave who belonged to Mrs. Jane Vobe, the proprietor of Williamsburg's King's Arms Tavern, began preaching to gatherings of blacks during the 1770's. Like some of Mrs. Vobe's other slaves, he had learned to read the Bible and probably attended some of the services held at Bruton Parish Church.

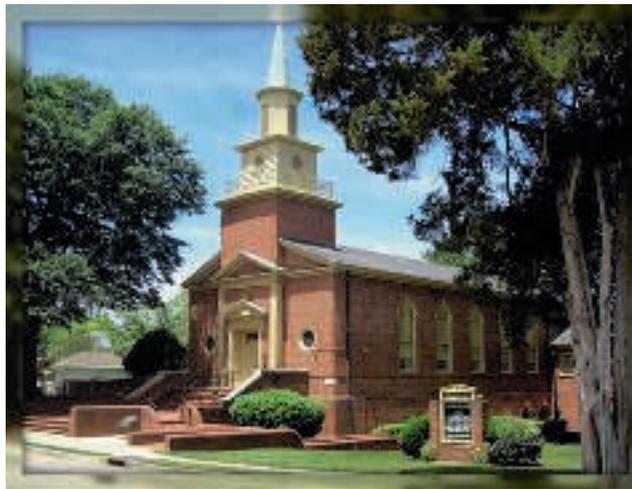
Although a regional Baptist organization decided that "no person of color should be allowed to preach," Gowan and his followers continued to meet for religious services. Often, they gathered in specially constructed brush arbors, one of which was at Green Spring and another at Raccoon Chase, near Ludwell's Mill Pond, what we know as Lake Matoaka. By 1781,

Gowan's congregation included an estimated 200 people, since during the late eighteenth century many slaves turned to the Baptist faith. Often, they combined the principals of Christianity with African traditions and produced worship services that included hand-clapping, rhythmic body movements, and speaking in tongues. This led William Lee of Green Spring to declare that the county's blacks were "crazy with the New Light and their new Jerusalem."

When Mrs. Jane Vobe moved her tavern-keeping business to the Richmond area around 1786, she took her slaves with her.

After her death five years later, Gowan and his new owner, Mrs. Vobe's executor, returned to Williamsburg. Once again, he began to preach and in time he had a congregation more than twice as large as the one he had had before. At that point he sought membership in the Dover Baptist Association,

whose members were white. In September 1793 Gowan's master executed the legal documents that set him free. A month later, when Gowan Pamphlet attended the Dover Baptist Association's annual meeting, it was announced that the "Baptist church of black people at Williamsburg" had been received into membership. From then until his death in 1807, Gowan, who managed to acquire part of a lot in Williamsburg and 14 acres



just west of the city, served as pastor of the community's only Baptist church.

At first, Williamsburg's black Baptists held services in merchant Jesse Coles' wooden carriage house on Nassau Street. Despite the numerous challenges the congregation faced in the first half of the nineteenth century, by 1855 they succeeded in building a brick church in that vicinity: the original First Baptist Church. In 1957 the congregation of First Baptist Church moved to their current location on Scotland Street.





HNC

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Lenten

Worship & Learning

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

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

Tuesday, Feb. 6: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6 p.m., Narthex

Wednesday, Feb. 10: Ash Wednesday

- 7 a.m.: Holy Eucharist, Historic Chapel
- 12 noon: Holy Eucharist, Historic Chapel
- 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, New Chapel (Ecumenical service)

Wednesdays in Lent: Evensong 6 p.m., followed by potluck dinner

- Feb. 17, Janani Luwum of Uganda
- Feb. 24, St. Matthias the Apostle
- Mar. 4, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield
- Mar. 10, Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa
- Mar. 17, St. Patrick of Ireland

Sundays in Lent: "Growing a Rule of Life," 10:15 a.m., Wilkinson Center