

JANUARY 2022

# THE NUGGETS

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church Toano, VA



## Rector's Letter

As we turn the page on another calendar year, I find myself feeling torn. On the one hand, the news is full of stories of the spread of the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus and our Bishop has urged us to keep much closer eyes on our county numbers. On the other hand, in the face of illness and death, life at Hickory Neck is vibrant. In January alone we will hold an Epiphany pageant with our young and older parishioners, baptisms for two new young members, and our Annual Meeting, where we will bring on new leadership to the Vestry. This is a season of contrasts for Hickory Neck, as I imagine it is for each of you in your home life.

The good news is we are in good company. The Holy Family lives in a season of contrasts too. Before we turned the calendar, Mary was pondering in her heart the good news of the shepherds and the wonderful, terrible news they brought of Jesus' identity. This month, the magi come in both joy and wonder, amidst danger and political threat. After their visit, we will liturgically journey through the season of Epiphany – the revelations of Christ's identity to us throughout scripture that are presented in tension, too. With every epiphany of Jesus' identity comes both joy and danger.

In some ways, our liturgical experience is wonderfully paired with our modern experience. With the fear and anxiety the spreading and changing pandemic brings, it would be easy for us to lose a grip on hope and joy. But time after time, through Mary, the magi, and disciples we will find characters who know our struggle in tangible, visceral ways. That is a great encouragement for all of us.

This month, I encourage you to find a biblical character to be your companion in this journey. Only you can know who will bring you encouragement and comfort – or, at the very least, solidarity. That is what Hickory Neck hopes to offer you too – a community of encouragement, comfort, and solidarity. Whether you are still engaging online primarily, or you have made your way to in-person gatherings, know that we are here with you, journeying this season of contrasts with you in love.

In Christ's Peace,  
*The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly*

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# Epiphany Pageant

On **Sunday, January 9, at the 10:00 a.m.** in-person service, the youth of Hickory Neck will present an Epiphany Pageant. Our Youth Group has taken the helm this year, but we still have many roles for younger friends. If you feel the bite of the acting bug, come to the Wilkinson Center on **Saturday, January 8, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** to finalize costumes and run through the production in the church. All participants should be at the church on **Sunday, January 9, at 9:00 a.m.** to get ready for the 10:00 a.m. service. If you have participated before, I don't have to tell you how much fun it is. If this is your first time in the pageant, it is something you won't soon forget. If you have questions, email Terri Lensenmayer at [familens904@cox.net](mailto:familens904@cox.net).

## Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet for our regular monthly gathering in the Wilkinson Center on **Sunday, January 9**, at 5:00 p.m. This month we will pack lunches and dinners for the Winter Shelter. Assisting COFM's Winter Shelter is an important Outreach Mission of HNC. Please put this on your calendar.

## Epiphany Pop-Up Prayers

As we enter a new liturgical season, we enter a new schedule of prayers. If you are in need of a prayer companion during this season of anticipation, join us throughout the Epiphany season in prayer.



Epiphany  
Pop-Up Prayers

TUESDAY	12:00 PM	NOONDAY PRAYER
WEDNESDAY	6:00 PM	COMPLINE
THURSDAY	8:00 AM	MORNING PRAYER
FRIDAY	4:00 PM	EVENING PRAYER

## Christian Formation Coordinator

**DENISE PEARSALL, CHRISTIAN FORMATION VESTRY LIAISON**

This month, I will shift roles from Vestry Liaison to Coordinator for Christian Formation. Just what does that mean? I will still be the contact for any kind of curriculum and materials that groups are interested in using; I will also help research and seek new possibilities for you. The Sunday morning children's materials in the Narthex and any other curriculum and activities will be maintained weekly now. This position will give me time to continue to coordinate the Godly Play Program at The Kensington School and help with the events and special seasonal projects coordinated by Parish Life. Watch the ePistle for the time of office hours as I anticipate spending one morning each week at HNC.

## Vestry Highlights

### HOPE BRANS, REGISTER

The regular meeting of the Hickory Neck Vestry was held on Zoom on December 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Our teaching session was used to learn more about the Stephen Ministry program that will be started at Hickory Neck. Ministers will receive training to provide one on one pastoral care to fellow Hickory Neck members. Andrea Sheffield reported on Pastoral Care programs including a Shepherd program to support the Discovery Class completed this spring. Vestry members will complete their reports for the Annual Meeting to be held January 23 between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. The slate for incoming Vestry Members was presented. Fred Boelt presented a balanced budget for 2022; it will also be presented at the Annual Meeting. The next regular meeting of the Hickory Neck Vestry will be **January 13 at 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom.

## Experience Worth the Anxiety

### TERRI LENSENMAYER, PARISH LIFE VESTRY LIAISON

I remember my first Winter Shelter. At the time, we partnered with St. Martin's, since we didn't feel like we had the space nor the volunteers to host by ourselves. Everyone I spoke to had nothing but good things to say about it. I was ready to give of myself, even if it was just for a few early mornings.

But, I had doubts. Would I say something stupid? Would I offend someone? Would I appear aloof or standoffish? Friends, believe me when I say the early mornings and food prep are the smallest parts of this ministry, and I was nervous. But, once you sign up, you don't quit, so off I went, into the cold morning, wondering how people managed to stay warm in weather like this.

First of all, people, even people who have the worst luck or the hardest situations, are kind. They just want to be "normal." My part of that was serving some breakfast, smiling, and sitting down to talk while our guests got ready to face the day. That's the HARDEST part, the sitting down to talk - the introducing yourself and hoping no one takes your vulnerability for weakness. I started by offering more coffee or a napkin. There's always an excuse. Every time I did it, it got a little easier. I never had to worry about what to say. Our guests had lots to talk about. They weren't always happy and full of the spirit, but they were patient, and they loved being heard. I always left better than I came, and they did, too. For a tiny bit of time, they were warm and full, and they knew someone was thinking of them throughout the day.

If you are anxious, I get it. It's daunting. But it's our duty as people who have much to help people who don't, and anything you put into the universe with the love of God in your heart has only the best intentions. Get in there, and find yourselves in people who are sometimes lost.

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## Winter Shelter

### LUCY ROTHNIE

Hickory Neck Church still needs volunteers to staff the Winter Shelter **from Sunday evening January 9 to checkout on Wednesday morning January 12**. Approximately 10 volunteers are needed each day. We will be staffing at the Country Suites on Pocahontas Trail. Guests will be assigned a room shortly after the 6:30 p.m. check-in. Dinner will be served to guests in clamshells. All volunteers and guests will receive a COVID screening prior to entering the building. Masks will be distributed to all volunteers. Volunteers and guests will not be questioned about their vaccination status. Click [HERE](#) to access the online training video and enter the passcode: Passcode: n#@g8JV. Click [HERE](#) to sign up to volunteer at the Shelter. Please call Lucy Rothnie at 804-338-2579 with any questions. On **January 9th**, the youth will package meals for the Emergency Winter Shelter program.

# Men's Breakfast to Restart

**BEN MANNING, MEN'S BREAKFAST CO-COORDINATOR**

Hey Guys, are you tired of not seeing your HNC friends due to the virus? Bert Geddy has overseen the installation of a new gas stove and back splash in the kitchen and it needs to be broken in. What a perfect time for re-starting the monthly breakfast. Bob Byrd has volunteered to provide breakfast. Knowing Bob, there will be plenty of sausage (Bob's favorite), eggs and fruit. Come join your HNC friends for a time to re-acquaint, tell a few stories, and have a good meal on **Saturday, January 22, at 8:15 a.m.**, with our meal beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Previously, the breakfast has supported the AED (defibrillator) program at HNC, and the coffers are low. Donations are suggested and appreciated to help with breakfast costs and to continue the AED program.

The email list for reminders needs to be updated. If you would like to be added to the list or have a new email address, please forward your address to [ben.manning@cox.net](mailto:ben.manning@cox.net). Also, let Ben know if you plan to attend for an approximate head count.

All are welcome to come. Masks are requested for those who have not been vaccinated (except while eating or drinking). Hope to see you there.

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## Drive-Thru Coffee Hours

**TERRI LENSENMAYER, PARISH LIFE VESTRY LIAISON**

Come one, come all to our Hickory Neck drive-thru coffee hours! Yes, the new variant has ensured that our drive-thru events will continue, at least for a few more months. Come for the fellowship and the SWAG! You won't want to miss January, I guarantee it. Keep this schedule on your fridge, or just remember the last Sunday of every month. You can also bring your FISH food donations, as well. Drive on over to HNC!!!

- **January 30**, 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Get your Lenten butterfly to decorate and bring it back in February.
- **February 27**, 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Mardi Gras, y'all! Bury your butterflies and Alleluias, and receive ashes.
- **March 27**, 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Lenten drive-thru, reserved but hearty
- **April 17**, 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt! NO drive-thru on the last Sunday (4/24)
- **May 29** Hopefully the weather will be warm enough for outdoor coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. service!

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## HNC College Students

We want to connect with our HNC college students. Whether you are away at college or commuting from home, we need your address. Please email [raxness@hickoryneck.org](mailto:raxness@hickoryneck.org) with your address. You never know what surprises may come your way!

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## Hickory Neck Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

On Sunday, **January 23**, Hickory Neck Episcopal Church will hold its annual meeting. The meeting will take place in-person in the New Chapel and will also be available via Zoom at 9:00 a.m. We invite everyone to participate. Voting will take place in person, as well as via Zoom. You will be provided a Zoom link that will enable you to watch the meeting and vote for 2022 Vestry candidates.

We have four new candidates for the coming year: Judy Bristow for Formation, Stu Farrand for Communications, Chase Grogg for Buildings and Grounds, and Joe Southworth for Stewardship. We also have Andrea Sheffield, who filled one year of an unexpired term last year and is now nominated to serve two more years. Their biographies follow this article in this issue of *The Nuggets*.

Prior to the meeting, the annual reports will be provided to you electronically. Copies will also be available at the church the day of the meeting. Please continue to review the weekly *ePistle* for any updates.

## JUDY BRISTOW



I grew up in Danville, Virginia, where my roots have always been in church. I still have my Cradle Roll certificate from Lee Street Baptist Church. I professed my faith and was baptized by immersion at the age of ten. My first experience at teaching was as the GA leader (Girls in Action – a children’s mission group) in my hometown church. In college I double majored in Latin and math, and have taught both in public schools in Blacksburg, Roanoke and here in Williamsburg. I taught Latin at Berkeley, James Blair and Toano Middle Schools and at Lafayette, Jamestown and Warhill High Schools. But my anchor school was Lafayette, where I taught Latin for 19 years. I sponsored the Latin Club, Latin Honor Society and took my students to Richmond to compete annually in the Junior Classical League Latin Convention where students compete on a state level both scholastically and artistically. I also served as Chair of the Shared Leadership Council at Lafayette.

I have been married to Hunter for 47 years. We have lived in Christiansburg, Roanoke and now here in Williamsburg for 36 years. We have four adult children, Laura, Ben, Ashley and Jordan, who have blessed us with ten precious grandchildren. Through the years, I have been active in church. I led the GA group for ten years at Williamsburg Baptist, organized Christmas pageants there, and served on the board of deacons, where my responsibilities centered around congregational care.

When Hunter and I felt the need to change direction, we visited several different churches but soon found our new church home at Hickory Neck, where we were greeted with warmth and hospitality. Hickory Neck offers so many opportunities to contribute, and we both saw places that we could serve. We were confirmed by Bishop Hollerith in May of 2017. Soon after joining Hickory Neck, I worked on the coffee hour team and especially enjoyed the adult formation offerings. I have also worked on church clean-ups, hospitality, at Fall Festival and Winter Shelter, and I serve as a lector. I helped with Vacation Bible School both at Hickory Neck and at Bruton Parish. I began assisting with Sunday School for the older children and later took over as lead teacher. I have very much enjoyed working with that age group. I look forward to the day Sunday School reopens for our children, and we can get back to our Bible stories and craft time.

I see my talents as creative in nature. I love to sew, and I love art in most any form. I always find ways to use art in my classroom. I am also pretty good at organizing things, both in preparation and execution, and I think this skill would be very useful in my duties as Formation Liaison. I feel that my experiences in church, in my work and with my family have served me well, and if I am elected, I look to bring this shared experience to my service on the Vestry at Hickory Neck.

## CHASE GROGG



I am originally from a small town in upstate New York and moved to Williamsburg with my parents after completing high school in Connecticut. I fell in love with Virginia and ended up at Hampden Sydney College where I studied Economics. After graduating in 2013, it took a couple of years to find a position and a career I was passionate about. I ended up at a local engineering and surveying firm, Landtech Resources, Inc. (LRI). That summer, I realized this is a field I am interested in and good at. I began my career and have worked my way up to Vice President and Surveyor Coordinator.

The knowledge and experience I have gained at LRI is what I believe makes me a good fit for this position. Being familiar with building construction as well as site work allows me to assist the church in decisions to help with the future of the grounds. I also have many working and friendly relationships with county staff and surrounding contractors to help assist in projects that will arise on the property. I confidently lead our company in daily activities as well as big picture goals, and I look forward to taking that leadership role and applying it to both the existing building and grounds teams.

On a more personal note, my wife, Pamela, and I have loved being a part of the community in James City County and more specifically, Toano. We live in a small subdivision beside Toano Middle School. We were very glad to have found such a welcoming church like Hickory Neck to be a part of, raise our two daughters in, and continue to get more involved. This opportunity would give me a chance to give back in a meaningful way.

## STUART FARRAND



Hi, I am a new(ish) member of HNC. In fact, it was the Communications Committee's outreach at The Kensington School that drew my family to our first HNC event in the Fall of 2019. Having spent much of my adult life looking for a church home, I appreciate that I have always felt welcome at Hickory Neck and a part of the community. My wife and I have lived in Williamsburg for 6 years (we met at Christopher Newport University and always wanted to settle down in the area). We have two kids: Reed (3 years old) and Zenora (5 months old). I work for a small consulting company where I lead their data analytics division. I love the outdoors and enjoy spending free time with my family enjoying nature at many of our local parks. I feel that serving on the Vestry would allow me to serve others and support HNC while learning more about and growing as an Episcopalian. I would look forward to being able to bring my skills in managing projects and analyzing data to help. As a new member, one who has a young family and one who has been on a meandering faith journey, I feel I can bring unique perspectives to community outreach and to connecting with others who may be searching for a spiritual home. After all, I am an example of just how important and successful HNC's outreach has been!

## ANDREA SHEFFIELD



I am Andrea Sheffield, Vestry Liaison for Pastoral Care. I have lived in Toano most of my life and continue to do so with my fiancé, Anthony, my daughter Deborah (22) and my future stepson Dawson (21). Anthony and I have been together for almost six years and are looking forward to getting married next year. My son Gerald (23) lives in Florida.

I studied electrical engineering at Old Dominion University and have worked my entire career at Dominion Energy in Richmond. I started as a co-op in telecommunications and have worked in multiple departments during my 24 years of service. I currently work in the electric distribution planning group.

Growing up, Olive Branch Christian Church was my church home. As an adult, I have been worshipping at Hickory Neck. The historical chapel, the praise band and the people are what kept pulling me back over the years. I have been consistently coming since joining the parish choir seven years ago and cherish the friendships and family that I have gained there. Music heals the soul, and the music ministry has been a huge part of my spiritual growth.

I have been serving as the Vestry Liaison for Pastoral Care since early 2021. The Pastoral Care ministry leaders and their teams support our church family during the trials and the celebrations of our lives in so many thoughtful ways. It has also been exciting to learn about the many other ministries in the church and the plans for each. I am looking forward to serving another year at Hickory Neck.

## JOE SOUTHWORTH



I was born in Richmond Virginia, graduated from the College of William and Mary, and I have lived in Atlanta, San Francisco, London and Barcelona prior to retiring to Williamsburg. I am the proud father of four children and three grandchildren with a fourth on the way. I have managed worldwide sales and marketing organizations for publicly traded software companies, and I started two small businesses, after leaving the software industry. My wife, Cindy, and I retired to Williamsburg 10 years ago and we have enjoyed traveling, relaxing, hobbies, and our family. Additionally, I have served on several not for profit boards since coming to Williamsburg.

The lifeblood of any organization and the ability to carry out its mission, is usually directly related to the passion of the members and its financial strength. The ability of leadership to inspire its members to get involved, contribute time and talent, as well as financially, will determine its overall success and growth.

I have strong communication and financial skills. A track record of team building and creativity have been key components of my professional career.

## Best Advice

DON SEETERLIN, CHAPLAIN

"What's the best advice that you could give me?" Sounds simple right? Or so it seemed when she asked the question. She was a high school senior, trying to "get a handle" on the larger world which she would soon be entering. She was sitting in her grandfather's study. They were sharing a few quiet moments together visiting, and she felt comfortable asking this of someone whom she trusted, loved, and felt had experienced a good portion of life. There was no lead-in to the question. It wasn't part of a larger conversation they had been sharing. It seemed to come out of the blue. Apparently, it was on her mind, maybe something she had been inwardly considering and had finally found a time when she felt safe in asking.

He wrestled with this unexpected question. On one hand, it was a simple request: "What can you tell me that will help me navigate all of these unknown roads on which I'm about to travel?" On the other hand, it begged for sound wisdom based on deep consideration. How, after all, does one gather up everything they have learned and experienced, prioritize it, and unpack it in one short sound bite? How does one choose which area of life's experiences should rank as the one area which overshadows, and perhaps even adds color and definition to all the other areas?

Musing over possible responses, he was reminded of different sayings and pieces of sage advice he had heard over the years. There was the once common phrase, "Don't take any wooden nickels." This, he concluded, must have been a warning on not trusting everyone at face value. Or perhaps, "Come back soon and watch out for the deer." Meaning: "I really do care about what happens to you." Then there was the sage advice he had heard one mother share with her children as they ventured out on adventures of their own: "Be careful, and remember Jesus is watching you." These were all wise words, but he didn't think they came anywhere close to carrying the depth of wisdom this request called for.

Pondering this, his mind was drawn towards the Scriptures. He wondered how Jesus might have, or perhaps had answered a similar question. One incident came to mind. *Luke 11:1-4* tells of a time when Jesus' disciples asked Him what seems to be a similar question, coming out of the blue, but something they may have been inwardly considering for a while. Their request wasn't for one piece of advice, but how to pray. Luke doesn't share an insight into Jesus' private thoughts about this request. However, considering how much time Jesus reportedly spent in prayer and communication with His heavenly father, it would seem a safe conjecture that He wrestled with the question of which points were the most important to share. What are the points that would help to cover and color the myriad of situations that His followers might find themselves in and could offer strength and guidance.

This led the grandfather to consider all the attributes of God he had heard of and experienced in his life. God is merciful, forgiving, just, ever present, ever attentive, slow to anger, rich in kindness, our light in the darkness, our shade in the burning heat, our shelter in life's storms. His love is unconditional, unending, everlasting, eternal, unearned, freely and some might say radically shared. As the *Book of Lamentations* tells us:

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.* Lamentations 3:22-23

A spark of inspiration came to the grandfather. Of all the areas in life, all the skills and pieces of hard-earned wisdom, one thing overshadowed all the others. God's constant and never-ending presence. His love - constant, continual, ever refreshing, unconditional. For as long as he could remember, he had been aware of God's love in his life. It had strengthened him, comforted him, and been his companion through joyful and sad times. When he remembered that he was loved unconditionally, he felt freer to share that love and compassion with others. When he remembered that he had been freely forgiven, he felt more compelled to offer that same sense of forgiveness to others. It was God's unconditional love and his sense of being a recipient of that love that overshadowed and colored everything else.

Looking his beautiful, beloved granddaughter in her eyes, celebrating the wonder that she was, the gift she was not only to him, but to all who knew her, he shared what he considered the best piece of advice he could give her....

May you find the words that finish this story. May you celebrate each chance you have to share not only your wisdom, but most importantly, your love.

## JANUARY Birthdays

Patricia Bateman	1
Nathan Farmer	1
Victoria Johnston	1
Zarina Johnston	1
Marilyn Hughes	4
Larry Arcement	6
Katrina Buckley	6
Kent Ross	6
Jim Ball	7
Dar Massa	7
Scott Andrews-Weckerly	8
Dave Hartsough	10
Andrew MacDougall	10
Gayle Bangert	12
Evamarie Braukhoff	12
Anne McWhirter	12
Bob Wildman	12
Kathryn Bridewell	16
Jim Nickols	16
Karen Devlin	17
Barrie Fyfe	17
Mary Pringle	17
Beckie Roberts	17
Laura Ross	17
Lauren Bridewell	18
Rebecca Zoellner	18
Betsy Middleton	20
Stu Farrand	22

## JANUARY Anniversaries

Stephen & Linda Slyfield	2
Joe & Penny Orth	4
Phil & Becky Roberts	17
Scott & Evamarie Braukhoff	19
Roland & Laurie Todd	25
Don & Phyllis Fass	31

## BLESSINGS...

...to Reed and Zenora Farrand, son and daughter of Stu and Camilla Farrand, who will be baptized on January 16



...to Brook Kennedy Byrd, daughter of Bob and Nancy Byrd, and Nicholas Kennedy Eckhoff who were married on December 11

## HNC Online Support

**SHOP** at [smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1096929](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1096929) to generate donations for Hickory Neck Episcopal Church.

**GIVE** at [bit.ly/HNCGive](https://bit.ly/HNCGive). With any major credit card, you may pay pledges and make donations. Add a little extra to cover HNC service charges or set up automatic payments to save HNC service charges.

# The Twelve Pictures of a Hickory Neck Christmas



# High Fives



A big high five goes to **Kathryn Bridewell**, our Flowers Coordinator. Kathryn does the bulk of our flowers with little help throughout the year. Additionally at Christmas, she always does the challenging task of organizing volunteers to Green the Church. We are so grateful for her ministry. High fives, Kathryn!!

We give a high five to outgoing Vestry members: **Doug Cash, Curtis Johnson, Linda McGee (Senior Warden), and Denise Pearsall!** These four have seen us through two years of a pandemic, through staff changes, and strategic planning. We are so grateful for their powerful ministries over the years. Thank you, Vestry members! High five!!



We give another high five to **David Simmons**. Dave has guided us through a year of livestreaming with a new AV system. His work has increased our capacity to deliver engaging online content and to reach both our parishioners and newcomers alike. He has worked tirelessly on improving internet speed, sound quality, and expanding our platforms. For seeing us into the future, a big high five goes to Dave!

Finally, a high five goes to **Fred Boelt**, our Treasurer. His work is rarely seen by many, but he works tirelessly to help us stay on top of expenses, to creatively work within our means, and to give us an institutional and historical perspective in decision making. We are so grateful for his ongoing ministry. High fives, Fred!



## Worship Service Schedule

### Regular Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, spoken service,  
Historic Chapel

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with music and singing,  
New Chapel,  
Livestream on [HNC Facebook](#) and  
on [HNC YouTube Channel](#)

Masks are required for all attendees, no matter vaccination status, for all services.

### Pop-Up Prayers via Facebook Live (REVISED)

Tuesdays 12:00 p.m.	Noonday Prayer
Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.	Compline
Thursdays 8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Fridays 4:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

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Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. July and August will be a combined edition. 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).